VLR 12/6/6
NRHP 3/30/7

(Rev. 10-90)
NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mayberry Presbyterian Church
other names/site number 070-5045

2. Location

street & number 1127 Mayberry Church Road not for publication ____
city or town Meadows of Dan vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA county Patrick code 141 Zip 24120

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official — Date 2/12/2007

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
____ entered in the National Register
____ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

_x_ private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

_x_ building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
__1__	__0__	buildings
__0__	__0__	sites
__0__	__0__	structures
__0__	__0__	objects
__1__	__0__	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _0__

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
_____Reverend Robert Childress Presbyterian Rock Churches, MPD_____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: _____Religion_____ Sub: ____religious facility_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: _____Religion_____ Sub: ____religious facility_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
_____Gothic Revival_____

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation ___concrete_____
roof _____asphalt_____
walls _____stone_____
other _____wood_____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

__x_ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
____ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
__x_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
____ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

__x_ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
____ B removed from its original location.
____ C a birthplace or a grave.
____ D a cemetery.
____ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
____ F a commemorative property.
____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)__Religion, Social History, Architecture_____

Period of Significance ____1925-1956_____

Significant Dates __1925; 1948__

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)___N/A_____

Cultural Affiliation _____N/A _____

Architect/Builder _____N/A _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS)
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: ___Virginia Department of Historic Resources_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ____less than one acre_____

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1. 17	550176	4062931	2. 17	550206	4062944	3. 17	550226	4062906	4. 17	550183	4062893

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: ___Randle Brim, John Kern, and Michael Pulice_____
Organization: ___Virginia Department of Historic Resources_____ date ___December, 2005_____
street & number: _1030 Penmar Ave SE_ telephone_540-857-7586_
city or town____Roanoke_____ state_VA_ zip code __24013_

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name __Rev. Stuart Lee Childress (contact)_____
street & number___30 Lynn Drive_____ telephone_____
city or town_____Ararat_____ state___VA____ zip code __24053_____

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

7. Description

The church is located in a sparsely populated area, among rolling wooded hills and pasturelands; on Rt. 602, between 602 and the Blue Ridge Parkway (a unit of the National Park Service), and just east of the intersection of routes 602 and 600. There are no secondary resources associated with the Mayberry Church.

The church was erected in 1925 as a one-story, weatherboarded frame structure with 3-bay facade, front gable roof, round-arched front entry, and lancet-arched windows. While the plan, dimensions, and fenestration of the church remain unchanged to this day, a quartzite & quartz fieldstone veneer was added by the congregation in 1948 (photos exist of the pre-veneer structure in use). "Encasing the church with fieldstone in 1948 had special meaning to most folks, but especially to the Spanglers. Wallace donated a clear quartz rock that he had saved for many years. It...had some type of fly sealed inside it. Josie's husband, "Babe," had given an old quarter that was cemented on the exterior wall. Both the quartz and the special quarter were cut out and stolen years ago. One can still se the quarter imprint." [1] The original bell tower with lancet louvered vents has since been replaced with a taller, ordinary wooden steeple with rectangular vents. The foundation of the church is not visible, but it is composed of concrete block. At the front-left corner of the church (southwest corner) is a white marble stone reading “Mayberry Presbyterian Church – 1925.” The front entry now consists of French doors with single-pane arched transom window. Centered above the entry is a small lancet-arched opening in-filled with a louvered vent. An identical opening, accommodating one-over-one wood sash, is located in the rear gable end. There are three bays of windows on each long side of the edifice, alternating with two shallow stone buttresses per side. The rear elevation has only the single gable end window, two stone buttresses, and a door near the west corner. The roof is covered with tan/brown-colored asphalt composite shingles. The interior of the church is simple and plain in flavor. It has pews facing the dais at the rear, 1970s-vintage composite wood paneling wainscoting with drywall above and on the ceiling, and green wall-to-wall carpet. Three early-period light fixtures, each with a single milk-glass globe, dangle from chains over the central isle.

8. Statement of Significance

Summary and Justification

Mayberry Presbyterian Church is one of the six Childress rock-faced churches located in the Virginia counties of Floyd, Carroll, and Patrick, built between 1919 and the early 1950s by Presbyterian minister Robert W. Childress. The six churches are significant in their embodiment of Appalachian patterns of Presbyterian religious worship and Presbyterian social activism in western Virginia. The churches also tell the story of the remarkable ministry of Robert W. Childress, who brought spiritual faith and social awakening to the people of the central portion of the Blue Ridge Province in Virginia. As such, Mayberry Church is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Religion and Social History, and under Criterion C for its unique architecture. The period of significance is from 1925, the year of its construction, to 1956, the year of Robert Childress's death.

Historical Background

Mayberry Presbyterian Church in Patrick County was constructed six miles southeast of Buffalo Mountain as a wooden frame structure in 1925 when Bob Childress served as church pastor while a student at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. Session minutes for Mayberry have not been located, and less information is available on the church, especially for the time when it was rock-faced with fieldstone in 1948.

After his first year in seminary Bob Childress held Presbyterian services in an old Mayberry school where his Presbyterian mentor Rev. Roy Smith had preached a few times in the early 1920s. Childress presided over construction of a new school in Mayberry in 1924 and after his second year in seminary led construction of Mayberry Presbyterian Church. The small frame church was dedicated in July 1925. A workday photo in 1925 listed Rev. R. W. Childress, as well as numerous Cockrans, Lights, Scotts, Spanglers, and Webbs. Materials recovered from the Mayberry Church cornerstone in 1975 recorded a meeting at the new Mayberry School House in 1924, a meeting that marked the beginning of Mayberry Church: "During the summer months much interest was shown in the Lord's work, and in July, after a revival meeting . . . conducted by R. W. Childress, a Seminary student, it was unanimously decided by the congregation that there must be a church building and a church organization in Mayberry." The first officers of

Mayberry Presbyterian Church were elders D. Burton Scott and Ernest Cochran, and deacons Wolford Spangler and Asa Spangler. Mr. Willard, a skilled carpenter, supervised local labor in building the church. Special thanks were given to Willard "for his faithful work and untiring efforts to make Mayberry Church the prettiest church in Patrick."[2]

Davids and Brim mention Bob Childress's special ministry to Josie Spangler at Mayberry Presbyterian Church. Josie Spangler lost most of her eyesight following the birth of her first child Margie and suffered an emotional breakdown. When Childress found Josie bedridden, he drove her to a doctor in Mount Airy, learned that she could play a reed organ, and then encouraged her to play at church services. Josie Spangler traveled with Childress thereafter, playing a portable organ carried by Childress at church services, while she recovered her spirits and health. Josie gave birth to two more children, Wallace in 1927 and Bernice in 1930. Though now totally blind, she was also reborn and insisted that her children attend Mayberry Presbyterian. As a child Wallace built fires in the church stove before services during the winter and aired out the church during the summer. When Mayberry Presbyterian Church was faced in stone in 1948, Wallace Spangler donated a clear quartz rock that had encased an insect.[3]

Endnotes

1. Brim, "Childress Rock Church at Mayberry Moved Hell and Earth," 22.
2. Information from the Mayberry Presbyterian Church file, Patrick County Historical Society, Museum and Family Research Center, Stuart, Virginia.
3. Davids, *The Man Who Moved a Mountain*, 67-68. Brim, *Simple Pleasures*, August 2004, especially interviews with Josie Spangler's children.

9. Bibliographical References

Abingdon Presbytery, Wytheville, Virginia. Published minutes, 1916-1944.

Brim, Randle "Childress' Rock Church at Mayberry Moved Hell and Earth." Mount Airy News, Simple Pleasures section. Vol. IX, No. 5, August 2004; 16-18,22, 25.

Abingdon Presbytery session minutes for Mayberry, Slate Mountain, Dinwiddie, Buffalo Mountain, and Willis Churches.

Davids, Richard C. *The Man Who Moved a Mountain.* Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1970. Paperback edition, 1972.

Slate, Richard, elder of Dinwiddie Presbyterian Church since 1947. Personal communication, September 2005.

10 . Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated parcel includes only the church and the immediate grounds around them, as shown on the accompanying GIS-produced aerial image. The following UTM points designate the boundary polygon as it is being nominated: 1. 17 550176 4062931 2. 17 550206 4062944 3. 17 550226 4062906 4. 17 550183 4062893

Boundary Justification

The nominated parcel boundary corresponds exactly to that of the original church parcel.

UTM ZONE 17
1. 550176E
4062931N
2. 550206E
4062944N
3. 550226E
4062906N
4. 550183E
4062893N

MAYBERRY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

PATRICK CO, VA