VLR-12/17/74 NRHP-1/20/75

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:		
Virginia		
COUNTY,		
Prince William		
FOR NPS USE ON	LY	
ENTRY DATE		+

	ENTRY DATE
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)	
NAME	
COMMON:	
St. Paul's Episcopal Church	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	
LOCATION :	5000
STREET AND NUMBER: West side of Route T1301, .2 mile	south of State Route 55.
.4 mile southeast of intersection of Ú. S. Rol	ute 15 and State Route 33.
	th (Stanford E. Parris)
CODE COUNTY	
CURCOTTICATION	ce William 153
CLASSIFICATION	N/A
CATEGORY (Check One) OWNERSHIP	STATUS ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District K Building Public Public Acquisition:	XX Occupied Yes:
Site Structure Private In Process	Unoccupied Restricted
Object Both Being Considered	Incontributed
Object Sanitaries	in progress No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)	
Agricultural Government Park	Transportation Comments
Commercial - Industrial Private Residence	Other (Specify)
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DESCRIPTION							134 33
				(Check One)			
CONDITION	Excellent	X Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed	
COMBILION		(Check C	ne)		(Che	eck One)	
	X Alter	ed	Unaltered		Moved	XX Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE P	RESENT AND ORI	GINAL (if kn	own) PHYSICA	LAPPEARANCE			

St. Paul's Church has had a varied life, serving first as the district court house for the counties of Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, and Prince William, and then as the Hygema Academy, before taking on an altered form and its present function. The original two-story, Flemish-bond brick building was begun in 1801 by James Wren, who was also the architect of Christ Church, Alexandria, and the Fairfax County Court House which the Prince William building resembled in its original form.

Like the Fairfax courthouse, St. Paul's originally had an open arcade porch consisting of three round-headed arches with keystones set across the gable-end façade. A single arch on either side opened the ends of the arcade, and a stone belt course connected all the arches at the spring level. Over each of the three façade arches was a plain rectangular window with a rowlock head; a circular window ornamented the gable. The sides of the building are four bays deep including the former arcade bay.

The building was consecrated as a church in 1834 and was remodeled in 1867 as the result of a campaign by its rector to rebuild the roof and interior following their being gutted during the Civil War. Smaller round-headed windows were installed in the filled-in left and right openings of the arcade. The central window on the second floor of the façade was replaced by a Palladian window, and those flanking it were closed. The long-wall windows were enlarged to two full stories and given round heads. A fourth tall window replaced the end arch of the arcade. A frame chancel was added to the west end, and most of the original west wall was removed. The bracketed cornice and octagonal belfry and spire also date from the remodeling. All of the changes to the original fabric were executed in pressed brick with stretcher bond, and consequently, the original form of the building is clearly visible. Even the stone belt course is intact.

The interior of St. Paul's is exceedingly plain. A simple white plastered arch separates the nave from the chancel, and another, smaller one marks off the altar area. A round-headed stained-glass window over the altar and stained-glass lancet windows flanking it are the chief decorative features.

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		_
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	区文 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1801	; 1867	•
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ick One or More as Appro	priste)	
Abor iginal	Education	₹ Political	Urbam Planning
Prehistoric	■ Engineering	XX Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	☐ Invention	∏ Science	
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	☐ Military	Theater	
Conservation	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	

St. Paul's Church is one of a small group of early nineteenth-century twostory courthouses which retained on their gable-end facades the arcade that so frequently was a feature of Virginia's colonial courthouses including those of Hanover and King William counties. As such, it marks a transition from the one-story and arcade form to the two-story type with a colossal portico widely employed in the first half of the nineteenth century. The building has been the focus of many important events in Prince William County in its roles as a district courthouse, as the Hygeia Academy, as St. Paul's Church, and as a Civil War hospital.

The building had its inception in 1801 when the construction of a district courthouse at Haymarket, to serve the counties of Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, and Prince William, was ordered. The new building was designed by James Wren (an area resident and a distant relation of Sir Christopher Wren), who is also credited with the design of Christ Church, Alexandria and the Fairfax County Court House. The first court sessions were held in 1803 in the new building, apparently completed before that, however, for the Haymarket Masonic Lodge was formed there late in 1802.

In 1807 the Virginia legislature created a system of circuit courts for each county, rather than for groups of counties, and sessions for Prince William were held in the former district courthouse for a year before being moved to Dumfries in 1809. As a result of this move, the vacant building was ordered sold in 1812 and it was purchased by the Hygeia Academy, which met there until it closed in 1816.

In 1822 the old courthouse was purchased by William Skinker, Jr. In that same year, a Parson Steele began holding Episcopal meetings there, and eight years later, Skinker gave the building to the church. It was not until 1834, however, that Bishop William Meade consecrated the edifice in honor of St. Paul. He had recorded in his journal his promise of July, 1833, to perform the consecration if the building were repaired and fitted out as a church, and he noted with pleasure the speed with which this was done.

St. Paul's was near the frontier between the Union and Confederate forces during much of the War between the States. Consequently, it saw frequent service as a hospital, first for Confederate forces after the first Battle of Manassas in 1861, then as a Union facility after the second Battle of Manassas in 1862, and later that year for a disease-afflicted Alabama regiment. (see continuation sheet #2)

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Prince William	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	

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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

(2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

1974

State

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 221 Governor Street Richmond, Virginia (code: 51) Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Prince William	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
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(Continuation Sheet) #2

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Haymarket was burned by Union troops on November 5, 1862, but St. Paul's Church was spared the torch and instead stripped of its pews and used as a stable. The building was fired by the departing cavalry, and only its walls were left standing. The first rector after the War, the Rev. William A. Aldrich, was responsible for raising \$600 with which St. Paul's was restored and services there resumed in 1867. It has continued to serve its congregation since that time.

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