

VLR-8/15/72 NRHP-12/5/72

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
OLD PROVIDENCE STONE CHURCH

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
N W side of intersection of Rt. 613 and Rt. 620

CITY OR TOWN:
Spottswood vicinity (James Kenneth Robinson, Seventh District

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Augusta CODE: 015

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"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) vacant	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>vacant</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<u>vacant</u>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Trustees of Old Providence Stone Church c/o Mr. Grier L. Carson

STREET AND NUMBER:
Echols Building

CITY OR TOWN: Staunton STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Augusta County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Staunton STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" 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

Old Providence Stone Church stands on a rolling sward stretching from the intersection of Routes 620 and 613 on the east to a stone walled cemetery on the west. Surrounding the church property is the beautiful farmland of the Shenandoah Valley with the Blue Ridge and Alleghany Mountains in the distance. On the hill to the east is a large Georgian style brick structure which now houses the Old Providence congregation. At present the church is only a shell, the interior having been gutted by fire in 1959. Only the 18" random rubble limestone walls are original; the gable roof, wooden box cornice, and sash were added after the fire. The rectangular five-bay structure measures 70' X 25', and is one-story in height. Doorways are located in each end and in the center of each side. An additional doorway, now partially closed with concrete block is situated in the north gable. It is believed that this door was used to reach an inside gallery. There are four windows on the west side, five on the east side, two in the north gable, and three in the south gable. Except for the two windows in the north gable, all the openings are topped by vertically set stones.

Plans for rebuilding the interior have been discussed, but at present no firm decision on when or how it should be done has been reached.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 | 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Old Providence Stone Church was erected in 1793 and is the third oldest standing Presbyterian meeting house in the Valley of Virginia. Unlike the much altered and enlarged earlier examples: Augusta Stone Church, Augusta County, and Timber Ridge Church, Rockbridge County, Old Providence retains its original proportions and thus serves to illustrate the simple style of the early meeting houses. The McCormick family and their famous scion, Cyrus Hall McCormick, worshipped here, as did the family of J.E.A. Gibbs, inventor of an early successful sewing machine. The parents of both men are buried in the stone walled cemetery.

It is known that a South Mountain Meeting House, a log structure and the forerunner of Old Providence, was in existence by 1743, when John Craig, the first minister in the area, visited and baptized the settlers' children there. In 1746, the church splintered, and a group, electing to follow John Blair, New Side minister and organizer, established New Providence on Moffat's Creek several miles to the west. The congregation remaining at the South Mountain Meeting House became a part of the Associate and Reform Presbyterians, advocating the use of the metrical version of psalms; they first called their church Old Providence during the early 1760's.

The land for the present structure was given in 1793 by Patrick and Susanna Hall, who also furnished the timber and the stone used in the building. In 1844, the congregation joined the first Presbytery A.R.P. Synod of the South. The church continued to flourish and eventually outgrew its building so a new church was constructed in 1859.

After the abandonment of the stone building, Misses Jennie and Mary Pringle of New York ran a school there. When the school was closed by the advent of the War Between the States, the building was used as a residence and a general store for a number of years. From 1888 until the early twentieth century, the Valley High School was organized in the old church, which served as both classroom and dormitory. The building thereafter served the area as a meeting room and social hall until it was gutted by fire in 1959. Since the fire the building has been given some semblance of its original exterior form by being re-roofed and having sash installed in the window openings.

