

STATE:
Virginia

COUNTY:
Hampton (in cit.)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
2/26/70	

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
St. John's Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Elizabeth City Parish Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
NW corner of West Queen Street and Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hampton

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Virginia	45	(in cit.)	650

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Vestry, St. John's Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
100 West Queen Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Hampton

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Clerk of Court

STREET AND NUMBER:
City of Hampton

CITY OR TOWN:
Hampton

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D. C.

CODE:
08

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Hampton (in cit.)

ENTRY NUMBER

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DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

VLR-12/2/69 NRHP 2/26/70

114-1

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
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(Number all entries)

6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #114-1
1969 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia Code: 45

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. John's Church is one of six remaining colonial churches in Virginia built in the shape of a Latin cross. The building measures about seventy-five feet east to west, and approximately sixty feet north to south. The fine quality brick walls are laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers above the beveled water table and English bond below. Rubbed brick is found around all the semicircular arched windows, the round windows in each of the gable ends, and at all the corners. All three entrances (north, south and west) to the building apparently had brick pediments, but these have been removed and the entrances are now covered by modern brick vestibules. A brick tower with a wooden belfry was added to the west end in 1762, but was removed circa 1870. The present massive and somewhat awkwardly placed brick tower in the northeast corner of the building was added in 1901. Except for the walls themselves, all the remaining fabric in the church dates from after 1870. The present interior appointments, especially the stained glass windows, are fine quality late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century work.

Surrounding the church is a picturesque graveyard with stones bearing the names of many of the old families in the area. At least two of the stones date from the colonial period.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
History |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present St. John's, or Elizabeth City Parish Church as it was originally named, is the fourth building to serve this ancient parish, said to be the oldest active parish of the Anglican Church in America. The first church, known as Kecoughtan Church, was erected circa 1613-16 in the vicinity of what is now Hampton Institute. The second and third churches, erected in 1624 and 1667 respectively, were located nearer the present church. In 1727 the governor decided that a new church should be erected within the city of Hampton, and a court order directed certain men "to lay off an acre and a half of ground at the upper end of Queen Street for the building of a church thereon." The present church was completed circa 1728.

As with most of Virginia's colonial churches, St. John's has suffered considerably from the wars which have plagued the Tidewater area. The building was slightly damaged during the British bombardment of Hampton in 1775. During the War of 1812, it was ransacked by British troops and was used as a barracks. The British so damaged the building that little was left except the walls and the roof. In 1830 the church received a thorough renovation and was reconsecrated by Bishop Moore as St. John's Church. In 1861 Confederate forces burned the church along with the rest of Hampton, so a second renovation was required following the War Between the States.

Although the brick walls are the only remaining original portions of the church, they survive as a classic example of early-eighteenth century Virginia brickwork. The existing Victorian interior appointments are of fine quality and are befitting for the venerable walls in which they are placed.

It should be noted that St. John's English communion silver has been in use longer than any other in America. The London chalice and two patens, dating from 1618-19, were originally given to St. Mary's, Smith's Hundred, in Charles City County and were bestowed upon Elizabeth City Parish later in the century. St. John's also owns a Breeches Bible dated 1599.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mason, George Carrington, Colonial Churches of Tidewater Virginia. Richmond: Whittet and Shepperson, 1945.
 Rawlings, James Scott, Virginia's Colonial Churches; An Architectural Guide. Richmond: Garrett & Massie, 1963.
 Rose, Harold Wickliffe, The Colonial Houses of Worship in America. New York: Hastings House, Publishers, 1963.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37° 01' 33"	76° 20' 49"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director
 ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 DATE: October 8, 1969
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
 CITY OR TOWN: Richmond
 STATE: Virginia
 CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date 12/2/69

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

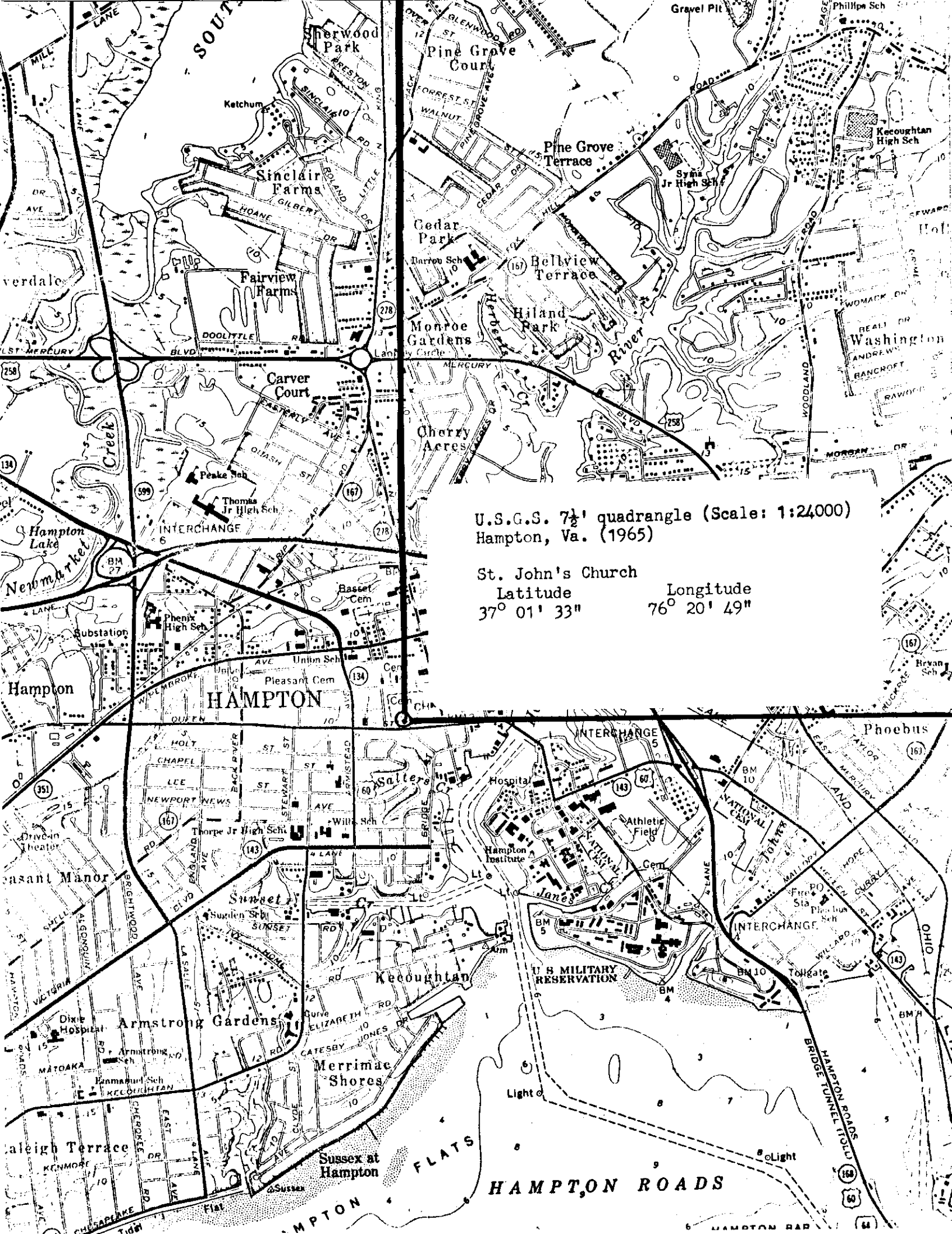
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date 2/26/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24000)
 Hampton, Va. (1965)

St. John's Church
 Latitude 37° 01' 33" Longitude 76° 20' 49"

HAMPTON

HAMPTON ROADS