

VLR-12/16/75 NRHP-6/18/76

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

Mill Creek Church

AND/OR COMMON

Mauck's Meeting House (Preferred)

2 LOCATION

Southwest bank of Mill Creek, north side of Route 766; .1 mile west of intersection of Route 766 and Route 211.

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hamburg

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Pare

CODE

139

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_\_PUBLIC

\_\_\_OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

X UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_PARK

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_\_BOTH

X WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

X RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_OBJECT

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_\_YES UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_NO

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

President, Shenandoah Heritage Center

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 83

CITY, TOWN

Luray

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 22849

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Page County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Luray

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (see Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1958

X FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

The Mill Creek Church, also known as Mauck's Meeting House, is situated above Mill Creek in the town of Hamburg. Built between 1795 and 1800 by the Mennonite-Baptist congregation of the Mill Creek settlement, the impressive planked log structure, once covered with beaded weatherboard, measures approximately thirty-six feet by twenty-nine feet. The logs, hewn to a width of seven and one-half to eight inches, are joined by finely executed half and full dovetail notching, fitted together with such precision that the opening between any two logs is generally less than two inches. In recent years the dry-laid stone foundation had all but disintegrated and the structure had been left sagging, but the foundation has since been rebuilt, and adequate supports have been installed beneath the church to level the building. Each of the logs is cut from a single member, although due to deterioration, several of the sills and lower members have been spliced with later materials and repaired.

The entrance doors on the south (front) and west (side) are raised six-panel Federal doors and the architrave is a simple one-section molding. The window sash are nine-over-six, some appearing to be original, with each window protected by a beaded board shutter fastened with strap and pintle hinges. This hardware, at least on the front windows, appears to be original.

It is believed that the weatherboarding was added in a remodeling of the building around 1830. The cut nails in some remaining nailing strips support this claim. Also installed at the time of the remodeling were the flanking balconies and stairs at the gable ends. The roof was raised to accommodate the balconies which are well-executed and are reached by two narrow open-string stairs with rectangular Federal-style balusters composing the railings. Each balcony is supported by two massive chamfered columns. The chamfers, terminating in lamb's tongue designs, are deep enough to create the effect of octagonal posts. This treatment is repeated in the stair newels. The flight of stairs at the east side of the church is an open-well stair, while the flight at the west end is a straight run. The balconies are fixed by cut nails with wrought heads that would suggest their installation at the time of the remodeling. The logs are exposed on the interior of the building and are whitewashed.

The existing pews are simple, straight back pews converted from puncheon benches. One pew bears the marking "S+ST 1830". A six-plate, cast-iron stove made in Luray and signed "D Pennabacker 1799" was at one time used for heating but has been replaced by a modern stove. The Pennabacker stove is kept on display. The figure of a stork, the patron bird of Germany, appears on the end panel of the stove.

The church is roofed with chestnut shingles, now covered with tin. A simple box cornice is employed, probably dating from the remodeling.

JFY

# 18 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mill Creek Church stands as a symbol of the influential role played by the dissenters, especially the Mennonites and the Baptists, in the early society of the Shenandoah Valley. Its congregation was probably organized around 1772 by John Koontz, formerly of Fauquier County. The dissenters originally met in their homes; it is not documented when Koontz's group decided on the need for a meeting house. The earliest specific reference to the Mill Creek Church was recorded in 1798 in the church minutes, thus establishing that the building was standing by that time. Claims have been made that the church was built at the time of the Revolution, but such claims are supported neither by documentation nor architectural evidence.

Although both Mennonites and Baptists used the building, it is uncertain which group dominated in the early years. In any case, the Baptists prevailed, as the Mennonites largely left the area by the early nineteenth century. In 1807, Joseph Mauck, owner of the land on which the building stood, conveyed the property to the "sundry persons friends of religion and good order" who had been using it. The language of the deed is indicative of the strong religious feeling prevalent at the time:

This indenture Witnesseth that whereas Sundry persons, inhabitants of the County of Shenandoah in the state of Va., friends of religion and good order, did by Subscription build a house of worship on the land of Joseph Mauck of said County which house is commonly known and called by the name of Maucks Meeting House in which house it was intended by the projectors or Subscribers afore said all orders of Christians and all worshipers of God preaching a moral doctrine and behaving decently should be allowed to preach and it was also their intention to buy a small lot of land on which said house stands a title to which should be made to no one or more of them but that the house and lot aforesaid should be forever devoted to the public for advancement of religious and other pious purposes...

It was not unusual for church edifices to be built on private property, in this case that of Daniel Mauck, Joseph's father. An 1811 deed specifically excludes the "one acre, 12 square perches" whereon stood "Mauck's Meeting House." Although the building was for all denominations, the Baptists seem to have had almost exclusive occupancy.

Among the famous Baptist preachers who spoke here were Martin Kauffman (an early Mennonite), Anderson Moffat, and Rev. James Ireland, a former Presbyterian. The Mill Creek Church was called the "Mennonite-Baptist Church" since so many of its members came from that combined faith. There were many Negro slaves as well as "free men of color" who were members of the Mill Creek Church during the nineteenth century according to the carefully kept minutes of the congregation.

(see Continuation Sheet #2)

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Brunk, Harry Anthony. History of Mennonites in Virginia 1727-1900. Staunton: McClure Printing Co., 1969.  
 Pamphlet, Page County Heritage Association.  
 Strickler, Harry M. A Short History of Page County. Richmond: Dietz Press, 1952, pp. 272-284.

# GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 7	7, 1, 6, 4, 4, 0	4, 2, 8, 1, 6, 0, 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

# FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

November 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

221 Governor Street

804-786-3143

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Richmond

Virginia

# STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Virginia Landmarks Register

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE DEC 16 1975

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

#2

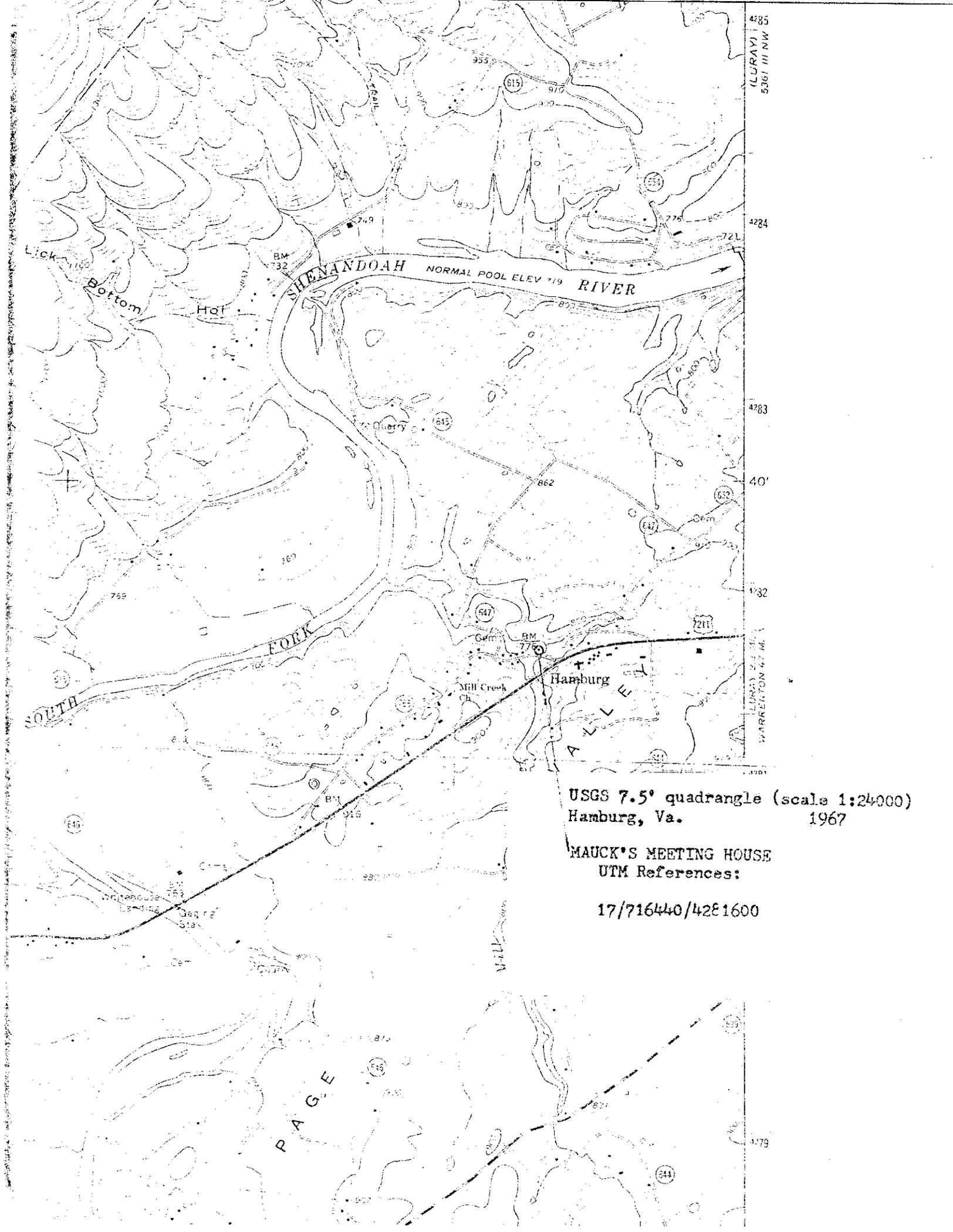
ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Mill Creek Church is noted as a well-executed example of plank-log construction, an unusual feature in a building of such large proportions.

JFY



4285  
(LURAY)  
5361 III NW  
4284  
4283  
40'  
432  
LURAY 2.5 MI.  
WARRINGTON 4.7 MI.

USGS 7.5° quadrangle (scale 1:24000)  
Hamburg, Va. 1967

MAUCK'S MEETING HOUSE  
UTM References:

17/716440/4281600

PAGE