**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. James Episcopal Church and Rectory

**AND/OR COMMON**

### 2 LOCATION

**STREET & NUMBER**  NE corner of the jct. of SR 1551 and SR 1555

**CITY, TOWN**  Kittrell

**STATE**  North Carolina

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

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### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

**NAME**  Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, c/o Lex Matthews

**STREET & NUMBER**  201 St. Alban’s Drive

**CITY, TOWN**  Raleigh

**STATE**  North Carolina

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**  Vance County Courthouse

**STREET & NUMBER**

**CITY, TOWN**  Henderson

**STATE**  North Carolina

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE**

**DATE**

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

**CITY, TOWN**

**STATE**
Esker D. Perkinson, Senior Warden
P. O. Box 134
Kittrell, NC 27544

Rev. George A. Magoon
P. O. Box 247
Louisburg, NC 27549

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Husketh
Box 1
Kittrell, NC 27544
St. James Episcopal Church is a simple carpenter Gothic frame structure resting on a stone foundation. The building is composed of a gable roof main block, three bays long, with a vestibule attached to the south gable front and a small chapel added to the north end. Both of these appendages have gable roofs and are of the same size and proportion—one bay by one bay—though a small shed room has been added to the east side of the chapel. A square-in-section belfry rises from the peak of the south gable end of the main block. The entire structure is covered with board-and-batten except for the north gable end of the main block, which is shingled. All openings, including the louvered ventilators of the belfry, are lancet arches; and window and door frames are emphasized by hood molds. Stained glass of geometric design fills the northernmost windows of both sides of the nave, the small lancet window on the gable end of the vestibule, and the triple Gothic window on the north end of the chapel; other windows have simple four-over-four Gothic sash. A four-pane circular window in a wide molded surround pierces the south end above the vestibule. Four-panel doors are placed on the east and west sides of the vestibule and on the west wall of the chapel.

The interior follows a simple center-aisle plan and retains most of its original fabric. The walls and vaulted ceiling are sheathed in wide boards; the walls have been covered in paper. Sheathed wainscoting extends throughout along the base of the wall. The pews attach to the wainscot at the wall; the aisle ends of the pews are paneled with paired lancet arches. A large arched opening gives into the chapel. The small shed sacristy room off the east side of the chapel is reached by Gothic arch, four-panel doors in the chapel and at the northwest corner of the nave. The church interior contains a number of fine memorials, including the lectern, altar, and baptismal font, most dating from the late nineteenth century.

Located directly behind the church is a one-story, board-and-batten dwelling that formerly served as the rectory, and is now a rental house owned by the church. The house is built on an H-plan, with two gable roof blocks, each three bays wide by one deep, connected by a hyphen.
Though the exact dates of the construction of St. James Episcopal Church are unclear, it was probably in its present form by the time of its consecration in 1878. The handsome board-and batten Carpenter Gothic church was the focus of a group of small but relatively prosperous farmers, among them some of Vance County's most influential citizens, who lived in and around the village of Kittrell in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The role of the church was heightened by Kittrell's prominence as a resort town in this period; two important resort hotels were here that accommodated hundreds of visitors from throughout the eastern United States who came to enjoy the area's famous warm springs. The springs were dry and the hotels gone by the beginning of the twentieth century; the church remains as perhaps the chief vestige of the town's late nineteenth century era of prosperity and social prominence.

Local tradition suggests that the St. James Episcopal Church of Kittrell was built around 1860 or 1861. A Vance County historian concurs with this judgment, stating that the church "was erected a short time before the Civil War." However, evidence exists that the church may not have been completed until as late as 1872, when the Episcopal Bishop of the North Carolina Diocese reported that he had "preached "in a church recently erected at Kittrell's Station in Granville County."

It is likely that the church was either left incomplete by the onset of the Civil War or was damaged to such an extent that significant renovation was necessary. Some evidence suggests the church was built of the materials of an earlier one. (See below).

Prior to the construction of the church, the congregation was quite small and was forced to borrow a rector from either Oxford or Henderson in order to conduct infrequent services. In 1853 an Oxford rector advised the convention of the North Carolina Diocese that he was "endeavoring to revive this Parish; for many years it had not even a 'name to live'."

Prospects did not improve until 1860 when a new church was proposed. Papers were submitted to the 1860 convention proposing the creation of the new church. Reverend Gilliam of Oxford explained the reasons for the proposal:

On every third Sunday, I hold services in a school house at Bethel, a Methodist meeting-ground seven miles below Oxford. There was a substantial Church building three miles from Bethel, and shortly after the commencement of my ministration here, I resolved upon having the Church (St. James's) removed to Kittrell's Springs, where the prospects for the Church were evidently more encouraging. This design, I am happy to say, has been almost brought to a successful issue. A Church lot at the Springs has been procured; St. James has been taken down and removed—its reconstruction is now rapidly
approaching completion. I will add that a Parish has been recently organized here (at the Springs)."

This smooth sequence of events was interrupted by the Civil War, however. Whatever the degree of completion of the new church by the beginning of the war, it is clear that by the summer of 1861 the congregation had been weakened. St. James went unrepresented at the 1861 Episcopal convention, and the Oxford rector commented that "such appointments as are practicable will be made at Kittrell's Springs—the Parochial organization of which is virtually extinct." This situation remained unchanged in 1862 and 1863.

In 1864, however, St. James obtained the services of a full-time rector, the Reverend Matthias Marshall:

Immediately after my ordination . . . I set out for the army of Northern Virginia to act in the capacity of Chaplain to the 7th Reg't N. C. Troops, but on my arrival at camp was taken violently sick and was consequently compelled to resign forthwith the position to which I had been assigned. During the interval of my recovery, I was, the greater part of the time in Granville County, assisting the Rector of St. John's, Williamsboro, in Divine Service, and preaching there and elsewhere when occasion offered. On the 21st of March I accepted a call to the Parish of St. James, Kittrell's Springs, and officiated there for the first time on the first Sunday in April. From that time this Church has been open for Divine Service on the first and third Sunday in each month. . . . Funds are being raised for repairing the Church building, of which it stands much in need, and I doubt not such repair will be made during the coming summer.

The activity of the church in 1864 and 1865 was, of course, heavily concentrated on the war. The nearby Kittrell Springs Hotel was used as a hospital for Confederate soldiers. Reverend Marshall conducted funeral services for fifty-two soldiers who died in the hospital, while the small congregation of the church raised $435.71, presumably in Confederate currency, to obtain "reading matter for soldiers." Reverend Marshall lived in the residence of B. A. Capehart, walking several miles to church in order to conduct services. It was in the home of Capehart that Marshall twice baptized groups of Negro children, fourteen on April 17, 1864, and seven on May 1, 1864. He also baptized fifteen Negro children in March, 1865 at the home of Josephus Peace.

Early in 1866 Marshall left Kittrell, once again leaving St. James without a
rector. The low point in the church's fortunes occurred in 1868 when St. James was
denied representation in the Episcopal convention due to their failure "to maintain
their organization." Recognition was quickly restored in 1869, however. In 1873
St. James acquired the services of Reverend Sweetland as rector, but only for a short
period. It was around this time, however, that the church was repaired or rebuilt.
Bishop Atkinson visited the church, and commented on the lack of a rector, noting that
"an efficient Clergyman would soon gather an excellent congregation. There is a
good Church building."

The church was appently the focus of a small but reasonably prosperous group of
farmers, many of them veterans of the war, who were able to maintain a social milieu
reminiscent of antebellum years despite the problems of reconstruction. A rectory
was built in 1876, with the first occupant being the new rector, Reverend Dolloway.
After the completion of the rectory, St. James seldom had difficulty replacing its
rectors, and the church took on a new prominence. The church was consecrated in 1878 by
Assistant Bishop Lyman, who noted that "the addition of a recess chancel, front porch,
and bell tower has greatly improved the building." Improvements continued to be made
and the church was able to report in 1881 that it was "entirely free from debt and in a
prosperous condition for a parish of its size." An important component of the
prosperity of St. James during the last quarter of the nineteenth century was Kittrell's
prominence as a resort area. The region's warm springs were famous throughout the
eastern part of the country, and the Kittrell Springs Hotel, located only a few
hundred yards from St. James, boasted of a capacity of 800 guests. On several
occasions the church noted that the generosity of visitors from the north made improve­
ments in the church and rectory possible.

Eventually the springs dried up and the visitors from the north stopped coming.
In 1885 the Kittrell Springs Hotel burned down. It was replaced, not by another hotel,
but rather with a "Normal Industrial School" for blacks. The Glass House, Kittrell's
other prominent resort hotel, burned in 1893. By the end of the nineteenth century
Kittrell's heyday as a resort was at an end. St. James shared in the decline of the
town, losing the prominence it had maintained in the 1880s and 90s. Today it has a
small congregation, and holds services once a month.

Several of the areas most prominent families were influential members of St. James.
The first vestry was composed of A. Capehart, William H. Davis, Thomas Capehart,
Josephus Peace, and C. W. Raney. All of these men remained active in the church and
their names frequently appear as lay delegates to the Episcopal convention, church
officers, and contributors. The Kittrell family, the Blacknall family, and the Burwell
family, all prominent in the area, are listed as being members of the church in the late
nineteenth century. One observer has stated that "the history of Vance County can be
traced through the outstanding families who composed the membership ... in the 1870s," The church is now used and maintained by a very small congregation, served part-time by
a minister from a neighboring parish.
FOOTNOTES

2 Protestant Episcopal Church, North Carolina Diocese, Journal of Convention, 1873, p. 20, hereinafter referred to as Protestant Episcopal Church, with appropriate year. The deed that gave St. James the land on which the church stands today was received by the Register of Deeds in 1871. Inasmuch as deeds were frequently received years after the actual transfer of property in the nineteenth century, this cannot be regarded as irrefutable evidence that the church could not have been built by 1861. Granville County Deeds, Book 25, p. 491.

3 Protestant Episcopal Church, 1853, p. 31.

4 Protestant Episcopal Church, 1860, p. 28.

5 Protestant Episcopal Church, 1860, p. 38.

6 Protestant Episcopal Church, 1861, p. 30.

7 Protestant Episcopal Church, 1864, p. 46-47.

8 Peace, Zeb's Black Baby, pp. 46-47; Protestant Episcopal Church, 1865, p. 54.

9 Peace, Zeb's Black Baby, p. 46, p. 353.

10 Protestant Episcopal Church, 1868, pp. 41-42.

11 Protestant Episcopal Church, 1869, p. 32.

12 Protestant Episcopal Church, 1873, p. 5.

13 Protestant Episcopal Church, 1874, p. 40.

14 Protestant Episcopal Church, 1876, pp. 102-103.

15 Protestant Episcopal Church, 1879, p. 81.

16 Protestant Episcopal Church, 1880, pp. 154-155; 1881, p. 153.

17 Peace, Zeb's Black Baby, pp. 351-353.
18. Protestant Episcopal Church, 1884, p. 98; 1886, p. 74.
22. Peace, Zeb's Black Baby, p. 47.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Granville County Deeds, Granville County Records. Division of Archives and History. Microfilm copy. Raleigh, N. C.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1 acre

Latitude 36° 13' 30"
Longitude 78° 26' 38"

UTM REFERENCES
Zone
Easting
Norslingh

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE
CODE
COUNTY
CODE

FORM PREPARED BY
NAME/TITLE
Michael Southern, Survey Specialist
Jim Sumner, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION
Division of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN
Raleigh

STATE
North Carolina

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL___ STATE___ LOCAL X

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

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

GPO 689-445