

VLR- 11/9/72 NRHP- 7/2/73

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: James City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON  
Hickory Neck Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
East side of Rt. 60, 1 mile North of Toano

CITY OR TOWN:  
Toano vicinity (Thomas N. Downing, Fifth District Congressman)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: James City CODE: 095

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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
The Vestry (Reverend J. Harmon Smith)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Hickory Neck Episcopal Church

CITY OR TOWN: Toano STATE: Virginia CODE: 23168 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
James City County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Williamsburg STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936; 1940  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
COUNTY: James City  
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DATE  
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Tiny Hickory Neck Church, on the east side of U. S. Route 60 one mile north of Toano, is one of the few colonial buildings that can be seen from the highways leading to Williamsburg. It is a rectangular structure, three bays long, with entrance through the south gable end. The dimensions are 36 1/2' north to south and 28 1/2' east to west. The eighteenth century brickwork, on the north, east, and west walls, is Flemish bond above watertable and English bond below. There is random glazing of the headers.

The present building, although in solid condition, is only a fragment of the colonial church. The north (back) wall and the northern-most two bays of each side wall date from an extension made to the main body of the church in 1773-1774. Excavation has revealed that the north side wall of the original nave abutted the side walls of this transept at a point between the two southern windows. The southern-most bay of each side dates from the circa 1825 alteration of the structure. When the nave was removed about that time, a southern extension of at least two bays was added to the transept. The Flemish bond brickwork of the extension is constructed with oyster shell mortar, but it is less well executed than the eighteenth century work. The beveled row of watertable bricks is laid with alternating headers and stretchers on the extension, and in all headers to the north. The nineteenth century window frames of the southern extension differ from the four earlier windows, as do the jack arches. Evidence for another bay, now mostly removed, can be seen at the southern end of the west wall, where the edge of a window opening with arch splay above is visible. At some date after the circa 1825 construction, possibly as late as the 1870's, the south end of the rectangular building was taken down and the end was bricked up with five-course American bond, laid in varying degrees of quality.

A number of other alterations may be seen in the present structure. The window frames were lengthened in the second or third quarters of the nineteenth century, the frames being cut and lowered, with blocks inserted. Thus the original sash, probably nine-over-nine, was replaced with nine-over-twelve sash. The roof and interior finish are modern. A brick porch has been added to the south wall, and a vestry to the north one, the latter obscuring an early exterior doorway. No electricity is used except for the organ, and the church, with all its apparent changes, retains a simplistic charm.

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**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) 1733-1738

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                    |
| <input 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

Blisland Parish, named for a parish in Cornwall, was formed in the area of New Kent County before the county was established in 1654. The parish acquired territory in James City County as a result of the dissolution of Wilmington Parish in 1725. Hickory Neck Church, then known only as the Lower Church of Blisland Parish, was ordered built in October, 1733, and it was completed by 1738. The name Hickory Neck seems to have derived from a nearby plantation, perhaps in the late eighteenth century.

The church as enlarged by the addition of a south transept in 1773-1774, just before it was to experience war, the Disestablishment, and abandonment. It was used as a hospital during the Revolution, and British, French, and American troops camped in the churchyard at various stages of the war. The vestry book, dating from 1721, was closed in 1786.

The building deteriorated through lack of maintenance for forty years. In 1825 the General Assembly constituted "the trustees of the Hickory Neck School Society in James City County" as a corporate body with the intent of converting the old church into a school. A fund derived from the previous sale of glebe lands was used to establish the school, Hickory Neck Academy, and to prepare the building. The older main body of the church was pulled down and the south end of the wing was closed up to form the present small building. Functions of the Academy were interrupted during the War Between the States when both Union and Confederate soldiers used the building as barracks. The Academy occupied the building until 1907, when the area's secondary education was transferred to newly built Toano High School. Hickory Neck was then reconsecrated, and has since been used as an Episcopal church.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chamberlayne, C. G., ed., The Vestry Book of Blisland Parish, 1721-1786, Richmond, 1935.  
 Mason, George Carrington, Colonial Churches of Tidewater Virginia, Richmond: Whittet and Shepperson, 1945.  
 Meade, Bishop William, Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia, Philadelphia, 1857.  
 Rawlings, James Scott, Virginia's Colonial Churches, Richmond: Garrett and Massie, 1963.  
 Rose, Harold Wickliffe, The Colonial Houses of Worship in America New York: Hastings House, 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		
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	37 ° 23 35"	76 ° 48 ' 16"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		
SE	° ' "	° ' "		
SW	° ' "	° ' "		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than ten 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: September, 1972

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

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: J.R. Fishburne  
 Title: J. R. Fishburne, Director Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 Date: NOV 21 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

*(Continuation Sheet)*

STATE <b>Virginia</b>	
COUNTY <b>James City</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

*(Number all entries)*

**6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory**

1958            Federal

Library of Congress

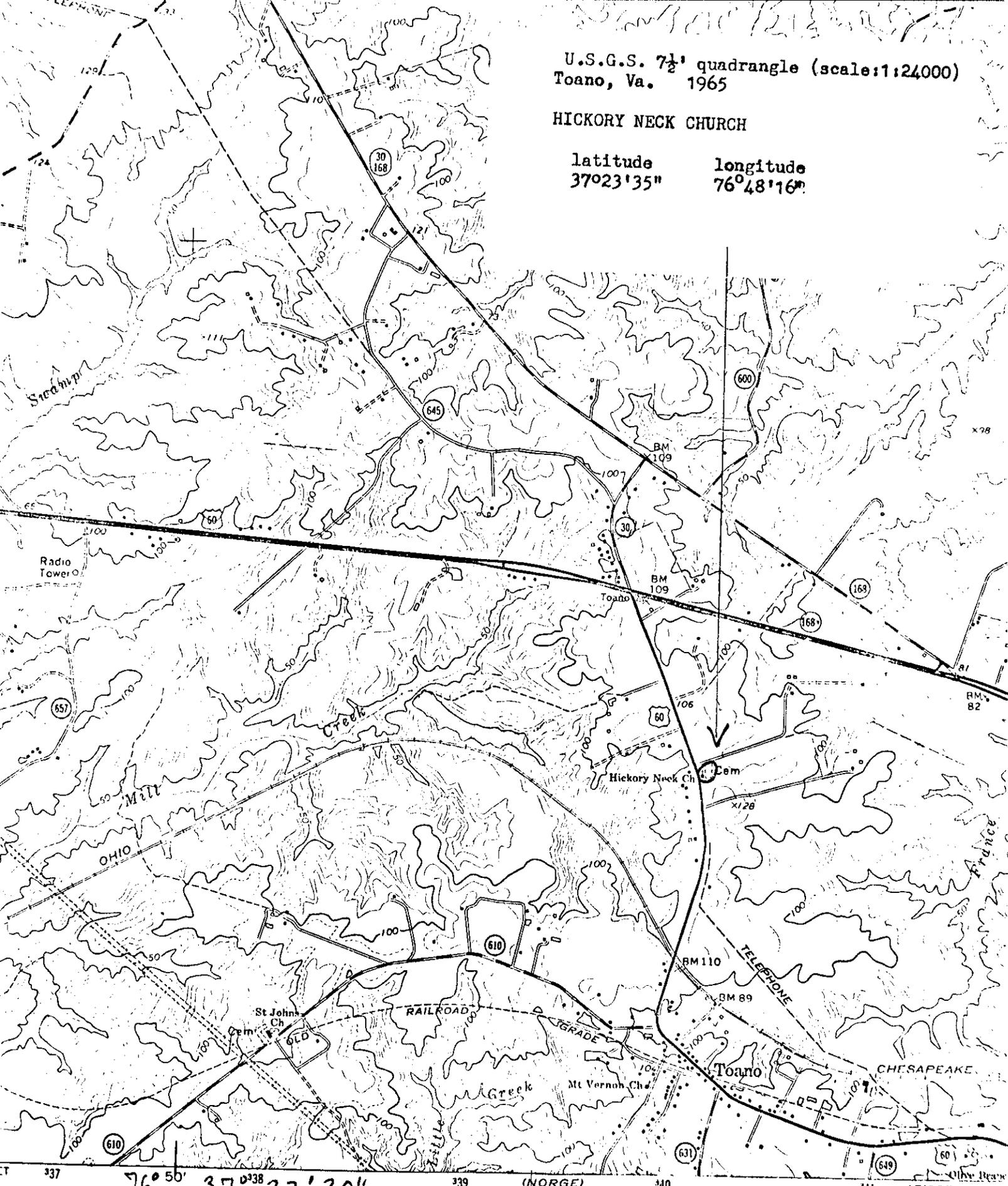
Washington, D. C.    Code: 11

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)  
Toano, Va. 1965

HICKORY NECK CHURCH

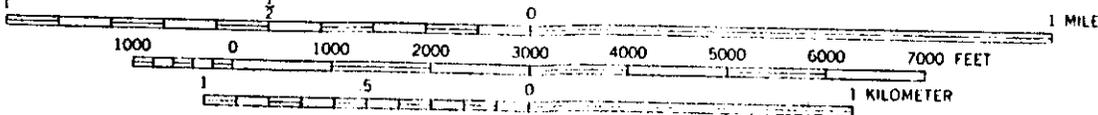
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37°23'35"

longitude  
76°48'16"



76° 50' 37" 37° 22' 30"

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

