

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Floyd Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON

WORDS OF TRUTH BAPTIST CHURCH

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER South side of Route 221, .1 mile east of intersection of Route 221 and Route 8.

CITY, TOWN

Floyd

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth (W. C. Daniel)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Floyd

CODE

63

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Eileen Burnet c/o Mrs. Charles Shelor

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1

CITY, TOWN

Floyd

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 24091

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Floyd County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Floyd

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (see continuation sheet #1)

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1958

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1971, 1975 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Richmond, Virginia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Floyd Presbyterian Church is a small but sophisticated Greek Revival building located on Main Street of the county seat. Designed and built in 1850 by Henry Dillon, its details are derived from plates in Asher Benjamin's The Practical House Carpenter (1830).

The church is three bays long with twelve-over-twelve sash, louvred blinds, and a (north) gable-end facade. The brick is laid in Flemish bond on the facade and five-course American bond on the sides. The latter have recently been painted red, but the facade, with its unpainted dark-red bricks, and mortar joints lined in white, is yet unaltered. Centered on the facade, just under the white wooden entablature which encircles the building, is discreetly painted the legend "OCT 1850".

Typical of small Greek Revival churches, the facade is plain. Its architectural embellishments consist of four white-painted stuccoed, Greek Doric pilasters, dividing the facade into three bays. The central bay is a blank brick panel; the other two have frontispiece doorways with Doric pilasters supporting a plain entablature surmounted by a blocking course with a central tablet accented by a rectangular recessed panel. The design is a simplified version of that illustrated by Benjamin in his Plate 28, "Design for a Front Door Case."

The roof is crowned by a low steeple. Its pyramidal base is covered with early twentieth-century pressed tin and supports a square belfry with pairs of Doric pilasters flanking the single rectangular louvre in each face. An octagonal spire completes the tower.

The interior consists of a single cell with a low platform across the entire south end. A large tabernacle composed of Doric pilasters supporting a plain entablature with a dentil cornice is centered on the south wall. Doors on either side lead to a choir room and to a 1956 brick Sunday School ell, respectively. Across the north end is a gallery with a flat-paneled fascia supported by two floor-to-ceiling piers. The area under the gallery between the two entrance doors has been enclosed for storage space, and early twentieth-century matchboard wainscoting encircles the room.

The church was abandoned by its congregation in October, 1974, and the congregation relocated. At that time, the Gothic Revival pulpit was moved to the new building, and the pews were given away.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" 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 1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry Dillon

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Floyd Presbyterian Church is a well-crafted example of the provincial Greek Revival style of building. Like many buildings of its period, its detailing is based on illustrations in the pattern books written by Asher Benjamin, a Boston architect. The church, believed to be the oldest extant public building in Floyd County, is also an important architectural element in the townscape of Floyd Court House.

In the early nineteenth century, stimulated by that growth in evangelical religion known as the Second Great Awakening, Presbyterianism in southwest Virginia began to expand. The establishment of a number of churches in the Floyd and Montgomery County areas led to the organization of the Presbytery of Montgomery as an offshoot of the Lexington Presbytery in 1843. The new body had a membership of ten churches and twelve ministers.

The church at Floyd flourished and in 1850 erected a new brick building in the Greek Revival style. The builder was Henry Dillon (1808-1886), an Irish immigrant who grew up and was trained in Charleston, South Carolina. After moving to Floyd County, Virginia, Dillon built several important buildings in the area, including the county courthouse, which are now demolished. As was the practice among country builders of his day, Dillon relied upon a pattern book for many of the details of the church, in this case The Practical House Carpenter (1830) of Asher Benjamin, perhaps the most important of the publishers of such books in early nineteenth-century America. It is a measure of the isolation of the area that Dillon employed a twenty-year-old handbook and built in a style which was rapidly passing out of favor in more cosmopolitan sections.

The church remained in continuous use by the Presbyterian congregation until October, 1974, when it was abandoned. Its fate is presently uncertain, but interested local citizens are attempting to find a new use for it.

DTU

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Benjamin, Asher. The Practical House Carpenter. Boston: 1830.
Contributions to the History of the Synod of Virginia. Washington, D. C.: 1790.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	5,6,0	7,3,0	4,0	8,5	0,2,0	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
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

November, 1975

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

804-786-3143

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

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

Virginia Landmarks Register

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

DATE DEC 16 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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1 NAME

HISTORIC

Floyd Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Floyd

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Floyd

STATE

Virginia

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va.

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Exterior view from the north.

1 of 1

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Floyd Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Floyd

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Floyd

STATE

Virginia

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE Floyd, Va. 7.5'

SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1968

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

