

VLR-9/9/69 NRHP-11/12/69

81-66

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Rockbridge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: .6 mi. SE of Mill Creek, SE side of Rt. 11, .3 mi. SW of intersection of Rt. 11 and Rt. 716.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45 COUNTY: Rockbridge CODE: 163

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
No: <input type="checkbox"/>				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Lexington Presbytery for Timber Ridge Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Staunton STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Rockbridge County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lexington STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Rockbridge
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>			Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

As originally built Timber Ridge Church was a very simple one-story rectangular structure of gray limestone, approximately 43'-10" x 35', covered by a gable roof. A shallow water table extended around all four walls and is retained on portions of the east and west walls. The interior apparently had a dirt floor with split logs for pews, and a pulpit with sounding board. The ceiling was possibly treated as a segmental vault, although it is currently a late-nineteenth-century wooden faceted affair.

The first major alteration of the church occurred in 1871 with the addition of a porch on the north wall containing three semi-circular arches and flanking ante-rooms. The original north wall behind the porch was stuccoed, and the original east door with its flat stone arch was closed up.

In 1899-1900 the church was almost completely remodelled, leaving little colonial fabric remaining except for portions of three walls and some of the roof timbers. All of the windows in the original portion were altered and enlarged so that they now possess semi-circular arched tops and diamond pane sash. Also added during the renovation were the transepts, choir, and most of the present interior finish and furniture. The present floor of the church slopes toward the pulpit. A large two-story stone wing containing educational facilities was added to the rear of the church around 1950.

The burying ground just to the east of the church but no longer in use contains tombstones dating as early as 1773.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1756

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> | Education <input type="checkbox"/> | Political <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Philosophy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry <input type="checkbox"/> | Science <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> | Invention <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Art <input type="checkbox"/> | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> | Music <input type="checkbox"/> | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The first congregation of Timber Ridge was organized in 1746 by John Blair, a Presbyterian minister who was a native of northern Ireland. The congregation was organized under the auspices of the New Light Presbyterians, a revivalist oriented branch of the Calvinist denomination. The first meeting house was a log structure and stood about two miles north of the present meeting house. Permission to worship was granted by the Augusta County Court on May 20, 1748.

One of the early leaders of the congregation was John Houston, great-grandfather of Sam Houston, President of the Republic of Texas, who himself was born at Timber Ridge Plantation, just south of the present church. It is said that it was John Houston who inspired the congregation to build the present stone meeting house.

The second or present meeting house was built in 1755-56. As the meeting house was built on the frontier during the French and Indian War, its stout limestone walls were constructed so that the building could be converted into a fort if necessary. There is a legend that the women of the congregation aided in the construction of the building, hauling sand for the mortar by packsaddle from the nearby South River.

Timber Ridge served as an important meeting place of the early Valley Presbyterians. The Hanover Presbytery met there in 1775, 1776, 1777, and 1784. Timber Ridge also had early ties with what is now Washington and Lee University. In 1776 the Augusta Academy, founded in 1773 by the Hanover Presbytery, was moved to Timber Ridge where it was supported entirely by the congregation for several years until it was moved again to near Lexington. Augusta Academy was renamed Liberty Hall in honor of the American Revolution; later it was moved to Lexington where it became first Washington College and finally Washington and Lee University. The old academy building stood near the meeting house until around 1838.

Although Timber Ridge has been considerably enlarged and altered in appearance during its more than two hundred years of existence, it remains the second oldest Presbyterian meeting house in the Valley of Virginia.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Foote, William Henry, Sketches of Virginia, Historical and Biographical, Richmond: John Knox Press, 1966.
 McClung, James W., Historical Significance of Rockbridge County, Staunton: McClure Company, Inc., 1939.
 Morton, Oren F., A History of Rockbridge County, Virginia, Staunton: 1920.
 Rawlings, James Scott, Virginia's Colonial Churches: An Architectural Guide, Richmond: Garrett and Massie, 1963.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	°	' "	° ' "
NE	° ' "	° ' "	°	' "	° ' "
SE	° ' "	° ' "	°	' "	° ' "
SW	° ' "	° ' "	°	' "	° ' "

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: July 30, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: _____
 Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
 Title: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST: _____

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Rockbridge	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #81-66
1968 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia Code: 45



LEXINGTON VIRGINIA

TRIENA VISTA

20'