

KEEP

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

| |
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| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| RECEIVED |
| DATE ENTERED |

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC St. Mary's Chapel

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER NE corner of junction of SR 1002 and SR 1648

CITY, TOWN

Hillsborough

VICINITY OF

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

COUNTY

Orange

CODE

135

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees of the Diocese of North Carolina

(see continuation sheet)

STREET & NUMBER
201 St. Alban's Drive

CITY, TOWN
Raleigh

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
North Carolina 27609

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Orange County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Hillsborough

STATE
North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 2 PAGE 1

Other owners:

St. Mary's Chapel Restoration Committee
c/o H. C. Browning
Route 1
Hillsborough, NC 27278

Ms. Polly C. Roberts
P. O. Box 1543
Gainesville, GA 30501

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Mary's Chapel is located on a gentle hill site in a rolling rural section of Piedmont Orange County, its isolated agrarian setting disturbed only by the presence of a nearby school complex. Down the hill, within sight of the church, is the walled cemetery, originally the site of the eighteenth century predecessor of the chapel, now filled with graves and shaded by old trees. The wall dates from the 1830s.

The chapel is a small, unpretentious, but carefully finished brick structure in the Gothic Revival style. Although simple Gothic Revival country churches are relatively common in the state, this is one of the few rural brick examples. The simplicity and small scale of the church, together with the substantialness of its materials and consistency of Gothic detail contribute to its pastoral charm, which is highly evocative of the origins of the Gothic chapel mode.

The rectangular building is three bays wide and three longer bays deep, with the entrance in the main gable end. To the rear is a gable-roof apse and on the south side of it, at right angles to it, a gable roof-extension of similar scale, an entrance through the small sacristy to the church. Walls are of locally made brick, typically measuring about 2 3/4 inches by 8 inches. They are laid in common bond with Flemish variation. The wall surfaces are enlivened in highly plastic fashion: the bays are separated by brick buttresses, and within each bay, a recessed lancet panel framed by soldiers contains the pointed-arched window or door opening. The exterior detail is otherwise quite simple: the roofline is quiet, with a narrow molded cornice flush with the wall, which returns slightly into the gable ends--a treatment used on the main block and on the rear extensions. Narrow slits occur in the foundation wall. The gable end carries a wooden cross.

Windows are filled with double-hung Gothic sash, with sixteen-over-sixteen sash surmounted by simple tracery. The chancel window in the apse is a more ambitious double Gothic one. The front door is a double one with six horizontal panels per leaf, and a pair of half-arched panels fill the tympanum. The rear side door is similarly treated but is a single leaf and narrower.

The interior, which is light and spacious, continues the simplicity and essential Gothic character of the exterior. It is one large uninterrupted space except for the apse, which is framed by a broad pointed arch, and the small sacristy to the side of it. Walls are plastered, and the dark, handsome wooden ceiling, open to the gable shape of the roof, is articulated with a simple geometry of intersecting timbers, rather slender, which cross at a kingpost at the apex. The window frames and low, sheathed wainscot are also of dark wood, producing a strong and vivid impact against the white plaster. The finish, along with the simple furnishings, are all original or in character with the original, creating an interior evocative of the original appearance of the antebellum church.

Pews are very plain wooden ones, with gracefully curved sides and slatted backs. They are arranged flanking a central aisle, with a few rows facing inward to create the choir. The altar rail is a simple sawn Gothic arcade, and the pulpit is equally unpretentious, with rectangular elements and simple moldings. A folding chair with Gothic finial complements the furnishings. A wonderful feature of the interior is the stove, perhaps original--labeled Forest Rose No. 7, patented 1855. It is a metal stove of

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ornate design featuring cabriole-like legs and high relief decoration with volutes and full-blown roses.

At present the chapel is being renovated by a committee long devoted to the preservation of the building. Its intention is to repair as needed while preserving the essential and original elements of the chapel.

Footnote

¹Hillsborough Recorder, October 14, 1836, "The Commissioners let bids for building of a stone wall around graveyard at St. Mary's," (Browning, "Information," see section 8).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1858-1859

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mary's Chapel is a small, rural Gothic Revival church whose unpretentious, pastoral character and unaltered Gothic detail contribute to its charm. It is the successor to one of Orange County's three eighteenth century Anglican churches, which stood nearby. The chapel, built in 1859 for a small parish, served the local plantation community; in recent years it has been the scene of an annual homecoming, and its restoration is underway.

Criteria assessment: A-association with development of rural Anglican and Episcopal churches in relatively remote rural areas.
 C-embodies the distinctive character of antebellum, vernacular Gothic Revival architecture.

St. Mary's is an Episcopal chapel located approximately six miles northeast of Hillsborough in rural Orange County. The congregation was established by the Church of England sometime in the late 1750s by the Reverend George Micklejohn. St. Mary's was one of three Anglican churches in pre-Revolutionary Orange County.

Following the Revolution, the Church of England was prostrate in North Carolina, and St. Mary's was inactive. The Anglican Church was slowly reorganized as the Protestant Episcopal Church. The Diocese of North Carolina was established in 1817, with three clergymen and fewer than 200 communicants. St. Mary's was admitted to the convention in 1819. It had a small congregation, and was forced to share a rector with the larger St. Matthew's Church of Hillsborough. A main road leading east out of Hillsborough takes its name from the chapel. An examination of its reports to the annual conventions of the Diocese reveals that, in the two decades preceding the Civil War, St. Mary's usually had between five and seven communicants.

The original church building was replaced by the present chapel in 1859 on a 9 9/16 acre tract purchased from Ellen Bain, adjacent to the original tract. The church was consecrated November 25, 1859 by Bishop Thomas Atkinson. The congregation reported that the "neat, brick church" had cost \$2,000. The disruption caused by the Civil War was so severe that in 1868 St. Mary's was declared to be no longer entitled to representation in the annual convention of the Diocese due to failure to maintain its organization.

This status remained unchanged until 1888 when St. Mary's was reorganized as a mission. The Reverend Joseph Murphy reported to the convention that St. Mary's was composed of ten families and held services once a month. He also reported that a new roof had been put on the chapel. The size of the congregation grew gradually reaching a peak of 33 communicants in 1904. However, the church was never prosperous. Reverend

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Murphy was forced to make his weekly trip from Hillsborough, a trip which he stated "in wet weather . . . can hardly be made in less than two hours." He also reported that several of the families in the church lived as far as twelve miles from the chapel. St. Mary's existed to serve these rural families who could not be expected to make the trip into Hillsborough. As transportation facilities improved in the twentieth century, St. Mary's gradually lost its importance. Regular services were stopped in the early 1930s. A once a year "homecoming" service is conducted at St. Mary's on the third Sunday in August.

¹Hugh Lefler and Paul Wager (ed.), Orange County, 1752-1952 (Chapel Hill, n.p., 1953 p. 290, 293; Joseph Blount Cheshire (ed.), Sketches of Church History in North Carolina (Wilmington, William L. DeRosset, Jr., 1892), pp. 270-271, hereinafter cited as Cheshire, Sketches of Church History.

²Cheshire, Sketches of Church History, pp. 243-246, 267; Hugh Conway Browning (compiler), Information Relating to St. Mary's Chapel (unpublished), second report, p. 7, hereinafter cited as Browning, Information.

³Journal of the Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in North Carolina (various publishers), 1842, p. 29; 1845, p. 23; 1846, p. 12; 1847, p. 16; 1849, p. 24; 1852, p. 28; 1857, p. 35; 1858, p. 36; hereinafter cited as Journal of the Episcopal Church, with appropriate year.

⁴Orange County Deeds, Vol 52, p. 136.

⁵St. Mary's Chapel Parish Records, 1839-1880, pp. 38-39.

⁶Journal of the Episcopal Church, 1859, p. 31.

⁷Journal of the Episcopal Church, 1868, pp. 41-42.

⁸Journal of the Episcopal Church, 1888, pp. 106-107.

⁹St. Mary's Chapel Parish Records, 1881-1901, p. 95.

¹⁰Journal of the Episcopal Church, 1891, p. 117; 1892, p. 115.

¹¹Browning, Information, second report, p. 8; Durham Sun, June 3, 1975.

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Orange County Deed Books. Microfilm Copy. Division of Archives and History. Raleigh, North Carolina.

St. Mary's Chapel Parish Records, 1839-1901. Microfilm Copy. Division of Archives and History. Raleigh, North Carolina.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Browning, Hugh Conway (compiler). Information Relating to St. Mary's Chapel. Unpublished
 Cheshire, Joseph Blount (ed.). Sketches of Church History in North Carolina. Wilmington:
 William L. DeRosset, Jr., 1892.
Durham Sun. June 3, 1975.
Journal of the Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in North Carolina.
 Various Publishers: 1842-1859, 1868, 1880-1905.
 Lefler, Hugh & Wager, Paul (ed.). Orange County, 1752-1952. Chapel Hill: No publisher,

1952

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 5 acres (see attached map)

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|-------|----------|-----|-------|------|---------|----------|--|
| A | 1,7 | 6,8,0 | 9,8,0 | 3,9 | 9,8 | 6,2,0 | B | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | | NORTHING | | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | |
| C | | | | | | | D | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Description prepared by Catherine W. Bishir, Head, Survey & Planning Branch
 Significance prepared by Jim Sumner, Researcher

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| ORGANIZATION Division of Archives and History | DATE |
| STREET & NUMBER 109 East Jones Street | TELEPHONE 733-4763 |
| CITY OR TOWN Raleigh | STATE North Carolina 27611 |

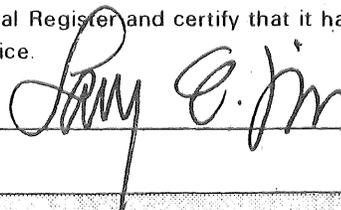
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

DATE March 8, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

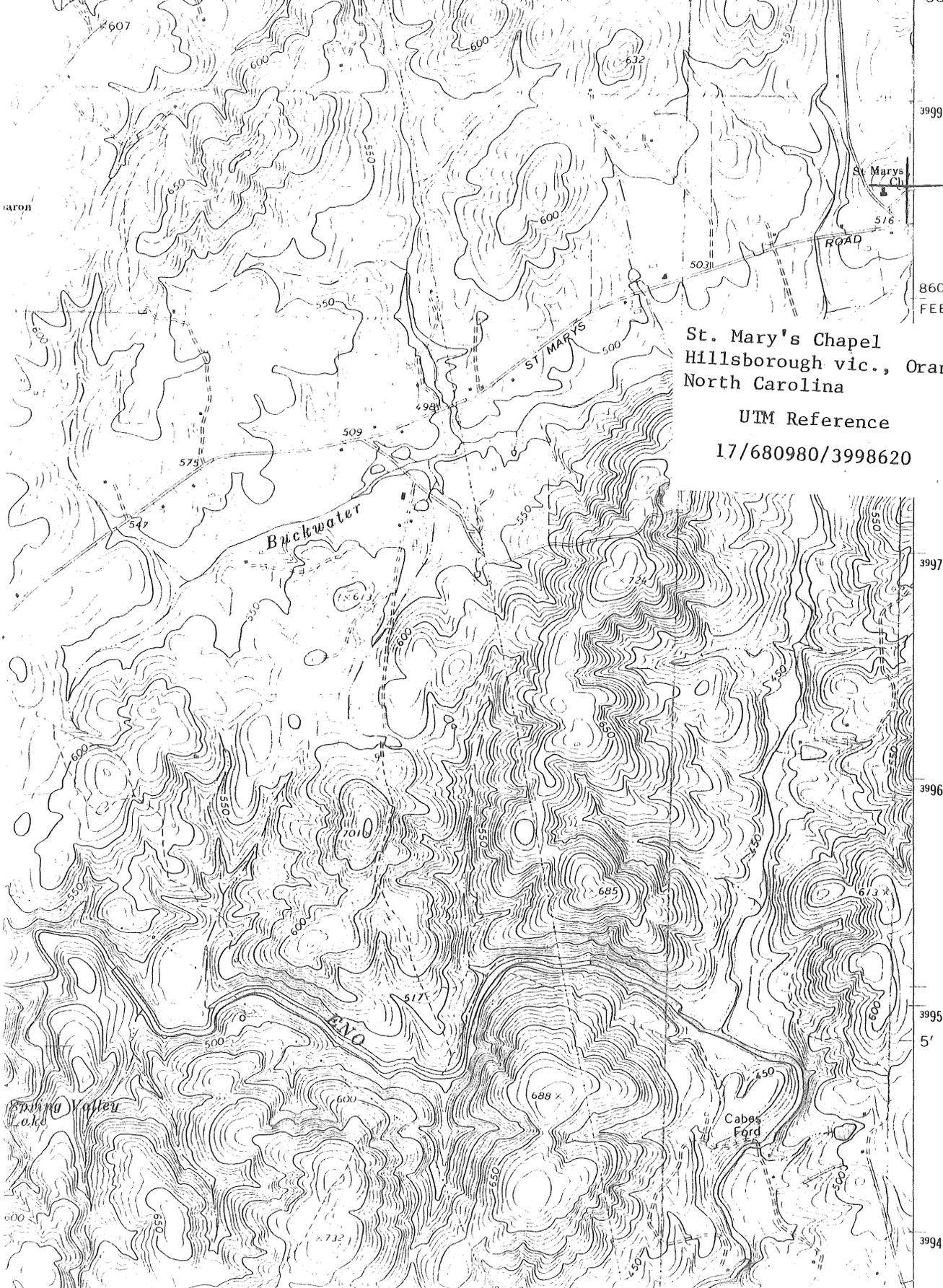
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

HILLSBOROUGH QUADRANGLE
NORTH CAROLINA—ORANGE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5256 III
(DURHAM NORTH)
1:62,500

2' 30" 1 990 000 FEET 677 678 679 79° 00' 36° 07' 30"



St. Mary's Chapel
Hillsborough vic., Orange County
North Carolina

UTM Reference
17/680980/3998620

aron

Spina Valley
Lake

Cabes
Ford

