

VLR- 6/16/99

NRHP- 3/31/00

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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 any 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 New Prospect Church

other names/site number New Prospect Baptist Church, DHR # 009-5211

2. Location

street & number 4445 Sheep Creek Road not for publication N/A
city or town Bedford vicinity _____
state Virginia code VA county Bedford code 019 Zip 24523

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

M. Catherine Alusse 2/15/2000
Signature of certifying official Date

Virginia 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: removed from the National Register
 entered in the National Register other (explain): _____
 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the National Register _____
Signature of Keeper

 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register Date of Action _____

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New Prospect Church (9-5211)
Bedford County, VA

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 Mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

roof Metal

walls Wood: weatherboard

other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
See attached continuation sheet

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.)

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

 Religion

 Architecture

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Period of Significance _ 1880-1949 _____

Significant Dates _ 1880 _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

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

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more 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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property ___ 1 -- - acre _____

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 17_628680_ 4142950_ 2 _____

3 _____ 4 _____

___ See continuation sheet.

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New Prospect Church (9-5211)
Bedford County, VA

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

See attached continuation sheets and maps.

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

See attached continuation sheets.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: June Laughlin, member

Organization: New Prospect Church date September 1998

street & number: 3037 Owl Town Road telephone 540-586-8829

city or town Bedford state VA zip code 24523

(See continuation sheet)

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

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name New Prospect Church

street & number 4445 Sheep Creek Road telephone 540-586-5818

city or town Bedford state VA zip code 24523

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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New Prospect Church (9-5211)
Bedford County, VA

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7. Summary Description

New Prospect Church is located in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of rural northwestern Bedford County, Virginia, on an acre of ground 3.5 miles from the Peaks of Otter. This stark, simple, immaculately preserved white wood-framed structure sits on a small rise overlooking Sheep Creek, once known as Ewing's Creek.¹

The original church building, built in 1854 on adjoining property, was a log structure that had a balcony for the purpose of segregating the slaves from the remainder of the congregation, a common practice in that era. Unfortunately, the only remains of that building are in the memories of descendants of the original congregation.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, people preferred to bury their loved ones in plots set aside on their own lands as opposed to formal cemeteries. Family burial grounds were just that, a part of that family, and as such were considered sacred. The family often acted as the undertakers as well. In that era, family burial grounds were also much more easily accessed than a formal cemetery. It wasn't until the mid-1900s that people began using formal cemeteries routinely, but, by the time New Prospect Church was built, there was no land available connected to the church land that could be attained for a cemetery. The members of New Prospect Church's congregation have continued through the years, and as recently as 1993, to bury their loved ones in family burial grounds.²

The present church building was built in 1880 and is a rectangular building measuring 34 feet wide by 45 feet long, with a 13 ½-foot ceiling; it was originally built as a Baptist church. "Baptist church buildings in particular tend to be relatively plain, with virtually no purely decorative features inside or outside."³ This simplicity of design is often associated with the New England/Puritan or Pennsylvania/Amish style.⁴ With its low-pitched roof, plain frieze board, and simple pedimented gable, the church stands as a vernacular example of late Greek Revival architecture.⁵

The church has two entrances, one for the men and one for the women and children, again suggesting a connection to the Puritan or Amish building, conduct, and styles.⁶ There are two aisles running forward from each door, with rows of hard, straight pews facing forward along each aisle. The center section of pews is divided down the middle by a solid partition to further

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New Prospect Church (9-5211)
Bedford County, VA

Section 7 Page 2

Summary Description (continued)

segregate the genders inside the building.

New Prospect Church is similar to most Baptist churches of the Blue Ridge and Appalachian mountains. "Although plain, many of these churches radiate a certain charm. Indeed, their charm lies in their unadorned simplicity, their settings, and their aura of 'usedness'. This invented term, 'usedness', refers to a quality intrinsic to most of these small mountain Baptist churches. . . . [T]he sanctuaries of most churches (of this era and style) bespeak decades of wear. The picture is not one of disrepair, decay, and abandonment, however. Rather, in the discolored pews, scuffed floors, and virtually every feature of the building and its furnishings is visible that worn, grooved, polished quality we associate with objects long used."⁷

Exterior

After the congregation purchased the land for \$5.00 in 1876,⁸ it took four years to clear the site of the chestnut, oak, pine, and poplar forest growing there and then to level the earth with pick and shovel. A foundation of native stone could then be laid using a 4-foot rounded boulder on the northeast corner as the cornerstone. During this time of clearing and leveling, trees from the site and from the congregation's own lands were cut and planed by hand into timbers, beam, and boards to be set aside to season for at least one year. Seasoning weather-proofed the lumber. Once the foundation was complete and the lumber properly seasoned, the walls of the one-story, one-room building were erected using oak beams; the floor and ceiling used oak timbers. Native timber was also used for weatherboard siding. A gabled tin roof topped the structure. The six windows were constructed in a 6-over-6 design, using handmade glass. Much of the original glass is still intact and in place. Shutters were attached to each window using hinges and fasteners crafted at the blacksmith shop a mile down the road. The entry doors are made of solid wood.

Interior

New Prospect Church is one large room with a 13 ½-foot ceiling. The original pews, still in use, were built inside the church and pegged to the floor; the church will seat 200 people. The pews are long, narrow in the seat, and nearly straight backed; they all face the front, with the exception

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New Prospect Church (9-5211)
Bedford County, VA

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Summary Description (continued)

of a small choir section on either side of the pulpit platform. The pews are painted dark red, and several in the back of the church show evidence of generations of young persons' names carved into the wood.

The original oil lamps, suspended from the ceiling but made to be lowered for lighting, were converted to electricity in 1948. Each of the three light fixtures contains three lamps, and of these nine lamps, eight have the original glass shades. The church originally heated by a wood stove; then coal was used, and then fuel oil. Since 1991, when New Prospect Church was reopened, it has been heated by one wood stove and one fuel oil stove. Electricity is used at New Prospect Church primarily for lighting purposes. There is no running water.

Alterations

The interior walls were plastered in the early 1900s; electricity and electrical wiring were added for lighting in 1948.⁹ The floor was tiled, date unknown; a cement sidewalk was poured, date unknown. There have never been any additions made to the church building. It remains as simple in design and structure today as it was when it was first built over 100 years ago and is the only Baptist church building still standing in Bedford County, Virginia, in its original condition. The simple, rural churches of America are vanishing, being replaced by large, fancy churches where individuals are lost in a crowd of strangers. But some churches, such as New Prospect Church, have managed to survive due to the loyalty of a handful of community members. "In fact, so deep can this loyalty run that long after shifting population patterns, new roads, new churches down the way, or other factors eliminate the need for the particular church, one, two, or three members go to great lengths to keep the small facility viable. Throughout our mountains, these churches testify to a determination to preserve that which is loved and considered sacred."¹⁰ New Prospect Church, the centerpiece of this once-thriving mountain community, is doing its best to preserve this piece of history and symbol of a more tranquil era. Such an unchanged part of our spiritual and cultural history is indeed rare.

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New Prospect Church (9-5211)
Bedford County, VA

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8. Statement of Significance

Integrity Statement

New Prospect Church has retained remarkable architectural integrity since the date of its construction in 1880. The church's stone foundation, frame walls, and clapboard siding remain intact. Window, door, and pew placement are unchanged. Original light fixtures, old pews, and old heating survive in place. Interior walls were plastered around 1900, and lights were converted to electricity in 1948. At unknown dates the church floor was tiled and an exterior concrete block stove chimney was added. After the church reopened in 1991, a wooden cross and a brass bell were attached to the pedimented gable end of the entrance façade. Save for the addition of three metal crosses constructed from pipe, the pourings of a cement sidewalk, and the installation of a parking lot across Rt. 689, the church grounds retain their original rural setting and integrity.

Summary

New Prospect Church, located in Bedford County, Virginia, on the western flank of the Peaks of Otter, is a rare surviving example of a vernacular Greek Revival style 1880 church with remarkably few alterations. This pristine, frame, one-room church and its log predecessor built in 1854 have served the spiritual needs of the rural community of Reba for almost a century and a half.

Justification of Criteria

New Prospect Church is a locally significant religious property noteworthy for its architectural distinction as a virtually unaltered vernacular Greek Revival style place of worship that served the community needs of a rural neighborhood situated in relative isolation on the Piedmont slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains. New Prospect Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as a modest place of worship that has provided more than a century of religious leadership and moral guidance for the remote rural mountainside community of Reba. Built in 1880, the church is also eligible under Criterion C as an exceptionally intact example of late vernacular Greek Revival style architecture.

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New Prospect Church (9-5211)
Bedford County, VA

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Historical Background

Men began seeking land in the Blue Ridge Mountains in the late 1700s and early 1800s as this country began to explore its natural boundaries. They looked for places to raise families and crops and to find peace and quiet. Some found just that in the northwest corner of what is now known as Bedford County, Virginia, and which because known as the community of Reba at that time. Though the soil was too hilly and rocky to grow acres of crops, it was well suited for small family gardens and fruit orchards, and the area abounded with game. Trips down the mountain to the town of Liberty (now the City of Bedford) were events planned very few times a year, for the purpose of picking up supplies that could not be found or made at home, and were arduous trips by wagon over rough, rocky terrain. Families grew in the community, and by 1850 the Reba area was a busy community that supported a grist mill, a saw mill, a blacksmith shop, a tanyard, a cooper's shop, a post office, and a general store known as Elliott's Store.

During the early 1800s, "there occurred the extraordinary spiritual awakening which has become known as the Great Revival of the 1800s."¹¹ "This great awakening . . . began with the Presbyterians in Logan County, Kentucky, and spread to Tennessee, North and South Carolina, and into the state of Virginia. Virginians shared greatly in the experience of revival during this period. Many have said 'the Great Revival was one of the most wonderful spiritual events of modern times.' It was during this period of the Great Revival that Bedford County, Virginia, began to experience a great awakening among Baptists."¹² In the early 1850s, the Reba community responded to the spirit of the Great Revival and recognized its need for spiritual and moral guidance. Because travel was difficult in those days, people rarely left the community in which they lived; thus the decision was made to build a church within reach.

In August 1854 members of New Prospect Baptist Church organized themselves into a body as a branch of Suck Spring Church; Suck Spring Church was founded around 1803 and was located six miles east of Reba. The founding members of New Prospect Church included moderator William Harris, clerk John Calvin Hatcher, deacon John Karnes, brothers M. W. Read and T. J. Overstreet, and sisters Frances Overstreet, Mariah Coleman, Mildred Welch, Susan Carter, and M. W. Morris. M. W. Read served as pastor in 1856. Brother Harris performed those duties in 1857.¹³ Men of the community donated oak and chestnut trees from their own lands which they cut down by hand and then dragged to the place designated as the church site. A log building

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New Prospect Church (9-5211)
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Statement of Significance (continued)

was built in 1854.

With the end of the Civil War and the beginning of the Reconstruction Era came the decision to build a new, larger church building on adjacent property. In 1876 John C. Hatcher and wife Rebecca donated 1 acre of land to New Prospect Church trustees “for the purpose of building a house of worship for said [New Prospect] Baptist Church.”¹⁴ Again, the men of the community donated the trees from their lands, chopping them down with manual labor and using hand tools such as the adze to shape the wood into boards. The lumber was then seasoned for a year before it was hauled by horse and oxen to the building site, which was obtained from John C. Hatcher and wife Rebecca for the sum of \$5.00. The trustees of the church at that time were Patrick Hatcher, a cousin of John C. Hatcher; James V. Cobbs, who had two daughters that married sons of John C. Hatcher; and Samuel M. Overstreet.¹⁵ The entire community then came together to erect the building on this site, which had been gradually cleared of trees and boulders and leveled by pick and shovel in preparation for the church. In addition to James Cobbs, John and Patrick Hatcher, and Samuel Overstreet, male members of New Prospect Church who contributed to construction of the new church in the mid-1870s included James W. Hatcher, Henry Overstreet, Charles Overstreet, T. J. Cottrell, and Thomas Wood. All of these men are listed in the 1880 manuscript census as Bedford County farmers of modest means.¹⁶

As the congregation approached completion of their new sanctuary in the summer of 1879, a committee composed of J. Watson Hatcher, John S. Johnson, and C. H. Wilkenson drafted rules for church governance, rules based on the resolution “that we as a band of Christians do take as our guide the revealed word of the Sacred Scriptures and the doctrine therein taught by our divine Savior and Master.” Church members were to meet once a month for deliberations about church business. Discussions would avoid “unkind personal reflections.” Minutes would be read from the last meeting. Members had to account for their absence from church services if they missed three consecutive meetings. Church matters would be decided by majority vote of the members. Dancing, gambling, and drunkenness would be dealt with by the church, as would all “other conduct unbecoming a Christian and by which we cannot advance the Redeemer’s cause.” Church members were duty bound to make financial contributions to the church. Applicants for church membership would be judged by the fitness of their experience of Christian hope.¹⁷

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Once construction was completed, the church became the centerpiece of this thriving community. It generally shared a preacher with Walnut Grove Union Church over the next ridge to the west, holding Sunday School every Sunday and full services with the preacher two to four times each month.¹⁸ Church members reached the church by crossing mountain streams and passing through forests, up hill and down, mostly on foot and some from as far away as 8 miles.¹⁹ What roads there were were poor, and a bridge usually consisted of a foot log. Few enjoyed the luxury of a riding horse or a horse-drawn carriage. It wasn't until the late 1940s that cars began to be commonplace on the mountain.²⁰

One of New Prospect Church's early pastors was the Reverend James R. Harrison, who served in 1863. He was an important figure in the Southern Baptist Association during the latter half of the 1800s, campaigning for prohibition and also for the higher education of young women.²¹ Reverend Harrison was a dedicated and renowned evangelist with the Southern Baptist Association; he also founded Virginia Intermont College in Bristol, Virginia, in 1884.

During the post-Civil War years, one of New Prospect Church's members was Sergeant Jeff Cottrell. Sergeant Cottrell was a blacksmith who had the honor of serving his country as the farrier for General Robert E. Lee's horse Traveler during the war. Sergeant Cottrell's family had settled in the Reba area generations before, and after the war he returned to the family property to live out his life.²²

The Hatcher family played a prominent role in the history of New Prospect Church. John Calvin Hatcher purchased land on Sheep Creek from the Cottrells in 1850, was a founder of New Prospect Church in 1854, and donated a portion of his farmland for the present church in 1876. His son John Calvin Hatcher, Jr., served as clerk of the church and as a Bedford County justice of the peace. Another son, J. Watson Hatcher, served on the committee that prepared rules of governance for New Prospect Church in 1879. J. Watson Hatcher's nephew, Watson Calvin Hatcher, acquired title to the Hatcher farm after his father's death in 1902, served as a Bedford County deputy sheriff, and attended services at New Prospect Church until his death in 1959. Watson C. Hatcher's wife Viola and children Calvin Perkins Hatcher and Barbara Ann Hatcher also attended services at New Prospect Church before Viola's death in 1970.²³

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Statement of Significance (continued)

The original construction of New Prospect Church in 1880 was done entirely by the hands of the local residents, as have been all repairs and maintenance to this very day. The emphasis on simplicity of design is still very obvious, and every effort has been taken to preserve that simplicity. Over the years, few improvements have been made to the building, with the exception of electricity, added in 1948; the church does not have running water or electric heat.²⁴ What repairs have been necessary have been made in such a fashion as to not alter the church's basic construction or appearance.

Throughout the history of New Prospect Church, male members of its congregation have marched off to fight various wars, and still the building has been well maintained. New Prospect Church never saw any battles of the Civil War, though skirmishes were fought against the Union Army a mere 7 miles away from the church site on the east side of the Peaks of Otter. For all but 20 of the past 119 years this church has been open and available for worship for residents of the rural mountainside community of Reba. Church leaders included the Reverend James R. Harrison, Sargeant Jeff Cottrell, and various members of the Hatcher family. No comparable Bedford County church built around 1880 remains in as good condition and in use today.²⁵

Although the church and its immediate surroundings have retained excellent integrity, the surrounding community reflects inevitable changes over time. The tanyard, the mills, the blacksmith shop, and Elliott's Store, which were just as big a part of this community as New Prospect Church, no longer function and, except for Elliott's Store, are barely discernible in their original locations. Sheep Creek Road has been paved up to the church. New families have moved to the area, though descendants of the original congregation far outnumber the newcomers. The community is proud of its history, and New Prospect Church symbolizes the continuity of life here.

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9. Endnotes

- 1 Bedford County Deed Book 49, 228-229. Bedford County Circuit Court, Bedford, Virginia.
- 2 Bedford County Death Register Book 12, 11-19. Bedford County Circuit Court, Bedford, Virginia.
- 3 Dorgan, Howard, *Giving Glory to God in Appalachia*, Knoxville, Tennessee: University of Tennessee Press, 1987, 2.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 *The Volume Library*, Nashville, Tennessee: The Southwestern Company, 1995, 75.
- 6 Dorgan 1987: 2.
- 7 Ibid., 6.
- 8 Bedford County Deed Book 49, 228-229. Bedford County Circuit Court, Bedford, Virginia.
- 9 Interview with Junior Bowyer, Bedford County, January 1996.
- 10 Dorgan 1987: 2.
- 11 Pearson, William H., *Along the Timber Ridge Trail 1805-1971*, Lowry, Virginia: Emporium Printing and Packaging Corporation, 1971, 1.
- 12 Ibid.
- 13 New Prospect Baptist Church Records, Bedford City/County Museum, Bedford, Virginia.
- 14 Bedford County Deed Book 49, 228-229. Bedford County Circuit Court, Bedford,

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Endnotes (continued)

Virginia.

15 Ackerly, Mary Denham, and Parker, Lula Eastman Jeter, *Our Kin*, Harrisonburg, Virginia: C. J. Carrier Company, 1976, 52. The property description for the 1876 deed from the Hatchers suggests that the newly donated land adjoined a road to the earlier church.

16 New Prospect Baptist Church Records.

17 New Prospect Baptist Church Records, provided by Barbara Ann Hatcher, Bedford, Virginia.

18 Strawberry Baptist Association, *The Early Trails of the Baptists: A History of the Strawberry Baptist Association 1776-1976*, Bedford, Virginia: Strawberry Baptist Association, 1976, 169.

19 Pearson 1971: 3.

20 Bedford Museum Exhibit, *Elliott's Store*, Bedford, Virginia, 1998, 2nd floor.

21 Strawberry Baptist Association 1976: 128.

22 Interview with Jeff Clemens, Bedford County, Virginia, September 1997.

23 Kern, John, Hatcher Farm, Bedford County, Virginia. Preliminary Information Form. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 1999.

24 Interview with Junior Bowyer, Bedford County, Virginia, January 1996.

25 Strawberry Baptist Association 1976: 169.

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Bibliography

Ackerly, Mary Denham, and Parker, Lula Eastman Jeter. *Our Kin* (Harrisonburg, Virginia: C. J. Carrier Company, 1976).

Bedford County Deed Book 49. Bedford County Circuit Court, Bedford, Virginia.

Bedford County Death Register Book 12. Bedford County Circuit Court, Bedford, Virginia.

Bedford County Museum, Bedford, Virginia. *Exhibit on Elliott's Store*.

Dorgan, Howard. *Giving Glory to God in Appalachia* (Knoxville, Tennessee: University of Tennessee Press, 1987).

Interviews with Morris Arrington, Junior Bowyer, Becky Carter, Francis Carter, Jeff Clemens, Nelson Cottrell, and Barbara Hatcher, Bedford County, Virginia, October 1995-March 1998.

Kern, John. Hatcher Farm, Bedford County, Virginia Preliminary Information Form (009-5201). Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia, 1999.

New Prospect Baptist Church Records. Bedford City/County Museum, Bedford, Virginia.

New Prospect Baptist Church Records. Barbara Ann Hatcher, Bedford, Virginia.

Oyer, Harold B. *History of Morgan's Baptist Church 1771-1971* (Paragould, Arkansas: White Printing Company, 1971).

Pearson, William H. *Along the Timber Ridge Trail 1805-1971* (Lowry, Virginia: Emporium Printing and Packaging Corporation, 1971).

Strawberry Baptist Association. *The Early Trails of the Baptists: A History of the Strawberry Baptist Association 1776-1976* (Private publication, 1976).

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Bibliography (continued)

The Volume Library (Nashville, Tennessee: The Southwestern Company, 1995).

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for New Prospect Church are presented on Bedford County tax map 53, section A, parcel 11.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire 1 acre +/- property deeded to New Prospect Baptist Church in 1876.

11. Form Prepared By

Form edited and revised by

John Kern, Director RRPO
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
1030 Penmar Avenue, SE
Roanoke, VA 24013

November 1999
(540)857-7585

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Photographs

All photographs were taken by June C. Laughlin, are of New Prospect Church, Bedford County, Virginia, and are recorded on negative number 16755, which is located at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. VDHR File Number 009-5211. All photographs were taken June 1998.

- PHOTO 1 OF 22: South elevation, view looking north.
- PHOTO 2 OF 22: South elevation, view looking north.
- PHOTO 3 OF 22: Southwest elevation, view looking northeast.
- PHOTO 4 OF 22: West elevation, view looking east.
- PHOTO 5 OF 22: Northwest elevation, cornerstone of building.
- PHOTO 6 OF 22: North elevation, cornerstone of building.
- PHOTO 7 OF 22: Owl Town Road, separating church yard from parking area, view looking southeast.
- PHOTO 8 OF 22: Intersection of Owl Town Road and Sheep Creek Road, view looking southwest.
- PHOTO 9 OF 22: Sheep Creek Road, property boundary, view looking northwest.
- PHOTO 10 OF 22: Church yard and Owl Town Road, view looking southeast.
- PHOTO 11 OF 22: Church yard, east elevation.
- PHOTO 12 OF 22: Stone foundation, west elevation.

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Photographs (continued)

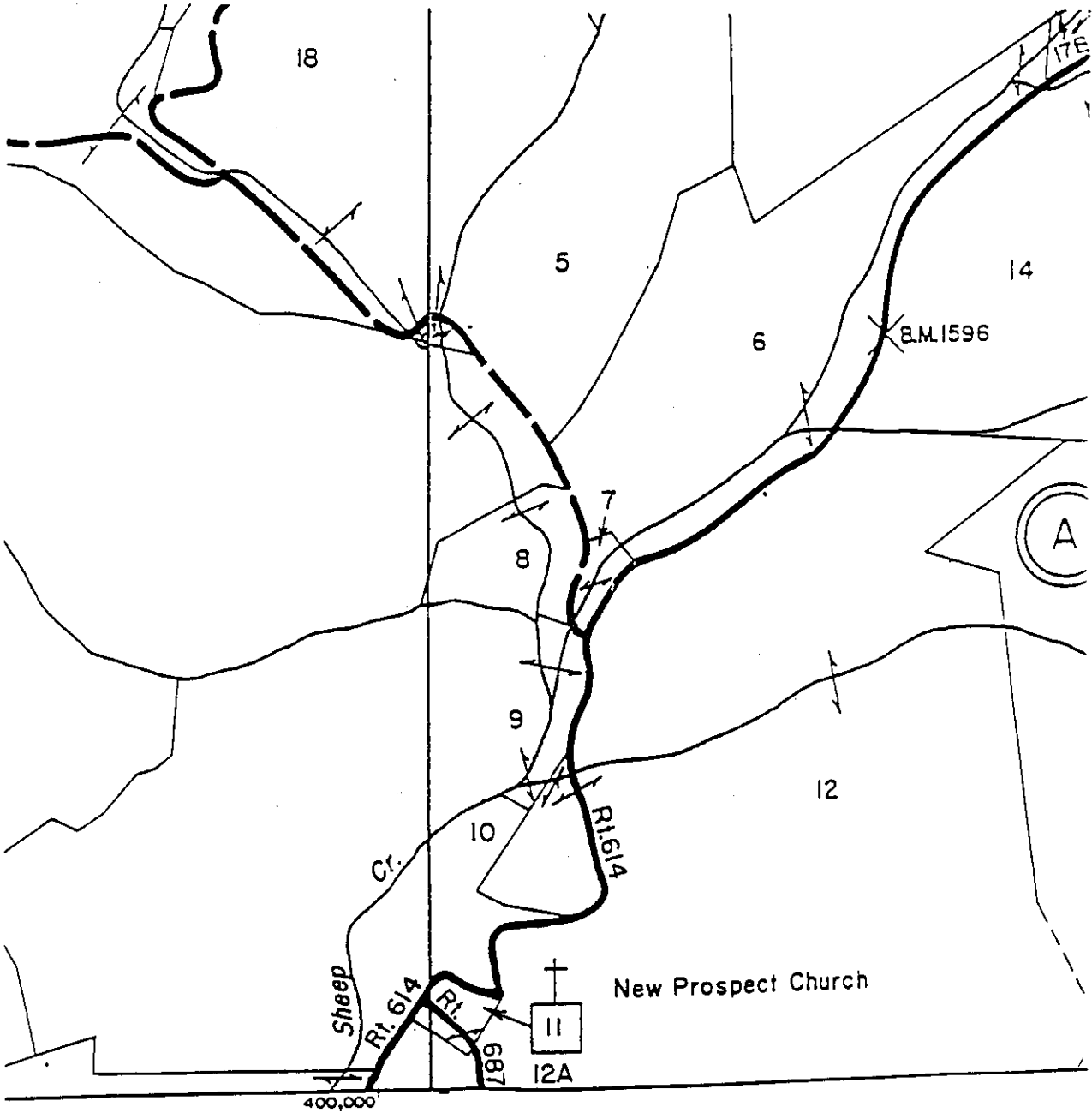
- PHOTO 13 OF 22: Window and foundation, west wall.
- PHOTO 14 OF 22: Hand-forged window hinge.
- PHOTO 15 OF 22: Interior, facing west.
- PHOTO 16 OF 22: Interior, facing west.
- PHOTO 17 OF 22: Pulpit platform, original oil lamps on wall, handcrafted wooden cross, handcrafted candle stands, facing northwest.
- PHOTO 18 OF 22: Interior, facing southwest.
- PHOTO 19 OF 22: Wood-burning stove, facing southwest.
- PHOTO 20 OF 22: Ceiling lights, originally oil-burning, converted to electricity in 1948.
- PHOTO 21 OF 22: Antique player piano, converted to manual, facing west.
- PHOTO 22 OF 22: East elevation, facing west.

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New Prospect Church (9-5211)
Bedford County, VA

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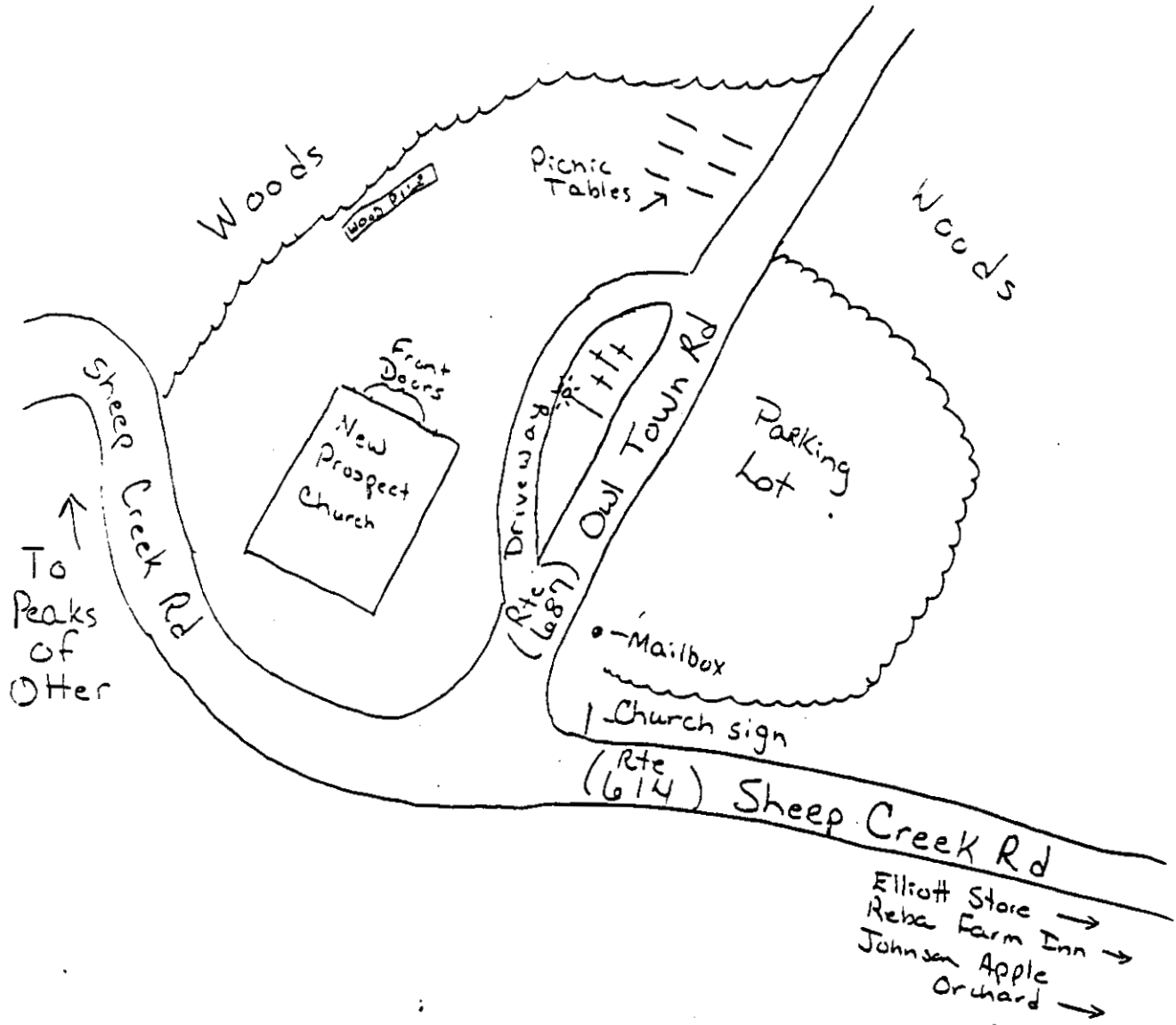


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

New Prospect Church (9-5211)
Bedford County, VA

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North
↙

Property boundaries are
Sheep Creek Rd and the woods line

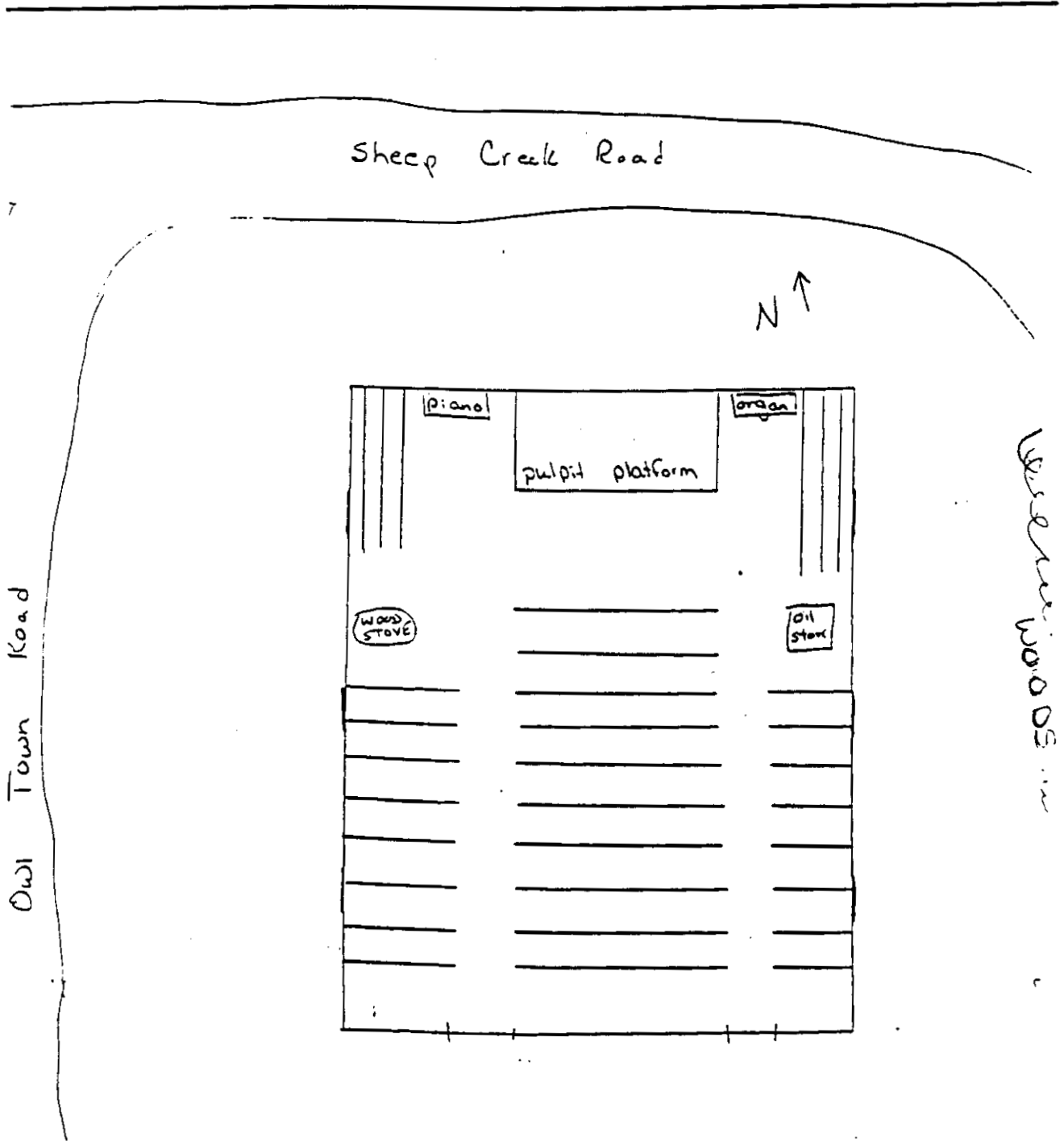
Not to scale

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

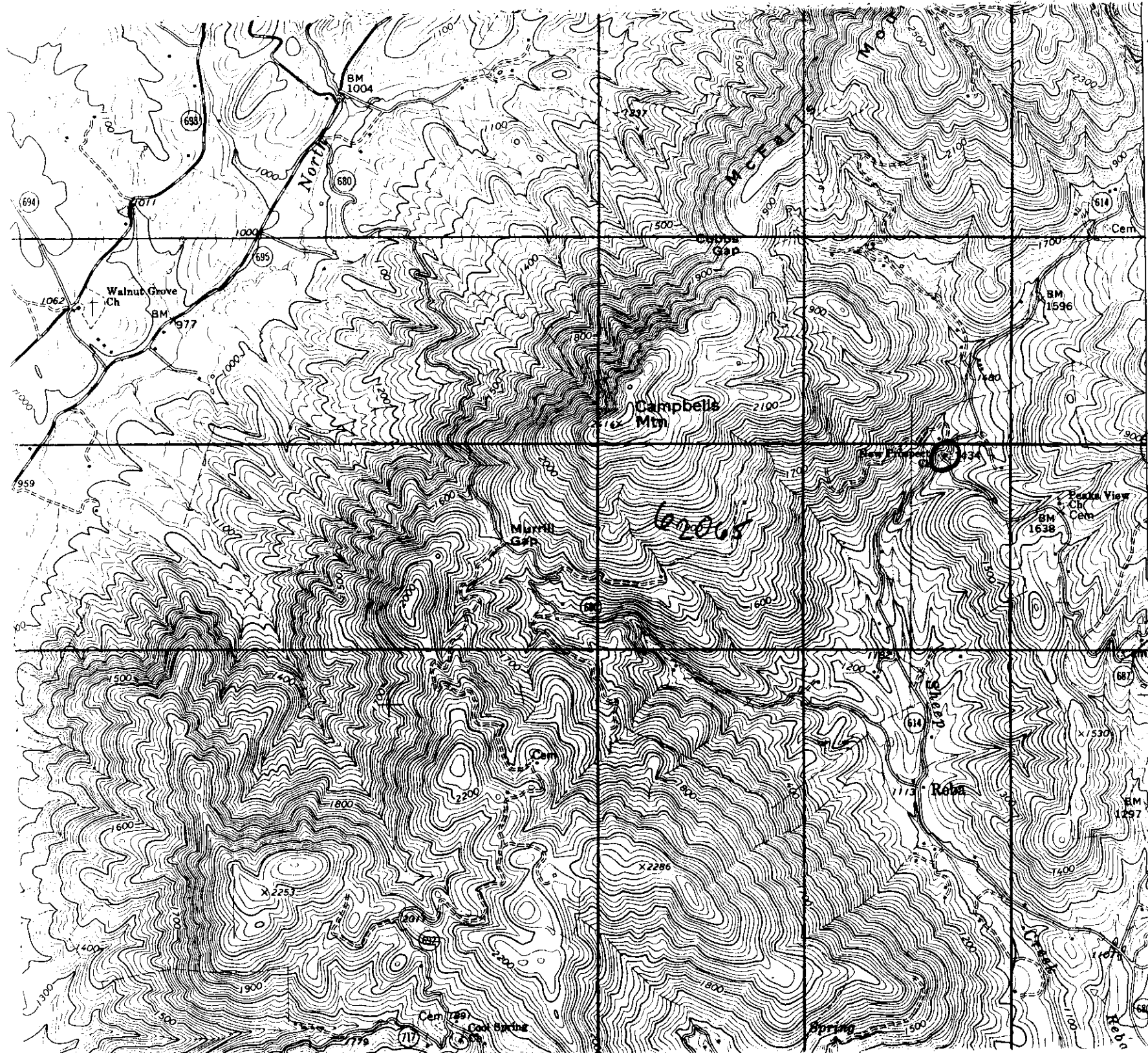
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

New Prospect Church (9-5211)
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Floor plan - not to scale *used for wood storage*



(PEAKS OF OTTER)
5058 / NE

NEW PROSPECT
CHURCH
BELLFLORE CO., VA

UTM Reference
17/620680/
4142950

MONTVALE
USGS

4143
4142
25'
4141