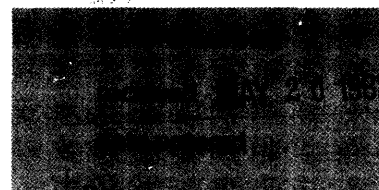


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



JUN 17 1982

1. Name

historic St. Bartholomew's Church

and/or common

2. Location

Chevis Rd.

street & number 3 1/2 miles south of US Highway 17 on Chevis Road N/A not for publication

city, town Burroughs N/A vicinity of congressional district
state Georgia code 013 county Chatham code 051

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 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"/> N/A 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 Rt. Rev. Paul Reeves, Bishop/ Episcopal Diocese of Georgia

street & number 611 East Bay Street

city, town Savannah N/A vicinity of state Georgia 31401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Chatham County Courthouse

city, town Savannah state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field
title Survey: Chatham County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

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. Bartholomew's Church, built in 1896, is a one-story frame Victorian Eclectic style church located in the community of Burroughs, Chatham County, Georgia. Adjacent to the church is a parish hall, originally a church school house, which was built a year after the church.

The steeply gable-roofed church is weatherboarded and sits on brick piers. The long side of the structure facing the road has two entrances. The main entrance is located in a bell-tower extension at the northeast corner of the church. This square tower features shingle work on its upper half, triangular openings cut into each side in the bellfry area, and a pyramidal roof. The double doors in its entranceway are surmounted by a triangular overlight framed in a rectangular panel. A second entrance, which leads to the altar area, is located in a shed-roofed vestibule that projects out from the church. In addition to these architectural elements, St. Bartholomew's features a number of Victorian finishing details. A frieze of vertical flush boards wraps around the entire structure in the area between the water table and the windows. The upper hall of the bell-tower and the lower part of the north gable end have stagger-butts shingle work. The windows, formed of tall, slender sash of varying heights, are topped with pointed arches. These are grouped together in series of from two to five.

The simple rectangular sanctuary has a central aisle plan with a raised altar in a square apse at the south end. Interior finishing is very simple. Walls and ceilings are finished with tongue-and-groove boards. The body of the church is divided from the altar area by an open framework of pointed arches. The central aisle is flanked by rows of wooden pews made of wide boards. Windows are lighted with large simple panes of stained glass.

Adjacent to the church to the northwest is the parish hall (schoolhouse), built in 1897. This one-story cruciform-plan structure with a rear shed addition features much of the same exterior detailing as the church. It too is raised off the ground on brick piers. A frieze of flush boards identical to that on the church wraps around the lower part of the building, and the east gable which faces the road has the same stagger-butts shingle work as the church. The windows are six-over-six double hung sash. The one-room interior has been refinished with pine paneling and a linoleum floor.

The two buildings are situated on a flat grassy site which has a scattering of large hardwood and pine trees. The church has low foundation plantings around the front and north end. The property is located on Chevis Road in the small residential community of Burroughs. Small houses are located along Chevis Road in the area of the church. They are set in a landscape of open fields, marshes and forest.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in May, 1981 still represent the character and appearance of the property. No significant changes have been made since that date.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) community develop- ment
Specific dates	1896, 1897	Builder/Architect	Unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Bartholomew's Church, built in 1896, is historically significant in the areas of architecture, religion, education and community development. Architecturally the church is an excellent example of a late-nineteenth century rural Episcopal church designed in the Victorian-Eclectic style. In terms of religion it is one of the few Episcopal churches in the state associated with black history. St. Bartholomew's is the oldest continuing black congregation in the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia, and its history goes back to the formation of the congregation in 1832. In terms of education, St. Bartholomew's has served as an important education center for the local black population since about 1846. The church is a religious edifice around which a community grew up, making it significant in the area of community development. These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria A and C.

ARCHITECTURE

St. Bartholomew's is a fine, intact example of a late Victorian-Eclectic style church built by a rural black Episcopal congregation. The triangular openings in the bell-tower and above the main entrance, the massing of the slender pointed windows, the flush board frieze around the lower part of the church and the stagger butt shingles are among the "eclectic" elements that contribute to the church's interest. On the interior, the pointed-arch framework separating the sanctuary from the altar is another simple yet effective design element typical of the inventiveness of the many late-nineteenth century builders who worked with few funds and little, if any, formal training. St. Bartholomew's, little altered since the time it was built, also has great architectural integrity which contributes further to its significance.

RELIGION

St. Bartholomew's church is a relatively rare example of a black Episcopal congregation in Georgia, a state more typically represented by the Baptist and Methodist denominations. In 1896, when the present church was built, it was one of only eleven black Episcopal congregations in Georgia. St. Bartholomew's congregation is the second oldest black congregation in Georgia and the oldest continuing black congregation in the state's Episcopal Diocese. Its history provides a valuable picture of the relationship in the south between the black population and the Protestant Episcopal church.

Interest in the evangelization of slaves began for the Episcopal church in Georgia in the 1830's. At that time, almost one thousand slaves worked the rice fields of several large plantations on a neck of land between the Ogeechee Rivers in Chatham County. In 1832, Episcopal religious education for slaves in this area was initiated by a white family on their plantation. In 1845, the Ogeechee Mission was formally established when, in an effort to reach out to the slaves, the Episcopal bishop

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Burroughs, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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C

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the nominated property is outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed Chatham County tax map. This is all the land presently associated with the church.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

organization Historic Preservation Section GA DNR date April 7, 1982

street & number 270 Washington Street SW telephone 404/656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia

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 Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 5/10/82

For NPS use only

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

for Allous Byers 6/17/82
Keeper of the National Register date

Attest: _____ date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number

8

Page 2

appointed the first permanent pastor to the area. This priest, Rev. William C. Williams, was to join contiguous plantations under his ministry, live in the area and become the slaves' pastor. Williams established a school and a chapel on each of the three plantations he then served. His success with the slaves was such that by 1860 his congregation was the largest, black or white, in the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia.

Following the Civil War, many of the former slaves remained in the area on land which they had purchased from or been given by the plantation owners. An 1881 gift of \$400 to the Mission Congregation from St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City for a new schoolhouse and church illustrates the post-Civil War Northern interest in assisting the free blacks. In 1896, the present St. Bartholomew's Church was consecrated. The school building (parish house), which played such an important role in the church's mission, was completed the following year. The church has served as an important religious and educational center for the community ever since.

EDUCATION

From its early beginnings in Georgia, the Episcopal Church placed great emphasis on education of the slaves who became members of its church. Because the church desired to have the blacks understand Episcopal liturgy, it felt the need to teach them to read and write. Schools were a major part of the church's mission among blacks for many years. Rev. Williams established schools on the three plantations under his jurisdiction immediately upon his arrival at the Ogeechee Mission in 1845. In 1881, the Women's Auxiliary and members of St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City sent \$400 to the Ogeechee Mission for the construction of a new church and schoolhouse. They also assisted with salaries paid to the staff who taught at the parochial day school established in the new schoolhouse.

The Episcopal Church continued its commitment to the education of its rural black congregations into this century. The day school in Burroughs was operated by the church until 1916 when the Chatham County Board of Education rented the school building and took over operation of the school. From 1916 to 1951, the county continued to house the local school in this building.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Although several churches of other denominations existed, and still exist, in the Burroughs area, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church has always played a focal role in the community. Burroughs is a settlement of former slaves who, in the 1870's and 1880's, were given the opportunity to buy the land they were living on from their former owners. Because many of the people were members of the Episcopal Church, St. Bartholomew's became the center of the community. In 1898 the community was incorporated into a town, which for some time prospered as a railhead for shipping locally grown vegetables and rice to Savannah. Throughout this period St. Bartholomew's played a leading religious, educational, and social role in the community, and its membership swelled to over four hundred members. The church continues in that role to this day, although the town's total population has shrunk to about three hundred. A health clinic for local residents is held in the parish hall, along with sewing classes sponsored by a county vocational high school and many other activities.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 2

"Burroughs Seeks Historic Status." Georgia Gazette. February 11, 1981.

Greene, Mrs. Gertrude A. "Burroughs Historic District: Preliminary National Register Nomination Form." March, 1981. On file at Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta.

Hoskins, Charles Lwanga. Black Episcopalians in Georgia: Strife, Struggle and Salvation. Savannah: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 1980.

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH
Burroughs, Chatham County, Georgia

PROPERTY TAX MAP

Source: Chatham County Tax Map #CO-1903C
Date: 1972
Scale: 1"=100'
North: ↑
Property Boundary: —————

