

✓LR-11/5/68 NRHP-10/8/69

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1958)

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: Prince George	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69.10.45.0045	DATE 10-2-69

1. NAME

COMMON:
Merchant's Hope Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Merchant's Hope Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: N side of Route 641, .5 mi. West of intersection of Route 641 and Route 10,

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45 COUNTY: Prince George CODE: 149

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: <input type="checkbox"/> 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, Merchant's Hope Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Prince George STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS ETC:
Prince George County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Prince George STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1932 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: Prince George
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 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

Merchant's Hope Church is a small rectangular building approximately 60' x 25', and is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers above the water table and English bond below. The gable roof has splayed eaves with a modillioned cornice, and the gable end front exhibits a rubbed brick arched entranceway and gallery window. The sash in the semi-circular arch window is thought to be colonial but probably replaces an earlier one.

Some of the interior was destroyed during the Civil War, and the aisles were changed at some time from a T to an L shape. The present interior dates from 1870 when the church was returned to use but archaeological evidence acquired during the restoration work of 1957 disclosed the location of the principal features of the original interior. The church still retains its original Portland stone flooring tiles.

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 DATE(S) (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"/> | Literary <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/> | Theatrical <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Music <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

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

The greatest significance of Merchant's Hope Church lies in its well preserved, fine colonial brickwork, and its great age. According to James Scott Rawlings, leading authority on Virginia's colonial churches, "the chief evidence in favor of a seventeenth century origin for this remarkable building is the utter simplicity of its west doorway, a simplicity that is matched among surviving structures only at Jamestown (and even at Jamestown the arch is ornamented by imposts). Merchant's Hope is probably our oldest church...Because of its excellent state of preservation and the details of its masonry, its exterior, which is so devoid of unnecessary adornment, represents the supremely classical example of ecclesiastical architecture in colonial Virginia." In support of this, the date 1657 appears on one of the roof timbers of the church. Richard Bland and Edmund Ruffin, the agriculturist, worshipped here regularly.

As documented by Rawlings, the church "was built to serve as the parish church of Jordan's Parish, but became a chapel of ease of Westover Parish in 1688 and the upper chapel of Martin's Brandon Parish in 1720. Jordan's Parish was created by 1655 out of the western portion of Westover Parish that lay south of the James River. All of the parishes of Prince George County (except Bristol Parish) were united with Martin's Brandon Parish in 1720."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brock, Henry Irving. Colonial Churches in Virginia (Richmond, 1930).
 Daniel, J. R. V., "These Still Stand: Some Early Virginia Colonial Churches," Virginia Cavalcade, Vol. 1 (Autumn 1951), pp. 5-8.
 Dunn, N. P., "Merchant's Hope Church, Martin's Brandon Parish, Virginia," Colonial Churches in the Original Colony of Virginia, 2nd ed., revised, (New York, 1963).
 Rawlings, James Scott. Virginia's Colonial Churches: An Architectural Guide. (Richmond, 1963).
 Rose, Harold Wickliffe. The Colonial Houses of Worship in America. pp.462-3.

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "	37°	15'	57"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	77°	12'	11"
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

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: May 2, 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: Ed. P. Alexander, Jr.
 Title: Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.
 Date: June 2, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

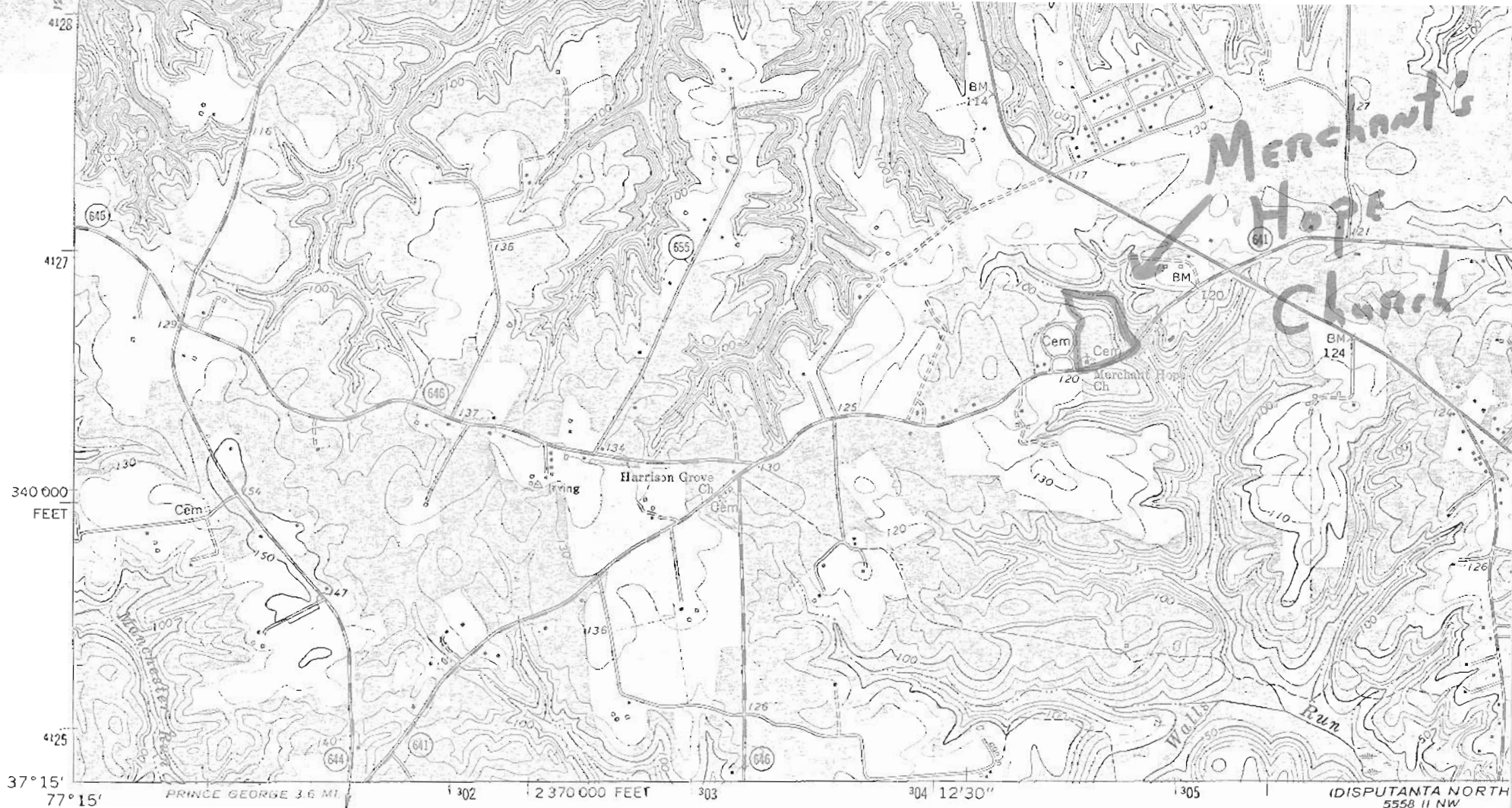
Ernest Allen Crumley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 8 1969

ATTEST:
William J. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: Oct 8 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

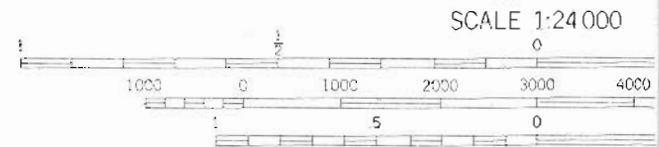
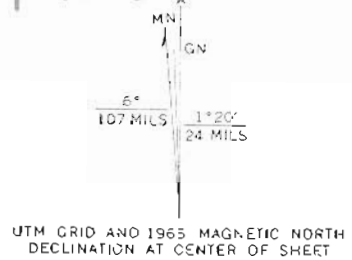
37°17'30"



(PRINCE GEORGE)
5558 III NE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
 photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965
 Supersedes U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey map dated 1953
 Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 530 and
 531 (1964). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 18, shown in blue
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

77°12'30"



SCALE 1:24 000
 CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 F
 DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—D.M.T.
 SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE
 THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATE
 THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACT
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.
 AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTE, N. C.
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE