

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

LISTED ON:	
VLR	09/20/2012
NRHP	01/14/2013

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name St. James Church

other names/site number Garth Chapel; VDHR File #002-0582

### 2. Location

street & number State Route 614 (Garth Road), East of State Route 676 (Owensville Road)  not for publication

city or town Charlottesville  vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Albemarle code 003 zip code 22901

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

  
Signature of certifying official

10/27/12  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
1	0	buildings
1	1	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility  
FUNERARY: cemetery

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility  
FUNERARY: cemetery

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Late Gothic Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: STONE  
walls: WOOD: weatherboard  
roof: METAL: copper  
other:

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

See Continuation Sheet

**Narrative Description**

See Continuation Sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1896

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance encompasses the year in which the building was constructed.

**Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)**

*Criteria Consideration A*

While the property is also currently used for religious ceremonies, as it was during its period of significance, its primary significance is not derived from its association with a particular religion or creed.

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

See Continuation Sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: **VDHR, Richmond, VA**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_ VDHR File No. 002-0582 \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Approximately one acre  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 17 712800 4219950  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)  
See Continuation Sheet

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)  
See Continuation Sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Geoffrey B. Henry (original author) / Gardiner Hallock (revised and expanded form)  
organization Arcadia Preservation, LLC date 6/10/1998 and 5/5/2012  
street & number P.O. Box 138 telephone 434-293-7772  
city or town Keswick state VA zip code 22947  
e-mail pgh@arcadiapreservation.com

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See Continuation Sheets

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. James Church

Albemarle County, VA

Section number **7** Page 1

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

The approximately twenty-by-forty foot, Gothic-Revival, one-story, two-room, wood-frame church sits on a sloping wooded lot and faces Garth Road (County Route 676) in the western portion of Albemarle County. The 1896 building rests on a fieldstone foundation, features walls covered with horizontal weatherboards, and is protected by a standing-seam copper-sheathed roof. The facade is defined by a small, projecting gable entrance that holds a double-leaf, four-panel wooden entry door topped with a gothic arched, three-light transom. Three, five-over-six, lancet-arched windows complemented by arched, double-leaf, louvered wooden shutters are found on both side elevations. Additional exterior details include projecting eaves, simple molded window and doors surrounds, and beaded cornerboards. The interior of the building holds a small entrance vestibule and a larger nave with two rows of original pews arranged to form a central aisle. Two cemeteries are also found on the approximately one-acre property. The church and one cemetery are contributing resources; the second cemetery predates the period of significance and is non-contributing.

*Setting*

St. James Church, which is locally known as Garth Chapel, is located on a one-acre tract of land on the north side of Garth Road (Route 614) approximately five miles outside of the City of Charlottesville. The surrounding topography is gently rolling and features a mixture of historic estates, farms, and more recent residential subdivisions. Garth Road runs within fifty feet of the church's facade and is separated from the building by a three-board white wooden fence with a gate found on the eastern end. The terrain nearer the church is level at the southern portion of the property but slopes steeply to the northeast. There are both deciduous and evergreen trees growing throughout the property, as well as boxwood in the two cemeteries near the church. Immediately surrounding the church on three sides is a hardwood forest that acts to preserve the integrity of the site's historic setting and feeling.

*Exterior*

An excellent example of the Gothic Revival style, St. James Church, popularly known as the Garth Chapel, is a one-story, one-bay, gable roofed, frame church oriented south towards Garth Road (Route 614). The main body of the church building measures twenty feet three inches by thirty-five feet with a five-foot-long by ten-foot-wide gable-roofed entrance vestibule on the south elevation (facade). The main part of the church is twenty-four feet high, with the vestibule measuring nineteen feet high. Both the main block and the entrance are clad with five-inch-wide wooden weatherboards and protected by a standing-seam copper roof. The church rests on a foundation of rough fieldstone that is rapidly exposed as the grade slopes steeply to the north and measures approximately three feet high at the north elevation. Entrance to the church is provided by a stoop paved with bluestone with a thick bluestone step that leads to a paneled, double-leaf, wooden door with a three-pane, lancet-arched transom and a surround of four-inch wide molding. Each side elevation (east and west) features three window bays filled with double-hung, five-over-four, wooden sashes set within lancet-arched frames and flanked by lancet-arched, wooden louvered shutters. The church is trimmed along the cornice and eaves with machine-sawn moldings and features beaded corner boards as well. Atop the south gable end of the roof of the main section of the church is a wooden Latin cross.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

St. James Church

Albemarle County, VA

Section number **7** Page **2**

A wooden vertical-plank door on the north gable end provides access to a crawl space underneath the church. The floor framing of the church consists of an eight-by-six inch girt that runs longitudinally down the center of the building and joists spaced two feet on center.

*Interior Description*

The interior plan consists of a small vestibule, a nave with a central aisle flanked by moveable pews, and a ten-foot by five-feet-ten-inches raised chancel area at the north end. The church's floor is covered with three-inch-wide pine boards, laid longitudinally. The three-and-a-half feet high wainscoting is made from narrow, beaded, vertical-board paneling topped by a simple, ogee molded cap. The walls above the wainscoting are plastered and painted white. The ceiling is covered with paneling similar to the wainscoting and rises to fifteen feet three inches in the nave. The interior window and door trim is made from pine and is finished in a dark-stain throughout. The metal door and window latches are original and feature intricate and decorative patterns. Both pairs of double-leaf doors are paneled and evidence pegged construction.

The raised chancel area consists of a communion rail supported by widely spaced, turned balusters, a table serving as an altar with a cross above it on the rear wall, a lectern, and a pulpit. There also is a small organ, which was installed in the church in the 1970s by Francis Bradley Peyton, III, located at the northwest corner; and two sets of choir benches, which are said to have come from a shoe store in downtown Charlottesville<sup>1</sup>. Nine sets of original oak pews with curved backs and sides carved with a simple Gothic design flank the center aisle and they remain in excellent condition. Originally there was a small stove for heating the church near the south end, but it has since been removed. The church is currently unheated, unplumbed, and is not electrified.

*Architectural Integrity*

The interior and exterior of the building remains largely unchanged and retains a high degree of integrity. The standing-seam copper roof dates to circa 1987 and replaced a mid twentieth-century cedar shingle roof. Other changes include a renovation in early 2006 that repaired the foundation, installed concrete footers, laid a gravel splash around the foundation, installed the current blue stone step and paved stoop, attached wrought-iron railings on either side of the main entrance, and replaced in kind several weatherboards near the foundation. The chimney, which only extended into the framing roof and not into the nave, was also removed in 2006.<sup>2</sup> On the interior, changes include the removal of the stove pipe some time prior to the 1970s and the replastering of the interior walls in 2007.

*Cemeteries*

Two cemeteries are found on the property. The larger cemetery, which includes fifty-eight headstones, made mostly from granite and oriented north-to-south, is found to the northwest of the church and principally includes the Garth family and their relations. The larger cemetery contributes to the significance of the property.

The smaller cemetery is found in the northeastern portion of the property and features nine headstones, mostly made from marble and slate, which also are oriented north-to-south and predate the church. These stones, and possibly the graves that they originally marked, appear to have been moved to the site shortly after the construction of the church.<sup>3</sup> An additional grave and two markers are found just to the north of the smaller cemetery. These markers both demarcate the grave of a young middle-eastern girl (Jeannette Rashash - 1955-1958) with one marker in English and one in Arabic or Farsi. The smaller cemetery is non-contributing to the property as the gravestone dates indicate that the burials predate

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. James Church

Albemarle County, VA

Section number **7** Page 3

the period of significance, and it is not known when the markers, and presumably the graves, were moved to their current location. The later individual burial within the smaller cemetery is non-contributing as it postdates the period of significance.

*Inventory of the Cemeteries*

Large Cemetery (all markers are granite unless otherwise noted)

Frances P. Wieland - 1921 -2000  
Edna L. Perry -- 1887-1980  
Edith V. Perry - 1889-1977  
John V. Perry - 1881-1970  
Estelle Graves PErry - 1888-1966  
Carter E. Graves - 1885-1962  
George Plunkett - 1876-1937 (fieldstone with metal plaque)  
Major Charels O'Ferrell - 1890-1961  
F. Sheldon Graves - 1883-1953 (marble)  
Lena M. Edmonds - 1855-1929  
Mary P. Jones - 1917 -2008  
Howard Y. Haffner - 1914-1964  
Ann R. Garth Jones - 1868-1980  
John P. Jones - 1888-1859  
William Garth Jones - 1919-1959  
Thomas H. Garth - 1921-2007  
Anne W. Garth - 1924 -1988  
Hugh N. Garth (1902-1971) and Theresa Michie Garth (1902-1995) (marble)  
Virginia M. Martin - 1897-1964  
Woods Stockton - 1867-1925  
Daisy Martin Stockton - 1904-1989  
Mary Elizabeth Garth Peyton - 1890-1966  
Josephine M. Blackwell (wife of William Garth) - 1865-1949  
William Garth - 1863-1934  
Lewis Winston Garth - 1892-1923  
Willie Garth Wingfield - 1891-1968  
James Woods Garth - 1898-1971  
Wilmer C. Blackwell (1880-1935) and Pualine C. Blackwell - 1877-1933  
Elizabeth Moore Blackwell - 1910-1919 (marble, jack-in-the-pulpet motif)  
Blackwell (no names, no date) "Our Babies" (marble, two shafts that share a base)  
Ernest E. Blackwell -1860-1902 (marble, handshake motif)  
Helen Madge Blackwell - 1859-1910 (marble, dogwood and leaf motif)  
Robert M. Perry - 1883-1965 (marble)  
Charles Smoot Perry, Jr. - 1871-1967 (marble, Master Sargent, US Army, WWI and WWII)  
Virginia Copely - 1882 (no death date)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

St. James Church

Albemarle County, VA

Section number **7** Page 4

W. Garth Montague - 1885-1947  
Gaberilla Garth - 1855-1977 (marble)  
J. Woods Garth - died 1898 at 72 years old (marble)  
Mary Elizabeth Garth - 1839-1922 (marble)  
Edgar G. Michie (1866-1939) and Helen Garth Michie (1871-1942) (marble)  
Threasa E. Michie - 1834-1901 (marble)  
L. A. Michie - 1836-1906 (marble)  
Evelyn Michie colthurst (1871-1934)  
William B. Colthurst - 1873-1959  
John E. Colthurst - 1909-1962  
John G. Garth - Died 1906 (slate, "65 years old")  
Mary Hughes Vaughn Blackwell - 1917-1991  
Wilmer A. Blackwell - 1913-1964  
James Handcock Blackwell - 1916-1986  
Bruce B. Blackwell - 1909-1968  
Francis Bradley Peyton, III - 1917-1998; married 1948 (fieldstone with plaque "Command Pilot B-24 Liberator Tailwind")  
John F. O'Hagan - 1891-1978  
Chrystal O'Hagan - 1925-2009  
Ann Marie Murphy - 1927-2008

Small Cemetery

Willis D. Garth - 1779-1851 (marble, Urn and Willow motiff)  
Millie Freewell - 1779-1837 (marble)  
John Freewell - 1773 - 1837 (marble)  
Indecipherable (marble)  
Ann R. Douglass (nee Bridgewater) - 1779 -1825 (slate, high quality, labeled "A kind and affectionate wife, parent, and mistress")  
Broken and Indecipherable (marble)  
Broken and Indecipherable (marble)  
Susan E. Freewell (marble)  
John T. Freewell (marble)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. James Church

Albemarle County, VA

Section number 8 Page 5

**Summary Statement of Significance**

The St. James Church is significant as an extant example of a rural, vernacular Gothic Revival-style church in Albemarle County dating to the late-nineteenth century. In excellent and near pristine condition, the church retains its original setting, as well as a high degree of interior and exterior integrity. Notable features of the church include Gothic-style arched windows and transom, wainscoting on the interior, original pews, and the fact that it has never been altered to provide water or electricity. Furthermore, it is the best preserved example of a small, vernacular Gothic Revival church in Albemarle County and it retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It embodies the distinctive characteristics, and displays a typical method of construction and materials, of small, rural, late-nineteenth century Carpenter Gothic churches in Piedmont Virginia. Therefore the St. James Church is being nominated under Criterion C with an 1896 period of significance that reflects the church's date of construction.

The St. James Church has had a long association with the locally prominent Garth family, many of whose family members are buried in the church's two cemeteries. The church, which has been consecrated since 1896, is still owned and maintained by Garth family descendants through the Trustees of St. James Church.

*Historical Background*

As was true throughout colonial Virginia, the Anglican (later Episcopal) Church was the established church in Albemarle County and its presence in the region pre-dated the county's founding in 1744. Initially Albemarle was divided roughly into two parishes: Fredericksville Parish, which was created in 1742, and St. Anne's Parish, created in 1744. The area of the present St. James Church lay within Fredericksville Parish until the parish lines were changed in the early twentieth century.

After a period of decline in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth century due to the 1782 Act of Disestablishment, the Episcopal Church in Virginia experienced a strong resurgence in the late-nineteenth century. Spurred by a national missionary movement in general and the efforts of a few dedicated Episcopal clergy in particular, the church in Virginia undertook an extensive building campaign in the 1890s and early 1900s. One of the most active clergymen of this period was Archdeacon Frederick Neve of nearby St. Pauls-Ivy, who established churches and mission chapels, built schools and community centers, and generally sought to improve the life of rural residents of the county. St. James Church was part of this movement and its formation was sponsored by Christ Episcopal Church in Charlottesville with the Garth family helping to fund the actual construction.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to St. James Church, Christ Episcopal Church in Charlottesville also facilitated the construction of three other mission churches during this period, indicating the importance it attached to reaching previously isolated congregations. The first of these churches is St. Luke's Chapel, near Simeon, which was built in 1892 by an unknown builder. Similar to St. James Church, it is a small Gothic Revival-style frame chapel, slightly different in form, with a front steeple. Still in active use, St. Luke's retains high integrity, with fine interior Gothic details, including unpainted dark trim and a rare Carpenter Gothic style screen with trefoil cut-out patterns.<sup>5</sup> Second was the Edge Hill Chapel, now demolished, that was built circa 1895 by an unknown builder as a small, one-story, gable-roofed chapel built from stucco covered stone. The last mission church to be built was the Church of Our Saviour in Rio, built in 1904, and designed by George Bolton, a New York architect. An unusual stone church built in the Norman style, it was superseded by a larger church in 1967 but is still occasionally used for special services.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. James Church

Albemarle County, VA

Section number 8 Page 6

*Gothic-Revival Churches in Albemarle County*

Prior to the early and middle decades of the nineteenth century, churches in Albemarle County were built in the Classical Revival style, such as Christ Church-Glendower and the first Christ Church in Charlottesville, and were clearly influenced by Thomas Jefferson and his builders. However, by the mid-nineteenth century the Gothic Revival style gained increased popularity in the region. This dramatic change in church design was based on a national trend towards the Gothic Revival that was related to a revival of pre-enlightenment church ritual and the publication of *The Ecclesiologist* in England and the United States. Nationally, and in Albemarle County, the influence of the Gothic Revival was not confined to high-style churches during this period. Architects in the mid-nineteenth century, such as Richard Upjohn (1802-1878), not only designed large churches such as Trinity Church in New York, NY (1847) but also smaller, wood-framed churches similar to St. Luke's in Clermont, NY (1857). The distinctive style of these smaller churches would become popularly known as Carpenter Gothic and it is from this tradition that Albemarle County's St. James Church springs.<sup>6</sup>

In Albemarle County the first Gothic Revival church is the 1847, William Strickland (1788-1854) designed, ashlar-stone masonry, high-style, Grace Church in Cismont. Later in the century the Gothic Revival started to be used for more modest structures and the earliest example of a Carpenter Gothic church in Albemarle County is the 1875 St. John's Church in Scottsville. Covered with board-and-batten siding and featuring scroll-sawn vergeboard paired with a steeply pitched roof, the structure is similar in form to St. James but is considerably larger and found in an urban environment. Other vernacular Gothic Revival style churches in Albemarle County from the nineteenth century include St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Esmont, (1914), Trinity Episcopal Church in Charlottesville (1910), Centenary Methodist South Church in Damon (1907), Eugene Bradbury's Church of Good Shepherd Episcopal (1905), and the Woolen Mills Chapel in Charlottesville (1908). These examples, while not a complete listing of Gothic-Revival Churches in Albemarle, reflect a broad adoption of the style within Albemarle that transcended various Christian creeds. However, St. James Church's stands out from this group as it is one of earliest examples the style being used for a rural, vernacular church. Furthermore, it is considerably smaller than any of the surviving examples and provides clear evidence that the style was not only used for churches with larger memberships but was also thought to be suitable for rural areas with smaller, unproven congregations. Finally, the church also achieves significance within this group because it is the best preserved of all the examples found in the county. All other examples have been electrified, seen the installation of modern heating equipment, been expanded, altered, or lost its integrity of setting, feeling, and association through the encroachment of modern development.

More broadly, the Gothic Revival also became popular nationally for domestic buildings though the publication of pattern books by architects such as Alexander Jackson Davis (Rural Residences (1842) and Richard Upjohn (Rural Architecture (1852), as well as landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing (Cottage Residences (1842). However, for residences in Albemarle and the surrounding counties, the Gothic Revival was largely ignored in favor of the Classical and Greek Revivals. The principal exceptions are Blenheim (1847) in Southern Albemarle as well as several houses in Charlottesville.<sup>7</sup>

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

St. James Church

Albemarle County, VA

Section number 8 Page 7

---

*History of St. James Church*

St. James Church was built in 1896 to serve a congregation of approximately 25-30 people, mostly Garth family members, who had previously been meeting for services in the Garth Post Office. The initiative to construct the church appears to date to 1876, when local landowner J.H. Whitmore sold an acre of land to William Garth, William B. Colthurst, and George Gordon for thirty-five dollars to use for erecting a church.<sup>8</sup> However, construction did not start until 1896 when the property was transferred to the Trustees of St. James Church; a group that appears to have been initially composed of the same men that purchased the land in 1876. A search was also undertaken of existing vestry records for references to the builder or architect, but no information was found.

Family oral history reveals that just after the construction of the church the graves of several prominent members of the Garth family and relations of other early congregants were moved to the northeast corner of the churchyard of St. James.<sup>9</sup> The church also maintains a separate burial plot located on the western side of the property that holds the graves of the Garth family, their relations, and early church members.

Reflecting a shift in the rural population and the dramatic increase in the adoption of the automobile that allowed for rural church members to attend larger churches in Charlottesville, attendance at St. James Church declined. By the 1940s services were no longer regularly held and between circa 1945 until 1974, the church was only used for graveside funeral services. Since 1974, St. James Church has been used for christenings, weddings, and funerals, although there is no longer an active congregation. Currently the church, which remains a consecrated Episcopal church, and grounds are still maintained by descendants of the Garth Family through the Trustees of St. James Church.

*The Garth Family*

Thomas Garth, the first of the Garth family in Albemarle County, bought nearly 2,000 acres, most of it in the Ivy area of Fredericksville Parish, between 1762 and 1779. His family built several notable houses in this area, including the Barracks (built by Jesse Winston Garth around 1800) and Birdwood (built by William Garth around 1810). The family was active in the affairs of the Episcopal Church in Albemarle County during the nineteenth century and worshiped primarily at Christ Church in Charlottesville. Members of the Garth family continue to live in the region and their historical impact on the area is found in the names of several farms and roads in the proximity of the church.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. James Church

Albemarle County, VA

Section number **9** Page 8

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Albemarle County Deeds. Book 106 page 187. Albemarle County Courthouse. Charlottesville, Virginia.

Cocke, Charles Frances. *Parish Lines, Diocese of Virginia*. Virginia State Library: Richmond, Virginia. 1967

Frierson, Melinda B. *Five Episcopal Churches in Albemarle County*. Unpublished report prepared for "Studies in Vernacular Architecture" (Fall Semester 1984) under the direction of K. Edward Lay, Professor of Architecture, University of Virginia. Charlottesville, Virginia, 1984.

Lay, Edward. *The Architecture of Jefferson Country: Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia*. University of Virginia Press. Charlottesville, Virginia, 2000.

Massey, Don W. *The Episcopal Churches in the Diocese of Virginia*. Diocese Church Histories: Keswick, Virginia, 1989.

Peyton, Scott. Interview with Gardiner Hallock (author). 4/27/2012.

Roth, Leland. *A Concise History of American Architecture*. Harper and Row: New York, New York, 1979.

Trumbull, Rebecca. *Garth Chapel (St. James Church)*. Unpublished Report prepared for "Studies in Vernacular Architecture" (Spring Semester 1981) under the direction of K. Edward Lay, Professor of Architecture, University of Virginia. Charlottesville, Virginia, 1981.

Woods, Rev. Edgar. *Albemarle County in Virginia*. The Michie Company: Charlottesville, Virginia, 1901.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

St. James Church

Albemarle County, VA

Section number 10      Page 9

---

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the nominated property are shown on the Albemarle County Tax Map 43, parcel 7, and include approximately one acre of land.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries include all historic resources associated with St. James Church and are the same as originally deeded to the trustees of St. James Episcopal Church in 1896.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

St. James Church

Albemarle County, VA

Section number Photographs Page 10

**PHOTOGRAPHS** Note: The following information is common to all photographs.

Name: St. James Church, VDHR File No.: 002-0582

Location: Albemarle County

Photographer: Gardiner Hallock, Arcadia Preservation, LLC

Date of Photo: April, 2012

Location of Digital Photos: Virginia Department of Historic Resources Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

View of: East Elevation

Photo: 1 of 15

View of: Looking northeast, showing facade and west elevation

Photo: 2 of 15

View of: Detail of Window, East Elevation

Photo: 3 of 15

View of: Vestibule, East Elevation

Photo: 4 of 15

View of: Interior of Nave, Looking North

Photo: 5 of 15

View of: Interior of Nave, Looking East

Photo: 6 of 15

View of: Detail of Pew

Photo: 7 of 15

View of: Interior, Detail of Window

Photo: 8 of 15

View of: Interior of Nave, Looking South

Photo: 9 of 15

View of: Facade, Looking North

Photo: 10 of 15

View of: West Elevation

Photo: 11 of 15

View of: North Elevation

Photo: 12 of 15

View of: Looking Towards Church from Northwest Corner of Lot, Including Large Cemetery

Photo: 13 of 15

View of: Looking Northwest accross Garth Road to Church (site)

Photo: 14 of 15

View of: Small Cemetery, Looking North

Photo: 15 of 15

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

St. James Church

Albemarle County, VA

Section number Endnotes Page 11

**ENDNOTES**

<sup>1</sup> Interview with Scott Peyton, 4/27/2012.

<sup>2</sup> Email correspondence with Scott Peyton, 5/18/2012 ("I believe I related that the renovations (i.e., rebuild of foundation w/associated rock work, new bluestone front stoop w/wrought iron hand rails, interior replaster, etc.) were conducted in 2007. They were, in fact, performed in 2006. My records also confirm that removal of the brick masonry chimney and the associated patch/repair to copper roof was likewise done at that time (invoice paid 2/10/2006)").

<sup>3</sup> Interview with Scott Peyton, 4/27/2012.

<sup>4</sup> Trumbull

<sup>5</sup> Saint Luke's Church (002-0478) was recommended eligible for the state and national registers by the State Review Board on December 3, 2003. Designation Manager Marc Wagner made a site visit on September 21, 2012, with State Review Board member Jody Lahendro (architect/architectural historian) and congregant Laura Voisin George (architectural historian). Wagner updated photographic documentation and confirmed that the church retained physical integrity, and is still eligible, little changed from 2003.

<sup>6</sup> Roth, 112-114

<sup>7</sup> Lay, 255

<sup>8</sup> Albemarle Deed Book 106/187

<sup>9</sup> Interview with Scott Peyton, 4/27/2012.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH  
DEPARTMENT OF  
DEPARTMENT OF MINES

78°37'30"  
38°07'30"  
4220000 N

1090000 E

10

11

35' 12

13

# 002-0582

ST JAMES

CHURCH

ALBEMARLE CO VA

CHARLOTTESVILLE

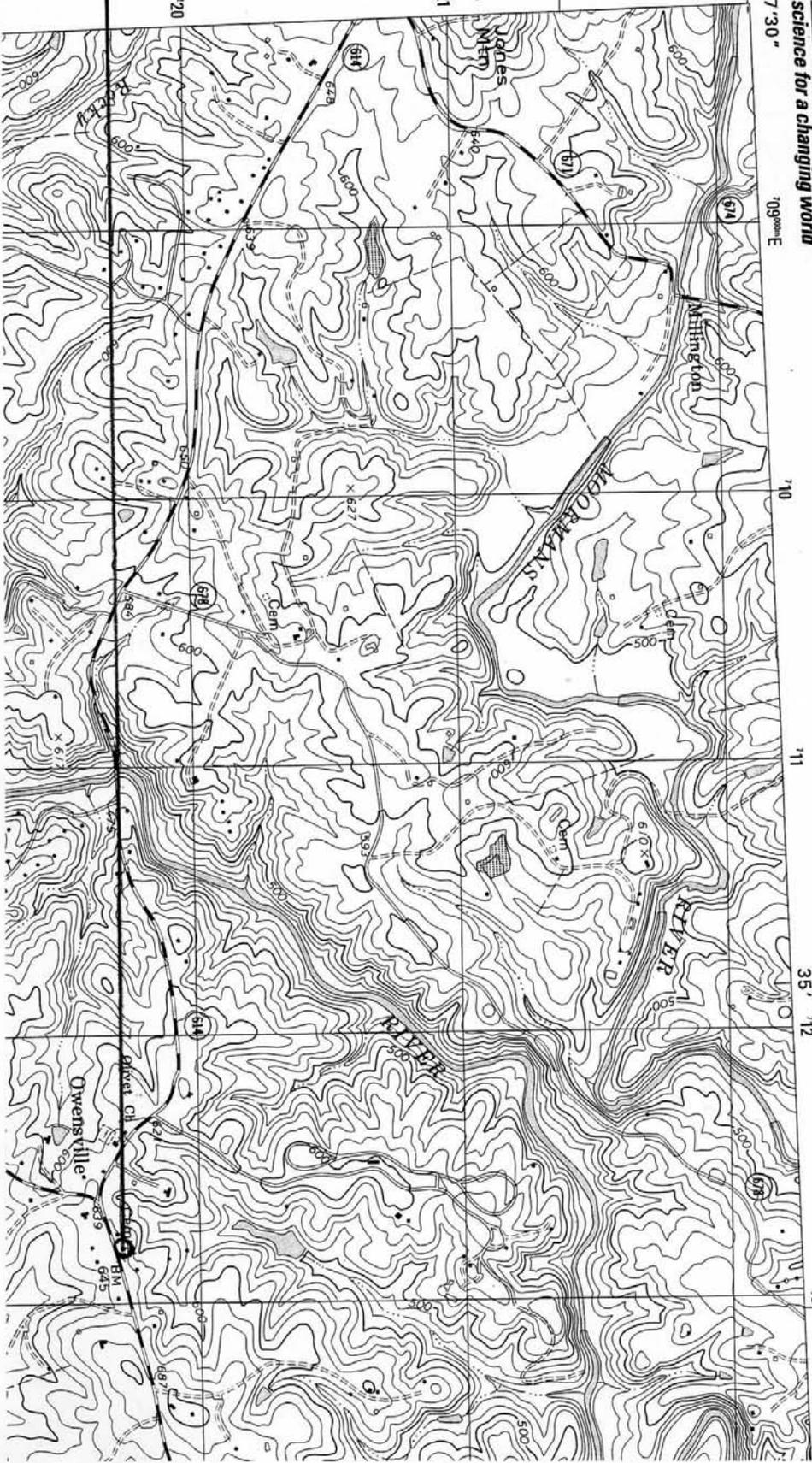
WEST QUID

NAD 1983

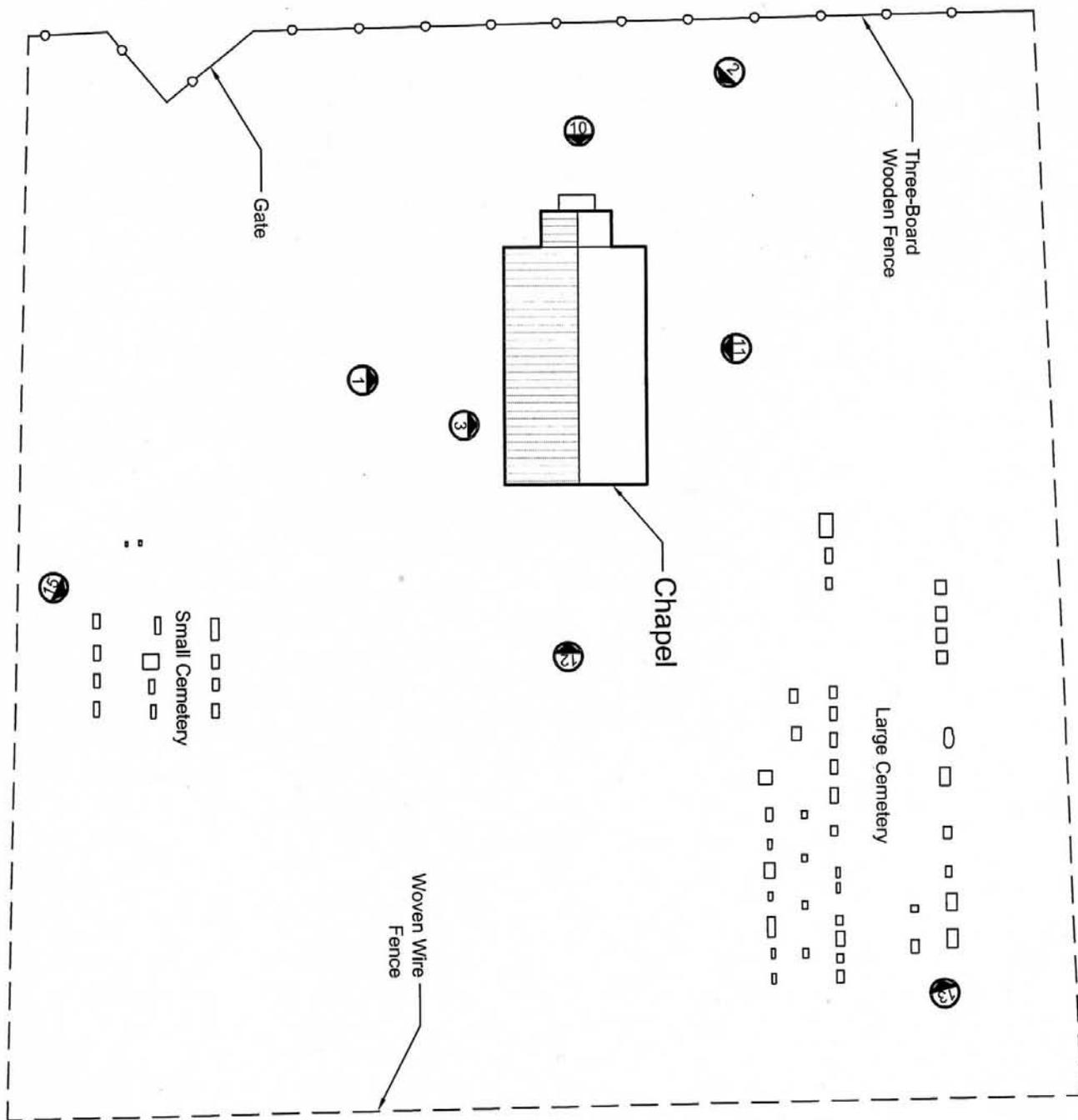
UTM ZONE 17

712800E

4219950N



Garth Road



Church

Drawn By: G. Hallock

Site Plan & Photo Key

# St. James (Garth) Chapel

Sheet Number

Arcadia  
Preservation, LLC



Date: 5/17/2012

Scale: No Scale

Albemarle County, VA

VDHR ID# 002-0582

**S1**