

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 2 1976
DATE ENTERED NOV 2 1 1976

**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
Old Middlesex County Courthouse (Preferred)
AND/OR COMMON
Middlesex County Woman's Club

2 LOCATION

S side of town route 1002, SW corner of intersection of town
Routes 1002 and 1005.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN *off Va 602*

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Urbanna

--- VICINITY OF First (Thomas N. Downing)

STATE
Virginia

CODE
51

COUNTY
Middlesex

CODE
119

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Meeting Place

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Trustees of Middlesex Woman's Club c/o Mrs. E. Garland Payne, President

STREET & NUMBER
Virginia Street

CITY, TOWN
Urbanna

--- VICINITY OF

STATE
Virginia 23175

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Middlesex County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Saluda

STATE
Virginia 23149

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS(2)-See continuation sheet #1

TITLE
(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE
1959

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE
D. C.

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

The Old Middlesex County Courthouse is located amidst commercial properties on the main street (Virginia Street) of the old Colonial seaport town of Urbanna. The building is set off from its neighbors by being the only structure of character and antiquity in the immediate vicinity. Its setting is enhanced by a shallow front yard planted with English boxwood and dogwoods. The grounds, including a small grassy yard to the west, are enclosed by a low, brick wall erected in this century.

The original eighteenth-century portions of the former courthouse include only the brick walls. Their outside dimensions are approximately 75 feet by 27 feet. Much patched and repaired, the bonding of the walls is barely discernible. The main parts, however, are in Flemish bond; the area below the beveled water table appears to be English bond. The brickwork may have employed a glazing pattern, but many layers of paint and some stuccoing make this impossible to determine. The sizes and shapes of the original openings are likewise difficult to determine, for all of the openings have been altered into pointed, Gothic-style windows or doors with intersecting tracery in the upper portions. The original arrangement of the openings probably consisted of three windows on each side with an entrance in the west end. There seems to have been some shifting of windows on the south side to accommodate an additional window near the west corner, for this window does not appear in an early photograph. Additions to the building (all ca. 1910) include a gabled entrance vestibule at the west corner of the north side and a matching projection at the east corner of the same side. A similar projection is at the east corner of the south side. A rectangular aspe has been added to the east end.

The building is currently covered by a steeply pitched gable roof sheathed in slate. The original roof was probably gabled with a similar pitch. The present roof is supported on a series of exposed, hammer-beam-like trusses, suggesting that no original timbers survive. An old photograph shows the building as it appeared prior to the last additions, with scrolled Gothic Revival bargeboards and pinnacles at the gable ends.

The interior of the main part of the building is one large room except for the westernmost bay which has been partitioned off from the rest. The interior of the aspe is treated as a large niche ornamented with a somewhat primitive painting of the Magi, executed in 1911 by Anne Fletcher of Richmond. The remaining walls are plain plaster with a simple chair rail and baseboard. None of the interior trim appears to date earlier than the early twentieth century. The floor is pine boards; underneath is only a crawl space. No indication of the original arrangement of the interior is evident.

The building is kept in a generally good state of repair. It is used regularly for local activities and meetings.

CCL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

#1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE

1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1970, 1975 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Richmond, Virginia 23219

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Middlesex County Courthouse survives as one of Virginia's eleven Colonial courthouses, one of an outstanding collection of pre-Revolutionary civic architecture unmatched in quantity by any other state. Although the building has been much changed during its two centuries of existence, and only its patched walls are original, it remains the principal historical focal point of the old seaport village of Urbanna. Many important aspects of county and state history are reflected in the various uses to which the building has been put.

Middlesex County, located in the heart of Virginia's Tidewater region, between the Rappahannock and Piankatank Rivers, was formed from Lancaster County about 1669. The court originally met at what is now the settlement of Stormont, but in 1685 it was ordered that a courthouse be erected in the newly established village of Urbanna, the port of entry for the county. However, because there was no bridge or ferry across the adjacent creek, residents of the lower part of the county complained that the proposed location would be an inconvenient one. The matter was not resolved for some sixty years until a ferry could be established, and even then there were complaints about the tolls.

Construction of the courthouse was finally begun in 1745. The order for building the courthouse was probably recorded the previous year, but unfortunately, the order books covering that year have been lost. Official approval for the new building and its location was granted somewhat belatedly (probably after the building was finished) by the Governor's Council on April 24, 1746. An entry in the Executive Journal for that day records: "It is ordered that the Courthouse of the County aforesaid be removed to Urbanna according to the Prayer of the said Petition." The county, by January 1745, had already made payment to one John Rodes, Jr., for his care of the courthouse.

The routine business of the county was conducted in the courthouse for the next hundred years. Major events taking place there include a 1771 trial of six Baptist ministers for preaching without a license. The four who were convicted continued to preach from their jail windows for the forty-six days of their imprisonment. On the eve of the Revolution, in 1774, freeholders met at the courthouse and issued resolutions against taxation without representation. During the war itself the local Committee of Safety met in the building to try members of the local gentry for suspected loyalty to the Crown.

Even after Urbanna had served the county for nearly a century there were those who felt the courthouse should be located elsewhere. Finally, in 1847, the Middlesex justices voted against funding further repairs to the building and decided to move the county seat to the more accessible settlement of Saluda. A new courthouse was completed in 1852, and the old courthouse was sold at auction that same year to

* See Continuation Sheet #2

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Chowning, May Gayle. "From Court to Church to Courthouse," Richmond Times-Dispatch, Richmond, Virginia, April 17, 1949.
- Hall, W. L. (Editor). Executive Journals, Council of Colonial Virginia, Vol. 5, pp. 201, 208.
- Middlesex County Orders, 1745. p. 52.
- Street, Elwood, "Historic Middlesex County Courthouse," Richmond Times-Dispatch, Richmond, Virginia, September 13, 1942.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8
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3	6	0	9	4	0
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4	1	6	6	3	9	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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D

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

June, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3143

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

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 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE JUN 15 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11/21/96

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11.16.76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET #2 ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Captain John Bailey for \$600.00. Bailey had the building renovated into an interdenominational chapel, restyling its architecture in the Gothic taste.

During the War between the States, the building was used for a time as barracks for Confederate troops. It was shelled by Union gunboats, but little damage resulted. After the war it continued as a union chapel until 1896 when it was sold. It changed hands several times until 1907 when it was acquired by Christ Church Parish of Middlesex. Dedicated as an Episcopal chapel known as Epiphany in 1920, it served in that capacity until 1948 when improved travel conditions made the chapel no longer necessary. It was in that year that the building was deconsecrated and deeded to the Middlesex County Woman's Club. It remains the club's headquarters and serves as the scene of various community and private functions.

CCL
MTP

Property Old Middlesex County Courthouse

76002114

State Virginia

Working Number 8.2.76.3877

Middlesex

TECHNICAL

Photos 1
Maps 1

CONTROL

pl
OK 8.4.76

Extensively altered, but even the alterations are historic.

HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
Linsford
27 Oct 76

The "patched walls" are the only remaining original portions of the structure. The structure served as a courthouse until 1852 when it was changed. I suppose it could have significance because of the changes - but not totally convinced - I suppose an argument could be made.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
M J Hunt
11-5-76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

active

BRANCH CHIEF

ACCEPT
Cole
11/11/76

KEEPER

Hunt
M Hunt
11-16-76

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 2-1-77

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered **NOV 21 1976**

INT:2106-74



Madison County
Woman's Club

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

221 Governor Street

Richmond, Virginia 23219

OLD MIDDLESEX COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Urbanna, Middlesex County, Virginia

Credit: Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

1975/ Negative Filed: Va. State Library,
Richmond, Virginia

Exterior view from NW

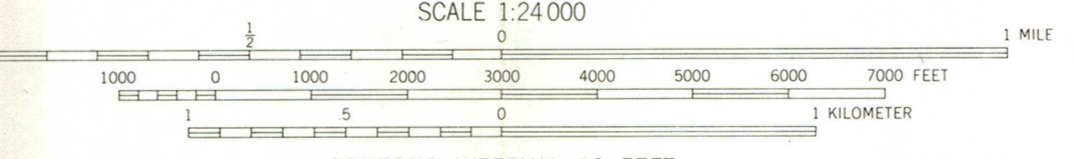
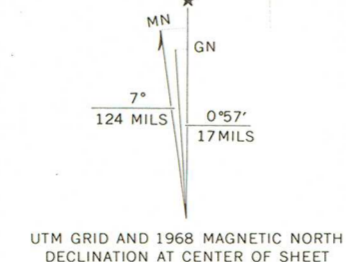
AUG 2 1976
NOV 21 1976 1 of 1

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

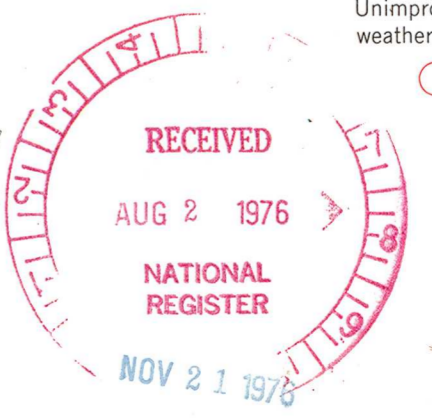


USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale: 1:24000)
Urbana, Va. 1968
OLD MIDDLESEX COUNTY COURTHOUSE, MIDDLESEX CO.
UTM References:
A - 18/360940/4166390

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968
Supersedes U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey map dated 1946
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 605-SC (1969)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18,
shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



SCALE 1:24000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 1.6 FEET
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTEVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Secondary highway, all weather, Light-duty road, all weather,
hard surface improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry
weather
State Route

URBANA, VA.
N3737.5—W7630/7.5
1968
AMS 5659 II NE—SERIES V834

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **VIRGINIA**

Date Entered **NOV 21 1976**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Middlesex County Courthouse	Urbanna Middlesex County
Chester Presbyterian Church	Chester Chesterfield County
Castlewood (Poindexter House)	Chesterfield Chesterfield County

Also Notified

Hon. Harry F. Byrd, Jr.
Hon. William Lloyd Scott
Hon. Thomas N. Downing
Hon. David E. Satterfield III
Regional Director, Mid Atlantic
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.
Executive Director, Virginia Historic
Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

880 MMott/row 11/29/76

B NR Data Sheet

DATE: 27 Oct 76
 Reviewer INITIALS: [Signature]
 NR DOE NOV 21 1976
 (11-21-76)

✓ NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Middlesex County Courthouse

OTHER NAMES: Middlesex County Woman's Club (see)

✓ LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER off VA 602

CITY, TOWN Urbanna CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1st

STATE Virginia 51 VICINITY OF COUNTY Middlesex code 119

✓ OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline) FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):
 NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
 SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

<u>INTERIOR</u>	<u>EXTERIOR</u>	<u>ENVIRONS</u>
-- Substantially intact-1	-- Substantially intact-2	-- Substantially intact-3
-- unknown - 4	-- unknown -5	-- unknown -6
-- not applicable - 7	-- not applicable - 8	-- Not applicable-9

-- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -	-- EXCELLENT	-- DETERIORATED	-- UNALTERED	-- ORIGINAL SITE
	-- GOOD	-- RUINS	-- ALTERED	-- MOVED
	-- FAIR	-- UNEXPOSED	-- Reconstructed	-- Unknown
		-- Unexcavated	-- Excavated	

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
 IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
 IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- COURT HOUSE
 now- CLUBHOUSE

✓ SIGNIFICANCE:

- | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION 22 | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW/Gov't/politics | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | <input type="checkbox"/> health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | <input type="checkbox"/> settlement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | <input type="checkbox"/> socio/cultural |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY 21 | | <input type="checkbox"/> urban & commun |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | | <input type="checkbox"/> planning |

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan: Anne Fletcher

interior decorator:

builder/contractor: (ptg of "The Magi")

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role & appropriate date)

personal Captain John Bailey

events Civil War. used as barracks for Confederate troops

institutional

✓ DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1744

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1852 Gothic details, 1910 additions made

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1852 sold as church
1852- courthouse built elsewhere, adapted for use as church

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY

OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre) less than 1

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Brick, 1 story, rectangular, gabled roof, 2 projecting front entrance vestibules, pointed-arched windows; ~~original courthouse~~ altered by addition of Gothic ^{Revival} elements, 1852; further additions ~~and alterations~~ made, 1910 and 1948; patched walls are only original fabric. Gothic Revival. Served as Middlesex Co. courthouse until county seat ~~changed~~ was moved + new courthouse built, 1852; became church and served as ~~as such~~ until 1948 when it ~~was adapted for~~ became headqtr for the Middlesex County Women's Club. SP

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

~~One of Virginia's few remaining colonial courthouses, this building was later modified for use as a church and as a women's club.~~