

VLR-11/21/78 NRHP-5/7/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Burke's Garden Central Church and Cemetery (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Burke's Garden Lutheran Church

2 LOCATION

E side of State Route 623; SE of intersection of State Routes 623 and
727.

CITY, TOWN

Burke's Garden

--ROT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Ninth (William C. Wampler)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Tazewell

CODE

185

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Cemetery |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Burke's Garden Central Church Cemetery Association, c/o Mr. J. M. Hoge, President

STREET & NUMBER

Route 3

CITY, TOWN

Tazewell

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 24651

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Tazewell County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Tazewell

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

1978

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Burke's Garden Central Church and Cemetery are situated along the low ridge which forms the spine of Burke's Garden, a natural bowl five miles wide by ten miles long atop Garden Mountain in eastern Tazewell County. The present church building, erected in 1875, is a plain rectangular frame building, two bays long, with a steep gable roof. The entrance door is in the center of the gable end and is flanked by two small windows which, like the large long-wall windows, are glazed with 6/6 sash.

The principal interest of the site lies in the cemetery, which contains a collection of Germanic gravestones. A small group of such cemeteries marks the German settlements of Wythe County and their offshoots in Bland and Tazewell counties. The connection of Central Church to the others is a tangible one. The style of the stones indicates they were carved by the same individual who executed the stones at Sharon Lutheran Church in Bland County and at the Zion and Kimberling churches in Wythe County, as well as a few of the stones at the mother church of the group, St. John's Lutheran in Wytheville. While St. John's cemetery is dominated by the work of a more skilled carver, Laurence Krone, the church building there resembles the structure built twenty years later at Burke's Garden Central Church.

The early stones at Central Church are of several types. One group resembles early 19th-century stones in other areas. These are plain slabs with square shoulders and a central semi-circular projection on the top. They have inscriptions on one side and no decoration of any sort. An example is the William P. Ritter stone of 1833. A variation of these consists of stones also with inscriptions on one side but with fancifully shaped tops. From the surviving lettering, these variations seem to be about the same age as the rest of the group.

A second body consists of stones with Germanic designs but with shapes similar to the first group of stones. These thick monuments are square shouldered with central top elements which are larger segments of circles. These three-quarter circles are reeded on the edges and are typically embellished on one side with sunflowers and on the other with six-pointed flowers attached to vines which extend to the bottom of the stone. Other Germanic stones have semi-circular upper portions, and still others have smaller three-quarter-circle finials on either side of the central element. Four- and six-pointed stars, pinwheels, hearts, and sunflowers are the predominant decorative elements, but geometrical designs are also found. On the sides of several stones are plain rectangular shapes with three-quarter circles of the same diameter on the top. This anthropomorphic motif is reproduced in the shape of the sole surviving wooden marker. In addition to their decoration and soft sandstone medium, the German stones are linked by, and set off from the non-Germanic stones by, their thickness, the habit of decorating them on both sides and often on the edges as well, and the variety of fanciful shapes employed.

The wooden marker is one of a group of homemade markers, the remainder of which are unlettered, unshaped rocks. There are a few notable late 19th-century stones in the cemetery. The most striking may be the George Gose obelisk (1889), which is set among the Germanic markers and which is decorated with neo-Grec elements.

Worthy of final mention are two markers (a third may have been broken off) commemorating the children of D. G. Heninger. The two headstones are, in size, proportion, and thickness, not unlike commercial markers of the period. They have gabled tops with decorations in the tympanums and lettering on the body of the stone. These markers, however, were homemade of cast concrete and crudely hand-lettered. The decoration was made by

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

186 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1827 (cemetery) 1875 (church) BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Eastern Tazewell County represents the furthest settlement of the Germans who came to far Southwest Virginia in the late 18th century. The Central Church and cemetery at Burke's Garden in Tazewell symbolizes this outpost of settlement. Located in a picturesque bowl-like valley atop Garden Mountain, the Central Church cemetery contains a collection of rare sandstone Germanic grave markers whose decoration and forms betray their connections to the related Wythe and Bland county settlements. These stones, most of which were carved in the 1820s and 1830s, appear to have been cut by the same unknown craftsman who made most of the stones at Zion and Kimberling churches in Wythe County and at Sharon Church in Bland County.

The history of Central Church and cemetery is shared by several denominations. The earliest burial was in 1827, and from its earliest days the cemetery has been an interdenominational or union one. When the Central Church Lutheran congregation erected its first building in the 1820s, it was apparently constructed in conjunction with other denominations. When the present building was erected in 1875, it continued to serve as a union church. However, the Lutherans alone have worshipped here in modern times.

The Central Church Lutheran congregation is considered the mother church of Tazewell County Lutherans. In 1828 the group applied for pastoral services from the Synod of East Tennessee. David Forester and Nehemiah Bonham were the first pastors. Bonham was succeeded in 1841 by J. J. Greever, who served until 1877. Since 1843, the church has been under the jurisdiction of the Synod of Western Virginia.

DU/MTP

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Burke's Garden Central Church and Cemetery, Tazewell County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 9 PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION

impressing a butter mold into the wet material. The children whose graves they mark died in the mid-1890s, but each stone bears the legend "D. G. Heninger Inventor of These Stones Made This January 18, 1915." They bear witness to the survival of traditions of handcraftsmanship in the area despite the early 20th-century predominance of commercial stones in standardized designs. As such, they are related to the local Germanic stones installed in the cemetery 90 years earlier.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

DTU

The register boundaries coincide on the north, east and south with the cemetery bounds as delineated on the U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle for Garden Mountain, Virginia. The western boundary follows the east side of State Route 623 and joins the western extensions to that route of the north and south boundary lines.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wust, Klaus. Folk Art in Stone. Edinburg, Va., 1970.
_____. The Virginia Germans. Charlottesville, Va., 1969.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Caswell, C. W.; Finck, W. J.; and Henkel, E. O. History of the Lutheran Church in Virginia and East Tennessee. Strasburg, Va., 1930.
- "Directory of Burke's Garden Central Church Cemetery." MS in Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives, n.d. (Mimeographed.)
- Eisenberg, W. E. The Lutheran Church in Virginia, 1712-1962. Roanoke, Va., 1967.
- Hoge, Louise. "Burke's Garden Cemetery Recognized as Unique," Clinch Valley News, 9 August 1978. (See Continuation Sheet #1)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2½ acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Garden Mountain, Virginia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 470200 4104940

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point on E side of State Route 623 2500' SE of intersection of Routes 623 and 727; thence extending 500' E, then about 175' S, then 400' W to E side of Route 623; thence extending NW along said Route to point of origin, thereby encompassing both cemetery and church.

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

November 1978

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Tucker Hill, Executive Director

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

NOV 21 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

UNITED
TENNESSEE VALLEY
MAPS AND SURVEYS

81° 22' 30"
37° 07' 30"

467000m. E.

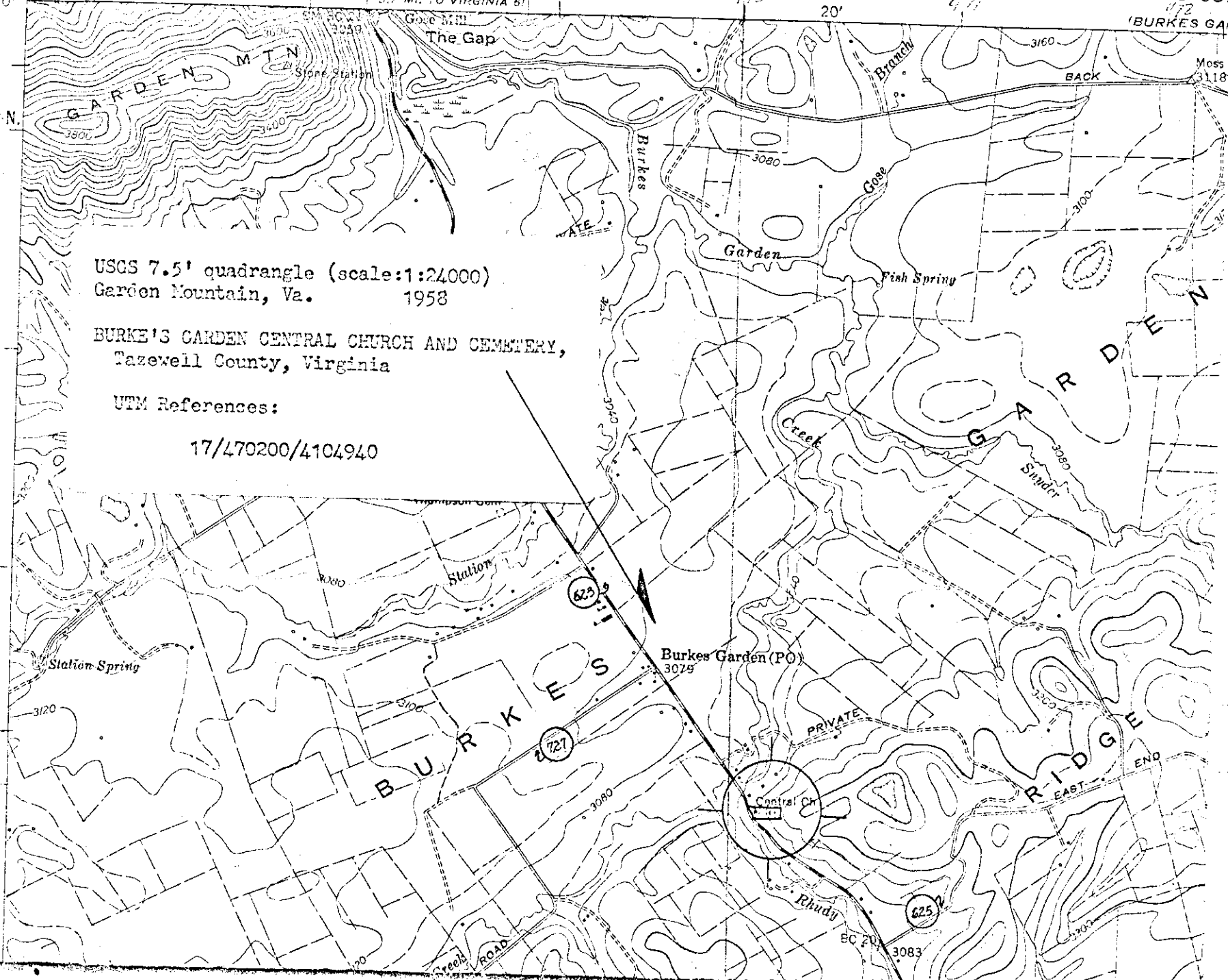
TAZEWELL 12 MI. N. 1/2
5.7 MI. TO VIRGINIA 61

470 20'

471

172
'BURKES GA'

4:08000m. N.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
Garden Mountain, Va. 1958

BURKE'S GARDEN CENTRAL CHURCH AND CEMETERY,
Tazewell County, Virginia

UTM References:
17/470200/4104940

CENTRAL CHURCH AND CEMETERY
17.05