



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

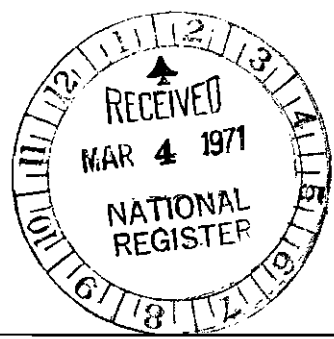
The earliest portion of this venerable wooden structure, the section which extends from east to west measuring approximately 50' x 26', was originally constructed in 1740. The galleries were placed in either end of the building at this time and the pulpit was located in the center of the north wall. Apparently the vestry projecting from the north wall behind the pulpit was part of the colonial fabric, but it has been rebuilt more than once. Around 1800, the south wing containing the present nave was erected, giving the church a T shape. A gallery was placed in the south end of this wing, and in it was installed the church's celebrated Tanenburg pipe organ.

In 1850, the church underwent an extensive remodelling. The original box pews were removed and their panels were used as wainscoting and as railings for the fronts of the three galleries. The original wine-glass pulpit with its sounding board was also replaced. The ceilings in the oldest portion of the building and in the first bay of the nave were lowered and made flat. The second bay of the nave containing the organ gallery retains its high-barrel vaulted ceiling. In 1885, the flat ceilings were adorned with decorative frescoes of rich Victorian patterns by Guiseppe Oddenino who did other such work in the area. Francis Staling of Harrisonburg is believed to have executed painted decoration under the east and west galleries and behind the pulpit in 1870; however, this work was removed in 1961.

Although most of the church's framing, as well as its roof trusses and galleries are original; much of the other fabric such as roofing, clapboarding, sash, and shutters has been renewed over the years. Much of the fabric was replaced in 1961 when the church underwent a major renovation. During the renovation, the stone foundations were strenghtened with concrete block and veneered with brick. The narthex and present vestry also date from this renovation. On the interior, the paneled reredos and chancel furniture were installed.

Despite the replacement of much of its material over the years, the church retains its picturesque outline, and an aura of age. Its appearance is greatly enhanced by its beautiful setting on the top of a broad rise with a backdrop of rolling fields, woodlands, and distant mountains. To the south of the church lies its cemetery, first used in 1904, and enclosed by a stone wall in 1930-31. A modern, colonial-style brick building housing the church offices and Sunday school rooms is located to the east of the church.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**6. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1740

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			_____

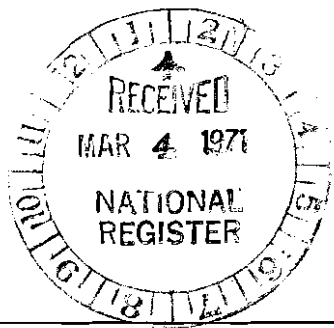
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1740, Hebron, the first Lutheran congregation in Virginia and the South, built a church which has the distinction of being the oldest house of worship in continuous use by Lutherans in the New World. This structure -- the second church to be built on the site--is one of the few surviving frame-colonial churches in Virginia.

The first Lutheran immigrants came to Virginia in 1717 to work at Governor Spotswood's frontier-mining community of Germanna. Others of their co-religionists followed--these were scattered, as indentured servants, over the same northern-piedmont region. In 1725, most of the approximately sixty Lutheran families in Virginia removed to the Robinson River Valley. There: "at the very border of the Country under the Great Ridge of Mountains," they formed the congregation and community of Hebron. Worship services were begun in 1726 in their roughly-built "German Chapel."

Hebron enjoyed some support from Europe; but the congregation was itself prospering. The "German Chapel" gave way to a larger, handsome church -- the earliest portion of the present building--by August 1740. A school house was added, and school regularly conducted, from about the same time. At the end of the century, the present south addition to the church was constructed. Hebron's famous pipe organ, built around 1800 by David Tannenburg of Lititz, Pennsylvania, was installed in the gallery of this addition. A remarkable survival, the organ has been in continuous use since its installation and remains almost completely unaltered, having its original pipes, case, keyboard and stops. Among other valued objects belonging to the congregation are several articles of early-eighteenth century English pewter, and a German-made silver chalice and paten from the same era. This communion set is the oldest of any Lutheran congregation in the South.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Church Silver of Colonial Virginia. Richmond: Virginia Museum, 1970.  
 Rawlings, James Scott. Virginia Colonial Churches. Richmond: Garrett & Massie, 1963.  
 Rose, Harold Wickliffe. The Colonial Houses of Worship in America. New York: Hastings House, 1963.  
 Wust, Klaus. The Virginia Germans. Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia, 1969.

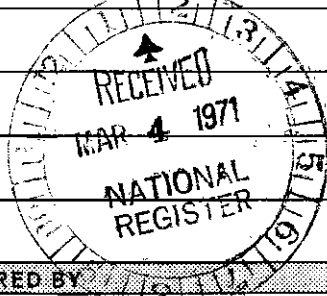
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	38°	24'	25"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	78°	14'	50"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than 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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: **Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission** DATE: **January 21, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Room 1116, Ninth Street 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

*Edw. P. Alexander by John*

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

Date: **3/2/71**

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

*Ernest A. Connelly*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**JUL 2 1971**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: *William M. Stewart*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **APR 23 1971**

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Madison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71,751,0003	7/2/71

(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
1958 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. 11



