

VLR-2/20/73

NRHP-5/9/73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Augusta	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Augusta Stone Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
W side of Rt. 11, .2 mi. SW of intersection with Rt. 616.

CITY OR TOWN:
Fort Defiance (Seventh District Congressman James Kenneth Robinson)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Augusta CODE: 015

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	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
PRESENT USE (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 _____ _____	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
c/o James R. Kennedy, Sr.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Augusta Stone Church Congregation

CITY OR TOWN: Fort Defiance STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Augusta County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Staunton STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934, 1936 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Augusta

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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 much enlarged Augusta Stone Church stands in a grove of trees west of Route 11, formerly the old Valley Pike, at Fort Defiance about seven miles north of Staunton. The original rectangular form of the clipped gable roofed meeting house measured 57 feet 2 inches by 39 feet, and is discernable beneath the present cruciform plan. The three remaining original walls, 20 inches thick, are of random laid native limestone rubble, and were completely re-pointed in 1921-22. A watertable is present in the stonework and large stones at the corners give a quoining effect. In the building as originally completed a double door, flanked by a window on each side, opened on the south side, and a door opened on the east and west ends. There may have been either two or three windows on the north side. Later in the eighteenth century, a small door was cut in the center of the north side leading to the adjacent session house.

After the 1922 renovation and additions, the building assumed a cruciform plan with a small spire at the crossing. In 1956 a stone wing in the same style was added on the west. The clipped gables on all of the additions reflect the original clipped gables. The original doorway, closed in the nineteenth century, on the south wall, east of the transept, was re-opened in 1922. Three windows open in the north side; the middle one was installed in the mid-nineteenth century when the door leading to the session house was closed, the small window in the east gable dates from the mid-nineteenth century as well. The large eastern door with the rounded arch and the clipped gable stone porch date from 1921. Flat arches top the other windows and doors. The roof covering and the cornice with short returns and modillions appear to be of modern origin.

A high pulpit with a sounding board was the dominant feature on the north side of the original interior. In the mid-nineteenth century the pulpit was moved to the west end and the square box pews were replaced by contemporary ones facing west. The present interior retains the nineteenth century orientation, but pulpit, pews, floor, door and window trim were all installed in 1922. The original roof trusses remain intact.

The small gable-roofed stone building in the church yard is the session house, which probably was moved there from its position next to the church, or built anew in 1847.

G.H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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 type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) local history |
| <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

Augusta Stone Church is the oldest surviving church in the Valley of Virginia, and is also the oldest Presbyterian church in continuous use in the Commonwealth. The first Augusta Meeting House was a log structure and probably was erected in 1740, the year in which John Craig became the pastor of the church. Craig supervised the building of the new stone church, and on January 22, 1749, he noted in his record of children baptized that ... "this is the first day we meet in and preach in Augusta Meeting House."

John Craig was Virginia's first regularly settled Presbyterian pastor, and his fortitude and faith provided a firm base for the entrenchment of Presbyterianism in the Valley. Although Craig served as the joint minister of Augusta and Tinkling Springs Meeting Houses until 1764 when he relinquished the Tinkling Springs congregation, he established many other churches as he travelled about the area. Craig, as well as many other Augusta pioneers, is buried in the old nearby cemetery.

The original form of Augusta Stone Church amply demonstrates the simple rectangular plan of the early churches or meeting houses built by the Presbyterian settlers of the Valley of Virginia. This church, Lower Chapel, Middlesex, and Westover Parish Church are the only surviving colonial ecclesiastical structures in Virginia to retain the clipped gables.

Augusta Stone Church owns the largest set of colonial communion silver of any church in Virginia. This plated service was ordered by the congregation from England probably between 1760 and 1770, and may have been made by Anthony Calame of London.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rawlings, James Scott, Virginia's Colonial Churches, Richmond: Garrett and Massie, 1963.
 Rose, Harold W., The Colonial Houses of Worship in America, New York: Hastings House, 1963.
 Waddell, Joseph A., Annals of Augusta County, Virginia, second ed. 1902, reprinted, Bridgewater, Va.: C.J. Carrier Company, 1958.
 Wilson, Howard McKnight, The Lexington Presbytery, Verona, Va.: McClure Press, 1971.

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	38° 14' 27"	78° 58' 38"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38° 14' 27"	78° 58' 13"				
SE	38° 14' 07"	78° 58' 13"				
SW	38° 14' 07"	78° 58' 38"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 30 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: Decemer, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

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 J. N. Fishburne
 J. N. Fishburne, Director
 Virginia Historic
 Landmarks Commission

Date FEB 20 1973

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

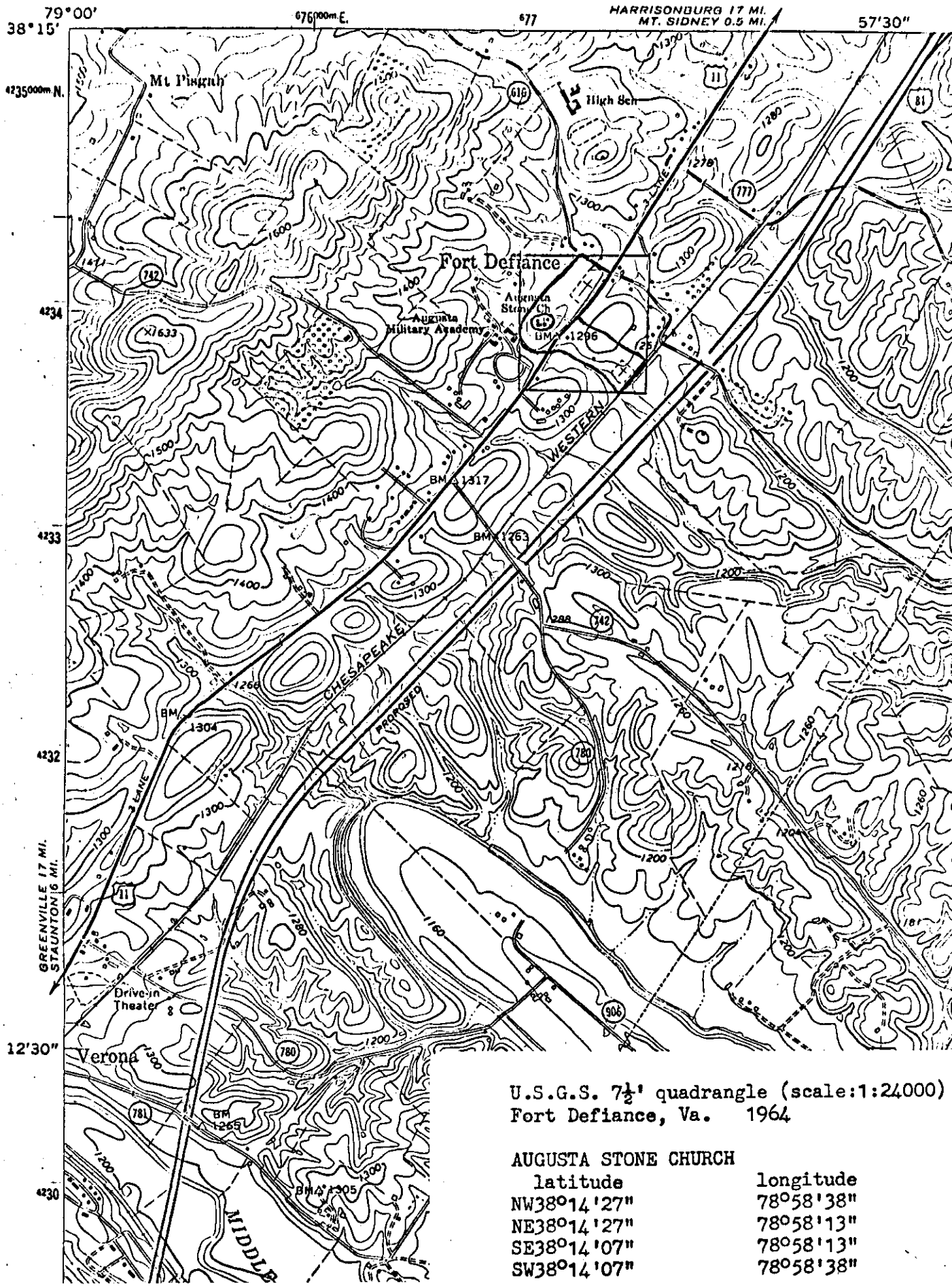
STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Augusta	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1957.. Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C. Code: 11

51621
PARVA55US
1:62,500

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Fort Defiance, Va. 1964

AUGUSTA STONE CHURCH

	longitude
latitude	
NW38°14'27"	78°58'38"
NE38°14'27"	78°58'13"
SE38°14'07"	78°58'13"
SW38°14'07"	78°58'38"