

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Church Home for Aged, Infirm and Disabled Colored People

other names Three Angels Inn DHR No. 012-0126

2. Location

street & number 236 Pleasant Grove Road not for publication
city or town Brodnax vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Brunswick code 025 Zip 23920

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the
National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

U. S. Department of the Interior
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Church Home for Aged, Infirm and Disabled Colored People
Brunswick County, VA

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 3 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 1 </u>	structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	objects
<u> 3 </u>	<u> 1 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> Health Care </u>	Sub: <u> hospital </u>
<u> Domestic </u>	<u> dwelling </u>
<u> Domestic </u>	<u> smokehouse </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> Domestic </u>	Sub: <u> hotel </u>
<u> Domestic </u>	<u> storage </u>
<u> Domestic </u>	<u> storage </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

___ Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements ___

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation ___ brick _____

roof _____ stone: slate _____

walls _____ wood _____

other _____ chimneys: brick _____

_____ porches: wood/screen _____

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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)

- X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- X 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.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

_____ health/medicine _____
_____ ethnic heritage/Afro-American _____
_____ social history _____

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Period of Significance ___1866 - 1907_____

Significant Dates ___1881_____

___1883_____

___1891-1892_____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

___Martha "Pattie" Hicks Buford_____

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder ___Unknown_____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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: ___Brunswick County Library, Lawrenceville, VA_____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property ___4.16_____

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 18 242770 4070370 2 _____

3 _____ 4 _____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title:

Organization: ____ Thomas Krewson & Dale P. Kinsey _____ date __ 2004 ____

street & number: ____ 236 Pleasant Grove Road ____ telephone __ 434-848-0830 ____

city or town ____ Lawrenceville _____ state __ VA __ zip code __ 23868 ____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name ____ Thomas and Pat Krewson _____

street & number __ 236 Pleasant Grove Road _____ telephone __ 434-848-0830 ____

city or town ____ Lawrenceville _____ state __ VA __ zip code __ 23868 ____

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

Church Home for Aged, Infirm and Disabled Colored People
Brunswick County, VA

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Summary Description:

The main building that served as the Church Home for Aged, Infirm and Disabled Colored People is an enlarged version of a typical center-hall-plan house two rooms deep. However its hall is significantly wider than the norm and all the rooms are larger than typical parlors or bedrooms of the period. It clearly was built to accommodate groups of people rather than a family unit. The three-story frame house retains much of its original fabric, only the porches have been rebuilt. Its large clipped-gable roof is unusual and is probably the result of the building's unusually deep plan. The use of slate for the roof is rare in Southside Virginia for its time.

Description:

“The Church Home for Aged, Infirm and Disabled Colored People” was incorporated by the Virginia General Assembly during its 1881-1882 session. Its first building was dedicated on July 17, 1883. This building served as a hospital for needy members of the black community in the Brunswick area until it was destroyed by fire on March 17, 1891. It was rebuilt that same year on the same brick foundation that is 18 inches thick. The 6,000-square-foot wood-frame structure has horizontal lapped weatherboard walls and a slate clipped-gable roof. It retains its original floor plan: three levels each with four rooms, two on each side of a wide center hall. The rooms have original heart pine floors; the basement originally had a brick floor, but is now ceramic tile. On the main and upper floors the ceilings are exceptionally high giving the house an institutional look. There is a very wide central hall on each floor. The second floor is reached by a wide stair of gentle slope. It may have been designed this way to facilitate the movement of patients from floor to floor. The rooms are finished with typical pine baseboards and architrave window and door trim. Two of the original simple late Italianate mantels survive; the other fireplaces now have cabinet mantels from the first quarter of the 20th century. The raised basement with windowsills at ground level has two entrances. Original brick fireplaces are located in the ten rooms—four on each floor and two in the basement. Two brick chimneys extend from the roof. Full-length wooden porches occur on both facades and have metal roofs. Dormer windows were removed from the main roof in the 1930s. More recently the plumbing and electricity have been modernized and a wooden fire escape was placed on the rear of the building, required for its use as a bed-and-breakfast inn.

Several outbuildings remain on the property. One, used as the hospital supervisor's residence, is a 1,594-square-foot, two-story, wood frame building consisting of five rooms. Two brick chimneys pierce the metal roof. To the rear of the main building is a 1950s milking barn (non-

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**Church Home for Aged, Infirm and Disabled Colored People
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contributing). It is one story high and has walls of concrete block and a metal roof. An original smokehouse, an 80-square-foot vertically sheathed wooden structure still stands on the property.

There appears to be evidence of submerged foundations of additional outbuildings at the rear of the property. These structures were reported to have been used as (1) a clinic for contagious and/or dying patients, (2) a cookhouse, (3) a washhouse, and (4) a cottage for the matron. To date no attempts have been made to excavate or archaeologically document these remains.

The house is now used as a bed and breakfast establishment. The remaining outbuildings are used for storage.

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**Church Home for Aged, Infirm and Disabled Colored People
Brunswick County, VA**

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Summary of Significance

The remaining buildings of the Church Home for Aged, Infirm and Disabled Colored People in Brunswick County, Virginia, constitute a unique survival from the post-Reconstruction era. After Reconstruction, many freed slaves were left to fend for themselves and had little or no access to education or medical services. In Brunswick County Martha Hicks Buford, a devout and active Episcopalian, recognized the plight of the newly freed people and made it her life's work, establishing many schools for the freed people and, in 1882, establishing the Church Home as a hospital for blacks. She touched the lives of many, using funds raised from far and wide. Her work was recognized and supported beyond the borders of Virginia.

Criteria justification:

The Church Home is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of health and medicine, ethnic history (African American), and social history as an unusual example of an institution established for freedmen during the period following Reconstruction when there were no facilities for their medical treatment. The Church Home is representative of responses by sympathetic individuals to the plight of recently freed slaves. The response of Martha Hicks Buford to the plight of Negroes in Southside Virginia following Reconstruction attracted support beyond Virginia. It was a specific manifestation of personal commitment in an era when public care of the destitute was limited at best.

The Church Home is also eligible under Criterion B for its relationship to the life work of Martha "Pattie" Hicks Buford for the betterment of the lives of freedmen following Reconstruction in Southside Virginia. This is the property most closely associated with her active life.

Statement of Significance

Martha "Pattie" (Hicks) Buford was born in Brunswick County, Virginia, on March 14, 1836. She was the daughter of Edward Brodnax Hicks and his wife Elizabeth Stone, the daughter of a governor of North Carolina. She attended St. Mary's School in Raleigh, North Carolina. In 1858 she married Francis Emmet Buford, a lawyer, three days before her father's death. The date may have been chosen to escape a clause in her father's will that would have required approval from her uncle and brother for her to marry.

Following the Civil War and after Reconstruction, Southside Virginia experienced dire poverty as

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Church Home for Aged, Infirm and Disabled Colored People
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former slaveholders and freed slaves struggled to survive in a weak economy. Pattie Buford was troubled by the movement of the new freedmen to establish their own churches, because she had conducted Sunday school services and lessons for the slave children on her father's plantation. Many local blacks joined the newly formed Zion Union Apostolic Church, which grew to more than 2,000 members in the early 1870s. When Buford approached two female members in 1875 and asked if she might teach Sunday School, she was accepted and found a great desire for schooling in the freed people and their children, regardless of religious affiliation. To increase her efforts she appealed to the Diocese of Virginia (Episcopal), and to the national Episcopal Church Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. Soon she was regularly receiving contributions of money and bundles of clothing. She dispatched the best of her pupils to teach the Episcopal catechism at other Zion Union churches.

In the next few years 28 schools and 1,400 children benefited from the donations. She built the Chapel of the Good Shepherd where a regular school opened in March 1879 with more than a hundred pupils. (This structure was removed from the Church Home property many years ago.) That same month, the Diocese of Virginia, in recognition of her work, appointed her as a teacher and provided support for the school through its General Board. In 1881, the diocese stopped its support of the school. Though not stated, the reason is assumed to have been the vote of the Zion Union Church not to require the use of the Episcopal prayer book in its services.

Pattie Buford was hurt and dismayed, but embraced a new project. She petitioned her northern supporters for funds to establish a hospital for blacks. In an appeal published in the *Southern Churchman* she stated that in the building, "the poor, stricken, loathsome, scorned, despised black man found shelter and home, love, care and tenderness... (as the)... county almshouse is filled to capacity, people are poor, cannot stand heavier taxation, there is no other asylum, no other help for them." The Church Home for Aged, Infirm and Disabled Colored People was incorporated by the Virginia General Assembly in 1882 and opened in 1883. She continued fundraising for the school and the hospital with success, issuing annual appeals and articles in church papers and traveling for weeks at a time, seeking support from Episcopal congregations in the North. Her sons and her husband assisted her work. When not fundraising, she worked in both institutions. She also recruited friends and neighbors to help her: most notably Indie Davis and Sarah Wilkes and especially Margaret Weddell of Petersburg who served as her personal secretary for many years. In 1891 the hospital was destroyed by fire. Buford raised funds for a larger hospital, which reopened ten months later. It featured a raised basement and eight wards. Orphaned children were housed in a

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Church Home for Aged, Infirm and Disabled Colored People
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separate building and patients with contagious illnesses were placed in a separate outbuilding. Hospital records give a sense of the use of the building from its opening until the time just before Pattie Buford's death:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Patients</u>	<u>Number of Outpatients</u>
1890	53	1,012
1891	50	1,294
1892	63	721
1893	131	778
1894	160	625
1895	187	613
1896	123	700
1897	176	526
1898	124	600
1899	100	2,618

Her Last Will & Testament was dated January 10, 1901. It read "by act of the Legislature of Virginia, the Church Home for Aged, Infirm and Disabled Colored People which was built by my efforts and has been under my control for many years will return to my family if it should cease to be used as a hospital for five years". The hospital operated until 1907, six years after Buford's death. The property reverted to her family sometime after that. It served as a private residence for many years. The present owners acquired the property in 1998 and operate a bed and breakfast inn there.

Buford's obituary in the Richmond *Times-Dispatch*, January 18, 1901 stated, "She and God built a primary school, built the hospital and the orphanage. It is a work which stands alone, as far as I know in the South. For the amount of money expended, it relieves more human pain and distress than any other institution in the United States."

An interesting aside is found in an article in the same newspaper seventy-two years later on December 16, 1973:

The Christmas carol, "O, Little town of Bethlehem," written by Phillips Brooks, received a little-known subsequent verse in Brunswick County nine years later ...Mr. Brooks, then rector of Holy Trinity Epis-

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copal Church in Philadelphia, on a visit here in 1877 witnessed the work performed by Mrs. Pattie Hicks Buford in schooling blacks after the Civil War. Mr. Brooks wrote the verse which he dedicated to this benefactor of the downtrodden.

Many of the hymnals in use today include only the four original verses. The additional verse, which was inserted as the fourth verse in a five-verse hymn, does appear in Episcopal hymnals. It is as follows:

Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed Child
Where misery cries out to Thee, Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.

Pattie Hicks Buford spent 25 years caring for the black people of Brunswick County. The Church Home stands as a witness to this selfless and dedicated work.

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**Church Home for Aged, Infirm and Disabled Colored People
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Verbal Boundary Description

The property is defined as Parcel Number 61-34B on the Tax Parcel maps for Brunswick County, VA.

Boundary Justification

The property contains all the surviving resources related to the Church Home for Aged, Infirm and Disabled Colored People.

Bibliography

Neale, Janet Gay, *Brunswick County, Virginia 1720-1975*. Richmond, VA: Whittet & Shepperson, 1975; revised to 2000, Lawrenceville, VA: Demons Printing/Color Images, Inc., 1999.

Everett, Lee Nora, "Yule Carol Verse Written in Brunswick." *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 16, December, 1973 p C-6.

Obituary, "Mrs. Pattie Buford," *Richmond Times*, 17 June, 1901.

Report of United States Commissioner of Education, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1889, pp. 689, 690, 694.

Bell, Edith Rathbun & William Lightfoot Hartwell, Jr., *Brunswick Story, A History of Brunswick*. *Brunswick Times-Gazette*, 1957.

Buford, Florence deLaunay, *She and God*. Private manuscript of the Buford Family.

Pritchett, W. McCaddin, *A History of Secondary Education in Brunswick County, VA, 1715-1938*. pp. 95, 96.

Section Photo List Page 8

Photograph List

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The following information is common to all photographs:

Property: Church Home for Aged, Infirm and Disabled Colored People
236 Pleasant Grove Road
Brodnax, VA 23920

VDHR File number: 12-126

Photographer: J. G. Zehmer, Jr.

Date of photographs: April 28, 2004

Location of negatives: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond

Negative number: 21455

1 of 7: Front view

2 of 7: View from southwest

3 of 7: View of hall

4 of 7: Original mantel in bedroom

5 of 7: Original mantel and door in parlor

6 of 7: Smokehouse

7 of 7: Superintendent's House