

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED <u>May 24 1979</u>

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

Mt. Salem Baptist Meeting House (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Mt. Salem Baptist Church

2 LOCATION

North side of Rt. 626 south of intersection with Rt. 627

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Washington

VICINITY OF

Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Rappahannock

CODE

157

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"/> COMMERICAL
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES - RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES - UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY (See Continuation Sheet #1)

NAME

Trustees of Mt. Salem Church c/o Ms. Anne Keyser

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Washington

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 22747

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Rappahannock County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

Virginia 22747

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1958

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

# 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

Mt. Salem Baptist Meeting House is set on a wooded incline on the south spur of Long Mountain, southeast of Washington in Rappahannock County. Begun in March 1850, the structure was occupied in January 1851, although apparently it was not finished by that time.

The church is a one-story, gable-roofed structure built, as the congregation specified, of (dry-laid rubble) stone, 50 feet by 40 feet, and covered with scored stucco. The long sides are three bays in length with large 12/12/12 sash reproducing the originals and three-panel wooden shutters. The east gable-end is two bays wide, with doors in each of the ground-floor bays, 6/6 sash in the second floor, and a lunette in the gable. The west gable is blind. A light molded cornice adorns the eaves, and the whole is covered with standing-seam sheet metal through which project two small brick stove flues.

The interior of the church is very plain. It is a single open room with a gallery over the rear third of the room. This is divided on its face into three bays, each with a single recessed, applied-mold panel with the whole supported on a pair of Tuscan columns. In the southeast corner of the first floor, an enclosed stair provides access to the gallery. This is unusual in that steps ascend both from the inside and from an exterior door on the south wall. The two flights meet at a landing the width of a single tread and then ascend the remaining distance to the gallery.

Against the blank west wall is a platform for the pulpit. The original pews, which had been removed from the church during its vacancy, have since been recovered. The only other decorations are the Benjamineque door and window heads with their corner blocks, central tablets, and ramped lintels.

The church also retains a late 19th-century, Eastlake-style pump organ. Like the pews, it was once lost, but has since been returned to the church.

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

DU

The register bounds approximate the one-acre lot that the church sits on and consist of the road at the south and west and the limits of the cleared area at the north and east.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input 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      1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Henry Miller, Supt.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Begun in 1850, Rappahannock County's Mt. Salem Baptist Meeting House is an excellently preserved and well-documented example of a rural Virginia church of the mid-19th century. Typical of such remote structures, the exterior is architecturally conservative, having more the character of a Federal-style building of the preceding generation. The few details of the interior, on the other hand, are in the more up-to-date Greek Revival style inspired by the pattern books of Asher Benjamin. A distinctive feature of the building is the unique framing system of the roof, consisting of a bewildering plenitude of members braced longitudinally rather than in trusses. The overly complicated system is probably a reflection of the inexperience of the builders.

Mt. Salem was organized November 27, 1824, when its members met to draw up their constitution. William F. Broaddus was chosen pastor. The membership list included males and females, whites and blacks, the latter an unusual nomenclature for Negroes in the 19th century. Apparently a meeting house was built sometime shortly after the organization, as it, along with a schoolhouse, is mentioned in the 1828 deed to the trustees of the church from the landowners, Mr. O'Bannon and Mr. Arden. The schoolhouse was used as a school during the week and on Sundays served as a meeting place for the congregation to conduct their business. The minutes of the business meetings of the Mt. Salem congregation are complete from 1824 to 1904 and reveal not only the history of the operation of the church but also much about the moral and social atmosphere of the community. Members of the church who were accused of unseemly behavior had hearings similar to a court case before their peers. In one case Brother Jones was accused of selling slaves for "mere gain", a practice strongly opposed by the church. In defense he said he was only doing it to raise money to pay his just debts.

In 1830 a resolution was offered thanking the community for their help in completing and making repairs to the meeting house. This was the earlier building replaced by the present structure by 1851. It is clear that the congregation was not a wealthy one, as they were not always able to send representatives to the Baptist Association meetings. Great care was expended in plans for the present structure. Two years were spent in soliciting funds for the building following the decision to build a new house of worship rather than repair the old one in May of 1848. Finally in March of 1850, a resolution was offered that the meeting house should be built 50 feet by 40 feet on the outside, the building material to be of stone. These measurements are the exact ones of the present structure.

In March 1851 Henry Miller, one of three men appointed to make the original arrangements, was paid \$75 for supervising the work, yet as late as July 1852, the house was still not finished. The congregation ordered the building committee to sell all of the leftover building materials "after the meeting house is completed" along with parts of the old meeting house and to use the money to repair the remaining portion of the old house for use as a schoolhouse. Thus, the 1824 meeting house was supplanted by the present one and was substantially altered, indeed partly demolished, in 1852. (See Continuation Sheet #1)

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Culpeper County Deed Book VV.  
Mt. Salem Church, Church Book, MS., Rappahannock County Clerk's Office, Washington, Va.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

Quadrangle Scale 1:24000

### UTM REFERENCES

Quadrangle Name Washington, Va.

A 

17	749770	4284190
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point 200' E of State Route 626 and 4000' S of the intersection of State Routes 627 and 626; thence extending 200' SSE to N side of State Route 626; thence extending 200' SSW along said route; then continuing 200' NNW along said route; thence extending 200' NNE to point of origin.

### 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

DATE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

December 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

221 Governor Street

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Richmond

Virginia 23219

## STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

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

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director

DATE DEC 19 1978

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE May 24 1979

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

- Mt. Salem Baptist Meeting House, Rappahannock County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6,4 & 8 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1968, 1978 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

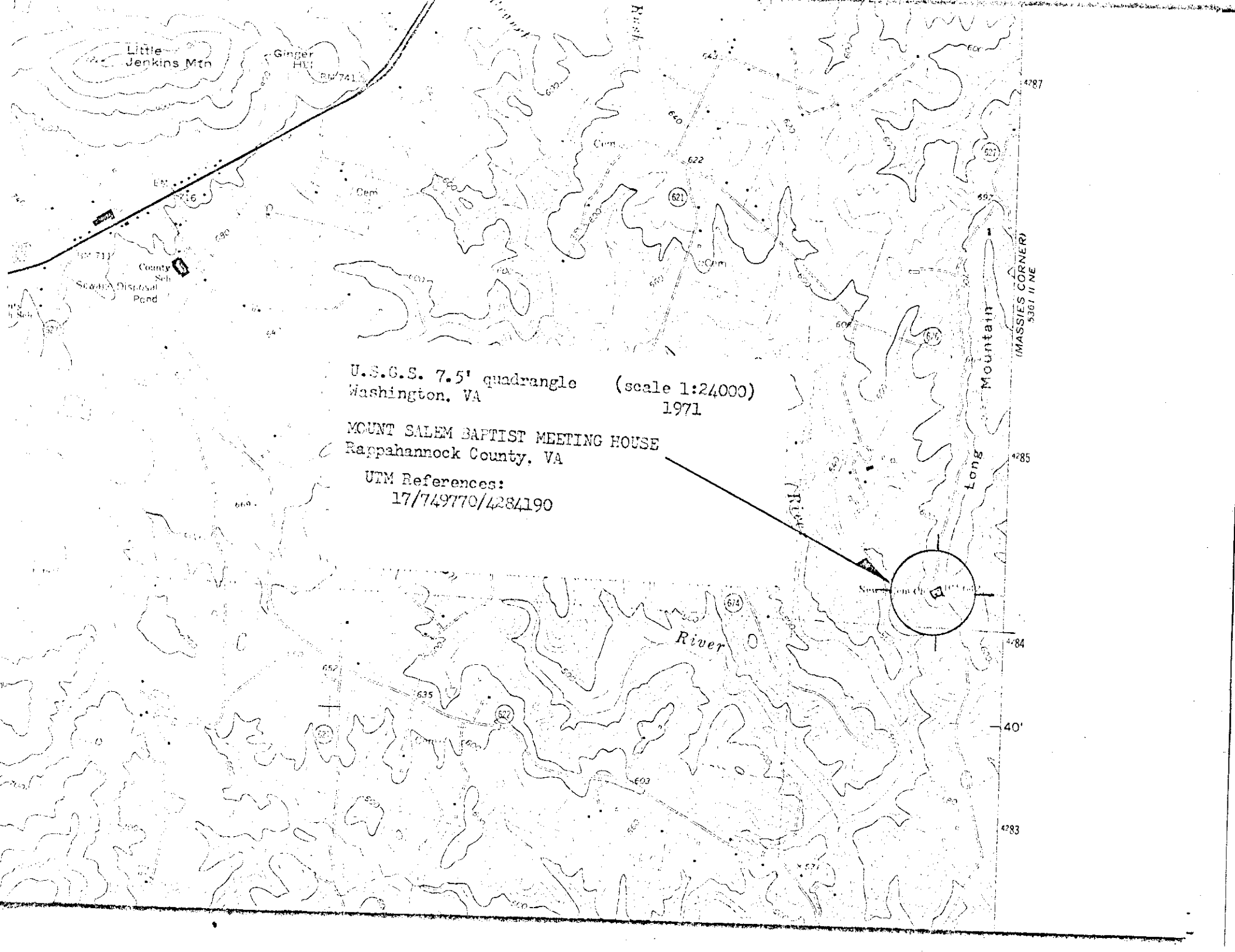
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Trustees of Mt. Salem Church:  
George Davis  
Jeannette Pullen  
Clara Updike  
Anne Keyser  
Louise O'Bannon  
James Burke

8. SIGNIFICANCE

The congregation continued to flourish during the rest of the century. In 1859 an order was issued to have the gable ends of the meeting house secured; in 1875 a motion was made to employ a carpenter to superintend the shingling of the meeting house roof. The carefully preserved minute books continue until 1904. The congregation continued to be an active one until the church was closed in 1942, and except for a brief period in 1959, the church was unused until 1977 when it was restored and placed back in monthly service. A group today is actively working to raise funds for Mt. Salem's preservation.

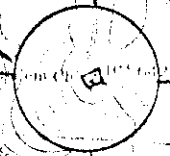
MTP/DU



U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle  
Washington, VA (scale 1:24000)  
1971

MOUNT SALEM BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE  
Rappahannock County, VA

UTM References:  
17/749770/4284190



4287

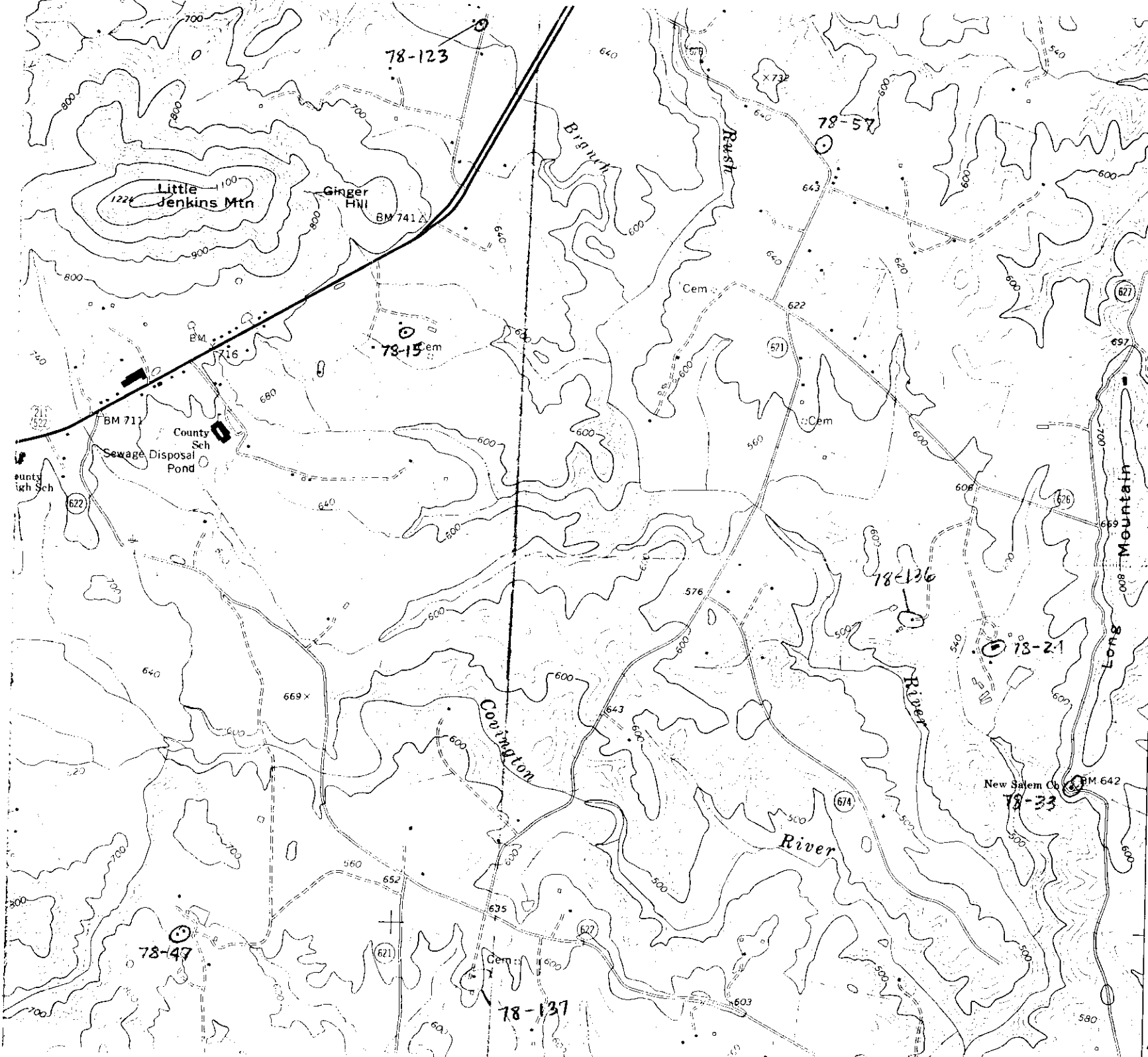
4285

4284

40'

4283

(MASSIES CORNER)  
536111 NE



SEA 2 EASTING ONLY  
 CO. JAIL  
 222-6 TRAIL QUILITY

78-15 GREENFIELD

Washington, 7-5

(MASSIES CORNER)  
 536111 NE

78-24 JESSUP HILL

78-33 MT. SALEM

NATIONAL HIGHWAY

78-17 THE SHADE

4287  
 4285  
 4284  
 40'  
 4283