

VLR-10/21/75 NRHP-4/30/76

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Sappony Church, Sappony Church (Preferred)
AND/OR COMMON
Sappony Episcopal Church

2 LOCATION

1.3 miles south of Sappony Creek; south side of Route 692;
STREET & NUMBER .6 mile east of intersection of Routes 646 and 692.

CITY, TOWN	McKenney	XX VICINITY OF	Fourth (Robert W. Daniel, Jr.)
STATE	Virginia	CODE	51
		COUNTY	Dinwiddie
		CODE	053

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> YACHTING
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Congregation, Sappony Episcopal Church

CITY, TOWN
McKenney
VICINITY (I)
STATE
Virginia 23872

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Dinwiddie County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Dinwiddie
STATE
Virginia 23841

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (see Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE
(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE
1959
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN
Washington
STATE
D. C.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

#1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE

1

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1975 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia code: 51

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Sappony Church is a rectangular frame building, one story high and three bays long, covered with beaded weatherboards and entered through the west gable end. Originally constructed in 1725-26, a vestry room was added early in the nineteenth century; the building was remodeled in the mid-nineteenth century and again in 1870 following the collapse of a balcony and the plaster ceiling at the end of a service. Nevertheless, a significant amount of early fabric survives.

All of the windows have large nine-over-nine sash with most of their original glass, and some retain their early frames with beaded sills. The low gable roof, with its deep pediment and dentil cornice at the west end, is probably a product of the mid-nineteenth century alteration, but the flush boards in the tympanum of the pediment are reused old materials. Also dating from the mid-nineteenth century is the entrance doorway with its ramped lintel and two-panel applied-mold double doors.

At the east end is a vestry room with a two-panel, vertical-panel Greek Revival door. The room, with its low hipped roof and dentil cornice, was built early in the nineteenth century, with the door and a plain frieze added in the mid-century renovation. The shallow chancel with its triple window was added still later in the nineteenth century.

The interior of the church is a single, plain rectangular room with a flat matchboard ceiling and a broad, flat arch leading to the chancel. Most of the church furniture has been remodelled or rearranged, but the fabric is original. Raised-panel wainscoting encircles the walls, and raised-panel box pews have been converted to slip pews with extra pieces used to build the matching pulpit and reading desk and the Gothic-pedimented bishop's chair which, with an early trestle communion table, occupies the chancel. The altar area is set off from the body of the church by an early balustrade whose balusters have been cut down, and another piece of the same balustrade, this unaltered, sets off the chancel.

To the right (south) of the altar area, set into the wainscoting, are the headstones of Devereux Jarratt and his wife Martha, signed "Davidson, Fecit Petersburg," and in the center of this corner area, also brought to the church with Jarratt's remains, is a marble obelisk inscribed "Erected to the memory of Rev. D. Jarratt and wife as a testimonial of the respect and reverence of a succeeding generation 1858."

The early nineteenth-century vestry room, which is entered from the sanctuary through a doorway with an early two-panel, raised-panel door, retains its original flush wainscoting (with original paint visible inside a corner closet) and early four-over-four sash.

DTU

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1725/1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sappony Church in rural Dinwiddie County is significant primarily for its association with Devereux Jarratt, its rector from the 1760s until his death in the opening years of the nineteenth century. An ardent supporter of the American Revolution, Jarratt was also a renowned proponent of the Methodist movement within the Anglican/Episcopal church. His remains and those of his wife lie buried beneath the building.

Sappony Church was built in 1725-26 as one of two chapels of Bristol Parish. William Byrd II visited the new building twice during his exploratory travels, as he recounted in his History of the Dividing Line (1728) and Journey to the Land of Eden (1733). In 1742, the chapel was set off as the parish church of the newly organized Bath Parish.

The third rector of Bath Parish, after a Mr. Pow and the Rev. James Pasteur, was Devereux Jarratt, who assumed the office in 1763. Jarratt was one of the few Anglican clerics to be affected by the Great Awakening, which led him to decry the frivolity and "civil mirth" of Virginians. At the time, he recounted, "I stood alone, not knowing of one [Anglican] clergyman in Virginia like-minded with myself."

An admirer of New England's famous preacher, revivalist and theologian Jonathan Edwards, Jarratt himself had a reputation as a vivid and moving orator and experienced several revivals of religion within his church in the years following 1765, events which he described in his Brief Narrative of the Revival of Religion in Virginia (1778). His revivalist sympathies led him to encourage the Methodist movement in his area. Always careful never to offend Anglican sensibilities by holding Methodist meetings in his church building, he nevertheless extended to them the use of his barn. In addition to being a comforting sign of the rise of experimental religion within the church, the Methodists were in Jarratt's eyes a valuable aid in combatting the progress of Baptists and other dissenters in Virginia.

When Jarratt died in 1801, his funeral was conducted at the church by Francis Asbury, the pioneering Methodist circuit rider. Jarratt was succeeded by Wright Tucker in 1801 and John Grammar in 1827, but Sappony Church continued to be known as "Old Father Jarratt's Church." In 1869, his remains were transferred from their burial place at Diamond Hill in Amelia County to Sappony Church. It was at the end of the memorial service, according to legend, that the building collapsed. However, the testimony of one member of the congregation was that only a gallery and the ceiling gave way. Architectural evidence, in particular the survival of so much early fabric including the sash with their original glass, lends support to the witness' argument.

Sappony Church continues to house a small but active Episcopal congregation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Jarratt, Devereux. Life of Rev. Mr. Devereux Jarratt. 1806.
 . A Brief Narrative of the Revival of Religion in Virginia. 1778.
 Meade, William. Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia. Baltimore: Genealogical Publ. Co., (Reprinted) 1966, originally published 1857.
 Wright, L. B., ed. The Prose Works of William Byrd of Westover. 1966.
 Wyatt, Edward A. IV. Plantation Houses In and Around Petersburg. Petersburg, Va.: reprinted from Petersburg Progress-Index, 1955. (see Continuation Sheet #2)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 ACRES

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	26.5	32.0	409.4	67.0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C						D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

October 1975

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

804-786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

JRF (s)

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE OCT 21 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

#2

ITEM NUMBER

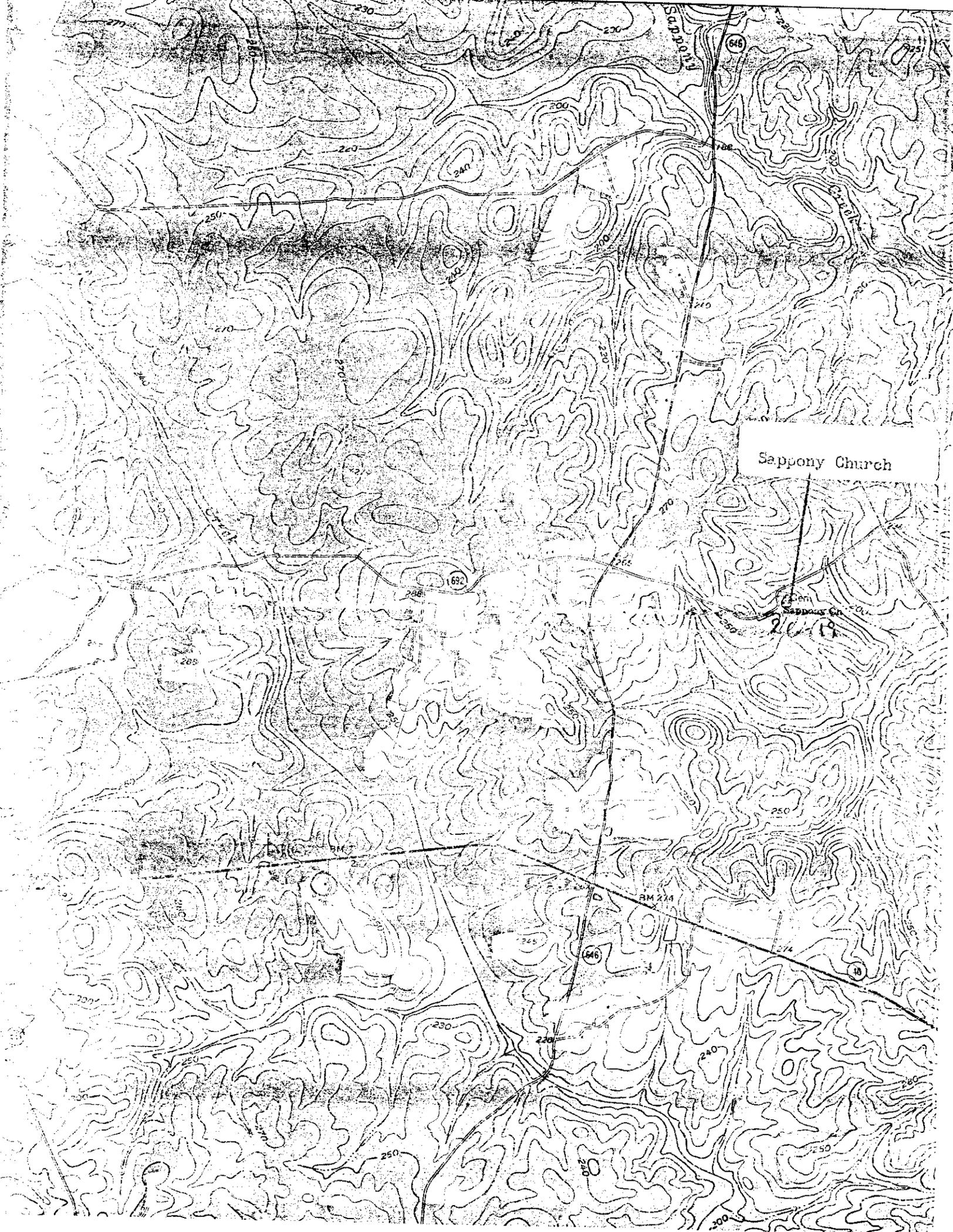
9

PAGE

1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Zehmer, John G., Jr., "The Early Domestic Architecture of Dinwiddie County, Virginia,"
unpublished MA thesis, University of Virginia, 1970.



Sappony Church

Sappony Church

RM 274

646

18

200