

Lexington Presbyterian Church
The Session of Lexington Presbyterian Church
Lexington Virginia USA



Thomas Ustick Walter is most famous for his tenure as Architect of the United States Capitol, during which he designed the cast-iron dome and the House and Senate annexes. He was otherwise a prolific Philadelphia architect, drawing up public buildings for clients all along the American coast. In 1834 he toured Europe. By 1843, when a Presbyterian congregation in the Shenandoah Valley town of Lexington contracted with him, he had perfected his transformation of the Greek temple model into a Christian worship structure. In 1898, the session decided to expand and alter the sanctuary using the then-popular Classical Revival style and gave local architects the job. On 18 July 2000, a paint stripper accidentally kindled an attic fire that utterly consumed the roof and spire and caused the flooding the rest.

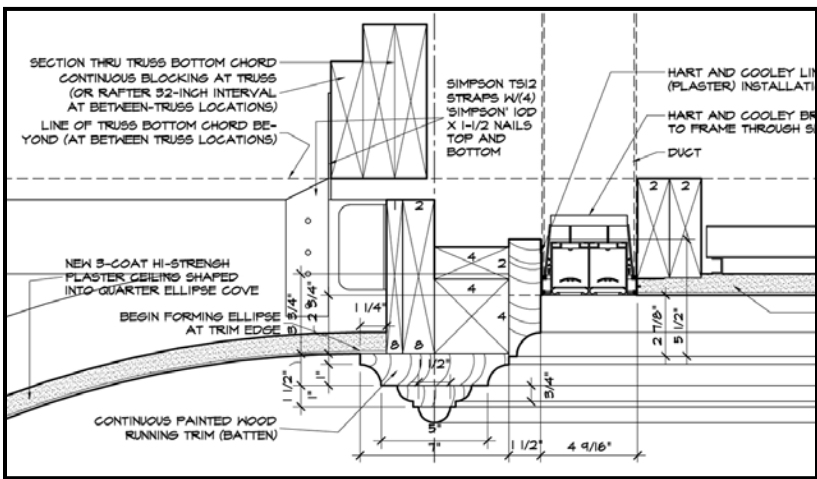
Brian Broadus AIA, then working for Train & Partners Architects of Charlottesville, crafted masonry repair techniques to strengthen and conserve the water-soaked walls so that a permanent, protective roof could be immediately built. Brian looked through the debris and archives for clues and measured the sanctuary remains. He visited other Walter churches in Virginia to catalog details (the congregation added third gallery stair, which

Virginia Society American Institute of Architects Preservation Honor Award 2007

"History does not mark and measure change: it illuminates that which prevails against change."

Brian Carter Broadus LLC Architects
(1+) 434 882 0867 or brian.broadus@broadusllc.com

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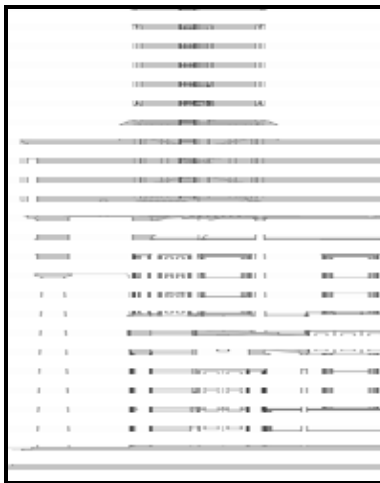


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Brian assembled after Walter originals). Brian cooperated closely with the congregation to install air conditioning and modern lighting, building consensus and inventing deft solutions. He worked in tandem with an acoustical engineer to prepare the building to receive a new tracker pipe organ that would not be delivered until two years after the sanctuary reopened. He partnered with timber framers and woodcarvers recreating the spire according to his drawings. The church was rededicated in January of 2003.



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