

VLR-7/19/77 NRHP-1/26/78

63-10

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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 Olivet Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER

On the W side of State Route 618; 1.1 miles W of Rumley Marsh;
2.7 miles NW of the intersection of state Route 618 with
U. S. Route 60 in the town of Providence Forge.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Providence Forge VICINITY OF First (Paul S. Tribble, Jr.)
STATE Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY New Kent CODE 127

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: cemetery

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The Society for the Preservation of Olivet Church and Cemetery in
New Kent County, Virginia c/o Mr. Harry F. Mountcastle, President

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Providence Forge VICINITY OF Virginia STATE 23140

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. New Kent County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN New Kent Virginia STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE 1971, 1977 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

CITY, TOWN Richmond Virginia STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

Olivet Presbyterian Church in New Kent County, like many rural churches in Tidewater Virginia, occupies an isolated wooded setting. It is a small, remarkably unchanged frame structure built in 1856 in the Greek Revival style.

Set close to the ground on a rebuilt brick underpinning, the temple-form building has a flush-boarded, pedimented portico with four fluted Greek Doric columns slanted forward at the top, a "refinement" observed in ancient Greek temples as well. This portico shelters a two-bay, gable-end facade with two entrance doorways. Clad in its original unbeaded weatherboards, the church is three bays long and has nine-over-nine sash and louvred blinds.

The plan consists of a single large room with a closed stair in the southwest corner leading to a ten-foot-deep south gallery with a "sheaf of wheat" balustrade. The original platform and lectern stand at the north end. The latter has a hexagonal applied-mold face panel flanked by buttressing consoles. The treads of the two steps at either side of the platform have dark marbleizing. Original or very early unanchored slip pews furnish the main floor and the gallery. Those on the main floor are decorated with graining in imitation of mahogany on the stiles and rails and in imitation of birds'-eye maple on the panels of the pew ends. The same decorative scheme is employed on the insides of the exterior doors.

Since 1934 the building has been used for annual memorial services only but is kept in a good state of repair.

DJ

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 1856 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1856 in the Greek Revival style, Olivet Presbyterian Church is a particularly handsome example of the small frame rural churches of the mid-nineteenth century. Its existence in Tidewater Virginia is noteworthy since few of its type survive there. Its tetrastyle Doric portico, its original pulpit, and its original pews with their painted graining are among the most striking features of this little-altered architectural gem.

Presbyterian activity in the New Kent County area can be traced to the mid-eighteenth-century efforts of the famous preacher Samuel Davies, a key Southern figure in the Great Awakening, who organized the Hanover Presbytery in those years. Davies' departure for the presidency of Princeton left New Kent believers in disarray, but in 1766 the Rev. David Rice of Hanover made another attempt to organize dissenters in New Kent County; this essay was disrupted by the Revolution. By 1800 Presbyterians were again meeting in the county in St. Peter's Church, which had been abandoned by the Episcopalians. In 1827 the "New Kent Church" was mentioned in Hanover Presbytery records as the second oldest church in its jurisdiction; its seniority was surpassed only by Davies' own church.

In 1855 the Presbyterians decided to separate from the rejuvenated Episcopalians, with whom they had been worshipping, and to construct their own building. The site of a Methodist Church called Mt. Olivet was purchased, and the present Presbyterian church was erected and called by the same name. The new building cost \$1300 to build with a further \$1000 spent on decorations; the plastering and carpets were donated. The church's name was shortened to Olivet soon after its completion.

Disruptions caused by the War Between the States led to a falling-off in membership from which the church never recovered although the building remained in regular use until 1934. In that year permission was granted for the congregation to change its name to the Providence Forge Presbyterian Church and to move to that village. Since then the building has been used for memorial services once a year.

DJ, VDS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Christian, Dr. Samuel F. "A Brief Historical Sketch of Olivet Church." In Minutes of East Hanover Presbytery. April 20, 1931. Microfilm at Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia.
- Pomeroy, Jaquelin G. "A History of the Presbyterian Movement in New Kent County." Mimeographed. no date. In files of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3,17	5,2,0	4,14,9	9,3,0	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

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

July 1977

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 X 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE JUL 19 1977

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:

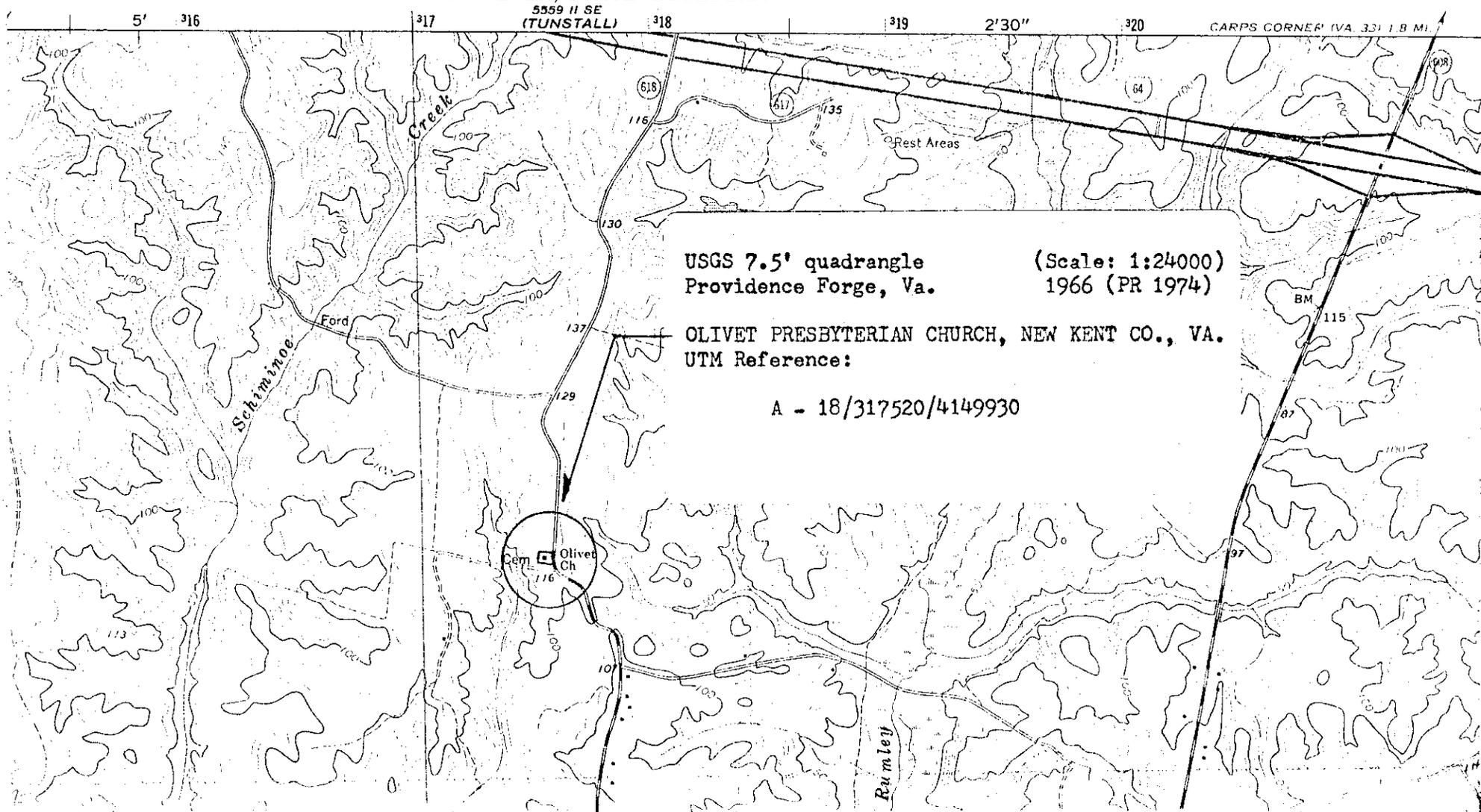
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
JAMES L. CALVER, STATE GEOLOGIST

PROV

7.5



USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Providence Forge, Va.

(Scale: 1:24000)
1966 (PR 1974)

OLIVET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NEW KENT CO., VA.
UTM Reference:

A - 18/317520/4149930