

1927

OCT 03 1993  
NATIONAL  
REGISTERUnited States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational 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 BETHEL MEMORIAL CHURCHother names/site number Bethel Baptist Memorial Church VDHL Site No. 21-35

## 2. Location

street & number County Route 622N/A ☐ not for publicationcity, town White Post☒ vicinitystate Virginia code VA county Clarke code 043 zip code 22663

## 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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/ANumber of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register 0

## 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.

9-26-89

Signature of certifying official

Date

Director, VA Department 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

Date

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:)

Patrick Andrews2/7/91

for 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)

Early Republic/Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Metal

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Bethel Memorial Church is located off of county route 622 in southern Clarke County. The present building, built between 1833 and 1836, exists with only a few minor alterations to its original fabric. It is a rectangular building constructed of brick and laid in five course American bond. It is two stories high and sits on a low brick basement. The front facade has two doors and the side facades are five bays of windows. Bethel's interior has many well-preserved elements including late nineteenth century oil lamps and grain-painted pews. Bethel Memorial Church is one of Clarke County's best preserved religious structures.

The entrance facade is the east side of the building. This gable-end facade is three bays wide. On the ground level, the two outer bays are entry doors and the central bay is a twelve over twelve window. The second story of this facade is made up of three bays of twelve over twelve windows. The two entrance doors on this facade of the church appear to be original. They are eight-panel wooden doors with a four light rectangular transom above.

The side (north and south) elevations are identical. The second story of the side elevations is composed of five bays of twelve over twelve windows (these appear original). The ground level is also made up of five bays; four are twelve over twelve windows, and the fifth is an entrance door. The windows on the ground level were replaced by large panes in the late nineteenth century and were restored to their original size in 1969. The end bay on both of the side elevations is occupied by doors which are identical to those on the main facade. These side entrances give access to the gallery staircases. The brick walls of these two elevations are capped by a mouse tooth brick cornice (now partially obscured by gutters).

The west (rear) of Bethel Memorial Church is composed of two bays of twelve over twelve windows on two levels. The sashes of the windows on the ground level were restored to their original size in 1969. The upper level windows appear original.

The brick work at Bethel has been repointed in most places, especially in the lower stages of the building. In most cases, the mortar was not properly matched. Standing seam sheet metal covers Bethel's gable roof. There is an interior flue located in the center of the church towards the east end. It was added in 1874. It appears that at one time there were shutters for the windows, but they are now missing. There are flat arches over all the doors and windows at Bethel.

The interior of Behtel follows the form promised by the entry facade. The twin entrances give access to vestibules with a room occupying the interior areas between them. There is a door into this room from only the northern vestibule. On the other side of both vestibules are the gallery stairs. On entering the main space of the church, two aisles divide the

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space into three seating areas. The gallery above surrounds three sides of the building and is supported by seven slender unfluted baseless Doric columns. These seven columns are repeated again on the gallery level and act to help support the ceiling. The railing on the gallery level is made up of a plain handrail and square balusters.

At the west end of the church is the pulpit area which is marked by a platform two steps above the floor of the body of the church. On either side of the pulpit area are robing rooms.

The columns and the seating bear evidence of grain painting. The columns have all been painted green from the pews upward. The best examples of grain painting can be seen in the ends of the pews. The oil lamps at Bethel were installed in 1874 and are still in use. Two stoves were also installed at the same time for heating purposes. Bethel Memorial Church has never been electrified so it still relies on the oil lamps as a source of light. The stoves have not been used in over ten years but are still stored in the church.

Bethel's graveyard is located to the north of the church. It contains the graves of many of the church's former members. It has two family plots which are both enclosed by stone fences. One contains the graves of the Sowers family, while the other contains members of the Kerfoot family. The graveyard is shaded by mature oak and pine trees. The entire churchyard is enclosed by a board fence which was built in the mid- 1970s.



## 8. Statement of Significance

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

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

DEC 24 1990

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)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1833-1836

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bethel Memorial Church is eligible under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a rare and exceptionally intact example of a church building dating from the third decade of the nineteenth century. Though simple in design, the building reveals a high level craftsmanship and the use of quality materials. The result is a sophisticated and substantial church building for its period. Worthy of special mention is the property's remarkable degree of integrity. The church retains its historical relationship with its cemetery and the overall setting remains undisturbed.

### HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

Bethel Memorial Church serves as a tangible and accessible reminder of life in nineteenth century Clarke County. It is architecturally significant in that it remains basically untouched since its construction in 1833-36. Its history involved many influential families in Clarke County. The minute books of Bethel which exist from 1808-1930 are a testament to the importance of the church in the community during the period.

Bethel Memorial Church is situated off of one of the earliest roads in Clarke County. The building marks the approximate location of a mid-eighteenth century Quaker meeting house. The land now occupied by Bethel Memorial Church was part of the 1730 grant by Thomas 6th Lord Fairfax to Robert "King" Carter. In 1740 the property was conveyed to Robert Burwell, grandson of Robert Carter. Robert's son Nathaniel, received this tract along with 2,309 acres when he married Mary Wormley. In 1771, John H. Norton bought the tract and in the same year conveyed it to Alexandria Henderson. Major Thomas Massie acquired 145 acres in 1791 from Henderson, and in turn sold fifty-eight acres including the Bethel tract to William Davis. Mention of "God's Acre on

☒ See continuation sheet

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the hill known as Bethel's Meeting House" in a deed of 1765 has led to speculation that the church site was a gift to the Quaker congregation from Robert Burwell. William Davis, the last private owner of the site, was one of the founding members of the congregation of Bethel Baptist Church in 1808.

It is believed that the Quakers had a log meeting house on this site called Bethel. Because of their religious beliefs, Quakers were not so popular during and after the Revolutionary War and tended to gather more closely in larger congregations. Either for this or for other reasons, the log meeting house was unoccupied when the Baptist congregation decided to take it over in 1808. Bethel's minute books start in 1808 and document the history of the church from that period on. They speak of the female members of the church and how in 1855 they were finally allowed to vote on church matters. The minute books also include many details about the black members of the congregation. The last entry in the minute books was dated June 8, 1930. From that time on, Bethel has experienced long periods of non-use. In the 1940s, Beverly Brownley McKay, whose family had long been associated with the church, was the prime mover in the restoration of the graveyard and the church to make them sound. The restoration efforts have continued since then. In the recent past, Bethel was used only on rare occasions but now efforts are being made to diversify its uses and make it more accessible to the public.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

DEC 2 1990

MacKay -Smith, Alexander. "Bethel Church c.1765-1977." Proceedings of the Clarke County Historical Association, 1977-78, 19, 34-52.

### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ See continuation sheet

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

### Specify repository:

Clarke County Historical Association,  
Berryville, Virginia.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.43 acres

### UTM References

A 

1	7	7	5	5	6	4	5	4	3	2	3	9	4	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

The boundary of Bethel Memorial Church is shown on the accompanying map entitled "Land of Bethel Baptist Memorial Church".

☒ See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire parcel that has been historically associated with the property.

☐ See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Maral S. Kalbian, Architectural Historian

organization \_\_\_\_\_

date February 1989

street & number Route 1 Box 86

telephone (703) 837-2081

city or town Boyce

state Virginia zip code 22620

LAND OF  
BETHEL BAPTIST MEMORIAL CHURCH  
1.43 ACRES

The Tract of land, shown on the attached drawing, located on the on the Southeast side of Road No. 625 about Two and One-half Miles South of Millwood and situate in Greenway Magisterial District, Clarke County, Virginia; is bounded as follows:

Beginning at (1) a point in the center of Road No. 625 a corner to the land of Terrence J. Giroux, said point being N 42 deg.

02 min. 03 sec. W 17.00 feet from an iron peg found on the Southeast side of the Road; thence with the land of Terrence J. Giroux for the following four courses:

S 42 deg. 02 min. 03 sec. E 115.29 feet to (2) a Post; thence

S 53 deg. 31 min. 16 sec. W 65.70 feet to (3) a Post; thence

N 42 deg. 41 min. 44 sec. W 10.75 feet to (4) an iron peg found; thence S 40 deg. 15 min. 41 sec. W 226.74 feet to

(5) an iron peg found a corner to the land of Junior W. Barr; thence with the land of Junior W. Barr S 41 deg. 21 min.

04 sec. W 134.82 feet to (6) an iron peg set in the line of the land of Junior W. Barr and a corner to the the land of Joan E. MacDonald; thence with the land of Joan E. MacDonald

N 40 deg. 42 min. 56 sec. W 182.63 feet to (7) a point in the center of Road No. 625, said point being N 40 deg. 42 min.

56 sec. W 20.00 feet from an iron peg set on the Southeast side of the Road; thence with the center of Road No. 625 for the following three courses:

N 49 deg. 10 min. 31 sec. E 285.44 feet to (8); thence

N 70 deg. 30 min. 25 sec. E 74.66 feet to (9); thence

N 51 deg. 18 min. 13 sec. E 65.70 feet to the point of beginning, containing 1.43 Acres, more or less.

SURVEY NO. 8144/A

SHEET NO. 2 OF 2

*Richard U. Goode*

RICHARD U. GOODE,

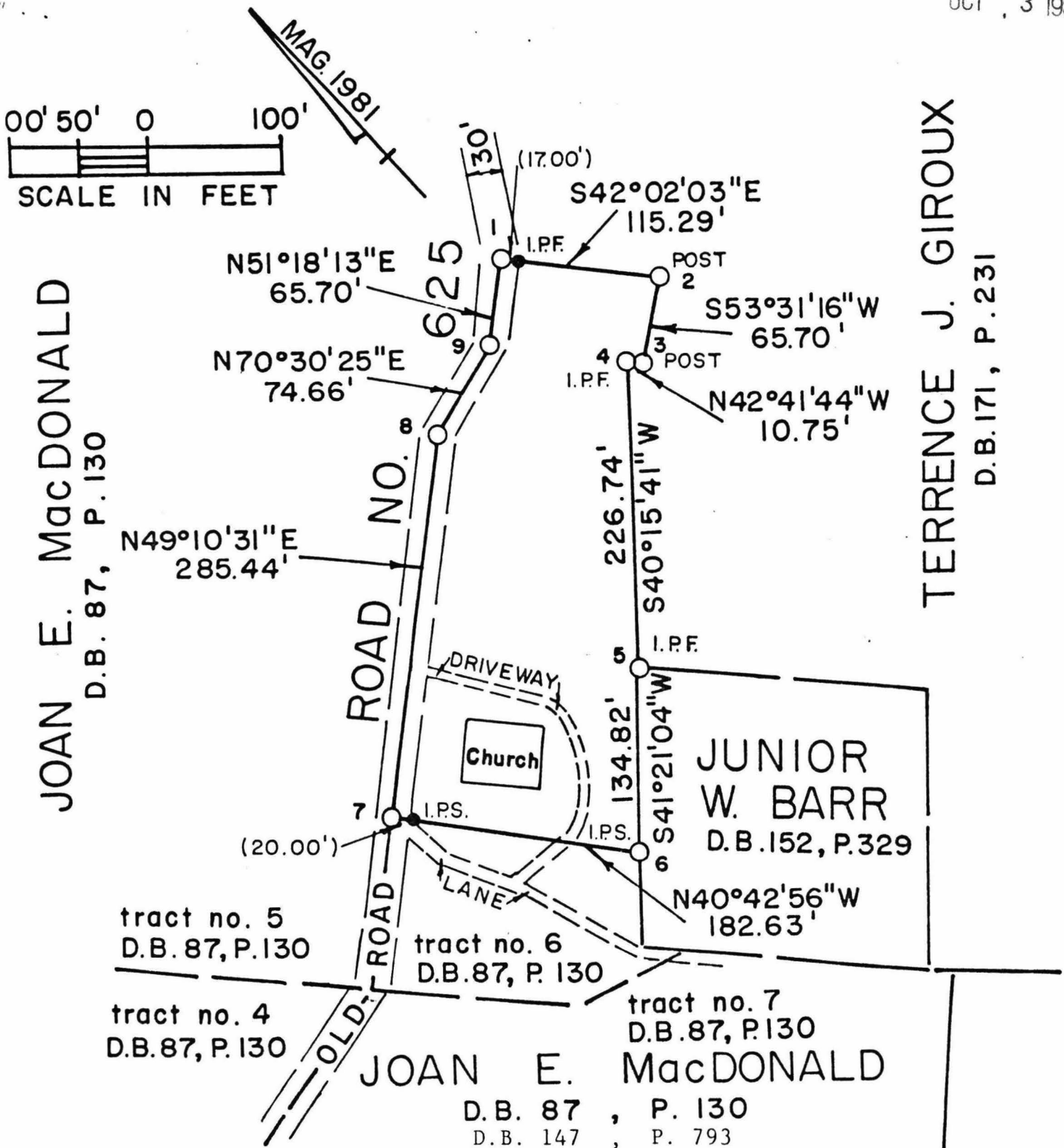
CERTIFIED LAND SURVEYOR

BERRYVILLE, VIRGINIA

FEBRUARY 11, 1988

JOAN E. MacDONALD  
D.B. 87, P. 130

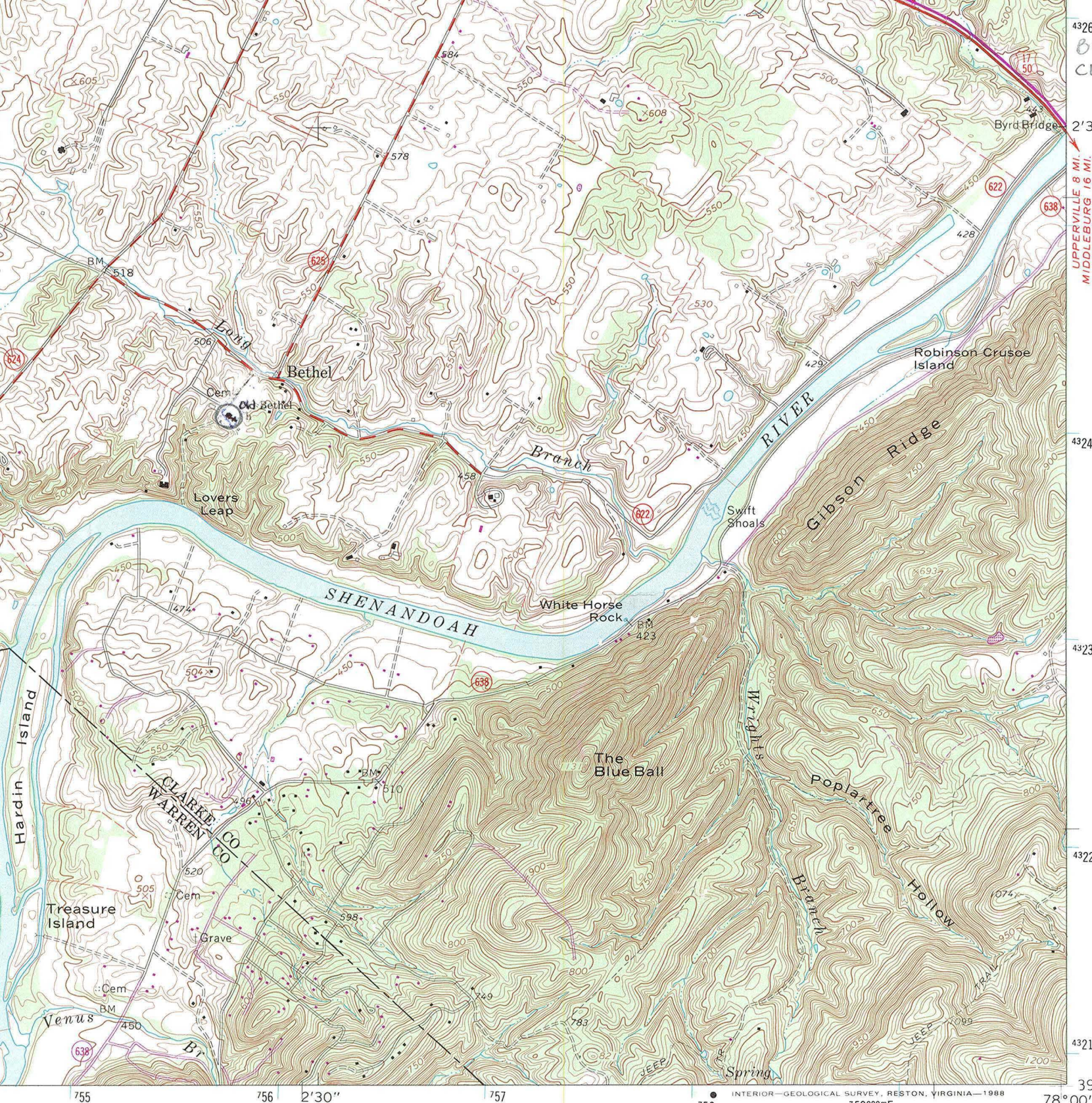
TERRENCE J. GIROUX  
D.B. 171, P. 231



LAND OF  
BETHEL BAPTIST MEMORIAL CHURCH  
(DEED BOOK 28, PAGE 303 & DEED BOOK 145, PAGE 26)  
(TRACT NO. 10 AND TRACT NO. 10A ON TAX MAP NO. 37)

1.43 ACRES

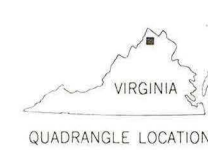




BETHEL MEMORIAL CHURCH  
CLARKE CO., VA  
UTM REFERENCES  
17/755645/4323940

1989

1 MILE  
0 5000 6000 7000 FEET  
1 KILOMETER  
0 FEET  
DATUM OF 1929  
P ACCURACY STANDARDS  
ORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903  
YMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
move the projection lines 8 meters south and  
24 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt =====  
U. S. Route State Route

BOYCE, VA.  
39078-A1-TF-024

1966  
PHOTOREVISED 1978

(UPPERVILLE)  
5461 IV NW