

# Architectural And Historic Survey



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## Identification

<b>STREET ADDRESS:</b> 717 Rugby Road	<b>HISTORIC NAME:</b> Thomas Jefferson Memorial Unitarian Church
<b>MAP &amp; PARCEL:</b> 5-28	<b>DATE / PERIOD:</b> 1950
<b>CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:</b>	<b>STYLE:</b> Colonial Revival
<b>PRESENT ZONING:</b> R-1	<b>HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES:</b> 1, 2 storeys
<b>ORIGINAL OWNER:</b> American Unitarian Association	<b>DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA:</b> 100' x 200' (20,000 sq. ft.)
<b>ORIGINAL USE:</b> Church	<b>CONDITION:</b> Good
<b>PRESENT USE:</b> Church	<b>SURVEYOR:</b> Bibb
<b>PRESENT OWNER:</b> Thomas Jefferson Memorial Unitarian Church	<b>DATE OF SURVEY:</b> Winter 1982
<b>ADDRESS:</b> 717 Rugby Road Ch'ville, VA 22903	<b>SOURCES:</b> City Records The Daily Progress, Ch'ville Bicentennial edition 4/13/1962

Sanborn Map Co. - 1929-57, 1969

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Unitarian Church is a rectangular structure with high-pitched gable roof terminating in a pedimented gable on the facade. The roof is covered with slate and has an entablature. A two-part louvered octagonal metal cupola topped with a spire of intertwining bands of metal is set near the front. The building is set on a low brick foundation with a stepped water table. Wall construction is of concrete faced with brick laid in 5-course American-with Flemish bond. A circular portico is semi-recessed into the facade. Corinthian pilasters and two Corinthian columns without basis support a medium-pitched conical roof covered with standing-seam metal. The wall of the portico is stuccoed. The 4-paneled double entrance doors have a moulded wooden surround, a frieze with cartouche, and a broken pediment. There is a circular window with decorative glazing above the entrance. Side elevations are six bays long. In the first bay, there is a double-sash, 6-over-6 light window at the first level with a moulded brick sill extending the width of the bay, and an octagonal window at the second level. In each of the other five bays on the north side there is a triple-sash, 12-over-12 light window with architrave trim and a moulded brick sill. A two-storey rear wing is connected to the main block by a 2-storey flat-roofed hyphen. Brickwork matches that in the main block. The wing has a steep gable roof, covered with slate, with pedimented gables, and capped interior end chimneys. First level windows on the 4-bay west side are floor length 9-over-12 light with Chinese Chippendale balustrade. There are no first level windows on the north facade. All second level windows are 6-over-6 light. The north facade of the hyphen is covered by a flat-roofed one-storey portico. Square piers support an entablature. A pair of matching 3-paneled doors with transom and sidelights fills the entire facade, as does a group of three 6-over-6 light windows at the second level. A flat roofed one-storey wing with matching brickwork and entablature covers the rear bay of the south side of the main block and most of the rear wing. Windows are 6-over-6 light except on the east and in the first south bay. These are 9-over-12 light with Chinese Chippendale balustrade. A one-storey flat-roofed hall addition covers the center four bays of the south side of the main block of the church. It has a single matching door on the facade, 6-over-6 light windows, and large metal basement windows in a long window well. On the interior, a segmental-arched colonnade separates it from the main body of the church. The interior of the church has architrave trim. There is a small vestibule and a bowed balcony with iron balustrade. Corinthian pilasters frame a very shallow chancel. Beside an opening in the western bay of the south side has an entablature with needed frieze and a swan's neck pediment. Across the hall from this opening is an oval room with a cornice with both eff-&-dart and dentil moulding. This room is designed as a memorial to Thomas Jefferson with a display cabinet of artifacts and Jeffersonian writings on the wall.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

The Jefferson Unitarian Society was organized in 1943. During the next eight years, meetings were held at the Monticello Hotel, Temple Beth Israel, and the University Chapel. This lot was purchased in 1945 (City DB 121-208), and Stanislaw Makielski designed the building the next year, but construction did not begin immediately. The cornerstone was sealed on April 13, 1950 (Jefferson's Birthday), and the building was dedicated on March 31, 1951. Several additions were made by 1957. Additional References: City DB 157-431, 404-146.