

VLR-1/16/73 NRHP-4/11/73

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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:  
Tinkling Springs Presbyterian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
E side of Rt. 608, 1. mi. S of intersection with Rt. 636 and Rt. 631.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Fishersville vicinity (Seventh District Congressman James Kenneth Robinson)

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Augusta	CODE 015
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3. 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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<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
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) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
c/o Mr. S. Gordon Stewart, Clerk of Session

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 1268

CITY OR TOWN:  
Staunton

STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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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
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: D.C.	CODE 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Augusta

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

Tinkling Springs Presbyterian Church is located in a grove of oak trees on a hill just above the tinkling spring for which the church is named. The brick Greek Revival structure is temple form with a pedimented diastyle Doric portico in antis in the center of the facade. The portico is approached by five steps between podii. There are recessed panels in each anta, as well as a set of recessed panels on either side of the portico. Brick pilasters frame the panels as well as each of the four stained glass windows on both the west and east sides. The west doorway is surmounted by a pediment which is supported by columns of an elongated Tuscan order. There is a one story addition of the rear which follows the architectural character of the main structure, employing panelled bays framed with brick pilasters. There is also a later gable-roofed addition to the east connected to the church by a brick passageway.

The church's plain interior has a central aisle, plastered walls and ceiling, and a raised pulpit at the northeast end. A simple entablature supported by two Greek Doric columns and two pilasters frames a wide recess behind the pulpit. The west door is flanked by two Doric pilasters and is surmounted by a pediment with dentil cornice and an unornamented frieze. An exposed pipe organ is located against the northeast wall to the left of one of the doors on either side of the pulpit, leading to the church offices.

G.H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian:       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       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)<br><u>local history</u> |
| <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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Tinkling Springs Church houses the second oldest Presbyterian congregation in the Valley of Virginia. The present church is the third building on the site and is important architecturally for being designed by the noted nineteenth century preacher and architect, Robert Lewis Dabney. Tinkling Springs, as well as Dabney's two other simple Greek Revival edifices: College Church at Hampden-Sydney College, and the remodelled Farmville Presbyterian Church, had a considerable influence on architecture of many of Virginia's ante-bellum Presbyterian churches.

The Tinkling Springs congregation was formed in the late 1730's, and John Craig became the first regular pastor in 1740. Craig also served Augusta Stone Church and helped establish many other churches in the area. Because of Craig's conservatism, Tinkling Springs Church did not become involved in the Old Side-New Side controversy that split so many of the Valleys' Presbyterian congregations.

The first church on the site was built between 1742-48, and was a log structure. It was replaced in the 1790's by a simple stone building similar in appearance to the nearby Old Providence Stone Church. The present building, built under the direction of R.L. Dabney, the incumbent minister, was first used on March 30, 1850. Noted for his arch-conservatism, Dabney helped to counteract the liberalizing influence of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison in the southern mind. He started work on the Tinkling Springs building with the intention that it would be "a very neat handsome and convenient house, the best country church anywhere in this part of the country." Amid growing contention "about every trifle" in the congregation, the building grew. Dabney described the church as being, "... 56' x 42' in the clear with two aisles and four tiers of pews. The house ... is of the plainest Doric denuded of all ornaments ... and cost of \$3661. ... it promises to be a perfect gem, plain, chaste & proportionous..., and it will be one of the most tasteful churches in Virginia." When finally completed, Dabney's church cost only about \$3400; it is still in use today.

Among the prominent families that have attended Tinkling Springs are the Prestons of the Valley, the Breckenridges, later of Kentucky, and the Johnstons, of whom Zachariah Johnston, the celebrated advocate of religious liberty in the eighteenth century, was a member.

G.H.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bradshaw, Herbert C., "The Preacher Who Designed Four Churches," Virginia Calvacade, vol. 8, no. 2, Autumn 1958.  
 Wadell, Joseph A., Annals of Augusta County, Virginia, second ed. 1902, reprinted, Bridgewater, Va.: C.J. Carrier Company, 1958.  
 Wilson, Howard McKnight, The Lexington Presbytery Heritage, Verona, Va: McClure Press, 1971.  
 Wilson, Howard McKnight, The Tinkling Spring, Headwater of Freedom, Fishersville, Va.: The Tinkling Springs and Hermitage Presbyterian Churches, 1954.

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° 05' 09"	78° 59' 07"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38° 05' 09"	78° 58' 55"				
SE	38° 05' 03"	78° 58' 55"				
SW	38° 05' 03"	78° 59' 07"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 10 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: December, 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.R. Fishburne, Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date

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  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Augusta	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Tinkling Springs Presbyterian Church  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

W side of Rt. 608, .1 mi. S of intersection with Rt. 636 and Rt. 631.

CITY OR TOWN:

Fishersville vicinity

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
<u>Virginia</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>Augusta</u>	<u>015</u>

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle Waynesboro West, Virginia

SCALE: 1:24,000

DATE: 1964

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Augusta	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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1. NAME

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CITY OR TOWN:

Fishersville vicinity

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
<u>Virginia</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>Augusta</u>	<u>015</u>

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia State Library

DATE OF PHOTO: 1969

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

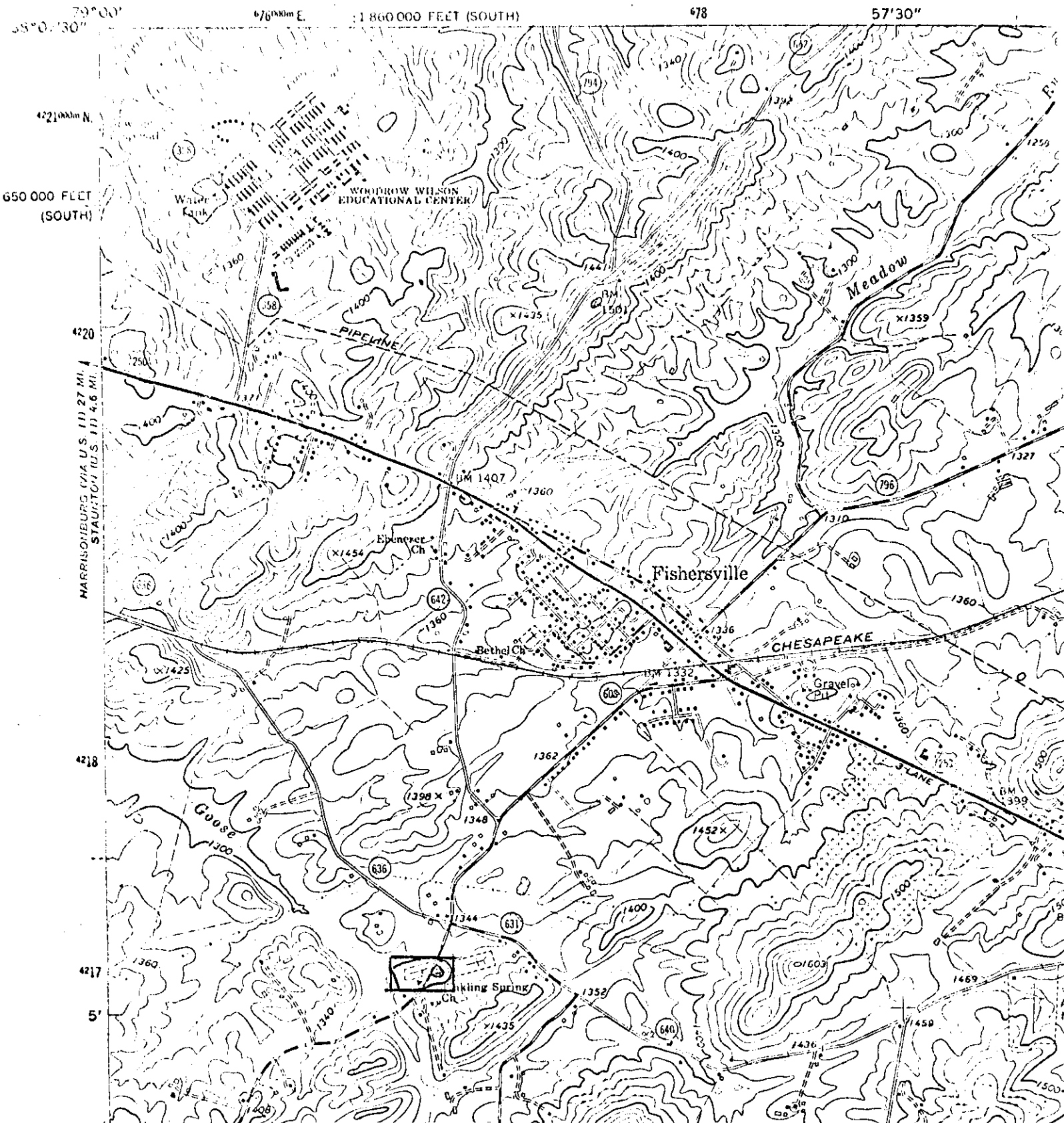
Virginia State Library; Richmond, Va.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View from the northwest.

# GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)  
Waynesboro West, Va. 1964

TINKLING SPRINGS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
latitude longitude  
NW38°05'09" 78°59'07"  
NE38°05'09" 78°58'55"  
SE38°05'03" 78°58'55"  
SW38°05'03" 78°59'07"