

VLR-12/2/69 NRHP-2/26/70

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Hanover	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fork Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Fork Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
E side of Rt. 738 at intersection with Rt. 685

CITY OR TOWN:
(Ashland vicinity)

STATE Virginia	CODE 45	COUNTY: Hanover	CODE 085
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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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Vestry of Fork Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Ashland <i>Beaverdam</i>	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 45
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Hanover County Court House, Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Hanover	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 45
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1932, 1936, 1941 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE: 08
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
COUNTY: Hanover		

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fork Church measures approximately 34' x 74' with 22" thick walls finely laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers above a bevelled water table and English bond below. Rubbed brick is employed in the jambs and segmental arches of the windows as well as at the corners of the building. The arches over the west and south doors have each been hidden by a small pedimented porch supported on square brick columns, both probably added in the early-nineteenth century. The building is covered by a gable roof with its original modillion cornice, but a change in the pattern of the brick in the west gable suggests the possibility that the church once had clipped gables. The chimney on the east end, along with the cover over the basement door on the north side, are additions of 1957. The window frames and sash are little altered and retain much of their original glass.

Much of the original fabric survives on the inside of the church but in altered form. The colonial pews were cut down in 1830, and portions of them were incorporated into the present pews. The present pulpit is also composed of portions of colonial material and stands in a location different from the original. The original gallery in the rear of the nave survives largely intact, but the lower portion has been enclosed with partitions. Fork Church's marble font is also of colonial origin, but it originally belonged to Mattaponi Church, King and Queen County, which is now occupied by the Baptists.

Adjacent to the church is a post-colonial graveyard enclosed by a brick wall. The church's setting is enhanced both by its isolated location and by the numerous trees which stand in the immediate vicinity.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fork Church was erected circa 1736-40 as the second Lower Church of St. Martin's Parish. Its name is derived from the name of the surrounding area which lies within the fork formed by the confluence of the North Anna and South Anna Rivers which join to form the Pamunkey. Built to replace the first lower church which traditionally was located on the same or a nearby site, the picturesque building stands in an unspoiled rural setting. The church is laid out in the more usual form of a Virginia colonial church, being rectangular, without transepts, and having a front and side door and a simple gable roof. It is unusual for having survived with so many of its early, if not original, fittings, among which is a fine nineteenth-century pipe organ. Unlike most of Virginia's old churches, Fork Church does not appear to have been vandalized by Northern troops during the War.

Among the more notable persons who often attended services at Fork Church were Patrick Henry, Dolly Madison, and the novelist Thomas Nelson Page. From 1893 to 1903, Fork Church's rector was the Reverend S. S. Hepburn, grandfather of actress Katharine Hepburn.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brock, Henry Irving, Colonial Churches in Virginia. Richmond: The Dale Press, 1930.
 Page, Rosewell, "The Fork Church, Hanover County, Virginia," Colonial Churches in the Original Colony of Virginia. Richmond: Southern Churchman Company, 1908, 302-307.
 Rawlings, James Scott, Virginia's Colonial Churches. Richmond: Garrett & Massie, 1963.
 Rose, Harold Wickliffe, The Colonial Houses of Worship in America. New York: Hastings House, Publishers, 1963.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	37 ° 51 ' 15 "	77 ° 31 ' 57 "	°	' "	' "
NE	37 ° 51 ' 15 "	77 ° 31 ' 45 "			
SE	37 ° 51 ' 07 "	77 ° 31 ' 45 "			
SW	37 ° 51 ' 07 "	77 ° 31 ' 57 "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 10 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE: November 17, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____
 Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

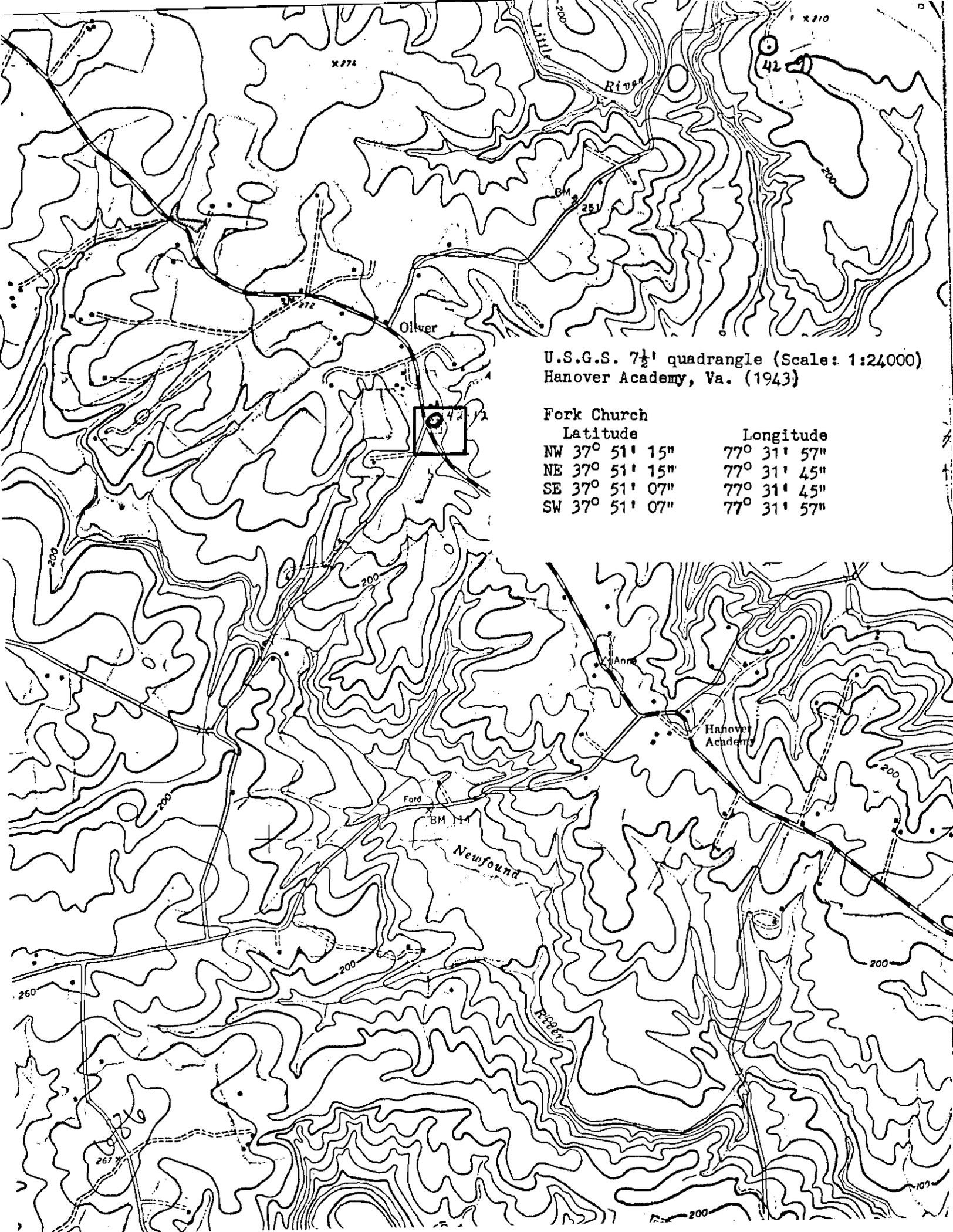
Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24,000)
 Hanover Academy, Va. (1943)

Fork Church

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	37° 51' 15"	77° 31' 57"
NE	37° 51' 15"	77° 31' 45"
SE	37° 51' 07"	77° 31' 45"
SW	37° 51' 07"	77° 31' 57"