

VLR-9/18/79 NRHP-12/28/79

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

**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 St. Stephen's Church (preferred)

and/or common St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

**2. Location**

street & number Route 360 \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Heathsville \_\_\_ vicinity of First (Paul S. Tribble, Jr.)  
congressional district

state Virginia code 51 county Northumberland code 133

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> park</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> scientific</span>
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> transportation</span>
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> other:</span>

**4. Owner of Property**

name St. Stephen's Episcopal Church c/o Rev. John H. Parke, Rector

street & number Box 236

city, town Heathsville \_\_\_ vicinity of state Virginia 22473

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Northumberland County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Heathsville state Virginia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys** <sup>(2)</sup> (See Continuation Sheet #1)

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey  
title Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes \_\_\_ no

date 1969  federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D.C.

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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. Stephen's Episcopal Church is located on Route 360 in the town of Heathsville, Northumberland County. Consecrated in 1881, the church is a delightful example of the Gothic style adapted to a rural parish edifice. The wood-frame building is a rectangular, one-story, gable-roof structure covered with board-and-batten siding.

The main (west) elevation is dominated by a one-story porch which consists of paired square columns supporting a steeply pitched roof capped by a cross. The porch is distinguished by an inset Gothic arch with sharp trefoils and sawnwork wooden railing. An iron railing on the steps constitutes a later addition. The porch shelters a double doorway with its original herringbone-pattern paneled doors set in a simple frame. The doorway has stained-glass quatrefoils set within a pointed arch. The porch is flanked by narrow, pointed stained-glass windows. A stained-glass rose window is in the gable. A cross marks the apex of the roof. The gable is ornamented with a braced finial and pendants.

The north and south elevations consist of four bays. Each bay contains a pointed window with stained glass. The east elevation is dominated by a rectangular apse. The apse is lighted by three pointed windows, the center one taller and wider than the side windows. An exterior brick chimney breaks the elevation's roof line. To the side of the apse is a small vestry.

The plan of the church consists of a nave with a vestibule to the west. The sanctuary is set within a pointed-arch recess formally separated from the nave by a wooden communion rail. The altar reredos, pulpit and lectern were the work of Clem Goodman, a parishioner. The pews are original to the church.

The original church bell is located to the east of the building. The cemetery, a later addition, occupies the rear lawn.

RCC

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1881 (consecrated) **Builder/Architect** T. Buckler Ghequiere

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Consecrated in 1881, St. Stephen's Church ranks among the state's best examples of the wooden Gothic or "Carpenters Gothic" style popular throughout America in the mid-19th century. The building is also evidence of rural Virginia's architectural conservatism: such churches in northern states usually date closer to 1852, when the prominent church architect Richard Upjohn popularized the style with his designs for picturesque wooden churches in his book Rural Architecture. Parish records list St. Stephen's architect as one T. Buckler Ghequiere. Whether the architect or the parishioners were instrumental in the choice of style, this remote Northern Neck church illustrates the continued interest of the Anglican community in having its houses of worship, however modest, adorned with accurately interpreted and handsomely crafted Gothic forms. This interest was fostered by the ecclesiological movements of earlier in the century which stressed the use of Gothic style to emphasize Anglicanism's roots in the Medieval church.

The original St. Stephen's Parish was formed in 1698 by combining Boutracy and Fairfield parishes. Fairfield, earlier known as Chickacoan Parish, embraced the area to the north of the Wicomico River and dated from 1648. St. Stephen's was represented in the first convention of the Episcopal Church of Virginia in 1785, and the parish sent representatives to the Council Conventions intermittently until 1799. The parish declined following the disestablishment. Writing in 1857, Bishop Meade noted that there was no active church or parish in Northumberland County.

A renewed interest in an Episcopal Church for Northumberland prompted the purchase of land in 1874 for the purpose of "erecting a house of divine worship."<sup>1</sup> The present rector, John H. Parke, has recorded the early history of the present building. The Rev. Mr. Parke writes:

The guiding spirits for securing an architect and for raising funds for construction of the new church building were Dr. and Mrs. James Smith who lived in the nearby beautiful estate Mantua. Mrs. Alice Kay Smith, serving as agent for the trustees, has left a meticulous accounting of money received from pledges, subscriptions, fairs, concerts, oyster roasts, tableaux, fish fries, and sales of candy, strawberries, and whatever else the members of the parish could lay their hands on, for a total of \$2373.64 which presumably covered the cost of the present building. Expenditures were also carefully recorded for architect's fees, stained glass, lumber, fine millwork, lighting fixtures, shingles, tie-rods, bricks, supplies for various entertainments, even a donkey and saddle for one of the many fairs. All shipments from Baltimore were by steamer to the landing at Mantua in Dr. Smith's care. Few of the supplies were available in the Northern Neck, and Richmond, beyond the Rappahannock, was as remote as the moon! Thanks to steamers plying the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River, Baltimore was far more accessible than any other city.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Cocke, Charles Francis. Parish Lines, Diocese of Virginia. Richmond; Virginia State Library, 1967.

Meade, Bishop William. Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia. 2 vols. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1966.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3/4 acre

Quadrangle name Heathsville, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	8	3	7	0	4	5	0	4	1	9	7	6	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning on SE side of private drive at a point about 200' NE of intersection of said drive and U.S. Route 360 and about 1800' ESE of eastern intersection of said U.S. route with State Route 601; thence extending 200' SSE along fence line of cemetery; thence extending 150' SSW to said U.S. route; (See Continuation Sheet #1)

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date August 1979

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Julia Hill*  
Tucker Hill, Executive Director

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date SEP 18 1979

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

St. Stephen's Church, Heathsville, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6,8,9,10 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1974 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Although the corner stone gives Emmanuel Church as the original name, when the building was completed it was formally consecrated on April 30, 1881 by the Rt. Rev. Francis M. Whittle, Bishop of Virginia, assisted by the Rev. Messrs. Tucker, Derby, and E. Meade.<sup>2</sup>

The congregation remains active to the present. Additional land has been added to the parish holdings which include a cemetery.

MTP/RCC

<sup>1</sup>The Rev. John H. Parke, "Notes on St. Stephen's Church," Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

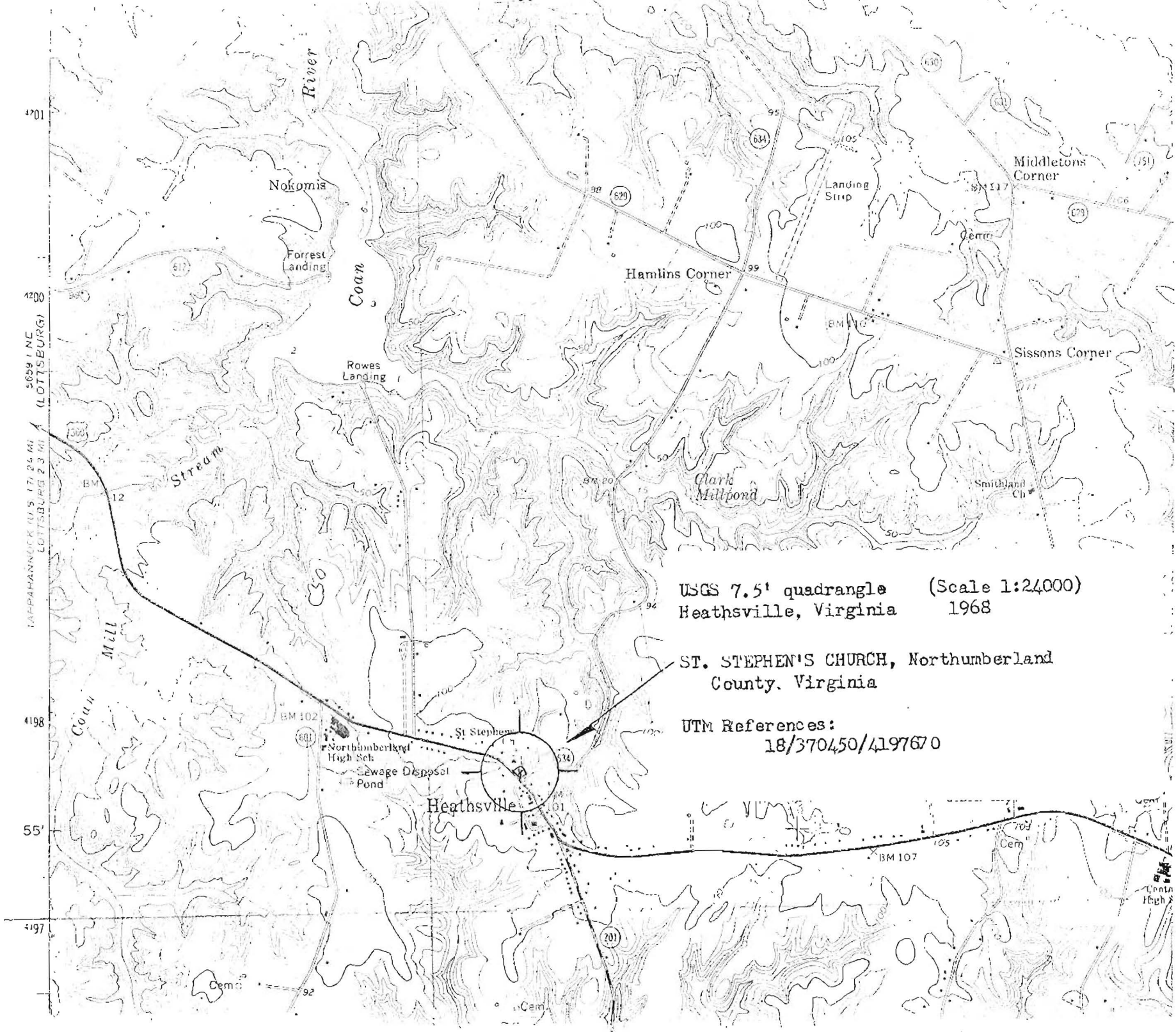
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Parke, The Rev. John H. "Notes on St. Stephen's Church." Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - Verbal boundary description and justification

thence extending 200' NW along E side of said route to intersection with private drive;  
thence extending 200' NNE along SE side of said drive to point of origin.

The boundary for St. Stephen's Church is drawn to include the church and surrounding land that was included in the land purchase of 1874.



4701  
1200  
4198  
55'  
4197

5659 1 NE  
(LOTTSBURG)

24 64  
2 3 61

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (Scale 1:24000)  
Heathsville, Virginia 1968

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, Northumberland  
County, Virginia

UTM References:  
18/370450/4197670

Nokomis

River

Coan

Stream

Mill

Coan

Nokomis

Forrest  
Landing

Rowes  
Landing

Hamblins  
Corner

Landing  
Strip

Middletons  
Corner

Sissons  
Corner

Clark  
Millpond

Smithland  
Ch

Northumberland  
High Sch

Sewage Disposal  
Pond

Heathsville

Old  
Cem

Coan  
High Sch