

VLR- 8/15/72 NRHP- 9/22/72

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: HANOVER	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME
COMMON:
SLASH CHURCH

AND OR HISTORIC:
UPPER CHURCH, ST. PAUL'S PARISH

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
W side of Rt. 656, .3 mi. N of intersection with Rt. 657.

CITY OR TOWN:
Ashland vicinity (William Lloyd Scott, Eighth District Congressman)

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY Hanover	CODE 085
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3. CATEGORY (Check One):
 site Building Structure Object
 OWNERSHIP: Public Private Both
 Public Acquisition: In Process Being Considered
 STATUS: Occupied Unoccupied Preservation work in progress
 ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Restricted Unrestricted

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):
 Agricultural Commercial Educational Entertainment
 Government Industrial Military Museum
 Pork Private Residence Religious Scientific
 Transportation Other (Specify) _____
 Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
Congregation of Slash Church
STREET AND NUMBER:
668 Mt. Hermon Rd.
CITY OR TOWN:
Ashland
STATE:
Virginia
CODE:
51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Hanover County Court House
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
Hanover
STATE:
Virginia
CODE:
51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
DATE OF SURVEY:
1959
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
Washington
STATE:
D. C.
CODE:
DATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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

Slash Church, a white clapboarded frame structure, is situated at the edge of the wood on a hill above Route 656 north of the crossroads of that route and Route 657. The rectangular building measures 60'6" X 26'6", and has a steep gable roof, modillion cornice, and double doors in the north, west and south walls. There are four windows in both the north and south walls, three in the east end, and two above the door in the west end; all have louvered shutters. Some of the clapboarding, as well as portions of the cornice, the double west doors and trim, and the sills of the east windows are believed to date from the colonial period. The design of the modern frame addition that is connected to the church by a passageway to the north is derived from the main edifice.

The interior of the building has a raised chancel in its east end. The west gallery with its slight bow front is thought to retain its original handrail and flooring. The enclosed stair to this gallery rises to the right of the west door and is old, but is probably not colonial. The wainscoting and the main floor boards which were destroyed by fire and water damage in 1970 are thought to have been colonial. The present plastered and wainscoted walls were designed to resemble those destroyed. Fortunately most of the building's original framing survives including the interesting roof frame with its unusual triangular vertical supports, purlins, and beams.

G. H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. 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) 1729

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/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | <u>local history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Slash Church, Hanover County, or, as it was called in colonial times, Upper Church, St. Paul's Parish survives as one of a half-dozen frame colonial churches in Virginia. Seated along the wood on the old Hanover-Ashland road, the venerable building has a history deeply intertwined with that of the area. Patrick Henry, Dolley Madison and Henry Clay, all one-time residents of the area, are believed to have attended this church. Patrick Henry's uncle of the same name was a well-known rector of the church for forty years in the eighteenth century.

The first Upper Church, known as Mechumps Chapel of St. Peter's Parish, was located about 1½ miles north of the present building that became the Upper Church of St. Paul's when that parish was formed from part of St. Peter's Parish in 1704. The existing church was constructed in 1729 by Thomas Pinchbeck and Edward Chambers to serve the parish.

After the Disestablishment, Upper Church fell into disuse and the Episcopalians in the area chose St. Paul's in Hanover Court House as their house of worship. Upper Church was later jointly taken over by the Methodists and the Disciples of Christ, but it has been owned solely by the latter since 1842, and from that time to the present, it has been known as Slash Christian Church. This present name stems from a nearby swampy area, called the slashes. The church is said to have been used as a school and to have served as a hospital in the War Between the States.

G. H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rawlings, James Scott, Virginia's Colonial Churches. Richmond: Garrett and Massie, 1963, pp. 103-105.

Rose, Harold Wickliffe, The Colonial Houses of Worship in America. New York: Hastings House, 1963, p. 486.

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
NW	37° 43' 14"	77° 25' 00"		°	'	"
NE	37° 43' 14"	77° 24' 46"		°	'	"
SE	37° 43' 02"	77° 24' 46"		°	'	"
SW	37° 43' 02"	77° 25' 00"		°	'	"

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: July, 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

Title Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

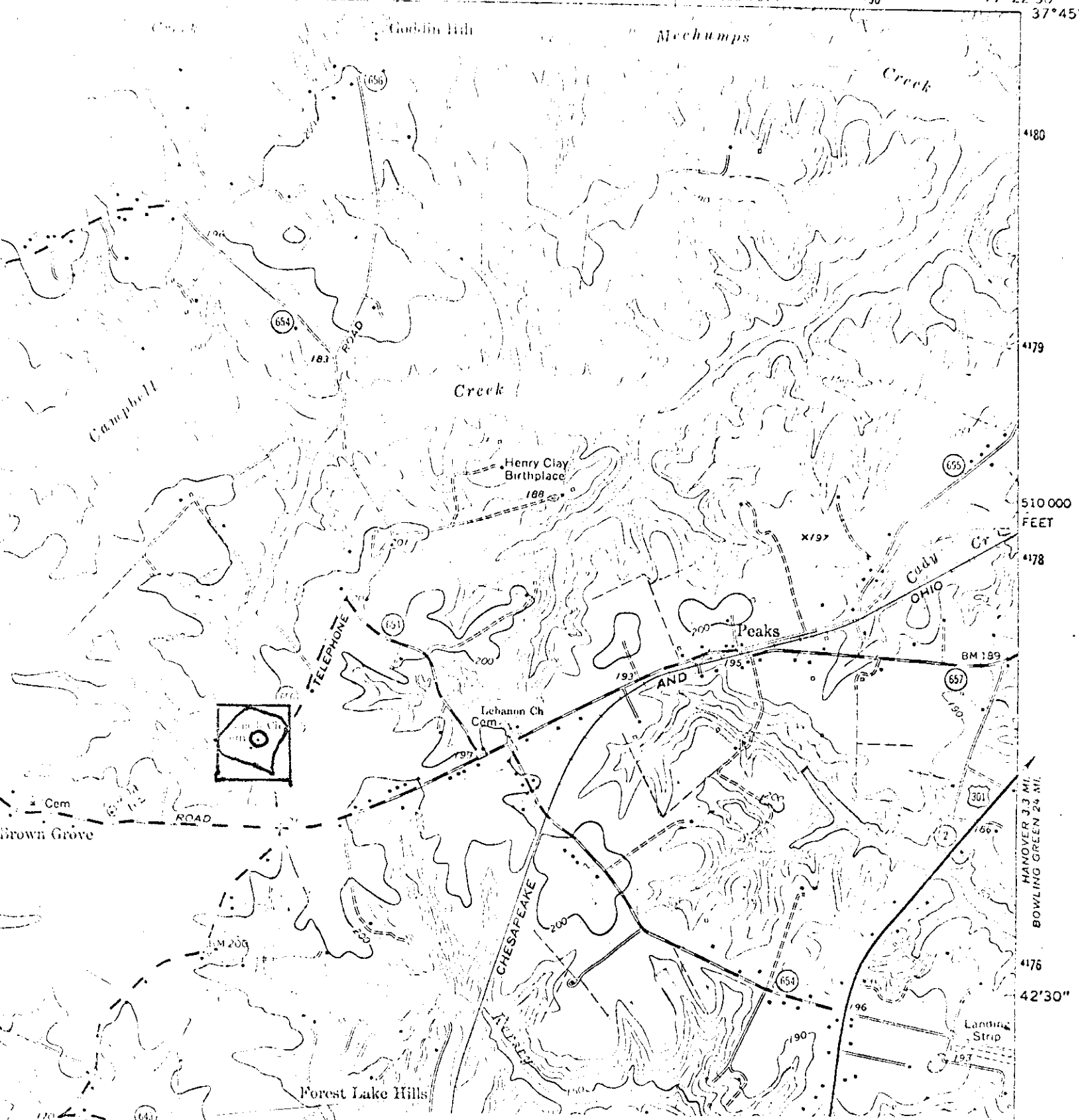
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Yellow Tavern, Va. 1963

SLASH CHURCH

latitude	longitude
NW37°43'14"	77°25'00"
NE37°43'14"	77°24'46"
SE37°43'02"	77°24'46"
SW37°43'02"	77°25'00"

4180

4179

510 000 FEET

4178

BM 189

HANOVER 3.3 MI.
BOWLING GREEN 24 MI.

4176

42'30"

4175