

VLR-5/13/69 NRHP-11/12/69

Form 10-300  
(Dec. 1968)

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: Culpeper	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Little Fork Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Oak Shade Church; Little Fork Church

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: .8 mi. N of Hazel River, .6 mi. E of intersection of Rt. 726, Rt. 229 and Rt. 611, NE corner of intersection of Rt. 624 and Rt. 726.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45      COUNTY: Culpeper      CODE: 047

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
No: <input type="checkbox"/>				

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
St. Mark's Parish

STREET AND NUMBER:  
115 N. East Street

CITY OR TOWN: Culpeper      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Culpeper      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1941      Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D. C.      CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
COUNTY: Culpeper  
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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Little Fork Church is a one-story brick structure which measures approximately 83½' x 33½'. Its walls are laid in Flemish bond with random glazed headers above and below the water table. Unfortunately most of the brick below the water table as well as the brick gutter have been covered by cement. Rubbed brick marks the four corners of the building as well as the window jambs, principal window arches, and original door jambs. The long south wall of the church is divided into seven-bays containing six semi-circular arched windows and a central door. This door, as well as the west door, has been altered but probably both originally featured brick pediments. The west facade has two small rectangular windows placed high on the wall as if to be gallery windows although it is not certain that the church ever had a gallery. The whole of the building is surrounded by a modillion cornice (probably the original) and is crowned by a hipped roof.

The church's most important interior feature is its original reredos located between the two arched east windows. It consists of four tablets separated by Doric pilasters and topped by a triangular pediment. Other original interior fabric includes the wainscoting and probably the coved cornice. The pulpit, which is thought to have stood opposite the south door, has disappeared as have the original pews. The window trim and sash is early but thought not to be colonial.

Little Fork's churchyard contains no graves but does possess a large marble monument erected in 1904 to the memory of the Little Fork Rangers, a Confederate company.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. 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) 1774-76

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                         |                                       |                                              |                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Aboriginal                              | Education <input type="checkbox"/>    | Political <input type="checkbox"/>           | Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>             |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>    | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>  | Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/>       | Industry <input type="checkbox"/>     | Science <input type="checkbox"/>             | <u>Architecture</u>                                 |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>    | Invention <input type="checkbox"/>    | Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>           | _____                                               |
| Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>    | Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> | _____                                               |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>       | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/>             | _____                                               |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/>   | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>      | _____                                               |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>   | Military <input type="checkbox"/>     |                                              | _____                                               |
|                                         | Music <input type="checkbox"/>        |                                              | _____                                               |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Little Fork Church was erected during the years 1774-76 to replace an earlier wooden structure destroyed by fire in 1773. It is believed that Little Fork was designed by John Ariss, to whom the nearly identical Lamb's Creek Church (1769-70) is also attributed.

Little Fork Church is one of the few colonial churches to survive in northern Piedmont Virginia, however it was never a parish church. It served only as a chapel for St. Mark's Parish until the Disestablishment. Like most of Virginia's colonial churches, Little Fork served as a stable for Union troops during the Civil War. Used by the Methodists until several years ago, the church once again serves as a chapel for St. Mark's Parish.

Although relatively neglected at present, Little Fork Church remains one of Virginia's finer and better preserved colonial churches. It is also one of the few colonial churches to retain a large proportion of its original interiors. It has been said that the church's elaborate reredos was executed by the same craftsman who built the mantel at Salubria, a colonial mansion also in Culpeper County.

Located in a somewhat remote section of the county, Little Fork's immediate environs still possess the rural character they had in the eighteenth century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Rawlings, James Scott, Virginia's Colonial Churches: An Architectural Guide, Richmond: Garrett and Massie, 1963.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38 ° 36 ' 00 "	77 ° 57 ' 18 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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:  
**Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director**

ORGANIZATION: **Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission** DATE: **June 2, 1969**

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

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **45**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman**  
 Title **Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.**

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  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Culpeper	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
1958 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. Code: 08

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #23-13  
1968 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: ~~760~~ 45

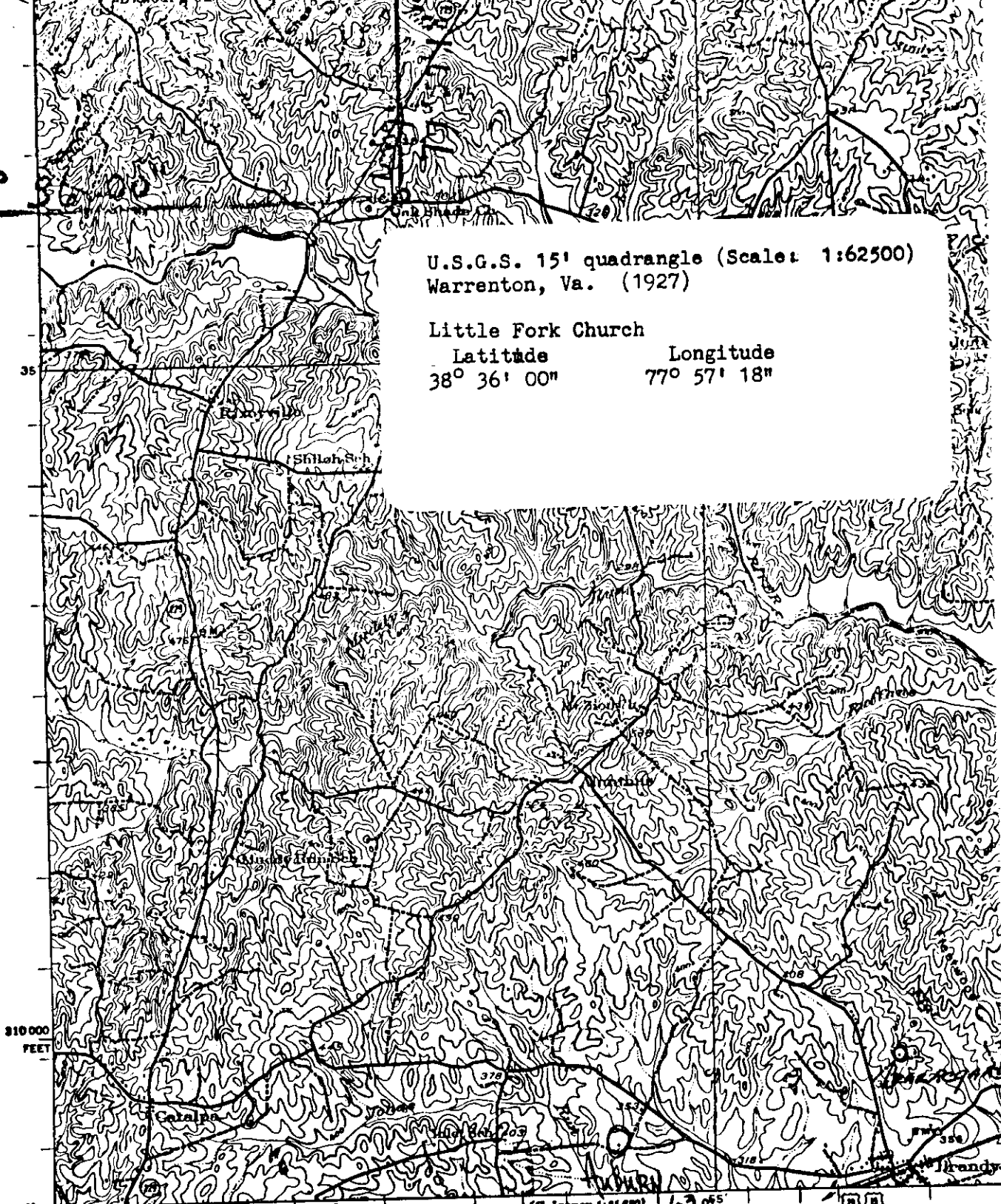
Lat. 38°

U.S.G.S. 15' quadrangle (Scale: 1:62500)  
Warrenton, Va. (1927)

Little Fork Church

Latitude  
38° 36' 00"

Longitude  
77° 57' 18"



310 000  
FEET

38° 30'

2 150 000 FEET

(Culpeper 1:31 600)

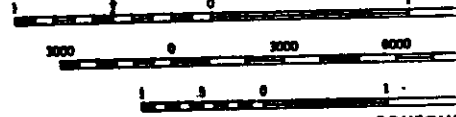
1-3 045  
CULPEPER 0.5 MI.  
CHARLOTTESVILLE 51 MI.

(Gordonsville) 78' 00"  
20000

Topography by J.M.Rawls, R.H.Runyan, G.E. Sisson, and H.R.Kilmer  
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs  
taken by Air Corps, U.S. Army  
Surveyed in 1927

CULPEPER 1.7 MI.  
CHARLOTTESVILLE 48 MI.

APPROXIMATE MEAN  
DEGRADATION, 1967



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty \_\_\_\_\_ Light-duty \_\_\_\_\_
- Medium-duty \_\_\_\_\_ Unimproved dirt \_\_\_\_\_
- U.S. Route      ○ State Route

CONTOUR  
DATUM

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGIC  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC