

VLR-9/9/69 NRHP-11/12/69 NHL-4/15/70

96-31

Form 10-300  
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Yeocomico Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Yeocomico Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
.5 mi. SW of Tucker Hill on Rt. 606.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45 COUNTY: Westmoreland CODE: 193

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <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:  
Trustees of Cople Parish

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Cople Parish

CITY OR TOWN:  
Hague

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE:  
45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Westmoreland County Court House, Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Montross

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE:  
45

APPROXIMATE ACRAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 15 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937 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

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input 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 type="checkbox"/>		Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>		Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present Yeocomico Church is a most extraordinary structure recalling numerous architectural forms and trends yet retaining about it an almost artless quality. Laid out in the shape of an irregular T, the church is covered by a steep gable roof with a pronounced splay at the eaves of not only all three gables but in the roof of the porch as well. The overall dimensions of the church, excluding the porch, are 50'-8" north-to-south and 51'-4" east-to-west. The modillion cornice is not the original but is probably quite similar to it. The ends of the cornice sections at all three gables as well as the porch are marked by corbelled bricks, all of which are replacements. The brick bond throughout the building is quite varied and in some places laid in no regular order.

The porch is generally in Flemish bond with a fine diaper pattern above the unusual superimposed semicircular arches over the porch door. Inset above the arches are the initials "SCM" with a Scottish thistle below them. On the wall of the church inside the porch are crude half-round Doric columns of brick inset in the wall. The columns flank the famous wicket door, a large Tudor battened door with a separate smaller door set in it.

The brickwork along the remainder of the south wall is Flemish bond with glazed headers on either side of the porch which trails off into English bond and irregular bond in the remaining portions. Above the arch of the small door on this wall is a brick carved "R. L.", and inset high on the south wall near the southeast corner is "1706 IGI" with an English rose below the "G". A line in the brickwork between the double window and the small door to the east on the south wall may indicate that the east wing was a later extension. Both the east and west gable ends are laid in English bond while the north gable is generally Flemish with a belt course below the large gable windows. Below the circular window on the east gable end are the initials of eight vestrymen or workmen: "IB - IS - WL - IS - IC - IT - AD - TB". The brick bonds of the remaining walls are quite varied.

Surrounding the entire building is a low English bond ovolo water table most of which is hidden because of the changes of ground level.

Except for the round window high in the east gable end and the small double hung window on the north side of the east wing, the windows throughout the building are large double windows. The windows appear to be set in enlargements of the original openings as none have any sort of masonry arches above them. Most of the fabric of these windows seems to be early-nineteenth century, probably installed at the time the building was reoccupied.

The complex shape of the church results in an unusual interior arrangement. The altar is located in the east wing, but the nave is in the north wing, with the pulpit and choir along the south wall. There were galleries in the ends of both the north and west wings, but only the north gallery survives, retaining most of its original fabric including the balustrade. With the exception of the reading desk, which may be composed of part of the original pulpit, the gallery, and some of the exposed chamfered beams, all of the remaining woodwork including the pews is of either

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATES (If Applicable and Known)

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 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 checked="" 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"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>				
		Music	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

*Yeocomico is an Indian name*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Yeocomico Church, the only surviving colonial church in Westmoreland County, is situated in Cople Parish which was formed in 1662 from the lower part of Nominy Parish. Its name was derived from an English parish where some of the early settlers of the area supposedly originated. The church itself took its name from the nearby Yeocomico River which in turn derived its name from a local Indian tribe.

The first church on the present site was a frame structure erected around 1655 as a chapel of ease for Chicacone Parish, then part of Northumberland County. It has generally been assumed that the inscription "1706 IGI" located high on the south wall of the present church signifies the erection date of the existing building. However, because of the highly irregular form of the structure and the great variety of different brickwork patterns, it is very difficult to determine whether the church was completed in its present general form by 1706 or evolved into its present form by alterations and additions occurring from the late-seventeenth century to the early-twentieth century.

Despite the obscurity of its architectural history, this perplexing but charming building remains one of the most unusual colonial churches in America. Its blend of medieval and classical architectural features makes it significant as a transitional colonial structure. The medieval-style wicket door, the only such door surviving in America, flanked by Doric pilasters is only one illustration of this mixture of stylistic influences.

Like nearly every Virginia colonial church, Yeocomico underwent difficult times in the years following the Revolution. It is said that during the Revolution itself the church was used as a barracks. It was deserted after the Disestablishment and by the War of 1812 had fallen into great decay. An American patrol used it as shelter during that war, and they were reputed to have made some minor repairs to the structure. The Methodists assumed occupancy of the church after the war, but the Episcopalians were able to reclaim it by 1844. During the Civil War the building was once again used to quarter soldiers, this time the Confederate Home Guard. Since that time Yeocomico has enjoyed the placid existence of a rural Episcopal church although it received a major renovation in 1906 and further repairs in 1928 and again in 1958-59.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rawlings, James Scott, Virginia's Colonial Churches: An Architectural Guide. Richmond: 1963, pp. 50-58.  
 Rose, Harold Wickliffe, The Colonial Houses of Worship in America. New York: 1963, pp. 504-05.  
 Tyler, J. Poynte, Rev., "Yeocomico Church, Westmoreland County, Va." Colonial Churches in the Original Colony of Virginia. Richmond: 1908, 224-228.  
 Daniel, James R. V., "These Still Stand: Some Early Virginia Colonial Churches," Virginia Cavalcade, Vol. 1, No. 2 (Autumn 1952), 4-8.  
 O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia. New York: 1968, pp. 114-115.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	38 °	03'	50 "	76 °	35'	57 "	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	38 °	03'	50 "	76 °	35'	45 "						
SE	38 °	03'	37 "	76 °	35'	45 "						
SW	38 °	03'	37 "	76 °	35'	57 "						

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
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: August 11, 1969

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

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 1969

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
1958 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. Code: 08

Virginia Historical Landmarks Commission Report #VH-21  
1969 State  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia Code: 45

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7. nineteenth-or twentieth-century origin. Amazingly the church possesses its original Jacobean-style holy table and octagonal marble font.

Fortunately, Yeocomico's rural setting has been little changed although a modern cemetery has been located just outside the churchyard walls to the north.

24 July 1969

ST MARYS CO  
WESTMORELAND CO

Bonum Creek

S  
A  
N  
D  
Y

Tucker Hill

Westmoreland

Yeocomisco Episcopal Church  
← Appox. 15 Acres

Owner:

The Trustees of Cople Parish  
Cople Parish  
Hague, Va. 22469

Cople Parish  
Hague, Va.

