

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:
St. John's Episcopal Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Battleboro

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Edgecombe CODE: 045

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) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Wardens of St. John's Episcopal Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Battleboro 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: North Carolina
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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

The nave of St. John's Episcopal Church is a rectangular board-and-batten structure with a steep gable roof. At the east end is a three-part extension consisting of a central rectangular sanctuary flanked by two smaller projections, a baptistry to the north, and sacristy to the south. The sanctuary has a steep gable roof while the baptistry and sacristy have simple shed roofs. The nave is four bays long. All but the bay at the west end are marked by lancet windows with diamond-paned leaded glass. In the fourth bay is a tower which rises in two distinct stages divided by a simple horizontal wooden stringer. On the ground level are the arched entrance on the front and single small lancets on either side. In the second story single broad lancets with louvers appear on the front and each side. The top of the tower is crenellated with primitive pinnacles at each corner. Above the tower rises a shingled pyramidal spire surmounted by a wooden cross.

On the interior St. John's exhibits a simple center-aisle plan. At the eastern end is a large pointed chancel arch. Over the altar is a tall lancet flanked by a shorter one on either side. North of the chancel is a smaller pointed arch which frames the baptistry. On the south side is a small arched door leading to the sacristy. All the walls are finished with vertical tongue-and-groove sheathing.

The most interesting feature of St. John's is its roof construction. It is essentially a tie-beam truss system consisting of a pair of rafters pitched against one another with a tie-beam connecting their bases. This counteracts the outward thrust of the top of the side walls. Intermediate braces rise from the intersection of each rafter and tie-beam to a point several feet below the top of the opposite rafter. These braces intersect each other below the apex of the roof and are, in turn, supported by a vertical post which rests on the center of each tie-beam. All members except the vertical posts are chamfered. The surface of the roof is treated with diagonal tongue-and-groove sheathing.

S M E I N S T R U C T I O N S

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)

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

St. John's Episcopal Church was formed chiefly through the efforts of the Reverend Elliot W. Bumstead of New York. He entered the Diocese of North Carolina in 1888 and in March, 1889, bought the "old union meeting house" property for the purpose of establishing a church. The next year Reverend Bumstead transferred the property to J. B. Lyman, B. H. Battle, and others, "in trust for a congregation to worship in a church to be called Saint John's Church, Battleboro." A mission was begun with only thirteen "whole souls" and services were held in the public school and a local warehouse. By the summer of 1891 the congregation had increased to thirty and "during the fall and winter the church building was erected." Bishop Theodore Lyman was so impressed by the progress that he made special mention of St. John's in his address to the Diocesan Convention as "the new and very attractive Church in Battleboro" and "so tasteful and well-ordered a Church Building." In October of 1896 Bishop John Blount Cheshire consecrated the little church, now with forty-two baptised members.

Physically, the church has changed little since its erection in 1891. In itself St. John's is not of transcendent architectural significance; rather it is an unspoiled example of a simple vernacular type of building found throughout the rural south. As such, its nomination represents the contribution to social history and religion made by other churches of its type, many of which have passed from the landscape because of the movement and growth of population.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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.)

Journal of the Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of North Carolina, 1888-1896. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Printing Company (imprint varies).

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			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	36°	02'	44"
NE	0	'	"	77°	44'	50"
SE	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One-half acre.

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

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

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. H.G. Jones
Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date October 20, 1970

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

