

VLR-9/9/72 NRHP-5/25/73

133-61

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: NANSEMOND	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
GLEBE CHURCH

AND/OR HISTORIC:
BENNETT'S CREEK CHURCH

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
N side of Rt. 337, .2 mi. E of intersection with Rt. 125.

CITY OR TOWN:
Driver vicinity (Watkins M. Abbitt, Fourth District Congressman)

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Nansemond	CODE 123
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Vestry (The Reverend H. Kannekett) GLEBE CHURCH

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 318 Driver Station

CITY OR TOWN:
Driver Norfolk

STATE: Virginia	CODE 23435	STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Nansemond County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Suffolk

STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D.C.	CODE 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
VIRGINIA

COUNTY:
NANSEMOND

ENTRY NUMBER

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Glebe Church lies above the west fork of Bennett's Creek about half a mile east of Driver on Route 337 in Nansemond County. The brick rectangular building is covered by a nineteenth century gable roof with wooden pedimented gable ends, and measures 48'6" X 25'4". A modern one-story gable roof addition adjoins the church on the north by a breezeway, and a small vesting room made from the bricks of an early but not original north wing has been added on the west. The church's east-west orientation has been changed; the chancel is now in the west end. The walls are laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers above the bevelled water table and English bond below. Rubbed brick suggests quoins at the corners and marks jambs of windows. The windows are topped with brick segmental arches, and are fitted with nineteenth century colored glass. Queen closers are employed at the corners, but occur irregularly at the windows and doorways. There has been extensive repair and repointing of the walls, due in part to the removal of the north wing in 1856. The windows and doorways have been altered frequently, but at present there are three windows on the south, two on the north and one small window high in the west wall. The large windows have been lowered at the sills. A segmental arch surmounts the marble plaque and lintel over the east doorway. The north doorway and the doorway into the vesting room are twentieth century features. The church's interior retains no original fabric. At present the raised chancel lies in the west end of the building with a door to the vesting room opening behind the Gothic altar screen. A small vestibule with a room on either side and divided from the sanctuary by a tongue-and-groove partition is located under the gallery in the east end. The walls and the segmentally arched ceiling are panelled with diagonal tongue-and-groove board. There is graining on the west door frame and marbelizing on the baseboard.

G.H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pro-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1737-1738

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Seventeenth Century Nansemond County was divided into three parishes. The predecessor of the present Glebe Church, built around 1643, was the parish church of the East or Lower Parish. Lower Parish and Chuckatuck Parish were united into Suffolk Parish in 1725, as they could not continue to support separate ministries and vestries.

On account of dissension within the parish, it was necessary to take the matter of a new church in the former Lower Parish area to the Virginia Council. The Council in 1737 decided that because of "... the ruinous condition of the Church built... in the part formerly called the lower parish," it was "...Resolved and Agreed to build a new Brick Church...." The new church, the present Glebe Church, was erected in 1737-1738, and apparently was regarded as the parish church of Suffolk Parish, and was originally known as Bennett's Creek Church. In 1759, the church was enlarged by the addition of a north wing. The church was also outfitted with a north gallery as well as with a private hanging pew in the southeast.

At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, the congregation, when confronted by the Reverend John Agnew with the sin of disloyalty, ordered the minister to leave the pulpit and never return. Agnew left and later became the regimental chaplain of the Queen's Rangers.

After the Disestablishment, Bennett's Creek Church retained its glebe lands on the grounds that they had been a private donation to the church and not purchased by the vestry. Since that time, it has been known as Glebe Church. The three hundred acre glebe on the east side of the Nansemond River is still church property, and the income from it is shared by Glebe and nearby Chuckatuck (St. John's) Churches. The abandoned church was in ruins until 1856, when the north wing was removed and the brick used to repair the building and to add the vesting room. The church was re-oriented at this time, and a gallery added in the east.

Glebe Church survives as one of two colonial churches remaining in Nansemond County. Because it retains its original Glebe lands, the church is an important historic rarity. Although altered, the building is noted for its fine colonial brickwork.

G.H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mason, George Carrington, Colonial Churches of Tidewater Virginia.
 Richmond: Whittet and Shepperson, 1945.
 Rawlings, James Scott, Virginia's Colonial Churches. Richmond: Garrett
 and Massie, 1963.
 Rose, Harold Wickliffe, The Colonial Houses of Worship in America. New
 York: Hastings House, 1963.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	36 ° 49 ' 34 "	76 ° 29 ' 54 "		°	'	"
NE	36 ° 49 ' 34 "	76 ° 29 ' 44 "				
SE	36 ° 49 ' 23 "	76 ° 29 ' 44 "				
SW	36 ° 49 ' 23 "	76 ° 29 ' 54 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 10 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION STAFF

ORGANIZATION: VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION DATE: August, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Junius R. Fishburne, Director
 Title: Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: _____

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

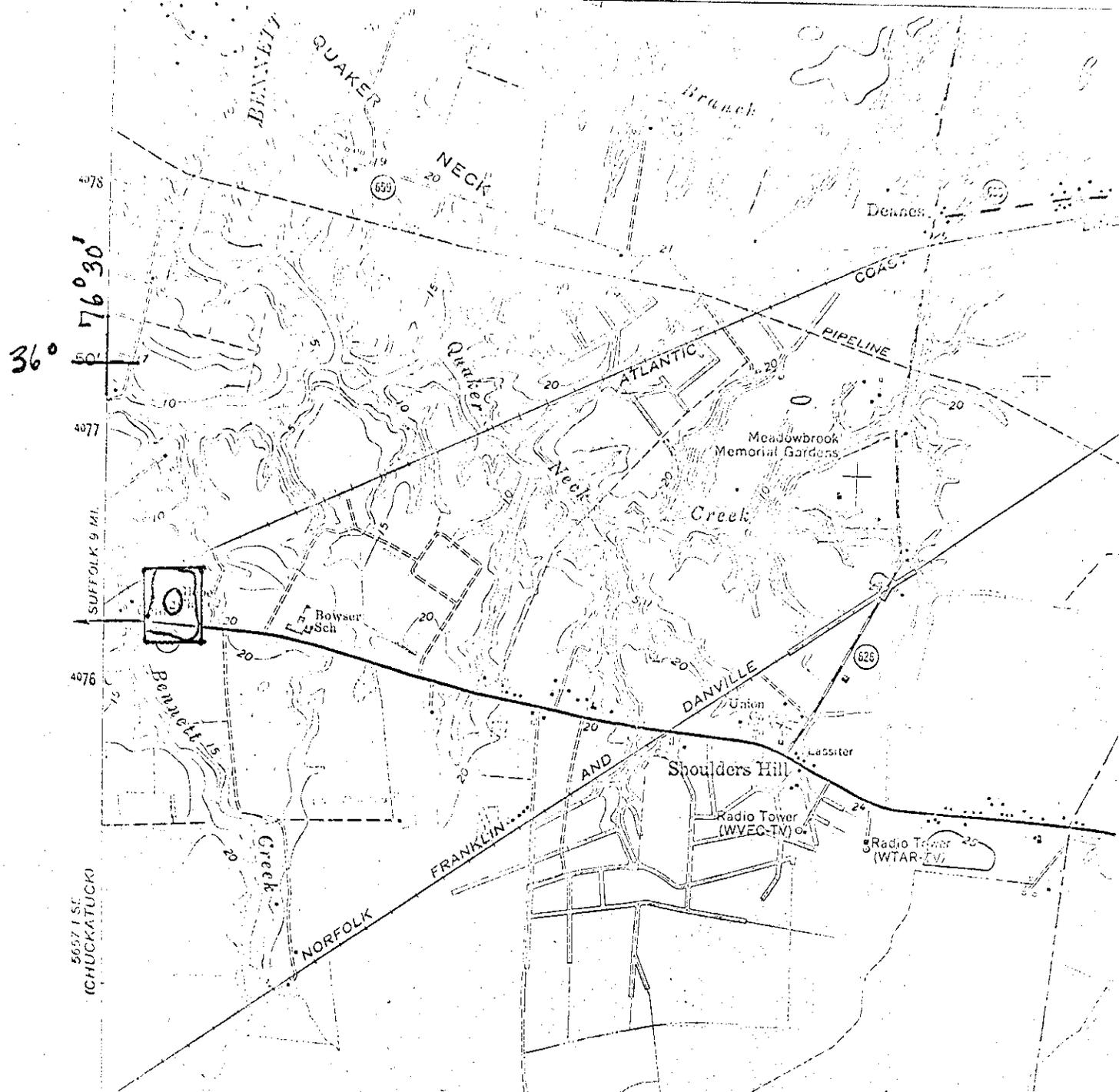
Date: _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Bowers Hill, Va. 1965

GLEBE CHURCH

LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
NW36°49'34"	76°29'54"
NE36°49'34"	76°29'44"
SE36°49'23"	76°29'44"
SW36°49'23"	76°29'54"

4073

47'30"