

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC St. James Episcopal Church and Rectory

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER NE corner of the jct. of SR 1551 and SR 1555

CITY, TOWN

Kittrell

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

COUNTY

Vance

CODE

181

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

(see continuation sheet)

NAME

Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, c/o Lex Matthews

STREET & NUMBER

201 St. Alban's Drive

CITY, TOWN

Raleigh

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 27609

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Vance County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Henderson

STATE

North Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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Esker D. Perkinson, Senior Warden  
P. O. Box 134  
Kittrell, NC 27544

Rev. George A. Magoon  
P. O. Box 247  
Louisburg, NC 27549

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Husketh  
Box 1  
Kittrell, NC 27544

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. James Episcopal Church is a simple carpenter Gothic frame structure resting on a stone foundation. The building is composed of a gable roof main block, three bays long, with a vestibule attached to the south gable front and a small chapel added to the north end. Both of these appendages have gable roofs and are of the same size and proportion--one bay by one bay--though a small shed room has been added to the east side of the chapel. A square-in-section belfry rises from the peak of the south gable end of the main block. The entire structure is covered with board-and-batten except for the north gable end of the main block, which is shingled. All openings, including the louvered ventilators of the belfry, are lancet arches; and window and door frames are emphasized by hood molds. Stained glass of geometric design fills the northernmost windows of both sides of the nave, the small lancet window on the gable end of the vestibule, and the triple Gothic window on the north end of the chapel; other windows have simple four-over-four Gothic sash. A four-pane circular window in a wide molded surround pierces the south end above the vestibule. Four-panel doors are placed on the east and west sides of the vestibule and on the west wall of the chapel.

The wooden decorative detail is simple. Set in the peak of each gable end of the main block is a king-post and tie-beam ornamental device. Narrow scalloped trim is applied to the overhanging eaves of the main block and vestibule; this ornament is repeated at the top of the exterior walls under the eaves. Sawn pendants terminate the roofline at each corner of the main block, and a small cross surmounts the peak of the gable of the vestibule. Thin pinnacles extend upward from the corners of the low pyramidal roof of the belfry.

The interior follows a simple center-aisle plan and retains most of its original fabric. The walls and vaulted ceiling are sheathed in wide boards; the walls have been covered in paper. Sheathed wainscoting extends throughout along the base of the wall. The pews attach to the wainscot at the wall; the aisle ends of the pews are paneled with paired lancet arches. A large arched opening gives into the chapel. The small shed sacristy room off the east side of the chapel is reached by Gothic arch, four-panel doors in the chapel and at the northwest corner of the nave. The church interior contains a number of fine memorials, including the lectern, altar, and baptismal font, most dating from the late nineteenth century.

Located directly behind the church is a one-story, board-and-batten dwelling that formerly served as the rectory, and is now a rental house owned by the church. The house is built on an H-plan, with two gable roof blocks, each three bays wide by one deep, connected by a hyphen.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      mid-19th century

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Though the exact dates of the construction of St. James Episcopal Church are unclear, it was probably in its present form by the time of its consecration in 1878. The handsome board-and batten Carpenter Gothic church was the focus of a group of small but relatively prosperous farmers, among them some of Vance County's most influential citizens, who lived in and around the village of Kittrell in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The role of the church was heightened by Kittrell's prominence as a resort town in this period; two important resort hotels were here that accomodated hundreds of visitors from throughout the eastern United States who came to enjoy the area's famous warm springs. The springs were dry and the hotels gone by the beginning of the twentieth century; the church remains as perhaps the chief vestige of the town's late nineteenth century era of prosperity and social prominence.

Local tradition suggests that the St. James Episcopal Church of Kittrell was built around 1860 or 1861. A Vance County historian concurs with this judgment, stating that the church "was erected a short time before the Civil War."<sup>1</sup> However, evidence exists that the church may not have been completed until as late as 1872, when the Episcopal Bishop of the North Carolina Diocese reported that he had preached "in a church recently erected at Kittrell's Station in Granville County."<sup>2</sup> "It is likely that the church was either left incomplete by the onset of the Civil War or was damaged to such an extent that significant renovation was necessary. Some evidence suggests the church was built of the materials of an earlier one. (See below).

Prior to the construction of the church, the congregation was quite small and was forced to borrow a rector from either Oxford or Henderson in order to conduct infrequent services. In 1853 an Oxford rector advised the convention of the North Carolina Diocese that he was "endeavoring to revive this Parish; for many years it had not even a 'name to live'."<sup>3</sup> Prospects did not improve until 1860 when a new church was proposed. Papers were submitted to the 1860 convention proposing the creation of the new church. Reverend Gilliam of Oxford explained the reasons for the proposal:

On every third Sunday, I hold services in a school house at Bethel, a Methodist meeting-ground seven miles below Oxford. There was a substantial Church building three miles from Bethel, and shortly after the commencement of my ministration here, I resolved upon having the Church (St. James's) removed to Kittrell's Springs, where the prospects for the Church were evidently more encouraging. This design, I am happy to say, has been almost brought to a successful issue. A Church lot at the Springs has been procured--St. James has been taken down and removed--and its reconstruction is now rapidly

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approaching completion. I will add that a<sup>5</sup> Parish has been recently organized here (at the Springs).

This smooth sequence of events was interrupted by the Civil War, however. Whatever the degree of completion of the new church by the beginning of the war, it is clear that by the summer of 1861 the congregation had been weakened. St. James went unrepresented at the 1861 Episcopal convention, and the Oxford rector commented that "such appointments as are practicable will be made at Kittrell's Springs--the Parochial organization of which is virtually extinct."<sup>6</sup> This situation remained unchanged in 1862 and 1863.

In 1864, however, St. James obtained the services of a full-time rector, the Reverend Matthias Marshall:

Immediately after my ordination . . . I set out for the army of Northern Virginia to act in the capacity of Chaplain to the 7th Reg't N. C. Troops, but on my arrival at camp was taken violently sick and was consequently compelled to resign forthwith the position to which I had been assigned. During the interval of my recovery, I was, the greater part of the time in Granville County, assisting the Rector of St. John's, Williamsboro, in Divine Service, and preaching there and elsewhere when occasion offered. On the 21st of March I accepted a call to the Parish of St. James, Kittrell's Springs, and officiated there for the first time on the first Sunday in April. From that time this Church has been open for Divine Service on the first and third Sunday in each month. . . . Funds are being raised for repairing the Church building, of which it stands much in need, and<sup>7</sup> I doubt not such repair will be made during the coming summer.

The activity of the church in 1864 and 1865 was, of course, heavily concentrated on the war. The nearby Kittrell Springs Hotel was used as a hospital for Confederate soldiers. Reverend Marshall conducted funeral services for fifty-two soldiers who died in the hospital, while the small congregation of the church raised \$435<sup>8</sup>.71, presumably in Confederate currency, to obtain "reading matter for soldiers."<sup>8</sup> Reverend Marshall lived in the residence of B. A. Capehart, walking several miles to church in order to conduct services. It was in the home of Capehart that Marshall twice baptized groups of Negro children, fourteen on April 17, 1864, and seven on May 1, 1864. <sup>9</sup>He also baptized fifteen Negro children in March, 1865 at the home of Josephus Peace.

Early in 1866 Marshall left Kittrell, once again leaving St. James without a

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rector. The low point in the church's fortunes occurred in 1868 when St. James was denied representation in the Episcopal convention due to their failure "to maintain their organization."<sup>10</sup> Recognition was quickly restored in 1869, however.<sup>11</sup> In 1873 St. James<sup>12</sup> acquired the services of Reverend Sweetland as rector, but only for a short period. It was around this time, however, that the church was repaired or rebuilt. Bishop Atkinson visited the church, and commented on the lack of a rector, noting that "an efficient Clergyman would soon gather an excellent congregation. There is a good Church building."<sup>13</sup>

The church was apparently the focus of a small but reasonably prosperous group of farmers, many of them veterans of the war, who were able to maintain a social milieu reminiscent of antebellum years despite the problems of reconstruction. A rectory<sup>14</sup> was built in 1876, with the first occupant being the new rector, Reverend Dolloway. After the completion of the rectory, St. James seldom had difficulty replacing its rectors, and the church took on a new prominence. The church was consecrated in 1878 by Assistant Bishop Lyman, who noted that "the addition of a recess chancel, front porch, and bell tower has greatly improved the building."<sup>15</sup> Improvements continued to be made and the church was able to report in 1881 that it was "entirely free from debt and in a prosperous condition for a parish of its size."<sup>16</sup> An important component of the prosperity of St. James during the last quarter of the nineteenth century was Kittrell's prominence as a resort area. The region's warm springs were famous throughout the eastern part of the country, and the Kittrell Springs Hotel, located only a few hundred yards from St. James, boasted of a capacity of 800 guests.<sup>17</sup> On several occasions the church noted that the generosity<sup>18</sup> of visitors from the north made improvements in the church and rectory possible.

Eventually the springs dried up and the visitors from the north stopped coming. In 1885 the Kittrell Springs Hotel burned down. It was replaced, not by another hotel, but rather with a "Normal Industrial School" for blacks. The Glass House, Kittrell's other prominent resort hotel, burned in 1893.<sup>19</sup> By the end of the nineteenth century Kittrell's heyday as a resort was at an end. St. James shared in the decline of the town, losing the prominence it had maintained in the<sup>20</sup> 1880s and 90s. Today it has a small congregation, and holds services once a month.

Several of the areas most prominent families were influential members of St. James. The first vestry was composed of<sup>21</sup> B. A. Capehart, William H. Davis, Thomas Capehart, Josephus Peace, and C. W. Raney. All of these men remained active in the church and their names frequently appear as lay delegates to the Episcopal convention, church officers, and contributors. The Kittrell family, the Blacknall family, and the Burwell family, all prominent<sup>22</sup> in the area, are listed as being members of the church in the late nineteenth century. One observer has stated that "the history of Vance County can be traced through the outstanding families who composed the membership . . . in the 1870s."<sup>2</sup> The church is now used and maintained by a very small congregation, served part-time by a minister from a neighboring parish.

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FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Samuel Thomas Peace, Zeb's Black Baby, Vance County, North Carolina, a Short History (Durham, N. C., Seeman Printery, 1955), p. 46, hereinafter referred to as Peace, Zeb's Black Baby.

<sup>2</sup> Protestant Episcopal Church, North Carolina Diocese, Journal of Convention, 1873, p. 20, hereinafter referred to as Protestant Episcopal Church, with appropriate year. The deed that gave St. James the land on which the church stands today was received by the Register of Deeds in 1871. Inasmuch as deeds were frequently received years after the actual transfer of property in the nineteenth century, this cannot be regarded as irrefutable evidence that the church could not have been built by 1861. Granville County Deeds, Book 25, p. 491.

<sup>3</sup> Protestant Episcopal Church, 1853, p. 31.

<sup>4</sup> Protestant Episcopal Church, 1860, p. 28.

<sup>5</sup> Protestant Episcopal Church, 1860, p. 38.

<sup>6</sup> Protestant Episcopal Church, 1861, p. 30.

<sup>7</sup> Protestant Episcopal Church, 1864, p. 46-47.

<sup>8</sup> Peace, Zeb's Black Baby, pp. 46-47; Protestant Episcopal Church, 1865, p. 54.

<sup>9</sup> Peace, Zeb's Black Baby, p. 46, p. 353.

<sup>10</sup> Protestant Episcopal Church, 1868, pp. 41-42.

<sup>11</sup> Protestant Episcopal Church, 1869, p. 32.

<sup>12</sup> Protestant Episcopal Church, 1873, p. 5.

<sup>13</sup> Protestant Episcopal Church, 1874, p. 40.

<sup>14</sup> Protestant Episcopal Church, 1876, pp. 102-103.

<sup>15</sup> Protestant Episcopal Church, 1879, p. 81.

<sup>16</sup> Protestant Episcopal Church, 1880, pp. 154-155; 1881, p. 153.

<sup>17</sup> Peace, Zeb's Black Baby, pp. 351-353.

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- <sup>18</sup> Protestant Episcopal Church, 1884, p. 98; 1886, p. 74.
- <sup>19</sup> Peace, Zeb's Black Baby, pp. 351-357, p. 101.
- <sup>20</sup> Henderson Daily Dispatch, October 24, 1974, p. 12.
- <sup>21</sup> Peace, Zeb's Black Baby, p. 47.
- <sup>22</sup> Peace, Zeb's Black Baby, p. 47.
- <sup>23</sup> John Crudup, quoted in Henderson Daily Dispatch, October 24, 1974, p. 12.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Granville County Deeds. Granville County Records. Division of Archives and History. Microfilm copy. Raleigh, N. C.  
 Henderson Daily Dispatch. October 24, 1974.  
 Peace, Samuel Thomas. Zeb's Black Baby. Vance County, North Carolina, a Short History. Durham, N.C.: Seeman Printery, 1955.  
 Protestant Episcopal Church. North Carolina Diocese, Journal of Convention. Annual convention, various publishers. 1851-1887.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre Latitude 36° 13' 30" Longitude 78° 26' 38"  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME/TITLE Description prepared by Michael Southern, Survey Specialist  
 Significance prepared by Jim Sumner, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION DATE

Division of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

109 East Jones Street 733-4763

CITY OR TOWN STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina 27611

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 17, 1977

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
	DATE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

