

VLR-6/17/75 NRHP 8/28/75

Form 10-200
(Rev. 7-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Orange
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME OF PROPERTY: Waddell Memorial Presbyterian Church			
2. ALTERNATE NAME: Waddell Memorial Presbyterian Church			
3. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: .3 mile southeast of Rapidan River; west side of Route 615; .2 mile southeast of intersection of Routes 673 and 615.			
CITY OR TOWN: Rapidan		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)	
STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51	COUNTY: Orange	CODE: 137

4. 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"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> 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
5. REPORT TYPE (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) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

6. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
Waddell Memorial Presbyterian Church Congregation			
CITY OR TOWN: Rapidan		STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51

7. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Orange County Courthouse			
CITY OR TOWN: Orange		STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51

8. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1970, 1975		Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER: 221 Governor Street		STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
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DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Waddell Memorial Church sits atop a high hill commanding a panoramic view of the village of Rapidan and the surrounding foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is a frame "Carpenter's Gothic" building covered with board-and-batten siding. The bays are delineated by wooden buttresses with pinnacles, ornamented with gables, abutting both the aisle walls and the clerestory walls. The windows (one to a bay) have angular pointed heads with Y-mullions and louvered blinds. The eaves of the aisles and of the clerestory are castellated.

The church is entered through a tower on the gable end. This has angle buttresses and pinnacles and is divided visually by horizontal wooden moldings into three levels--a ground level with an equilateral-arched doorway, a middle level with a "rose window", and a belfry with double pointed windows.

The interior is very plain. Tracery with lancet arches and quatrefoils, applied to the end walls, and iron columns supporting the clerestory delineate visually the nave and aisles. The pews, however, which are apparently original, span the sanctuary without respect to the nave/aisle distinction. The ceiling is embellished with dark stained matchboard. There is a shallow chancel.

The church was built in 1874 and loosely conforms with designs of "J. B. Danforth, Amateur," of Richmond, tracings of which are in the possession of the congregation. The building departs from Danforth's design in its simplification of exterior detail. It lacks the spire and gables, the true lancet windows, the traceried tower window with its heavy hood molding, and the elaborate doorway which Danforth envisioned. The interior follows his intent more closely, and, in fact, the tracery on the end walls conforms exactly to his designs.

In 1958, a Sunday School room was added to the rear of the church. This addition harmonizes with the original structure in its use of board-and-batten siding, castellated eaves, and pinnacled buttresses.

Behind the church is the slab tomb of the Rev. James Waddel (1739-1805) for whom the church was named. His grave was removed from its original site near Gordonsville at the time of the erection of the church.

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2. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input 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) **1874**

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	<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

The Waddell Memorial Church is the finest specimen of "Carpenter's Gothic" church architecture in Virginia. An unusually late example of the style, the church was named for an important late-eighteenth-century Piedmont Virginia clergyman. In addition, the building, which occupies a conspicuous site above Rapidan, is a prominent feature in the Orange County landscape.

James Waddel (as he spelled it) was a blind Presbyterian preacher. Born in Ireland in 1739, he was reknowned for his rhetorical abilities. A first-hand account in William Wirt's The Letters of the British Spy (1803) describes him as a forceful, moving orator, capable of creating in his listeners a vivid sense of the reality of his subject. Waddel's talents were widely appreciated, and for two years, 1786-88, he served the Episcopalians around his home in Gordonsville. Waddel also conducted a school at his house, and among his pupils were Meriwether Lewis and James Barbour, later a governor of Virginia.

Sixty-nine years after Waddel's death in 1805, the Presbyterians of Rapidan erected a new church and named it in his honor. His remains were moved from their original burying place at his home and placed in a new grave in the churchyard.

The new building was designed by J. B. Danforth, a faculty member of the Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. The executed building varies in some details from the architect's intent but nevertheless retains the basic scheme. It is a holdover from the less academic, frame Gothic structures, loosely based on English parish churches, which were popular throughout ante-bellum America. Little changed since its erection, the church did not suffer from the addition of a Sunday School wing in 1958, for it was conceived to harmonize with the style of the original building.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A History of Waddell Memorial Church, Anniversary Booklet, 1974.
 Danforth, J. B., "Mission Chapel," 1874 drawing in possession of Waddell Memorial Presbyterian Church.
 Loth, C. C. and J. Sadler. The Only Proper Style. (in press).

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

UTM references:
 17/756820/4243880

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: June 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

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 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.
Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Exec. Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title _____

Date JUN 17 1975

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

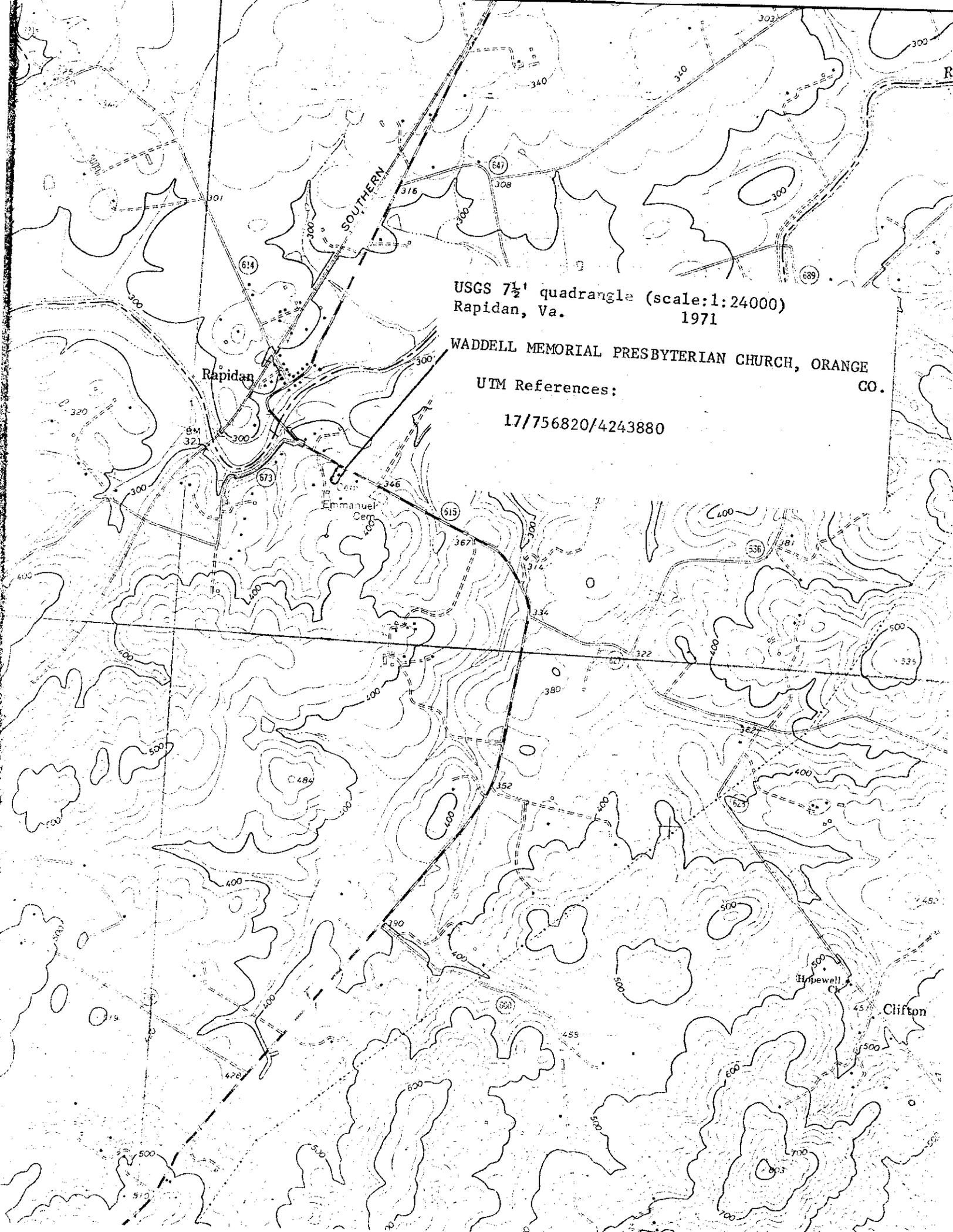
Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



USGS 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Rapidan, Va. 1971

WADDELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ORANGE
CO.

UTM References:
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