

VLR-12/12/89 NRHP-12/27/90

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Emmanuel Episcopal Church other-namest number DHR 73-13

2. Location

street & number State Route 1002 (Emmanuel Church Road) city, town Powhatan vicinity state Virginia code Va county Powhatan code 145 zip code 23139

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private public-local public-State public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s) district site structure object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 1 Nov 1990 Director, VA Dept. of Historic Resources State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official: [Signature] State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is.

- 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):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious Structure

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

roof tin

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, located one and one-half miles west of Powhatan Courthouse, is one of Virginia's earliest and best-preserved examples of Gothic Revival architecture. The exterior has remained close to its original condition. Much of the interior has also remained similar to its original design including some period furnishings.

Emmanuel is vernacular gothic Revival in style and was originally built to serve a small rural community near the Powhatan Courthouse. Although the church is simple and humble in its appearance, great attention has been paid to the detailing, especially around the fenestration. The building is built of red brick painted white. A stepped gable parapet is at both the east and west end of the church. At the west end behind the chancel is a half-octagonal apse which served as a vestry. Four tall window bays are interspaced with slim buttresses along the exterior along the north and south walls.

Today the church is in a good state of repair with no major areas of deterioration. The original cemetery is still intact.

Emmanuel's pure Gothic Revival style combined with its near original state make it a rare and classic example of ecclesiastical architecture in Virginia in the mid-nineteenth century.

### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Emmanuel is a typical Gothic Revival church of the antebellum period. Because of the disestablishment of the Anglican Church and lack of funds thereafter, virtually no Episcopal churches were built between the end of the Revolutionary War and the 1830s. At that time there was a renewed interest in religion, and consequently a large number of churches were built, many in the Gothic Revival Style.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1842-1850  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

\_\_\_\_\_

Davis, Alexander Jackson?  
Cocke, Gen. Philip St. George

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Emmanuel Episcopal Church is significant both historically and architecturally. As part of the 1830s revival in the Episcopal Church in Virginia, Emmanuel Church has historic significance. After the disestablishment of the Anglican Church in the late eighteenth century, there was a lack of enthusiasm from the lay people toward the church as well as a lack of funds since the church was no longer allowed to collect revenue through taxation as had been the law during the colonial rule. It was not until the 1830s in Virginia that a renewed interest in religion started and consequently new church construction. The 1830s also saw an increase in the membership of other religious denominations since the Anglican Church was no longer the established church.<sup>2</sup> Although Emmanuel is an Episcopal Church, typical of this time period, it was used by many other denominations as well.<sup>3</sup>

Emmanuel Church is very significant for architectural reasons. In the mid-nineteenth century, pattern books became widely popular in America. Virginia architecture began to take on characteristics related to what was going on not only in America, but also in the rest of the world. The Gothic Revival style was popular at this time in America and Europe as well. Pattern books facilitated the transfer of this style in a fairly unadulterated manner. Although the plans for Emmanuel Church have not been found, we know it could have been built from a pattern book and was a paradigm for others. St. John's in Columbia is an exact replica of Emmanuel and there are at least two others in Virginia which are very similar (St. Thomas's in Fredrick County and St. John's in Amelia County).

Although it has still not been proven, there are many facts which lead us to conclude that A.J. Davis and General Philip St. George Cocke were the architects for Emmanuel Church. Cocke was a nearby and prominent landowner who was very involved in the organization and construction of the church. Cocke was the one who donated the land for the church. At the time of the construction of Emmanuel, he and A.J. Davis were involved in at least three other projects in Virginia.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Brydon, The Reverend G. MacLarendon, D.D. Highlights Along the Road of the Anglican Church. Richmond: Virginia Diocesan Library, 1957.

Cocke papers. Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.\*

\*Although the Cocke papers in Charlottesville were researched, no proof was found which proved either Cocke or Davis to be the architect of Emmanuel Church. Circumstantial evidence such as a Cocke bank account in New York City and letters from Virginia builders to Davis were found. However, not enough proof was found in order to attribute these records to any particular project. There is also speculation that Philip St. George Cocke's drawings are at Bremo. Access to these papers, if they exist, has been denied.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:  
Virginia Department of Historic Resource

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property two acres

UTM References

A 

1	8
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2	3	9	0	1	0
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4	1	6	0	9	0	0
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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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B 

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone      Easting      Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

"All that a certain parcel of land lying in Macon District of Powhatan County, Virginia, adjoining the land of Emmanuel Episcopal Church to the South, more particularly described as follows:

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the church and cemetery that have historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jane Covington  
organization Ekstrom + Associates date September 6 1989  
street & number 120 North Second Street, Suite 102 telephone (804) 780-1519  
city or town Richmond state Virginia zip code 23219

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Emmanuel is rectangular with the western portion ending in a half octagon. The east facade, the front entrance, is constructed of three bays: a large central double door flanked by single casement windows. All windows have brick hood-moldings.

Two narrow buttresses divide each bay. At each corner of the east facade are two larger buttresses. These buttresses are rectangles set at a forty-five degree angle to the walls. At the roof line the buttresses become octagons, capped at the top by pointed octagonal spires.

The front entrance is a large wooden double door approximately 7' wide by 10' feet tall surmounted by a wooden panel and a corbelled wooden arch. "Emmanuel 1842" is printed on a small recessed shield over the door.

The present roof is tin but is not original. There is a stepped gable at both the east and west end of the roof. The gable is finished with a corbelled wood moulding. At the west, the gable is finished in moulded bricks. At the east, the parapet ends at the corner buttresses.

The exterior measurements of the original portion of the building are 30' by 46'6". The five exterior walls of the apse are 5'5" each. The base of the building is a small water table that was originally brick and has since been stuccoed. Vertical rectangular slots for ventilation pierce the water table. At the west end, the water table is raised to elevate the apse above the first floor line of the church. A modern furnace has been installed in the crawl space below the apse.

Both the north and south walls were originally four bays divided by buttresses as on the front facade. Each buttress is stepped out with moulded brick at the top of each step.

On the north and south side, the windows are paired casement windows 3'3" wide by 8' high. Each window is divided into twenty diamond and triangular panes by thin wooden muntins. Hood molds of brick are over each window.

The trim around each window is highly articulated. Each window mold is nine inches deep from the edge of the sill to the window pane. The exterior trim is made of deep concave and convex milled wood; although extremely decorative, they hold water in the frame. Large window sills placed at a forty-five degree angle protrude six inches from the wall. The window trim is original. Each window is framed by a pair of large wooden shutters added in the 1920s.<sup>1</sup>

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The interior of the church has a double alley, which is typical of the antebellum church plan. The pews are simple with recessed panels and small scrolled ends.

The interior walls are stucco, lightly scored to give the appearance of stone and painted white.

There is a rostrum at the west end of the church, which in plan, completes the half octagon of the apse. The altar rail, typical of antebellum styles, is unbroken on the east end. The rostrum is accessed through gates on the north and south sides. The altar rail is made up of a pattern of lancet arches. A small, sloped kneeling shelf surrounds the outside of the rostrum. There is a door leading from the rostrum to the vestry behind it. The moulding around this door is not original.

The baptismal font and the two altar chairs are original.

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In 1845, Cocke and Davis designed his home, Belmead, which is located near Powhatan Courthouse.<sup>4</sup> In 1848 Cocke commissioned Davis for thirty dollars to draw plans for the new Powhatan Court House.<sup>5</sup> Davis also designed the Barracks at Virginia Military Institute.<sup>6</sup> It is logical to conclude that both men may have easily discussed the design for Emmanuel.

Finally, Emmanuel Episcopal Church is significant because not only is it one of Virginia's oldest surviving Gothic Revival churches, but also the church remains very close to its original condition both on the interior and the exterior.

HISTORY

Emmanuel was built as a direct continuation of the old Peterville Church of Powhatan, probably one of the first churches of the area. In 1842, the congregation of Peterville reorganized, deciding to move nearer to the Powhatan Court House. The Reverend Joshua Albert Massey was ordained in this year and was involved in the organization of the new church. In 1843, he wrote that a new church was under construction and that another one would probably begin in the coming fall.<sup>7</sup>

The 1845 Journals of the Diocese of Virginia have this quote: "Five hundred dollars have been suscribed (sic) for another church." We can assume that this church is Emmanuel.<sup>8</sup>

In September 1846, Philip St. George Cocke and his wife purchased one acre of land from James Barley for the amount of twenty dollars. Cocke then donated this land to the church. Cocke continued to be involved in the construction of the church. The bricks for the church were made at Belmeade. Thomas Hobson of Brooklyn, who studied at West Point with Cocke, was also involved in the construction of Emmanuel.<sup>9</sup>

There is no mention found of Emmanuel until the 1848 Journal of the Diocese of Virginia when the consecration of the church is documented. On November 7, 1847, Bishop John Johns, who was then the assistant to Bishop Meade, wrote:

"I consecrated Immanuel (sic) Church Powhatan....Immanuel (sic) is a brick building, stuccoed\* of the Gothic order highly credible to the good taste and liberality of those by whom it has been erected. This is the second church, which in little more than two years I have been called to consecrate within the bounds of this parish, both paid for and all without soliciting aid from others. This is as it oftener should be and deserves to be recorded as worthy of imitation."<sup>11</sup>

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In the 1920s a few repairs were made to the church; the exterior was painted, a metal roof was installed to replace the shingles, the shutters were hung. The cemetery was also enlarged.<sup>12</sup> In 1941, electric lights were installed.

In the summer of 1953, the church was restored with the advice of the Reverend G. Maclaren Brydon who was the Histiographer of the Diocese of Virginia at that time. Only a few changes were made; modern lighting was installed, there were some changes to the chancel, and the crown moulding on the interior was installed. Fortunately, most of the original church structure was left intact.<sup>14</sup>

In 1967, a parish house was added to the south side of the church with access between the two buildings at the sanctuary and the vestry in the apse. The entrance to the sanctuary from the parish house is through the southwest window. The original window has been altered for use as the door. The addition attempts to imitate the church. There is a stepped gable roof on the east facade and diamond tracery in the windows in the east facade. The exterior masonry is painted white.

\* There is evidence from a 1930 photograph that the building was originally stucco over brick. A photograph from 1941 shows the building as exposed brick. Today the building is painted white.



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Couture, Richard T. Powhatan: A Bicentennial History. Richmond:  
Dietz Press Inc., 1980.

Davis, Vernon Perdue and James Scott Rawlings. Virginia' Ante-  
Bellum Churches. Richmond Dietz Press, 1978.

Record of St. James Southam Parish, Emmanuel Church. Powhatan, Virginia  
Journal of the Diocese of Virginia, 1845 and 1848.

Simpson, Helen N., Exerpts taken from manuscripts given to  
Richard T. Couture.

Virginia Landmarks Register. Charlottesville: University Press of  
Virginia, 1986.

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Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>Records from the parish of St. James' Southam, Emmanuel Church. Powhatan County, Virginia.

<sup>2</sup>Highlights Along the Road of the Anglican Church, The Reverend G. MacLaren Brydon (Richmond: Virginia Diocesan Library, 1957)

<sup>3</sup>"Dedication of the parish House," Helen N. Simpson, 1967.

<sup>4</sup>Virginia Landmarks Register (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1986)

<sup>5</sup>Powhatan: A Bicentennial History, Richard T. Couture (Richmond:Dietz Press Inc., 1980)

<sup>6</sup>Virginia Landmarks Register

<sup>7</sup>Papers on the history of Emmanuel Church, Helen N. Simpson. Taken from manuscripts given to Richard T. Couture.

<sup>8</sup>Journal of the Diocese of Virginia, 1845

<sup>9</sup>Simpson Papers

<sup>10</sup>West Point Library Reference Records. West Point Military Academy. (914-938-2230)

<sup>11</sup>Journal of Diocese of Virginia, 1848

<sup>12</sup>Record of Emmanuel Church.

<sup>13</sup>ibid.

<sup>14</sup>Simpson, "Dedication of the Parish House."

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COMMENCING at the southern edge of Emmanuel Episcopal Church property and in the center line of Virginia State Route 1002; thence proceeding generally southwardly along the center line of the said Virginia State Route 1002, 34 feet, more or less, to a point; thence running in a line parallel to the present line of the land of the Emmanuel Episcopal Church in a generally westwardly direction 195 feet to a point; thence running in a generally northerly direction and parallel to the center line of the said Virginia State Route 1002, 3 feet, more or less, to a point designated by an iron at the southwestern corner of the land presently owned and belonging to Emmanuel Episcopal Church. (Cumberland Count Deed Book 85, page 526)  
(Refers to land added in 1961)

The original acre of Emmanuel Episcopal Church was described as follows:

"a certain parcel of land containing one acre upon which an Episcopal Church is designated to be erected lying and being in the County of Powhatan upon the road leading from the Buckingham Road to the Cumberland Old Courthouse Road, and bounded on the North, South, and West by the land of said Barley and on the East by the land of said Bafs..." September 5 1846

(Cumberland County Deed Book 46, page 367)

(Refers to original acre bought in 1846)

The second acre added to the north side of the property given to the church in the will of D.P. Chock:

"...as surveyed the 24, day of July 1929 for Emmanuel Church and bounded as follows: beginning at an iron stake set at A on plat, thence N27:25'E 400 feet, S62:35'E 218 feet to road (line passed through a double red oak on side of road) thence with road, S27:25'W 200 feet, S29:10'W 200 feet, thence leaving road N62°:35'W210 feet to the begining."

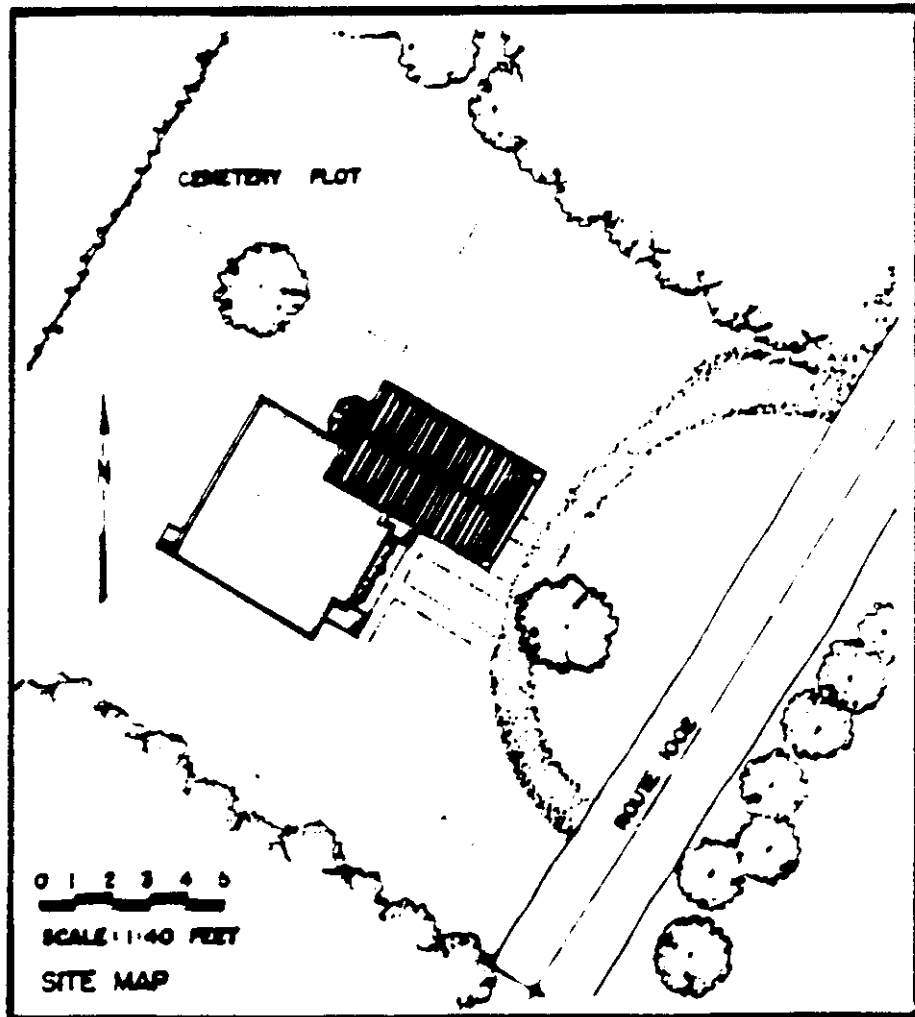
(Cumberland County Deed Book 46, page 367. September 6 1929)  
(Plat Book 3, page 114)

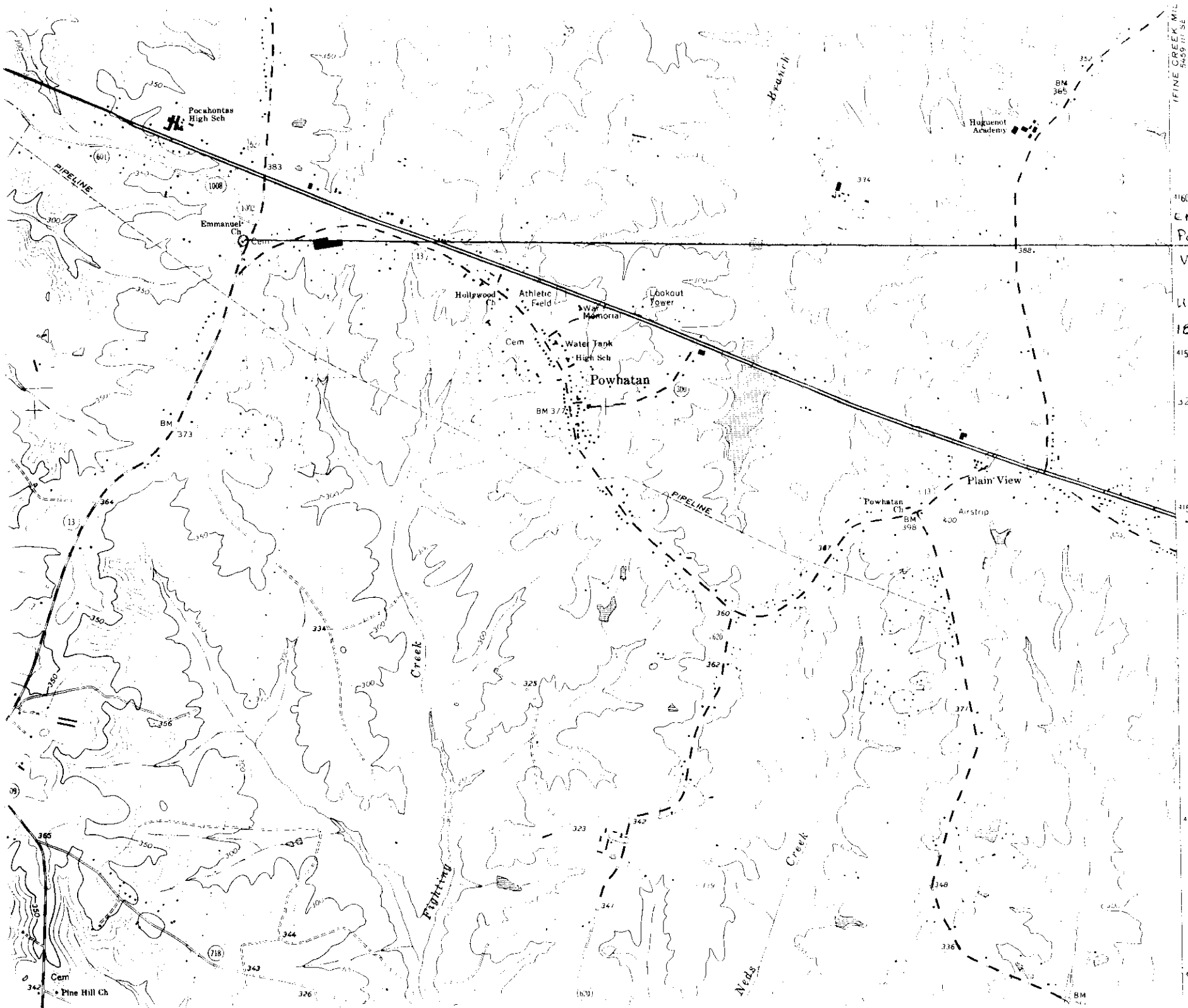
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FINE CREEK MIL  
5459 17 SE

1160  
EMMANUEL CHU  
POW HATAN CO.  
VIRGINIA

UTM,  
18/23 9010/4160

4159  
32°30"

4158

4156

41550000 N