

VLR-11/5/68 NRHP-6/4/69

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:  
St. Paul's Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
St. Paul's Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
815 E. Grace Street; SW corner of Ninth and Grace Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Richmond

STATE Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: (in cit.)	CODE 760
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No: <input type="checkbox"/>			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
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 type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:  
Trustees of St. Paul's Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
815 E. Grace Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia	CODE 45
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Chancery Court

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Richmond City Hall

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia	CODE 45
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Washington

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 08
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The magnificent octastyle Greek Corinthian portico is the most outstanding exterior feature of St. Paul's Church. Although the church employs Grecian motifs, the body of the building is actually in the form of a Roman temple, placed on a podium and having pilasters between the side bays. The cupola over the facade was originally topped by a 225 foot spire. The spire was removed, however, out of fear of its stability, and replaced by a small octagonal dome. Although the exterior architectural ornaments are composed of a variety of materials, the main body of the building is stuccoed brick. The fine cast iron fence around the building was designed by the architect.

The church's interior features a finely executed series of Greek Corinthian columns around the choir and the semi-circular apse. The nave, which retains its original pews, has a gallery around three sides, and is crowned by a superb plaster relief ceiling. The interior also contains many fine memorial stained glass windows, and a baptismal font executed by Alexander Galt.

The two-story stuccoed parish house, completed in the last decade, is executed in the Greek Revival style, and is connected to the church by a small Ionic colonnade.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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) 1845

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |  |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>     | Education <input type="checkbox"/>    | Political <input type="checkbox"/>           | Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>    | Engineering <input 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 type="checkbox"/>           | _____                                    |
| Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>    | Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> | _____                                    |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>       | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/>          | _____                                    |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/>   | Theater <input type="checkbox"/>             | _____                                    |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>   | Military <input type="checkbox"/>     | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>      | _____                                    |
|   | Music <input type="checkbox"/>        |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

In the early 1840's, a large part of the congregation of Monumental Episcopal Church decided to build a new church west of their location so as to be more convenient to the ever-growing membership. The lot chosen was adjacent to Capitol Square, at the corner of Ninth and Grace streets. The architect selected was Thomas B. Stewart of Philadelphia, who was also to design the Egyptian Building for the Medical College of Virginia. The building Stewart provided for the newly formed St. Paul's congregation was a masterpiece of the Greek Revival style. Its richness of detail and ornament was in marked contrast to the usually more austere Greek Revival edifices being erected at the time.

Since its completion in 1845, St. Paul's has served as a house of worship for many of Richmond's and the South's leading citizens. Both Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee, as well as many of Virginia's governors, attended services there. It was during service at St. Paul's, on the fateful morning of April 2, 1865, that President Davis received word that General Lee could no longer hold Petersburg, and that government should evacuate Richmond.

St. Paul's, unlike many downtown churches, has remained a most active parish. Its architectural distinction, as well as its rich historical associations, make the church one of the South's most significant landmarks.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dulaney, Paul S., The Architecture of Historic Richmond, University Press of Virginia, 1968.  
 O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia, Virginia Museum, 1968.  
 Weddell, Elizabeth Wright, St. Paul's Church, It's Historic Years and Memorials, Richmond: William Byrd Press, Inc., 1931. 2 vols.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37 °	32'	25 "
NE	° ' "	° ' "		77 °	26'	12 "
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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: April '22, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: Edw. P. Alexander per form  
 Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman  
 Title: Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.

Date: May 20, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

