

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Edgecombe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Calvary Episcopal Church and Churchyard

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
411 East Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Tarboro

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Edgecombe CODE: 065

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input 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) _____ _____ _____
Comments: _____ _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Wardens of Calvary Episcopal Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
411 East Church Street

CITY OR TOWN: Tarboro STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Edgecombe County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
301 St. Andrews Street

CITY OR TOWN: Tarboro STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: _____
COUNTY: _____
ENTRY NUMBER: _____
DATE: _____
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Calvary Episcopal Church exhibits the minimal use of surface decoration characteristic of the "Early English" Gothic style which William Percival used to design the building. It is essentially a rectangular structure built of brick laid in common bond with a gable roof. At the east end is a three part extension consisting of a central rectangular sanctuary flanked by small rooms on the north and south sides. The nave is divided into six bays by buttresses with sloping shoulders. There is a south wing two-bays long with right-angled corner buttresses. It is not treated as a transept. There is a small circular window in the gable above an arched portal. In the gable end of the west front is a large round window with star-shaped geometric tracery. Below is an arched niche containing a commemorative tablet. This niche is flanked by pairs of small lancet windows. Two steeples are located at the north and south corners of the west front. The north steeple is the larger and features two pointed-arch portals on the west and north sides. The second level has a pair of lancet windows on the west front. The third stage is octagonal in plan and features alternating louvered and blind pointed arches on its gabled faces. At the top is a broach spire finished with alternating bands of decorative slate. The south steeple is similar to the larger one with the omission of the second level.

On the interior Calvary Church has a center aisle with a gallery located above the west end of the nave and an organ loft above the south entrance. Each gallery has solid wooden balustrades decorated with blind arcading. The walls have high wooden dadoes below a moulded chair rail with plaster above. The deep splay of the window reveals compliments the handsome stained glass. The church retains its original gas lights, now converted to electricity. These consist of five globes on tall stems which are supported by a circular base attached to a metal shaft. They are located between every fifth pew on both sides of the aisle. The sanctuary is framed by a broad chancel arch and has a simple timber roof. At the east end is a tall lancet window with smaller ones on either side. One of the outstanding features of Calvary Church is its superb hammer-beam roof. The truss system is composed of the hammer-beam supported by a diagonal brace with a curved soffit rising from the wall plane. From the ends of the hammer-beam rise curved braces from large pointed arches, are tangent to the rafter centers, and end in vertical struts which support the ridge.

The 1922 Parish House blends very well in scale and texture with the older building. In 1923 a cloister was built connecting it to the church.

Calvary Churchyard's arboretum was begun in 1842 when the Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire became the rector of Tarboro Parish. One of his first acts was to plant a number of selected trees and shrubs of foreign as well as native stock. After Cheshire's retirement in 1889, the parishioners continued his work on the churchyard. Today there are such trees as the California arbor vitae, English Yew, Bay Magnolia, Cork, Chinese Holly, Cedar of Lebanon, Ginkgo Tree, Japanese Magnolia, and the Carolina Cherry Laurel. The churchyard is beautifully maintained and contains a number of interesting tombstones.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

By November 8, 1840, a small church had been constructed on lots deeded to the Wardens of Calvary Church by Thomas Burgess and Theophilus Parker. In October, 1842 the Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire became rector of the Tarboro Parish. One of his first acts as rector was to ask that the churchyard be enclosed with a fence. Prior to this time the churchyard consisted of swampy low ground with two or three clusters of graves enclosed with small fences. Cheshire persuaded the church to remove these small fences and convert the marshy land into an arboretum. Several experiments were tried, including the grafting of slips of the California *arbor vitae* upon native cedar stock and the planting of an acorn from the Spanish cork oak, *quercus suber*. The graveyard was enlarged to include the rest of the churchyard and is the resting place for several distinguished North Carolinians including William D. Pender, youngest general in the Confederate Army; the Right Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire, Jr., fifth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina; and William L. Saunders, secretary of state and editor of The Colonial Records of North Carolina.

By 1859 the congregation had outgrown the small church and plans were submitted for the present Calvary Church. An additional half-acre lot was purchased by the vestry and another was donated by several prominent Tarboro citizens.

The architect for the new church was William Percival, who also designed The Barracks in Tarboro, the First Baptist Church in Raleigh, and two dormitories at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. The church was built on a "pay as you go" plan, and by the fall of 1860 the walls, towers, spires, and roof had been completed. Construction was halted during the war years, but was finally completed in 1867. Bishop Thomas Atkinson consecrated Calvary Church on May 10, 1868.

A Parish House was built in 1922 to the north of the church. The architect was Hobart Upjohn who also designed the Parish House for Christ Episcopal Church in Raleigh. The following year a cloister was added, connecting the Parish House to the church, and a brick wall was built surrounding the churchyard.

Architecturally, Calvary Church is a fine example of the church architecture of William Percival, a noted local architect. The churchyard is of particular beauty. It contains a large number of stately

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(Number all entries)

8. trees both deciduous and evergreen, including several species rarely found elsewhere in the United States. The church and yard combine to present one of the most interesting and sophisticated examples of landscape design in North Carolina.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edgecombe County Records, Edgecombe County Courthouse, Office of the Register of Deeds, Tarboro, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)

Edgecombe County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)

Turner, J. Kelly and Jonathan L. Bridgers. History of Edgecombe County, North Carolina. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Printing Company, 1920.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	35	53	51
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	77	31	56
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
John B. Wells, Survey Specialist; Sherry I. Penney, Survey Assistant

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History

DATE: October 20, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh

STATE: North Carolina

CODE: 37

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: Dr. H. G. Jones

Title: Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date: October 20, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

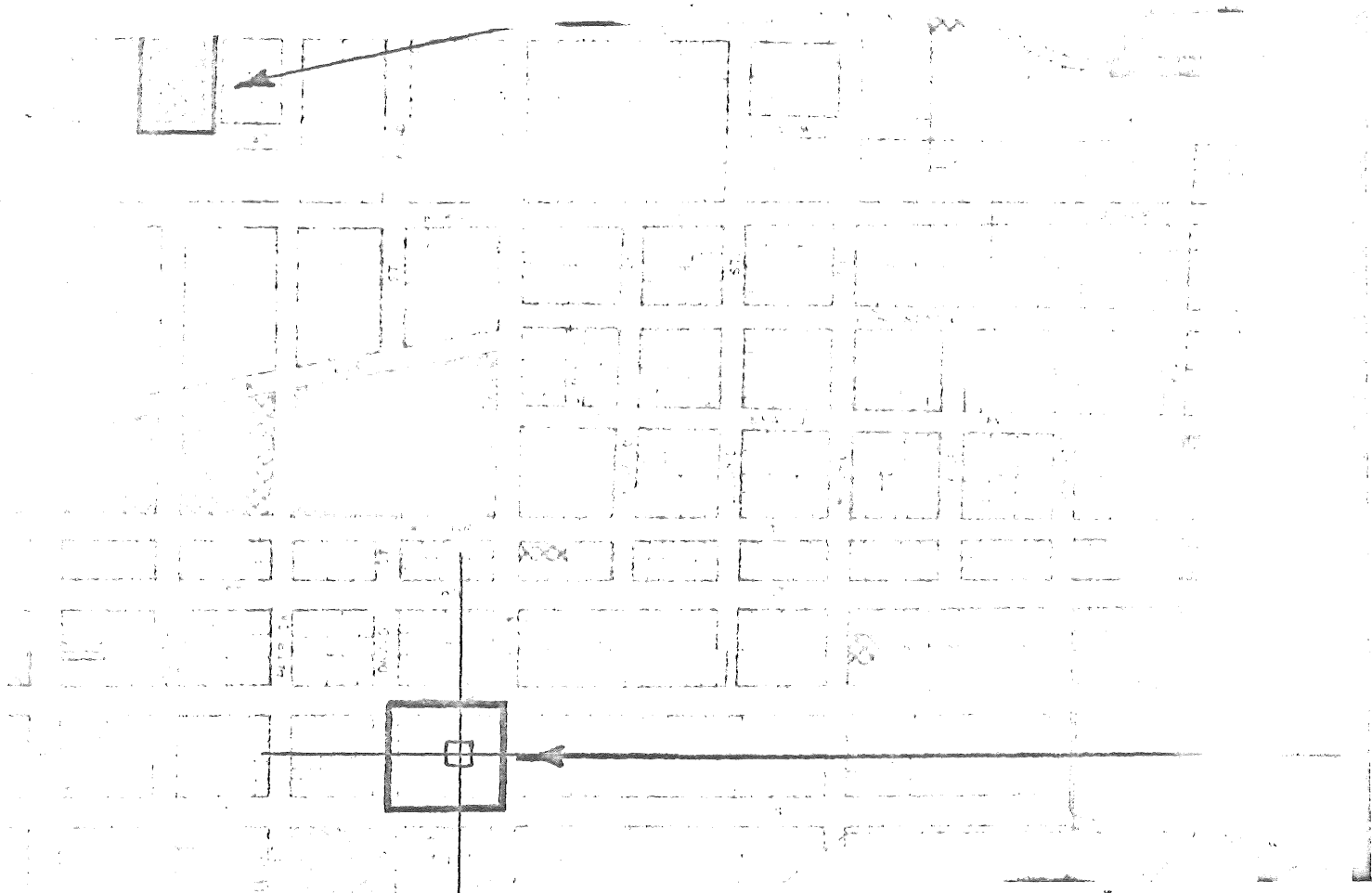
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

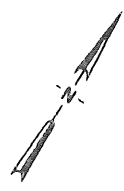
Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Calvary Episcopal Church
 411 East Church Street
 Tarboro, North Carolina

Map of the Town of Tarboro
 Town of Tarboro
 Scale: 1"/600'
 July 26, 1967



<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
35°	53'	51"	77°	31'	56"

