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NRHP-2/23/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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AUG 16 1977
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DATE ENTERED Feb 23 1979

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 Church Hill (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON Timber Ridge Plantation

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER .4 mile E of Interstate Route 64-81/11 interchange 53; 800 feet S of Interstate Route 11; W side of State Route 716; N of Timber Ridge Mountain.

CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)

STATE Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY Rockbridge CODE 163

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Horatio D. Thompson

STREET & NUMBER RD 5, Box 227

CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF Virginia STATE 24450

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Rockbridge County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Lexington Virginia STATE

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

TITLE (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE 1957 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN Washington, D. C. STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Church Hill, at Timber Ridge, is set among the rolling hills of the Valley of Virginia in Rockbridge County, adjacent to the eighteenth-century Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, a National Register property. The plantation house is a two-story, three-bay, rectangular building built of brick laid in Flemish bond on the front and in five- and seven-course American bond on the sides and rear with stuccoed Doric pilasters at the corners and mid-points of the long sides. There is an original, one-story kitchen ell on the rear, also built of brick which is laid in nine-course American bond with Flemish variant. All of the windows are glazed with six-over-six sash and have louvred blinds. A full Doric entablature is carried around the main block. The whole is crowned by a low hipped roof with interior end chimneys and a central monitor with a low balustrade decorated with sawwork four-pointed stars. There is a portico sheltering the front door which is in the east bay of the facade. This portico consists of a pedimented roof with a full Doric entablature supported on two pairs of coupled, unfluted, Greek Doric piers. Stylized, winged orbs decorate the frieze and the architrave. The kitchen ell is undecorated except for a plain board suggesting a frieze which is attached to the long sides. It too is covered with a low hipped roof and is crowned with an interior end chimney.

The plan of Church Hill is an unusual one; it consists of four rooms of unequal sizes. The main entry of the building opens into the northeast corner room, the smallest of the four, which contains the principal stairs. The largest room is the northwest corner room, or parlor; behind this is a third room which presently serves as a dining room. In the southeast corner is the original dining room which contains an auxiliary stair to the second floor, ascending along the lateral partition wall.

The main stair is an open-string, L-plan one with two rectangular balusters to a tread, a round banister which is ramped and eased at the urn newels, and no brackets. The doors in the stair hall are grained in imitation of mahogany, and the stair risers have light grey marbleizing with trompe l'oeil masonry joints. Noteworthy as well is the early striped green wallpaper which survives in this room.

Old wallpaper survives in the parlor as well. This room is further decorated with a plain mantel with a light molded shelf supported on entablature blocks and a tablet which are molded and which rest upon the light architrave surround. The doors in this room are grained and retain their original Carpenter locks.

The southwest room, which presently serves as the dining room, has a black Benjaminesque Greek Revival mantel with plain, Doric pilasters supporting an unadorned frieze. A similar mantel is used in the southeast room, where wallpaper like that in the parlor covers the walls.

There is no decoration in the kitchen ell which, however, has its original crane surviving in the fireplace.

No early outbuildings survive. There is one log building which tradition claims was constructed from logs salvaged from the Sam Houston birthplace cabin, but this claim cannot be documented.

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Church Hill, Rockbridge County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6,7,9 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1977 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Richmond, Virginia

7. DESCRIPTION

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries have been drawn to include the main house, a modern frame barn, and the aforementioned log building. The property is bounded on the northeast and the southeast by roads and on the northwest and southwest by lines containing the three buildings and four surrounding acres.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rockbridge County Deed Books F, T, 92, 139; Will Book #24.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Augusta County Will Book #3.
 Crumbaker, Marge. "Sam Houston's Early Years." Texas Tempo Magazine. Houston, Texas:
The Houston Post, February 25, 1968, p. 12.
 Kinnear, Duncan L. "Some Events in the History of the Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church
 and Its Community." Mimeographed. Blacksburg, Virginia: Virginia Polytechnic
 Institute, 1958. In VHLC files. See Continuation Sheet #1

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Cornwall, Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	6 4 4 4 0 0	4 1 8 9 3 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on W side of State Route 716 at intersection with State Route 785; thence extending 300' S along W side of State Route 716; thence extending about 500' NW to 1420' contour; thence extending 400' NE to S side of State Route 785; thence

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

extending about 400' SE along said route to point of origin.

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

May 1977

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

12 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Dwight Hill

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE JUN 21 1977

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

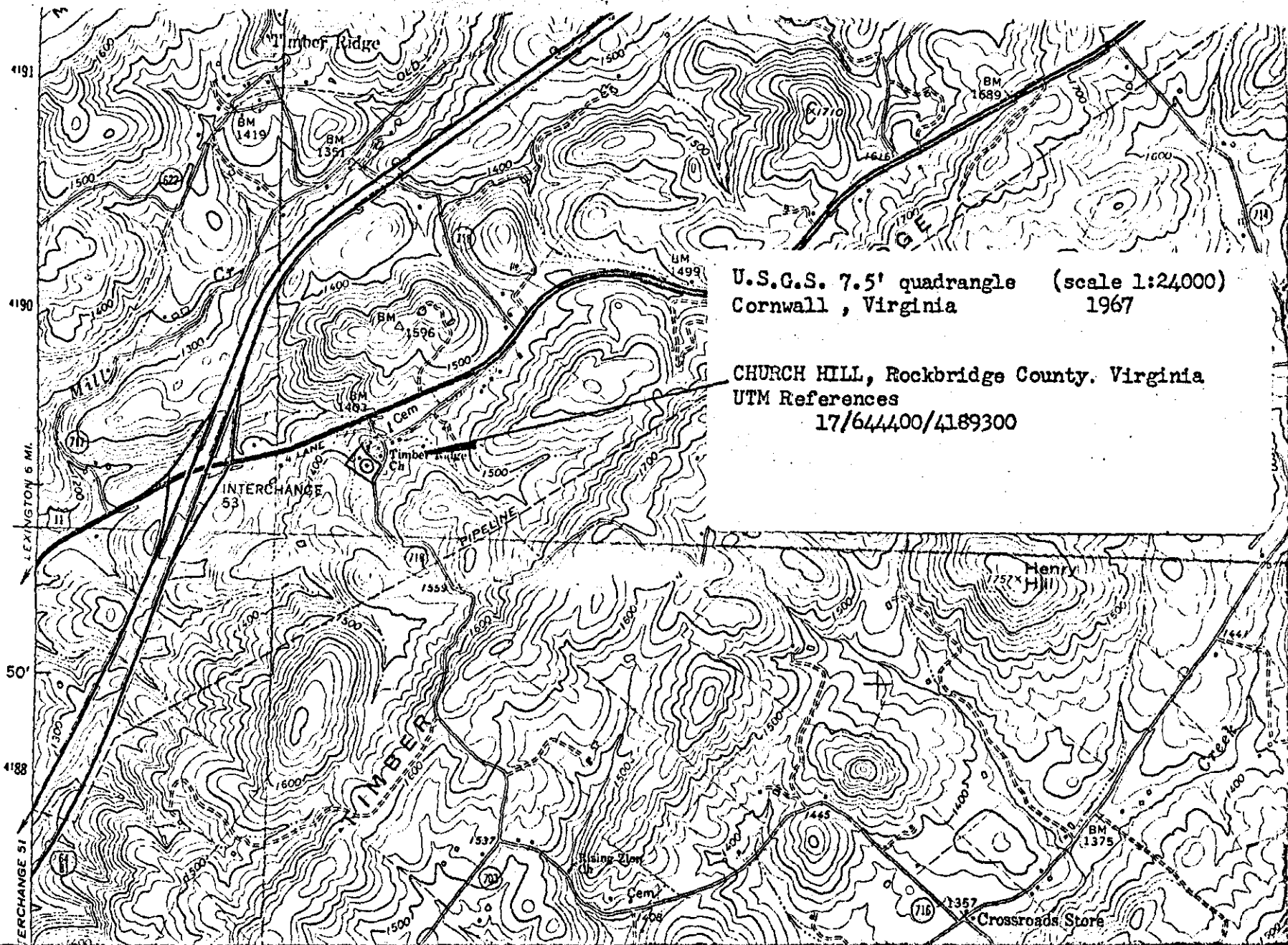
DATE Feb 23 1979

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale 1:24000)
Cornwall, Virginia 1967

CHURCH HILL, Rockbridge County, Virginia
UTM References
17/644400/4189300