

VLR- 11/16/71 NRHP- 4/13/72

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

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: VIRGINIA BEACH (in cit.) <small>FOR NPS USE ONLY</small>	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
OLD DONATION CHURCH

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
OLD DONATION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
4449 N. Witch Duck Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Virginia Beach (Thomas N. Downing, First District Congressman)

STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51      COUNTY: (in cit.)      CODE: 810

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Congregation, Old Donation Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
4449 N. Witch Duck Road

CITY OR TOWN: Virginia Beach      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Princess Anne Court House Station

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Virginia Beach      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D. C.      CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: VIRGINIA  
COUNTY: Virginia Beach (in cit.)  
OR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old Donation Church is a brick, one-story structure with gable roof, a vestibule addition on its west front and a small brick ell addition at the southeast corner. The four-bay north front consists largely of later brick as is the masonry above the eaves line on the west front, portions of the easternmost extremity of the three-bay south front and all of the water-table brick. The masonry is laid in Flemish bond above the beveled water-table and English bond below. Ornamental brick detailing includes glazed header pattern and glazed Queen closers as well as what appears to be part of a diaperwork pattern, the centre portion being obscured by the vestibule, marked by twin glazed headers on the west front. The six original round-headed arches of the window openings are laid with stretchers alternating with double headers, the outside one in each case being glazed. One of the three original chancel (east) windows has been blocked up. The gable ends are capped by a parapet wall. Set into the original brickwork on the south front near the eaves line are small openings, one being rectangular and the other having a round-headed arch. These windows were added to light the four "hanging pews or private galleries" placed in the church between 1736 and 1769. Two similar openings exist on the north front, and although set into the later brick, were probably copied after original windows on that wall. The present interiors, including the reredos, altar, pulpit, lectern and communion rail and possibly the flagstones in the centre aisle came from St. Paul's Church, Norfolk, when the latter was restored in 1913.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. 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) 1736

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-<br>losophy | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-<br>itarian            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lynnhaven Parish Church commonly known as Old Donation was built in 1736 and is the third parish church of Lynnhaven Parish to have been erected. Although records show the existence of an earlier church at this location, the present building was erected in 1736, and the vestry records show that the vestry accepted this third Lynnhaven Parish Church on June 25, 1736.

Soon after 1640 Lynnhaven Parish became one of three parishes created out of Lower Norfolk County and Parish. The parish draws its name from the river, supposedly named by Adam Thoroughgood for his early home at Lynn, England. The name of the church itself is traditionally derived from lands given to the church in 1776 at the death of the former rector, the Reverend Robert Dickson, who intended it to be used for the endowment of a free school. The first printed reference to the name Donation appears in an 1822 order of the vestry noting "the church called the Donation Church in this Parish" to be repaired.

Not long after the church was constructed, the first of the private galleries was purchased and built on the north wall by Captain William Robinson. Thirty years later Captain James Kempe had a gallery built for his family also on the same wall. The two galleries which hung on the south wall were built before 1769. These hanging pews were paid for by Walter Lyon and Thurmer Hoggard. A vestry order dated July 10, 1736, tells of six great pews which occupied the body of the church and a seventh on the north side of the communion table. In 1767 Colonel Edward Hack Moseley Jr. built a "great pew" on the south side of the communion table. As in the Bruton Parish church in Williamsburg, it was the colonial custom at Old Donation to segregate the sexes during Divine Worship. Ideally the men were seated on the north and the women on the south if this could be arranged.

In 1822-24 the church was repaired after its neglect following the Disestablishment. Old Donation lay abandoned from 1843 until in 1882 it was burned by a woods fire. A brick vestibule has sheltered the west doorway and an entry into the vestry has been cut since the restoration in 1916. At this time St. Paul's Church in Norfolk gave the reredos, altar, pulpit, lectern and communion rail. In 1943 Old Donation again received the status of Parish Church and maintained this title until the diocese did away with parochial boundaries in the early 1950's.

Among the graves in the churchyard we find the earliest and largest stone dating from 1768. Many stones were moved here from neighboring plantations in about 1930.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.  
 Mason, George Carrington, Colonial Churches of Tidewater Virginia, Whittet and Shepperson, Richmond, Virginia, 1945.  
 Rawlings, James Scott, Virginia's Colonial Churches: An Architectural Guide, Garret & Massie, Richmond, Virginia, 1963.

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 TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	36	0	52	01
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	76	0	07	45
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"				
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: November, 1971

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

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond, STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
James W. Moody, Jr., Director  
 Title Va. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

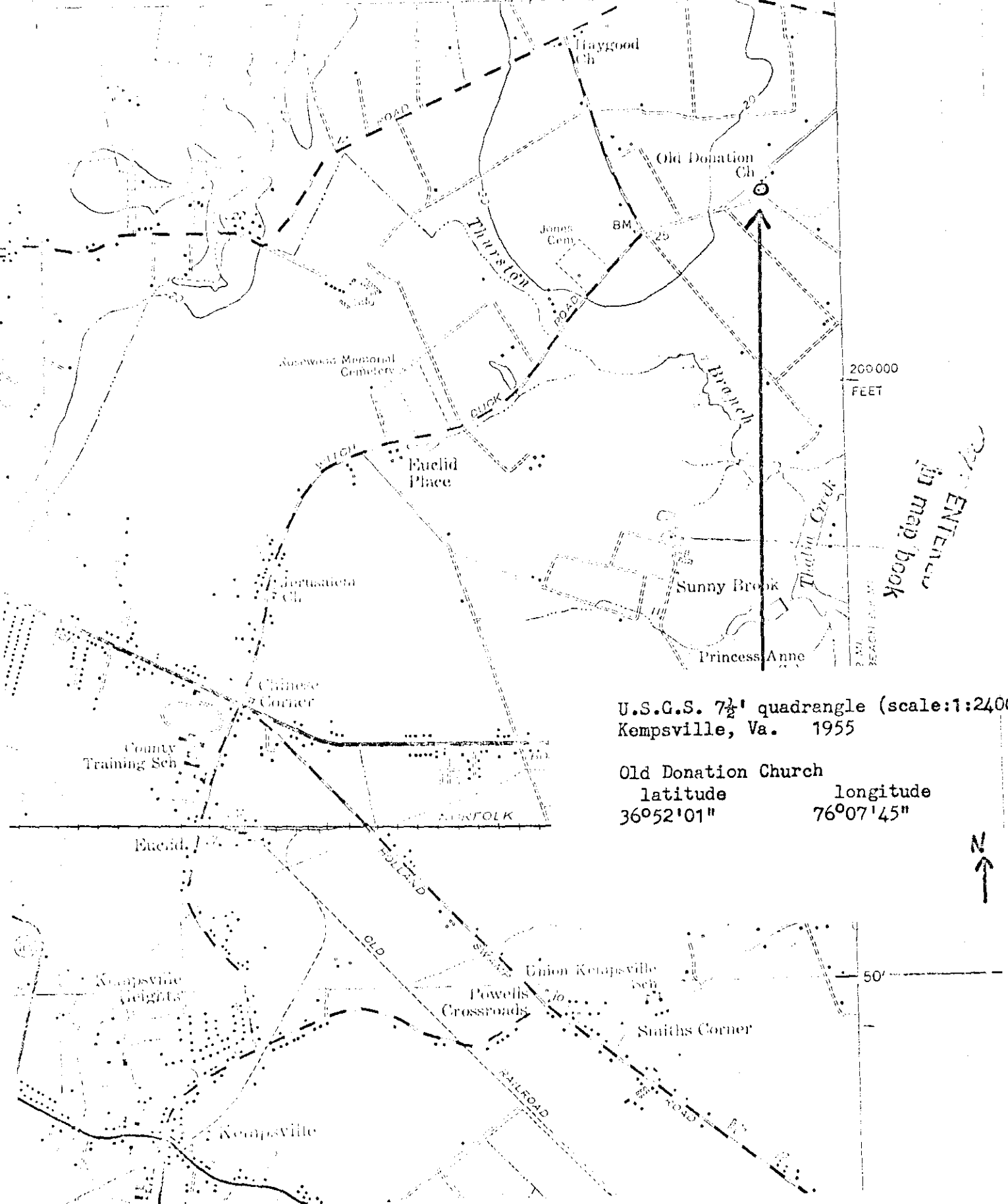
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

KEMPSVILLE QUADRANGLE  
 VIRGINIA  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SW/4 CAPE HENRY 15' QUADRANGLE  
 CH. CAPE LAKE BL. AGH. 1.4 MI.  
 F. ENTR. 55 1.3 MI. 76° 07' 30"  
 36° 52' 30"

(CAPE HENRY)



ENTRANCE  
 to map book

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
 Kempsville, Va. 1955

Old Donation Church  
 latitude longitude  
 36°52'01" 76°07'45"

