

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Chapel of the Good Shepherd

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER North side SR 1107, 0.2 mi. East of US 1

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Ridgeway

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

North Carolina

VICINITY OF

CODE
37

COUNTY

Warren

CODE

185

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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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

NAME

Chapel of the Good Shepherd, % Robert Scott, Sr., Warden

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 165

CITY, TOWN

Warrenton

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 27589

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Warren County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Warrenton

STATE

North Carolina 27589

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd at Ridgeway is a picturesque Gothic Revival brick church set amid large trees, its yard adjoining a walled cemetery whose graves include many of Ridgeway's families. (It is a local, not a church cemetery.)

The small church, of brick laid in irregular common bond, is three bays wide and three longer bays deep, with its steep gable end its main facade. The main (south) facade is defined by a red-painted wooden entrance tower on a brick foundation, that rises in three stages and is capped by a concave pyramidal roof topped by a wooden cross. The entrance is a lancet with paneled double doors surmounted by a paneled tympanum. The entrance is outlined by a heavy wooden molding. In the side faces of the tower at the first level are lancet windows with double-hung Gothic four-over-four sash. The windows, like the door, have molded frames. The second stage of the tower has snowflake-like tracery in a circular window, and at the belfry level are louvered lancets. It is not certain if the tower is original: suggesting that it may have been added slightly later are the fact that its foundation is brick and that of the main block of the building stone, and the fact that the tower hides the stone over the main building's entrance which has the inscription, "THE CHAPEL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD. 1871." Other than covering the original entrance treatment, the tower is in character with the building and contributes positively to its appearance.

The brick main building repeats the attenuated Gothic openings of the tower, but they are somewhat more elaborately treated. Heavy pointed-arched hoods of slightly projecting brick laid with almost invisible string joists, surmount all the openings, and the windows have tracery like the tower windows. The stone sills of the windows project to either side and rest on blocks in the "Italianate" mode of A. J. Downing. The entrance, now covered by the tower, is like the tower entrance. Panels with heavy moldings articulate the door, the deep reveals, and tall arched tympanum. The steep front gable is dramatized by heavy bargeboards pierced with quatrefoil motifs, underlining molded raking cornices; molded cornices occur on the side and rear roofline.

At the rear of the chapel is a small gable-roof projection terminating the chancel. The rear (chancel) window is treated as the other windows are, but its shape is a rather broad ogee arch, containing a three-part Gothic window.

Within, the church is quite simply finished and follows a center-aisle plan. The walls are plastered above a plain board wainscot, and the flat ceiling is of tongue-and-groove boards. The windows, set in deep reveals, are covered with louvered blinds. A broad arch frames the chancel, which is furnished with memorials made mostly by members of the congregation, including the rather elaborate altarpiece, given in memory of the long-time priest, William Pettigrew. All the simple wooden furnishings repeat the Gothic character of the chapel.

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 1871

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd is a small Episcopal church erected in 1871, during the Reconstruction era when Dr. William J. Hawkins, J. M. Heck and others in the Ridgeway Company sought to make Ridgeway, a village on the railroad, a bustling new city amid a county of plantations nearly ruined by the Civil War. Hawkins contributed the land and most of the money to establish the Episcopal church, which flourished under the leadership of the Reverend William Pettigrew until 1900. The picturesque Gothic Revival brick chapel in the now sparsely inhabited village is an isolated remnant of the grand plans of the Ridgeway Company.

The small Warren County community of Ridgeway grew up around a depot of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad in the 1840s. During the Civil War, a Confederate training camp, Camp Beauregard, was located there. After the war a small group of energetic Warren County men made a concerted effort at placing Ridgeway on the map. The Ridgeway Company, led by Dr. William J. Hawkins and Col. Jonathan Heck, was organized in conjunction with A. G. Johnson and Peter R. Davis in 1867, and stock was sold in the corporation. Kemp Battle, an associate of these men in the 1860s, expressed their optimism: "There had been expressed by soldiers who had traversed the State much admiration of our climate and other advantages so that it seemed reasonable that an immigration of land buyers could be secured for cultivation of the soil, converting forests into lumber, mining, fisheries, and the like." Advertisements were placed in local, national, and foreign papers, especially in Germany, to encourage immigration. Cheap lands and other inducements were offered. A major new city was envisioned. The efforts at Ridgeway were moderately successful at first, with the biggest success being the importation of two dozen German farming families in the mid-1880s--whose descendants still farm in the area. The Ridgeway Company's efforts faded out in time, however, and the ambitious dreams of its sponsors never materialized.

Soon after the war, the Warren County citizens of the area, many of them Episcopalian, saw a need for a new church. Warren County supported a prosperous Episcopal church, Emmanuel Church of Warrenton, but the Episcopalians of Ridgeway desired a place of worship closer to home. The impetus for the new church came primarily from Dr. William J. Hawkins.

William J. Hawkins was born on May 27, 1819, in Franklin County, a member of a distinguished North Carolina family. His father was a wealthy plantation owner and judge, while his uncle William Hawkins was governor of the state from 1811 to 1815. Hawkins attended the University of North Carolina and the College of William and Mary, obtaining his A. B. degree from the latter. In 1842 he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania medical school. His medical practice was successful, but he branched out to other endeavors. In 1855 he became president of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, and nursed the

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line through the Civil War as best he could. After the war he helped build the railroad back up. He was also in the midst of the plans to develop the Ridgeway area. In 1875 he was forced to give up his position with the Raleigh and Gaston due to severe rheumatism. Afterwards he was a trustee of the University of North Carolina and founder of the Citizens National Bank of Raleigh.⁴

Dr. Hawkins provided virtually all of the financial resources required to build the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. On June 11, 1870, he deeded the land on which the church was built to the congregation. The church's first vestry--Kemp Plummer, Marmaduke Hawkins, Richard Henderson, Austin Plummer, and Charles Petar--paid Hawkins the sum of one dollar for the land. The deed specified that the land must be used for an Episcopal church, the congregation must keep the grounds and the adjacent roads in good repair, and no other buildings could be built on the land.⁵ In 1871 the church was begun.

By 1872 the congregation was able to report to the annual convention of the North Carolina Diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church that "the new and beautiful brick chapel 'The Chapel of the Good Shepherd' is now nearly completed. . . .Steps will soon be taken for the organization of the congregation into a separate Parish. . . .also to have more frequent services."⁶ In March of 1873 Bishop Atkinson, bishop for the North Carolina Diocese, preached at the Church of the Good Shepherd for the first time. Several months later, at the 1873 convention, representatives of the congregation described the creation of the church to the gathering:

This Parish now makes its first Parochial Report. . . . In July last it was regularly organized and its first vestry elected. Previous to that time, for about eighteen months, services were held at the Ridgeway Hotel, only in the afternoon of one Sunday in each month. The congregation now worships in the morning of one, and in the afternoon of another Sunday, in each month, in a beautiful chapel of brick, Gothic, measuring 28x44, with recess chancel, erected at a cost, in its present condition, of \$2,873.27 and entirely free from debt.

This encouraging state of things is, under God, owing mainly to the kindly personal interest in the work, liberality and active exertions of Dr. W. J. Hawkins. It is but a matter of simple justice to this gentleman to state that he has not only personally superintended and directed the construction of the chapel, but has also himself contributed more than \$2000 to the work, besides having obtained for it, through personal friends, about \$800 more.⁸

At this time, the new church shared its rector with the older Emmanuel Church of Warrenton. This arrangement was in effect more often than not, as the financial resources of the small area church were insufficient to support a full-time rector. A rectory was built however, in 1875, near the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Once again the

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benefactor was Dr. Hawkins.⁹ In the same year the Bishop of the North Carolina Diocese reported that he was "gratified to find this comparatively new congregation going on in a prosperous and encouraging way."¹⁰

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd was designed to hold two hundred people. Its congregation, however, never approached that figure. The future of the church was intertwined with that of Ridgeway. The failure of Ridgeway to become the prosperous community its backers dreamed it would be likewise kept the church from realizing its goals. The parish records of the church show that it reached its peak in the years from 1875 until 1900. More baptisms were performed between 1880 and 1900 than between 1900 and 1960. The record of confirmations likewise confirms¹¹ that the last two decades of the nineteenth century were the most active for the church. The rector of the church during this time was Reverend William Pettigrew of Tyrrell County (1818-1900), who served as priest from 1878 until 1900.

In recent years the congregation has dwindled, and a small group maintains the church and holds services once a month.

FOOTNOTES

¹Manly Wade Wellman, The County of Warren; North Carolina, 1586-1917 (Chapel Hill, N.C., University of North Carolina Press, 1959), 125-128, 176, hereinafter cited as Wellman, The County of Warren; and Jonathan Heck Papers, "Ridgeway Corporation", various deeds, stocks and statements (Archives, Division of Archives & History, Raleigh, N.C.).

²Kemp Plummer Battle, Memories of an Old-Time Tar Heel, edited by William James Battle (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1945) p. 201.

³Wellman, The County of Warren, p. 192.

⁴Samuel A. Ashe and others (eds.), Biographical History of North Carolina: From Colonial Times to the Present (Greensboro, N.C., Charles L. Van Noppen, 8 volumes, 1906), V, 169-174.

⁵Warren County Deeds, Book 36:41, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives & History, Raleigh, N.C.

⁶Protestant Episcopal Church, Journal of Convention, State of North Carolina, 1872, p. 73, hereinafter cited as Protestant Episcopal Church, with appropriate year.

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⁷Protestant Episcopal Church, 1873, p. 23.

⁸Protestant Episcopal Church, 1873, p. 79.

⁹Protestant Episcopal Church, 1875, pp. 81-82. The rectory is gone.

¹⁰Protestant Episcopal Church, 1875, p. 47.

¹¹Parish Records, Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Ridgeway, North Carolina, Baptism Records, 78-104, confirmation records, 150-154. These records show that thirty-five baptisms were performed between 1880 and 1889, thirty-four between 1890 and 1891 and fifty-four between 1900 and 1960. Fifteen confirmations took place between 1880 and 1889, and fifteen also took place between 1890 and 1891.

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Parish Records. Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Ridgeway, N.C. Microfilm copy. State Archives. Office of Archives and History. Raleigh, N.C.

Protestant Episcopal Church, Journal of Convention, State of North Carolina. Annual, Various Publishers. 1872-1887.

Warren County Deed Book. Microfilm copy. State Archives. Office of Archives and History. Raleigh, N.C.

Wellman, Manly Wade. The County of Warren: North Carolina, 1586-1917. Chapel Hill, N.C. University of North Carolina Press. 1959.

