

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 Wickliffe Church

other names/site number VDHR File No. 21-89

2. Location

street & number E side SR 608, 1/2 mi. S of VA-WV line not for publication N/A  
city or town Berryville vicinity x  
state Virginia code VA county Clarke code 043 zip code 22611

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 o e s n meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide    locally. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Julie A. Thimik Signature of certifying official/Title 2.1.95 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

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows include buildings, sites, structures, objects, and 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: RELIGION Sub: Religious facility
FUNERARY Cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: Religious facility
FUNERARY Cemetery

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MID 19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls BRICK
roof METAL
other

Narrative Description (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)

- 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.)

- 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)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1846  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1846  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

=====  
**9. Major Bibliographical References**  
=====

(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: \_\_\_\_\_

=====  
**10. Geographical Data**  
=====

Acreeage of Property  1.5 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	250140	4338960	2		
	3			4		

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

=====  
**11. Form Prepared By**  
=====

name/title  Elizabeth W. Keane   
organization  Mary Washington College  date  April 1994   
street & number  Route 1, Box 560  telephone  703-882-3006   
city or town  Waterford  state  VA  zip code  22190

=====  
**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/title  Diocese of Virginia   
street & number  110 West Franklin Street  telephone  804-643-8451   
city or town  Richmond  state  VA  zip code  23220

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   1  

**Wickliffe Church  
Clarke County, Virginia**

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**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

Wickliffe Church is a Greek Revival-style, rectangular structure, approximately 38' by 48', with a front gable and a one-story rear addition, approximately 18' by 17'. Built in 1846, the church features a distyle in antis portico in addition to stepped gable ends and an open belfry. The brick church incorporates an open-nave plan with the chancel raised a step from the nave area and set off by a communion rail. A gallery positioned on the west end is marked by three windows in the west gable. Located in northeastern Clarke County on Route 608, the church sits on a knoll overlooking gently rolling hills. No longer in active use, Wickliffe Church remains a silent reminder of the antebellum time period.

**ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS**

The fieldstone foundation of Wickliffe Church varies in height, above grade, from approximately one to two feet. A load-bearing brick masonry system incorporates Flemish-bond pattern in the principal facade and five-course American bond in the remaining walls.

At the center of the west gable end is a distyle in antis portico. Doric columns rest on shallow square bases (plinths). A thin, plain wood entablature, supported by the columns, runs the length of the portico. Three steps flanked by a wrought-iron rail rise to the portico.

Four paneled doors provide access from the portico to the interior of the church. Two sets of paired doors open to aisles in the sanctuary, while two smaller recessed doors open to vestibules; one a stair chamber, the other a storage room. Located above each of the doors is a glass transom; a five-light transom over the front paired doors and four-light transoms over the smaller side doors. Above each transom is a brick jack arch.

Situated above the west gable end portico, evenly spaced and flanked by green wooden shutters, are three glazed six-over-six double-hung sash windows topped by flat jack arches. An S-shaped anchor is positioned above the central window on the front facade with a corresponding anchor located on the back (east gable end) of the church.

The south and north elevations of the church each include four evenly spaced twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash windows, all topped with brick jack arches. A plain wooden cornice runs the length of the eaves. The church incorporates a cross-stepped gable roof line on both the west and east gable ends. (The same stepped parapet appears locally on the two dependencies at nearby Smithfield, built under the direction of the owner of Smithfield, Jaquelin Smith.) The roof of the church is covered with standing-seam metal and features a prominent wood frame open bell tower.

An attic can be reached through a square opening located in the ceiling near the east gable end of the church. Inspection of the attic revealed massive rough-hewn post-and-beam construction. Collar beams mortised into queen posts form a series of four squares spaced evenly apart along the length of the attic. Up-brace beams notched into the queen posts provide

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Wickliffe Church  
Clarke County, Virginia

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support for the massive units. Principal purlins run between the post-and-beam units with round-log common roof rafters laid over principal purlins and common purlins nailed over the rafters.

A later one-story vestry room was added to the east gable end of the church. Newer bricks, as well as a covered exterior door located behind the altar, provide evidence of a later construction date for the vestry room.

An interior door provides access from the sanctuary to the vestry room, while an exterior door is located on the south wall of the vestry room. The south, east, and north elevations of the vestry room feature a twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash window. An interior end chimney is centrally positioned in the east end of the vestry room.

The interior of the church exhibits a simplistic style characteristic of early Anglican churches. Interior walls are plastered and painted white, while upper and lower wood shutters flank recessed windows. Three rows of enclosed oak box pews retain several brass plaques indicating seating arrangements for early members of the congregation.

Separated from the nave by a raised platform, the altar is enclosed by an oak communion rail. An architectural altarpiece, composed of two Doric pilasters topped by a prominent entablature, is located on the east wall. Moveable furniture includes the altar, a pulpit, a Bible stand, and an antique air pump organ with brass pipes. All the furniture pieces have brass memorial plaques attached to them.

While uniform-width milled oak lumber covers the original random-width oak floors, the original floors are still visible in the vestibules.

A gallery, reached by ascending the stairs in the front vestibule, is located at the west gable end of the church. The gallery consists of three risers with several antique wooden benches. Two massive oak posts assist in stabilizing the gallery.

A cemetery is located near the rear of the property. Seven gravestones are enclosed by a wrought-iron fence, another is located in front of the fence, and two are located behind the fence. Several of the stones mark the remains of members of the Williams family, donors of the land on which the church was built. A plaque on the facade of the church lists the names of thirteen former members of the congregation who are buried in the cemetery but whose stones have been removed or destroyed.

Wickliffe Church is valuable for its integrity in original construction, materials, and details. Except for the small vestry addition, the church has not undergone any significant changes since its original construction date. No modern electrical or plumbing fixtures detract from its original appearance. Although not in active use since 1918, except for an annual homecoming service held in August and occasional special events, the church has been well taken care of by its Berryville trustees. Wickliffe Church is a fine example of a mid-nineteenth century church built in the Greek Revival style and continues to serve as a reminder of an earlier era of our country's history.

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**Wickliffe Church  
Clarke County, Virginia**

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Wickliffe Church, located in Clarke County and constructed in 1846, replaced an earlier church built of stone in 1819. Constructed of bricks burnt on an adjoining plantation, the church exhibits characteristics of the Greek Revival style, popular during the mid-nineteenth century. The church maintains a high degree of architectural integrity, as it has not undergone any significant changes since its date of construction.

**JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA**

Wickliffe Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C because it is a well-preserved, almost pristine example of an antebellum Episcopal church built in the Greek Revival style, that reflects the architectural tastes of the wealthy planters who directed its building.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Wickliffe Church was constructed in 1846 during a period of renewed growth for the Episcopal Church in Virginia. Following the Revolutionary War, membership in the Anglican Church declined dramatically. Throughout the colonial period, the Anglican Church had been the established church of Virginia and was supported through taxation. Thomas Jefferson's Statute for Religious Freedom, adopted on January 16, 1786, officially brought about the disestablishment of the Anglican Church by requiring separation of church and state in Virginia and forbidding taxation for church support.<sup>1</sup> The Anglican Church subsequently became weak and disorganized and lost thousands of members to other denominations.

A divergence of religious practices existed in Frederick County which eventually contributed to the county's division. The area west of the Blue Ridge Mountains had been settled primarily by Scotch Irish who were Presbyterian and Germans who were either German Reformed, Lutheran, or Mennonites.<sup>2</sup> The area east of the Blue Ridge, however, was settled by transplanted Tidewater gentry who brought their Anglican faith with them. The church was reorganized as the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1789, and it eventually came to dominate religious life in eastern Frederick County. Influential families including the Pages, Nelsons, Byrds, Meades, and Burwells assumed control of the vestry and focused activity on Old Chapel, a small stone church built by Nathaniel Burwell in 1790 near the town of Millwood.<sup>3</sup>

Wickliffe Church was built when members of the community living north and east of Berryville decided it was too far to travel over bad roads to attend services at the Old Chapel. In 1819 permission was given by the Diocese of Virginia to build a Protestant Episcopal church to serve the people of Berryville and the northeastern part of what was then Frederick County, Virginia. A stone church, modeled after the Old Chapel, was erected in 1819 on land donated by James Williams, his wife Eliza G. Williams, and Leroy P. Williams. The new church was named Wickliffe after John Wyclif, who first translated the Bible into English.

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**Wickliffe Church  
Clarke County, Virginia**

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At an Episcopal convention held in Virginia in 1834 a petition was presented by the Rev. William M. Jackson from members of the Episcopal Church residing in the vicinity of Berryville to form another distinct parish to be called Wickliffe Parish. The petition was granted and Wickliffe Parish was created.<sup>4</sup> It is in present-day Clarke County, which was formed from Frederick County in 1836.

The original 1819 church burned, was declared unsafe, and dismantled. The Reverend William Meade, who became the third Bishop of Virginia in 1841, was the minister at the Old Chapel and also served the early congregations at Wickliffe Church. The Reverend Meade recorded "the first church was badly executed and after a time the present excellent one of brick was built under the superintendence of Mr. Jaquelin Smith of neighboring Smithfield, and had been given by the family of Williams who with their ancestors in the Northern Neck of Virginia had been staunch friends of the Church."<sup>5</sup>

An unsigned letter among the records of Wickliffe Church states: "In the year 1817, when my father moved from Winchester to Smithfield, a stone church was built--exactly like the Old Chapel near Millwood on a lot given by the William's family. It became unsafe and was taken down and the present brick one built on the old site. The bricks were burned on Smithfield farm and the building was put up in 1846 under the supervision of my father and mainly at his expense."<sup>6</sup>

Noted for their mission work in the surrounding area, the churches organized by Wickliffe members and served by its rectors include Grace Episcopal Church, Berryville, in 1831; St. John's at Rippon, West Virginia, in the 1870s; The Church of the Good Shepherd on the mountain at Snicker's Gap; a chapel, known as Christ Church, in the mountains of Jefferson County, West Virginia; and St. Mary's in Berryville.<sup>7</sup>

Wickliffe Church served as a focal point for the community for many years. A school operated on the grounds of the Wickliffe Church during the mid-19th century. A one-room stone structure with a shingle roof, Wycliffe Academy opened January 2, 1828, two years after the General Assembly passed an act incorporating the trustees of the academy. The syllabus included classical courses and cost \$15 for half-yearly sessions. Wycliffe Academy closed in 1852, but in 1865, Mr. P. H. Powers reopened the school and for three years taught at the old location. A roster of pupils of Wycliffe Academy in 1865-1867 includes the names of the sons of the area's gentry.<sup>8</sup>

On October 24, 1905, Hannah Williams donated land to the church under the direction of Bishop Gibson for black mission work and to assist in the teaching of black pupils attending the religious school conducted on the property. The gift was made in the name of the Women's Auxiliary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church.<sup>9</sup> Consequently, another structure was erected to provide religious instruction for the black population of the area. This building has since been moved and is presently being used as a parish hall for St. Mary's Church in Berryville, Virginia.

In 1918, due to a declining congregation, members of Wickliffe Church transferred their membership to Grace Episcopal Church in Berryville. Wickliffe Church is currently being

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Wickliffe Church  
Clarke County, Virginia

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maintained by the trustees of Grace Church, and an annual homecoming service is held at Wickliffe during the second Sunday in August. Wickliffe Church also hosts occasional weddings, as well as other special events.

Wickliffe Church is an excellent example of a typical antebellum Virginia Church. Many of its architectural features distinguish it from the earlier colonial churches. Because the church maintains a significant amount of architectural integrity, it remains a valuable historical resource.

**ENDNOTES**

1. George MacLaren Brydon, D.D., *Virginia's Mother Church*, (Richmond, VA: Whittet & Shepperson, 1952), 412.
2. Brydon, 80.
3. Warren R. Hofstra, *A Separate Place, The Formation of Clarke County, Virginia*, (White Post, VA: Clarke County Sesquicentennial Committee, 1986), 11.
4. Charles Francis Cocke, *Parish Lines of Virginia* (Richmond: The Virginia State Library, 1967), 128.
5. Bishop William Meade, *Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia, Vol. 11* Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, Co., 1894), 288.
6. Edward Jaquelin Smith's daughter, letter to a Mrs. Lewes (n.d.) (Wickliffe Church file, Clarke County Historical Association).
7. Don W. Massey, *The Episcopal Churches in the Diocese of Virginia*, (Keswick, VA: Diocese Church Histories, Publishers, 1989), p. 32-33.
8. George Henry Pope, "Education in Clarke County to 1945", Diss. University of Virginia 1947, p. 33.
9. Clarke County Deed Book 3, p. 226, 24 October 1905.

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Wickliffe Church  
Clarke County, Virginia

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**BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES**

**Primary Sources**

Note in Wickliffe Parish Vestry Book dating from 1865 through 1891 (Wickliffe Church file, Clarke County Courthouse).

Edward Jaquelin Smith's daughter letter to a Mrs. Lewes (n.d.) (Wickliffe Church file, Clarke County Historical Association).

Contract dated 21 July 1817 between Thomas Parker on behalf of the Commissioners for building an Episcopal Church on the land of James Williams, Esquire on the one part and Lewis Burnett of the other part (Wickliffe Church file, Clarke County Courthouse).

Clarke County Deed Book 3, p. 226, 24 October 1905.

**Secondary Sources**

Bryon George Maclaren, *Virginia's Mother Church* (Richmond: Whittet & Shepperson, 1952).

Cocke, Charles Francis, *Parish Lines of Virginia* (Richmond: The Virginia State Library, 1967).

Hofstra, Warren R., *A Separate Place, The Formation of Clarke County, Virginia* (White Post, VA: Clarke County Sesquicentennial Committee, 1986).

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

Meade, Bishop William, *Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia, Vol. 11* (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, Co., 1894).

Pope, George Henry, "Education in Clarke County to 1945", Diss. (University of Virginia, 1947).

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Commencing 175 ft from the SW corner of the church at an angle of 204 degrees is located the SW corner of the property. Proceed NW along the picket fence line for 220 feet to the NW corner of the property. Then proceed 300 feet east to the rear fence which is the NE corner, then proceed 240 ft SW along the fence line to the SW corner, then proceed 265 ft west along the rail fence to the point of origin. (Clarke County Tax Map 16-A-62).

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the church and the cemetery on land historically associated with Wickliffe Church since 1817.

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Section   Photos   Page   7  

Wickliffe Church  
Clarke County, Virginia

All photographs are of:

WICKLIFFE CHURCH  
Clarke County, Virginia  
VDHR File Number 21-89  
Elizabeth Keane, photographer

All negatives are stored with the Department of Historic Resources collection at the Virginia State Library and Archives.

DATE: March, 1993  
VIEW OF: west elevation, church; view looking southeast  
NEG. NO.: 13702  
PHOTO 1 of 12

DATE: March, 1993  
VIEW OF: Interior of sanctuary; view looking east  
NEG. NO.: 13702  
PHOTO 10 of 12

DATE: March, 1993  
VIEW OF: west elevation, church; view looking east  
NEG. NO.: 13702  
PHOTO 2 of 12

DATE: March, 1993  
VIEW OF: Interior of vestry room; view looking southeast  
NEG. NO.: 13702  
PHOTO 11 of 12

DATE: March, 1993  
VIEW OF: south and west elevations; view looking northeast  
NEG. NO.: 13702  
PHOTO 3 of 12

DATE: March, 1993  
VIEW OF: Interior of west end gallery; view looking east  
NEG. NO.: 13702  
PHOTO 12 of 12

DATE: March, 1993  
VIEW OF: south elevation; view looking north  
NEG. NO.: 13702  
PHOTO 4 of 12

DATE: March, 1993  
VIEW OF: south and east elevations; view looking north  
NEG. NO.: 13702  
PHOTO 5 of 12

DATE: March, 1993  
VIEW OF: north and east elevations; view looking south  
NEG. NO.: 13702  
PHOTO 6 of 12

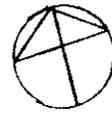
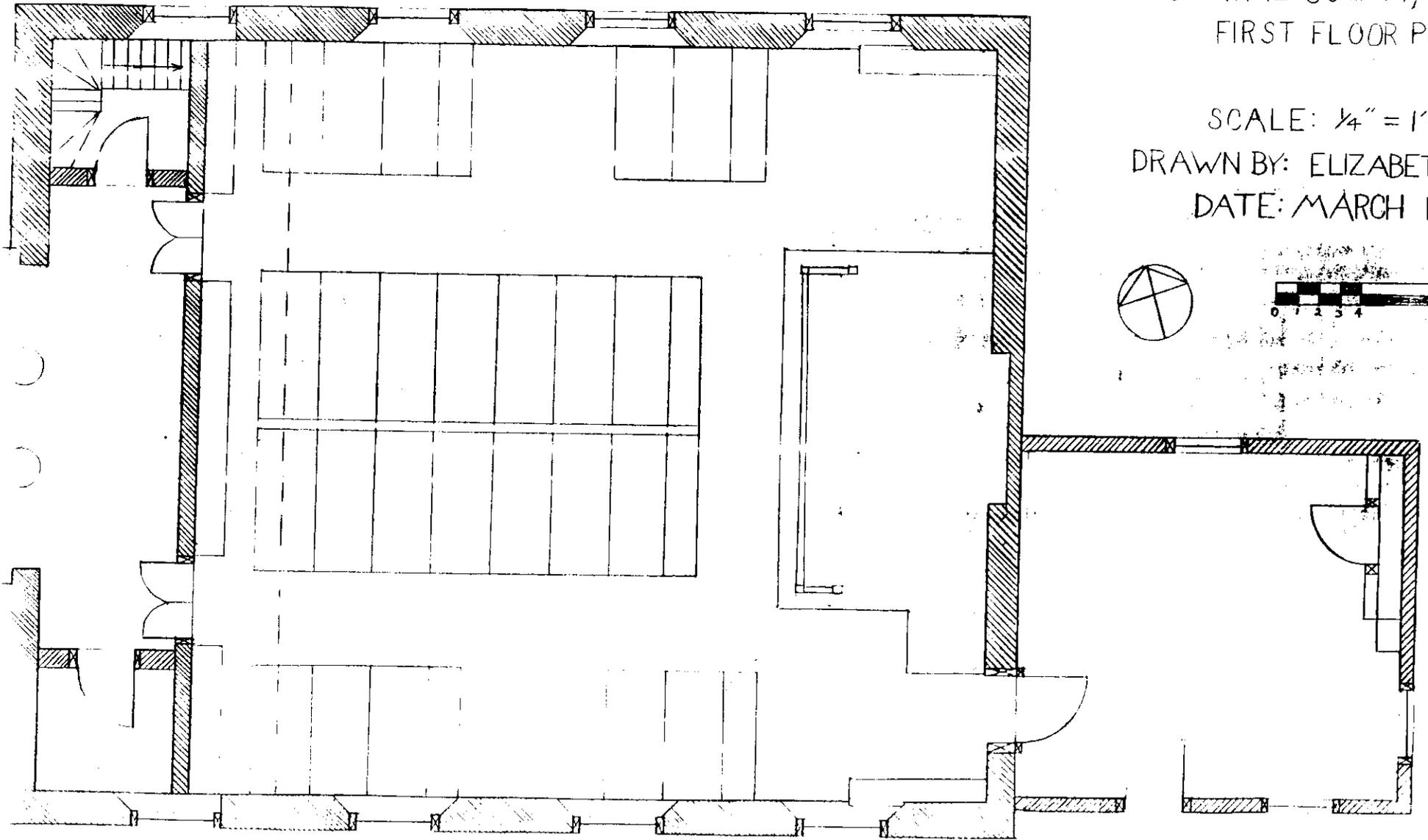
DATE: March, 1993  
VIEW OF: north and west elevations; view looking south  
NEG. NO.: 13702  
PHOTO 7 of 12

DATE: March, 1993  
VIEW OF: Cemetery east of church; view looking east  
NEG. NO.: 13702  
PHOTO 8 of 12

DATE: March, 1993  
VIEW OF: Interior of sanctuary; view looking west  
NEG. NO.: 13702  
PHOTO 9 of 12

WICKLIFFE, O.  
CLARKE COUNTY, GA.  
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

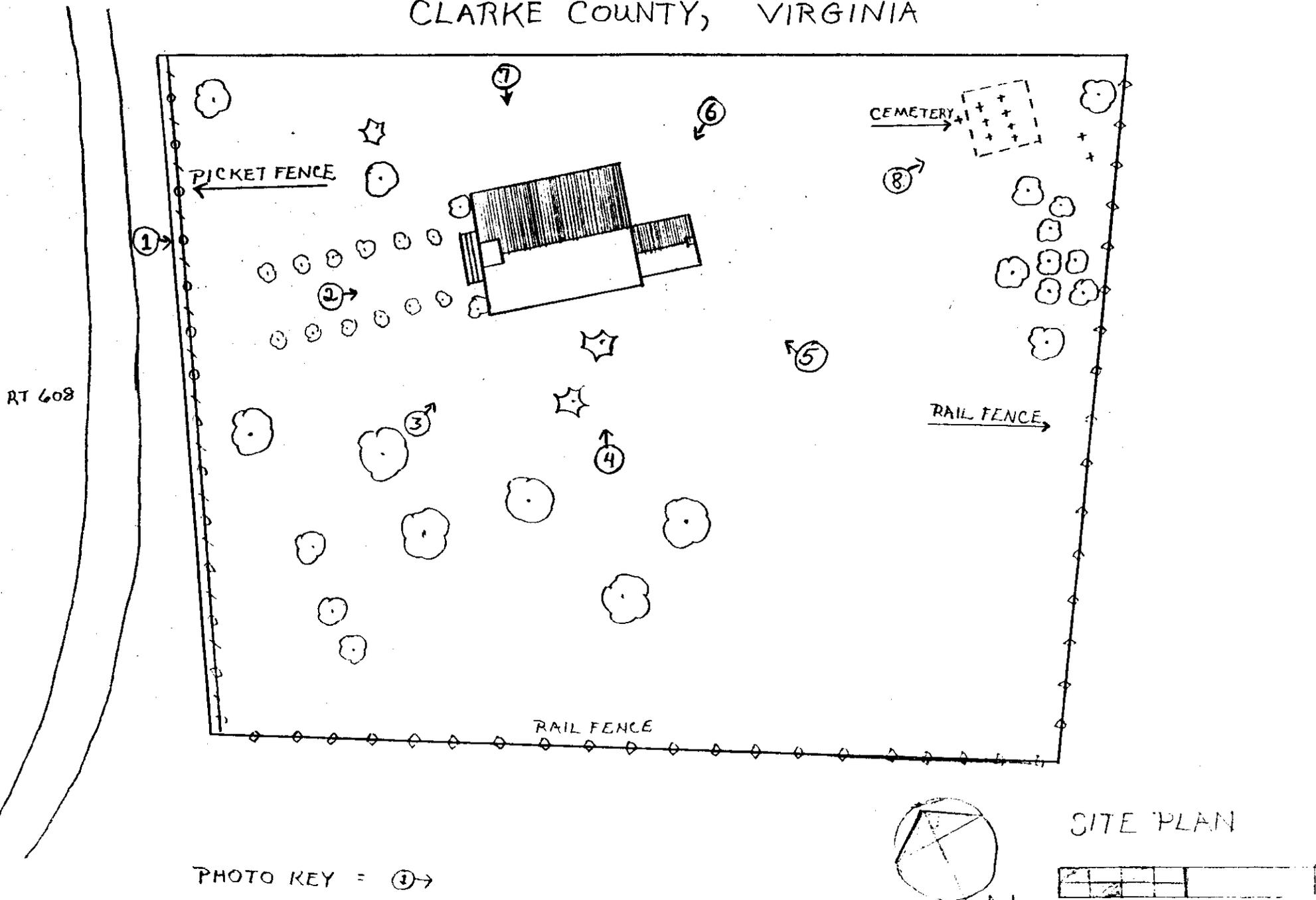
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"  
DRAWN BY: ELIZABETH  
DATE: MARCH 19

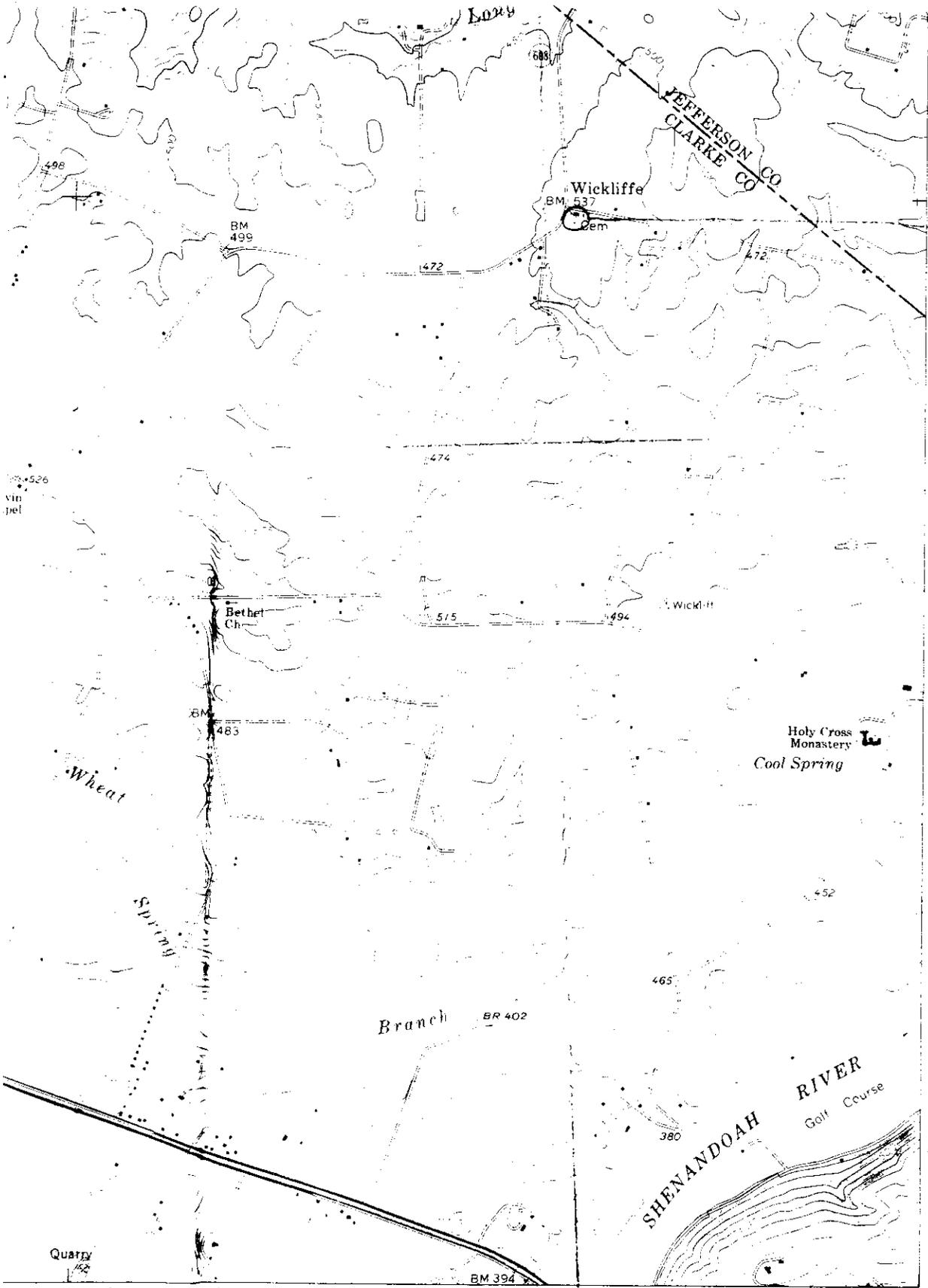


# WICKLIFE CHURCH

1846 - 1918

CLARKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA



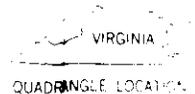


**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

- Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
- Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
- Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
- U. S. Route
- State Route

1 MILE

5 11  
13-80



BERRYVILLE, VA. - W. VA.

(BLUEMONT)  
5462 111 SE