

VLR - 6/16/99 NRHP - 8/5/99

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 an 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 Ashburn Presbyterian Church

other names/site number VDHR File No. 51-894

2. Location

street & number 20962 Ashburn Road not for publication N/A

city or town Leesburg vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Loudoun code 107 zip code 20147

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

M. Kate Stinson 6/30/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

- 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:)

Ashburn Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Loudoun, VA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival/Carpenter Gothic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Cypress wood
roof Standing seam metal
other

Narrative Description

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

See Attached 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.)

- 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.
- 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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1878

Significant Dates

1878

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See Attached 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.) See Attached 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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Ashburn Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Loudoun, VA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 10.30 Acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

18	2840110	43249110
Zone	Easting	Northing

3

18	2843110	432481210
Zone	Easting	Northing

2

18	2851110	4324002
Zone	Easting	Northing

4

18	2842610	43241410
Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See Attached Continuation Sheets

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

See Attached Continuation Sheets

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Randy N. Poland, Trustee, with Del Ankers, Ralph E. Caylor, Ruth B. Judd, Stanley M. Longwill, and Constance C. Welke

organization Ashburn Presbyterian Church date March 30, 1999

street & number 43180 Wayside Circle telephone 703-729-0826

city or town Ashburn state VA zip code 20147

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 See Attached Continuation Sheets

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Trustees, Ashburn Presbyterian Church, c/o Randy N. Poland

street & number 43180 Wayside Circle telephone 703-729-0826

city or town Ashburn state VA zip code 20147

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 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.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Ashburn Presbyterian Church
Loudoun County, Virginia

Narrative Description

The Ashburn Presbyterian Church (VDHR File No. 53-894) in Ashburn, Loudoun County, Northern Virginia, is a Carpenter Gothic style, rectangular wooden building. Because few changes have been made to the structure since its initial construction in 1878, it has excellent historical integrity. Other than the board and batten siding, which has deteriorated in a few minor locations, the building is in good condition. While it is similar in form to many rural church buildings, it is very similar architecturally to Guilford Baptist Church, Sterling, Virginia and Mt. Hope Baptist Church, Arcola, Virginia that were built in the late nineteenth century. The Ashburn Presbyterian Church is located on the east side of Ashburn Road, Route 641, at the southern edge of the small railroad village of Ashburn, Virginia. The church stands on a roughly rectangular tract of 10.30 acres. The property also includes two modern additions. In 1967, an education building was constructed, which was directly attached to the east wall of the original church. In 1992, a large multi-purpose building was completed. This structure is joined to the education building by means of a covered breezeway. To both the north and south of the church is a large, unenclosed cemetery. More than 120 graves from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries are marked with inscribed stones. The cemetery also contains a number of unmarked graves. Some of these are reportedly the burials of blacks.

The thirty-three feet wide by fifty feet long church building is bilaterally symmetrical. As with many church buildings, its primary elevation is on a gable end that faces west. This two bay front elevation has doors symmetrically placed along the center line. The church is constructed of cypress wood planks nailed vertically to the framework of the building. The joints between the cypress boards are covered with batten strips, probably sawn from the same cypress lumber. The building stands on a randomly coursed, low stone foundation. The board and batten exterior walls are constructed flush with the exterior face of the stone foundation. The gable roof is covered with standing seam metal. On the gabled east and west elevations, approximately six inch wide flat bargeboards cover the face of the projecting gable purloin tails. A single brick flue projects from the southeast corner of the roof.

Ten windows illuminate the interior of the Ashburn Presbyterian Church. Four windows pierce the north and south elevations and two windows are located between the centered double door on the west front elevation. All of them are six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows. Most windows appear

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Ashburn Presbyterian Church
Loudoun County, Virginia

to retain their original glass panes. The windows all have plain crown wood surrounds and flat wood sills. Each of the four windows on both the north and south elevations are capped with a gabled pediment.

The two windows on the west elevation are similar in construction to those on the north and south elevations. These two windows, the double-front entry doorway and the three louvered attic ventilators also have small gabled pediments. The front door in the west elevation is a three panel double door. Inset in the front door gabled pediment is a low profile arch. An unusual set of cast iron steps, porch and railings lead up to the double door entry to the building. The most prominent feature of the west side front elevation is the cross, which was attached about 1967, to the top of the gabled roof. The cross is fastened to both the end of the ridge beam and a cross member, which is anchored to the roof sheathing.

The exterior of the building clearly reflects the arrangement of the interior space. The front doors lead into a five feet six inch by eight feet six inch vestibule. The double doors at the inside wall of the vestibule lead into the main room. These doors are aligned with the center aisle, which runs the length of the building. At the east end of the building, centered between the two interior doors, is the wood pulpit raised on a twenty-two inch tall wood platform. The two side doors at the east end lead directly to the education building wing, which was constructed in 1967. Both of these doors were installed in the east wall at the time of construction of the education building. Behind the pulpit is a six feet two inch by nine feet ten inch semi-hexagonal apse. A wooden cross is hung on the back wall of the apse. On the platform in this area, are three pieces of period furniture, probably dating to the time of the construction of the building. The furniture consists of two parlor chairs and a settee.

All of the pews have slanted backs and are finished with decorative wooden scroll work at each end. All the pine wood pews were stained and varnished. The two blocks of pews in the main room are divided by a center aisle. On the south side of the aisle, there are ten full length pews. On the north side of the aisle, there are eight full length pews and two half length pews at the front, next to the center aisle. The pew blocks on either side of the center aisle are divided in half by a center board. In addition to the two blocks of main room pews on either side of the center aisle, there were two rows of longitudinal pews in the northeast and southeast corners of the room. These pews were used by the choir. These have been removed; two of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

Ashburn Presbyterian Church
Loudoun County, Virginia

these pews are stored in the basement. At the rear of the main room, on either side of the vestibule, there are installed wooden railings, supported by decorative wooden balusters. Originally, behind these railings, benches were installed for use by blacks who attended the church. The area on the south side of the vestibule is now occupied by a small, electronic organ. On the north side of the vestibule, behind the railing, is one single long pew. Behind this pew, an open stairwell was built, leading to the basement.

All the interior walls, with the exception of the vestibule, are lath and plaster. Around the entire perimeter of the room, including the vestibule, wainscot has been installed. It extends from the floor to a height of three feet eight inches. The wainscot is built of three and one-half inch wide vertically placed tongue and groove boards, topped with a horizontal chair moulding, three and one-half inches wide. The original ceiling was built of plaster on lath. About 1959, the ceiling was covered with acoustic tile blocks. The variable length and width pine floor boards are nailed directly to the floor joists. Carpeting has been installed everywhere in the main room, except under the two blocks of pews on either side of the center aisle, and in the areas on either side of and immediately in front of, the vestibule. A small trap door in the ceiling above the vestibule at the west end, accesses the attic.

The church was originally heated by two pot bellied stoves. One stove was located about halfway along the aisle next to the north wall, and the other about halfway along the aisle next to the south wall. These stoves were later replaced with a hot air furnace, installed in the basement. The registers, from which the warmed air was circulated, are still in place in the flooring under the pews. When the education building was built, a new oil fired hot water furnace was installed to heat both the original church building and the new education wing.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Ashburn Presbyterian Church
Loudoun County, VirginiaSection number 8 Page 4

Statement of Significance

The Ashburn Presbyterian Church is significant under National Register Criterion C for its distinctive architectural design. It is one of the last remaining Carpenter Gothic style church buildings in Northern Virginia. It has been in continuous use as a Presbyterian place of worship for over 120 years.

The Ashburn Presbyterian Church had its beginnings as a mission project of the Leesburg Presbyterian Church. In 1876, the Reverend John Connor, pastor of the Leesburg Church, began to hold services occasionally on Sunday afternoons in an old chapel or schoolhouse in the village of Farmwell, later renamed Ashburn. The congregation grew, and a committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of organizing the Farmwell Presbyterian Church. Excerpts from the minutes of the Chesapeake Presbytery, dated April 10, 1878, stated that unusually rapid growth was taking place in several local Presbyterian missions, including the one at Farmwell. Reverend L. B. Turnbull, of the Middleburg Church, was released from his charge there and assigned to the Farmwell Mission.

On September 5, 1878, the appointed committee formally organized the Farmwell church with twenty-three charter members. Officers were elected, ordained and installed that day, and Pastor Turnbull declared that the church was fully organized and ready to do good works.

On September 28, 1878, an area of land then described as ten acres, two rods and three and six-tenth perch, was purchased by the church trustees from Sally M. Lee, Executor for the estate of George Lee. At the same time, an adjacent plot of five acres was purchased by Reverend Turnbull for the purpose of erecting a manse.

Shortly after the land purchase, preparations were made to construct the church building on the site. In the 1870's, the Carpenter Gothic or late Gothic revival form of architecture was becoming very popular. The recent invention of the jig saw made this style economically feasible for mass production. The complex ornamental patterns of the Gothic style, with their curved and irregular lines, could now be quickly and inexpensively cut at a nearby shop, or even on site, with the narrow, vertically reciprocating blade of the jig saw. The Farmwell Church was built using this style, probably by carpenters and free masons of the local area. No blueprints or plans have ever been found. The dimensions throughout the building are

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Ashburn Presbyterian Church
Loudoun County, Virginia

irregular, leading to the assumption that it was built by various craftsmen, without benefit of architectural or construction drawings. The window frames, for example, vary slightly in dimension and in trim details. In addition, the window openings are not positioned in exact symmetry to one another.

Construction progressed rapidly, and by late October or early November 1878, the building was ready for occupancy. On November 7, 1878, Reverend L. B. Turnbull was officially ordained and installed as pastor of the Farmwell Presbyterian Church. The Reverend Henry Brouch presided and presented the constitution questions. The Reverend William McClure gave the sermon, the Reverend A. W. Pitzer delivered the charge to the pastor, and the Reverend John Connor delivered the charge to the congregation.

Reverend Turnbull served from 1878 to 1889. He was followed by many others through the years. Table 1 is a list of the pastors and stated supply ministers who have served the church from 1878 to the present. In 1896, the name of the community of Farmwell was changed to Ashburn. As a result, the Farmwell Presbyterian Church became the Ashburn Presbyterian Church.

Through the years, some modern improvements have been made to the building. Electric lights were added in 1925. At least three different heating systems have been in use over the years. Some pews have been moved, carpeting was installed, and an inside stairway to the basement was constructed. Minor structural changes were required when the education wing was built. Nevertheless, the church has remained much the same as it was when originally constructed in 1878. Its unique Carpenter Gothic architectural style is intact.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Ashburn Presbyterian Church
Loudoun County, Virginia

Table 1

REGISTER OF PASTORS AND STATED SUPPLIES(*)

L.B. Turnbull	Nov. 7	1878-1889
W.L. Bailey		1889-1893
George L. Bitzer*	April	1893-1896
George L. Bitzer (Pastor)	April	1896-1898
J.W. Lupton*	Sept.	1898-1902
J.W. Clymer*	March	1902-1907
Seminary Students		1907-1909
H.M. Moffett	April	1909-1912
S.K. Winn		1912-1918
W.J. King	Sept.	1918-1924
J.E. Cousar		1924-1926
Walter E. McBath*		
Rev. McCublin*		
J.M. Fontaini*		1927-1928
J.S. Hagan	June	1928-1937
Hoover Bear*		1937-1943
Hoover Bear (Pastor but resigned to become U.S.A. Chaplain)	July	1943
J.A. Bowman*	July	1943
J.A. Bowman (Pastor)	Oct.	1943-1944
J.R. Fulton*	March	1945-1948
Henry L. Willis		1948-1950
B.F. Ferguson		1950-1952
William Symthe*		1953-1954
Seminary Students		1954-1956
Barton L. Hellmuth		1956-1961
Seminary Students		1961-1962
Frank Arnold		1962-1963
Palmer Robertson		1963-1964
John Rhea*		1964-1965
D.B. Shackelford	July	1965-1969
Richard Hutchison* (Chaplain)	Oct.	1969-1972
Herbert Goetz (Chaplain)		1972-1975
Dave White (Chaplain)		1975-1976
Quentin Holley (Chaplain)		"
George Alexander (Chaplain)		"
William McMorrان*		1976-1980
Charles N. Pickell*		1980-1986
Charles N. Pickell (Pastor)		1986-1993
Dorothy Wright (Interim Pastor)		1994-1995
John Peterson	May	1995

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 7

Ashburn Presbyterian Church
Loudoun County, Virginia

Major Bibliographical References

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5, Unpublished notes in the records of Ashburn Presbyterian
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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 8

Ashburn Presbyterian Church
Loudoun County, Virginia

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 9

Ashburn Presbyterian Church
Loudoun County, Virginia

Verbal Boundary Description

The recommended National Register boundary for the Ashburn Presbyterian Church includes the tract described in Loudoun County Deed Book 6M, pages 288 and 289, located at the office of Clerk of Circuit Court, Leesburg, Loudoun County, Virginia.

Boundary Justification

The recommended boundary includes the legal tract containing the church. This tract has always been historically associated with the church.

Ashburn
 Presbyterian
 Church
 LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA

LASTING	CONTRIBUTOR
1. 18 284 010	4324 910
2. 18 285 110	4324 002
3. 18 284 310	4324 820
4. 18 284 760	4324 140

