

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Virginia
COUNTY:	Norfolk (in cit.)
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
St. Paul's Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Borough Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
201 St. Paul's Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN:
Norfolk

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: (in cit.) CODE: 710

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Board of Trustees, John W. Winston, Senior Warden

STREET AND NUMBER:
St. Paul's Church, 201 St. Paul's Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN:
Norfolk

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Norfolk

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

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:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Norfolk (in cit.)

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Situated in the heart of an ever-renewing downtown Norfolk, St. Paul's Church stands as a physical reminder of the historic roots of this modern-appearing city. Sheltered beneath the large trees of its picturesque churchyard, the old brick walls form a classic example of Virginia colonial ecclesiastical architecture. Similar in outline to such notable churches as Bruton Parish, St. John's Hampton, and Mattaponi, King and Queen County, St. Paul's is built in the form of a Latin cross with unpedimented gable ends. The walls, laid Flemish bond with glazed headers above a beveled water table and English bond below, are the only remaining portions of the original building; all else was destroyed when the church burned in 1776. In themselves the walls are fine examples of colonial craftsmanship, having rubbed brick dressings around all of the tall semi-circular arched windows, around the large circular windows in the transepts, and at all the corners of the building. (The circular window in the west wall is a later insertion.) A most distinctive feature is the projection bricks in the south transept that form the large inscription "1739 S B". These projecting bricks are glazed but have been painted over. The walls have been repaired and repointed in various places, but on the whole they are in relatively good condition. The church's three doorways originally had brick pediments, but those in the transepts are now covered over by handsome frame vestibules, while the west doorway has been incorporated in a recently added brick vestibule. Other later additions include a small brick vestry in the northeast corner and a three-story brick bell tower connected to the west front by the brick vestibule previously mentioned. Built in 1901, the tower has brickwork and window detail copied from the church. The church's handsome and dignified Georgian-style interior with its high pews dates from 1913; and though obviously a product of its time, it is a very creditable design.

In the churchyard there are numerous eighteenth and nineteenth century gravestones and a few seventeenth century ones, many of which show the damaging effects of Norfolk's atmosphere. Also located in the yard is a two-and-half story Georgian-style parish house containing an interesting small museum. Much of the brick wall surrounding the yard dates from 1759.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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3. 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) 1739

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input 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

Venerable St. Paul's Church, the third church of Elizabeth River Parish, was constructed in 1739 with materials believed to have been the gift of Samuel Boush, the first mayor of the Borough of Norfolk. The projecting bricks in the south gable that form the inscription "1739 S B" are thought to support this. It is said that the present church is built on the site of the 1641 chapel of ease of the old Lower Norfolk Parish; and indeed, the churchyard has served as a burial place from that time. The church was originally referred to as The Borough Church because Norfolk had been created a borough by Royal Charter in 1736. In 1776, when Lord Dunmore's fleet bombarded the town, the church was struck by a cannonball which nearly seventy-five years later was dug up near the base of the building and restored to its former point of contact, where it has become an item of interest to visitors. Shortly after the British bombardment, American forces gutted the church along with the rest of the town. The church stood in ruin until 1786, when it was restored with funds obtained by a lottery authorized by an act of the General Assembly. The church served its congregation again until 1803, when internal strife caused the congregation to abandon the building to the Baptists. In 1827, it was reoccupied by Episcopalians from Christ Church, and in 1832, the church received its own new congregation as well as its present name. During the Civil War St. Paul's was used as a chapel by Federal forces. In 1913, the church was thoroughly renovated and given its present dignified Georgian style interior.

Although much changed by war, neglect, and later additions, St. Paul's survives as the oldest building in the city of Norfolk, and the only Virginia colonial church inscribed with projecting bricks. The church's original vestry book of 1748-61 is preserved, as are five pieces of its colonial silver, now on loan to the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences. Set in its beautiful old churchyard, St. Paul's stands in relation to its very changed environs much as described in 1853 by William Forrest:

Like the sturdy old oak of the mountain, that defies the fury of the levelling tornado, and which has escaped the heavy strokes of the woodman's axe, as well as the scathing thunderbolts of the God of Nature, or like the aged pilgrim, who has long survived all the rest of his generation, and who lingers, almost as a stranger, amid the changes and desolation around him, this ancient temple stands among the silent dead, - the mouldering remains of those who formerly assembled to worship within its consecrated walls and make their vows at its altar; and it points gloomily though significantly, to the men and the events of years that have gone by.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Forrest, William S. Historical and Descriptive Sketches of Norfolk and Vicinity. Philadelphia: Lindsay and Blakiston, 1853.
 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, 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	° ' "	° ' "		36 ° 50 ' 51 "	76 ° 17 ' 09 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Calder Conrad Loth, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. DATE: February 10, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

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 3/2/71

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

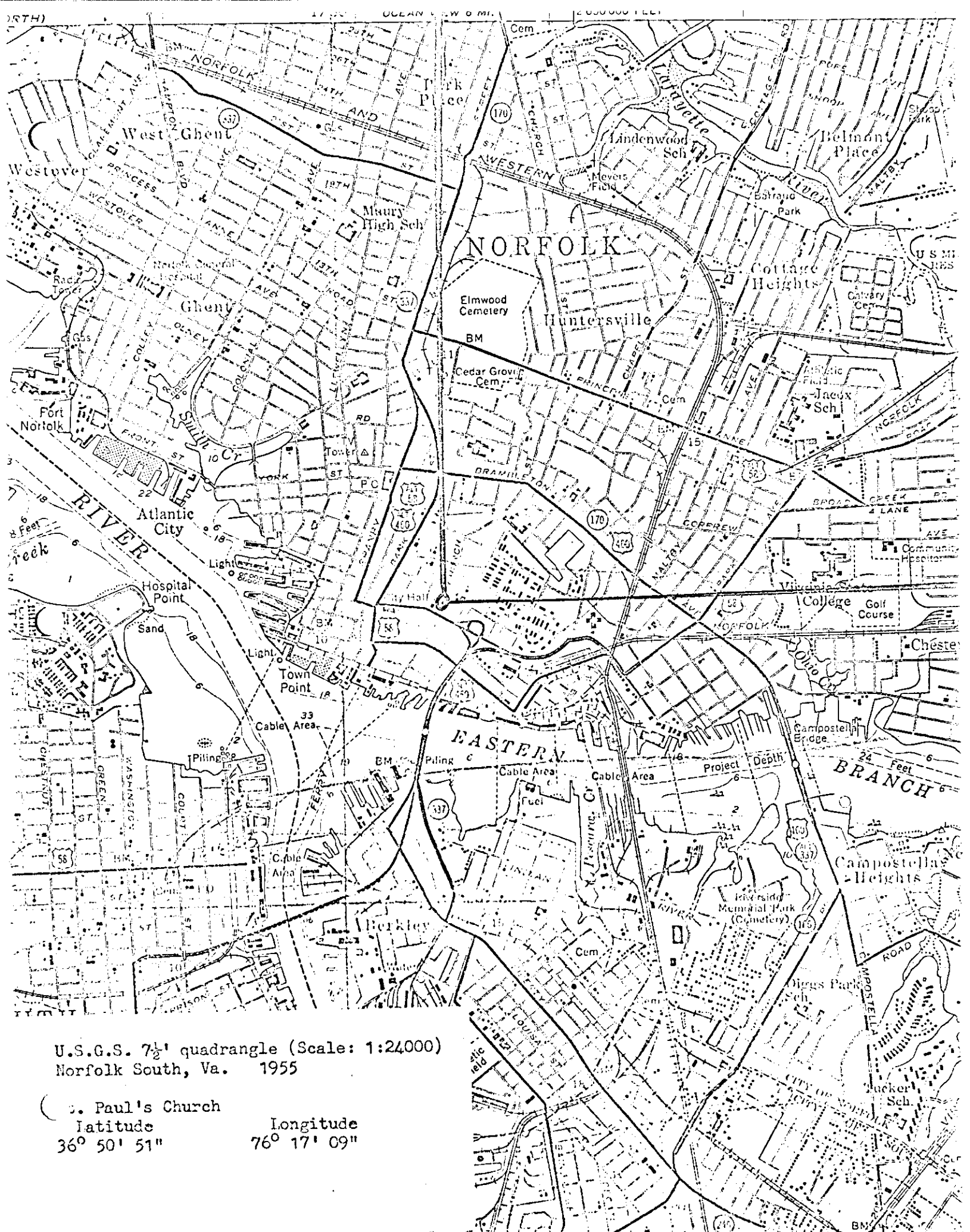
Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24000)
 Norfolk South, Va. 1955

St. Paul's Church
 Latitude 36° 50' 51"
 Longitude 76° 17' 09"