NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME

COMMON:
St. Thomas Episcopal Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Craven Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Bath

STATE:
North Carolina

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Count One)

☑ District  ☐ Building
☐ Site  ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

☐ Public  ☐ Private
☐ Private

Public Acquisition:
☐ In Process  ☐ Being Considered

STATUS

☐ Occupied  ☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
☐ In progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

☐ Yes:  ☐ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural  ☐ Government  ☐ Park
☐ Commercial  ☐ Industrial  ☐ Private Residence
☐ Educational  ☐ Military  ☐ Religious
☐ Entertainment  ☐ Museum  ☐ Scientific
☐ Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Wardens of St. Thomas Parish

STREET AND NUMBER:
Craven Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Bath

STATE:
North Carolina

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Beaufort County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Second and Market Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
North Carolina

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:
1937

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

ADDRESS:
Capital and Independence Avenue, S.E.

WASHINGTON
St. Thomas Episcopal Church is a simple brick building in Flemish bond with glazed headers, measuring approximately thirty by fifty-two feet. It appears to be a rectangle in plan but is actually several feet out of square.

The gables of the east and west ends have been rebuilt. The western end features the main doorway surmounted by a simple jack arch. Above this is an odd segmental band of moulded brick. The original purpose of this band is unknown; it may have framed a lunette or formed a part of a primitive pediment like the triangular one on St. Luke's Church, Smithfield, Virginia. There are two small rectangular windows in the gable.

The north and south sides are each four bays long. All bays are marked by large rectangular windows except the third bay from the west on the south side which is a door. The east wall has a single rectangular window on either side of the altar. The interior arrangement is probably original though most of the fabric is not. There is a very narrow gallery over the west entrance. It is reached by a stair in the northwest corner.
St. Thomas Parish was formed by the first Vestry Act of 1701, but was slow to take physical shape. In 1703 when the Town of Bath was incorporated, the act called for "portions of land to be laid out and preserved for a church," and further that a church for the Parish of St. Thomas shall be built." Reverend William Gordon visited the area in 1709 noting, "Here is no church, though they have begun to build a town called Bath. It consists of about twelve houses, being the only town in the whole province." By 1711, Anglican services were being held at "one Major Gale's... at whose house the people met each Sunday, where a young gentleman, a lawyer, was appointed to read prayers and a sermon, they having no minister."

Finally in 1724, the Reverend John Carzia wrote to the Secretary of the S.P.G. that "we are now building at our proper Cost a Small Church (being the only one in the whole province)." But, at the same time he noted, "Our abilities will be far short of completing and adorning the same..." Through an error, construction was begun, not on the lot allocated to the church, but in the middle of Graven Street, adjoining the church property.

By 1739 the building was apparently near completion for evangelist George Whitefield preached to "an extraordinary congregation... at church." In 1762 Reverend Alexander Stewart wrote from Bath that the "Parishioners have... finished their Church in the best manner they are able..."

After the Revolutionary War the structure fell into a state of disrepair and many exterior and interior alterations were made.

The church in recent years came under the direction of Reverend A.C.D. Moes, who worked continuously to preserve and maintain the church as a historically significant structure.

The St. Thomas Parish Church remains as the earliest extant church built in North Carolina, and has been used continuously for over 230 years for religious services. The building and its setting are among the most picturesque aspects of North Carolina's oldest town.
Beaufort County Records, Beaufort County Courthouse, Washington, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports).

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


### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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<th>Corner</th>
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<th>Longitude</th>
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<td>SW</td>
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**APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:** one-half acre

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
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### 11. FORM PREPARED BY

**NAME AND TITLE:**

J. C. Zehmer, Ass't. Asst. Arch. Research & Restoration; John B. Walls, Survey Specialist

**ORGANIZATION:**

North Carolina Department of Archives and History

**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 [x] Local [ ]

**Name:**

H. G. Jones

**Title:**

Director, North Carolina State Department of Archives and History

**Date:**

September 9, 1970

### NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

**Chief, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation**

**Date:**

[Signature]

**ATTEST:**

[Signature]

**Date:**

[Signature]