



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 76-116
Negative no(s). 4348, 4360

SURVEY FORM

Historic name Buckland Church Common name The Mustard Seed
 County/Town/City Prince William County
 Street address or route number 16205 Lee Highway, Gainesville, Va. 22069
 USGS Quad Thoroughfare Gap Date or period 1856 and later
 Original owner Methodist Church Architect/builder/craftsmen
 Original use Church
 Present owner No. Va. United Methodists Bd. Source of name Named after Town of Buckland.
 Present owner address of Missions, 5001 Echols Ave., Alexandria, Va. 22311 Source of date Prince William Co. book, architectural evidence
 Present use Thrift Shop Stories 1 1/2
 Acreage 2 acres (1 acre in estate of Bella Hite) Foundation and wall const'n Stone & concrete block foundation; frame walls.
 Roof type Metal-covered gable roof

State condition of structure and environs Church is in fair condition, but is surrounded by cast-off furniture and household appliances.
 State potential threats to structure Continued neglect.
 Note any archaeological interest

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes ___ no ___

Architectural description (Note significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)

Exterior: 4 1/2"-lap plain weatherboards painted white. Box cornice; single corner-boards. Windows, front: 6/6 replacement sash; sides: 9/9. Six-panel replacement front door. Recently-built front porch.

Small, 1-story, early 20th century frame addition on rear, contains Sunday School classroom and altar cove with gothic-style window.

Interior: Plastered walls, plain trim around windows. Linoleum tile flooring. Pews, organ, chandeliers installed during last restoration, have all been removed. Balcony across rear reached by stair at rear left. Balcony has recently been partitioned into two sections.

Cemetery in churchyard contains c30 graves, many with markers. Small, fenced burial plot in front yard of church, containing Hite (?) graves.

Interior inspected? Yes.

Historical significance (Chain of title; individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)

Buckland Church, also known as Buckland M. E. Church, was built in 1856 as St. Mark's Methodist Church on one acre of land conveyed to the congregation by Hugh Hite and his wife. Their one condition to the gift was that the church be available for use by other "evangelical societies" when not in use by the Methodist Church, South--which at that time consisted of Sudley Church, Buckland Church, and a church in Centreville. John Trone (1802-1885), a blacksmith and lay preacher who is buried in the churchyard, was one of the church's most popular preachers. In 1907 the congregation in Buckland merged with Gainesville, and the church was sold to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Haymarket. In 1932 the church was sold to a Pentecostal group and was renamed Harrison Memorial Church. It was later purchased by Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Carrico and was used by the Assemblies of God Church.

In 1962 the Gainesville Methodist Church bought Buckland Church for use as an outpost Sunday school, and it was restored under the direction of Rev. Melvin Lee Steadman, Gainesville Methodist's pastor at that time. The church again fell into disuse, and in 1974 it became a distribution center for goods to be donated to the needy, and it is now known as the "Mustard Seed."

Note: It has been alleged that Buckland Church was built on the site of an earlier church dating to about 1778, which was designed by William Buckland, but this has not been confirmed. Rev. John Littlejohn was said to have been the pastor.

(continued)

Sources and bibliography

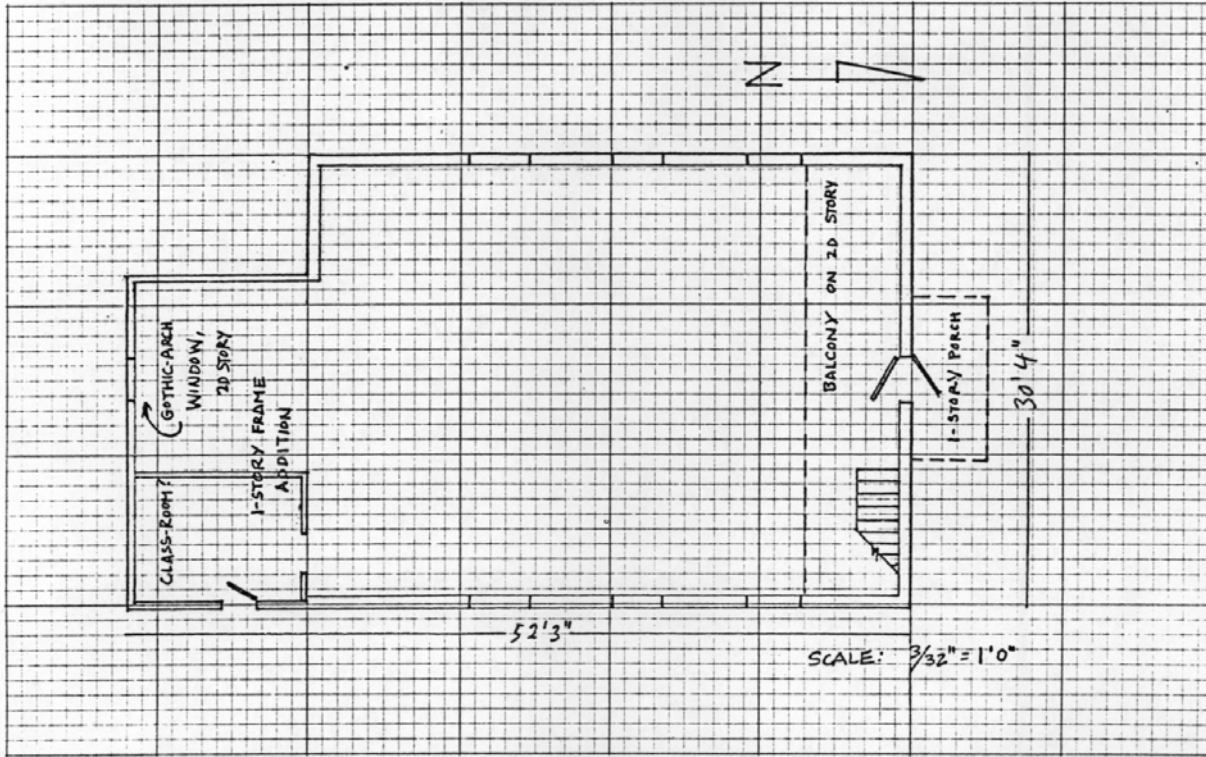
Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.) Writer's Project, W.P.A., Prince William: The Story of Its People and Its Places (1941, 1961), p. 46, 174. Leitch, Martha, Buckland, Prince William County, Virginia, in Echoes of History, Vol. 3, No. 6 (Nov. 1973), pp. 81-85.

Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

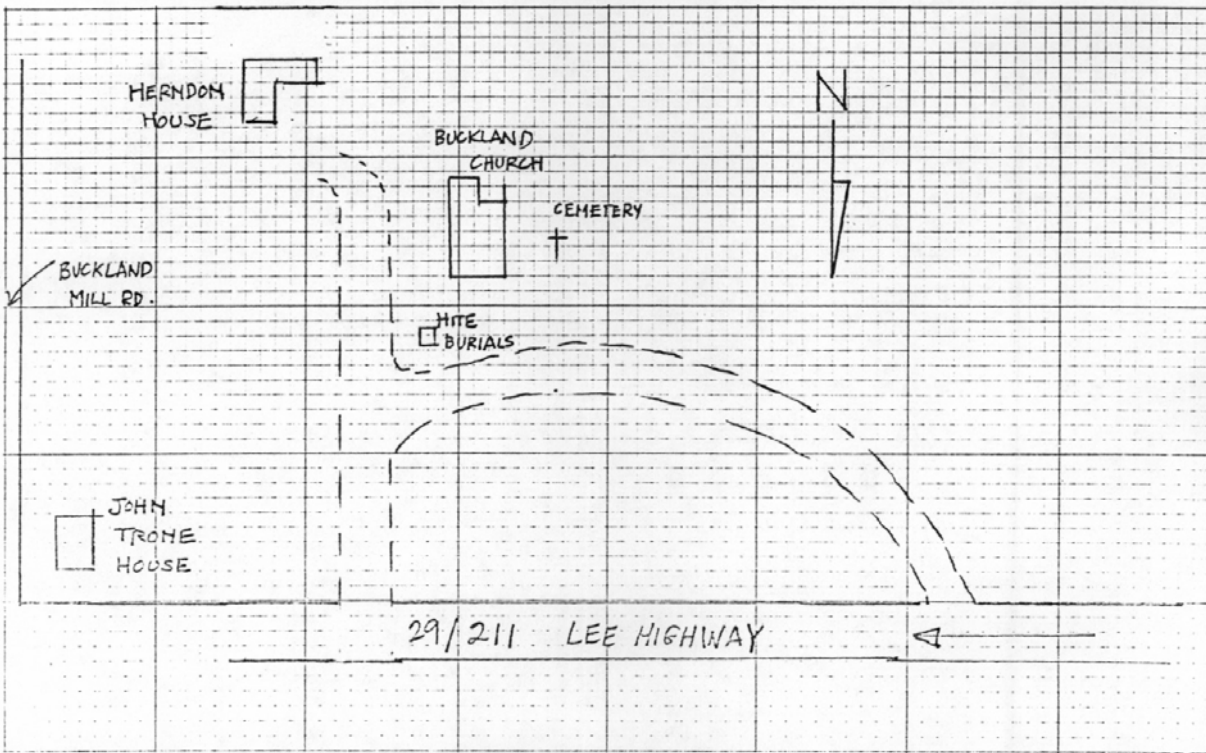
Notes, clippings, and photographs in possession of Mrs. Martha Leitch. Not contacted, but knowledgeable: Rev. Melvin Lee Steadman, pastor, 909 Sunnyside Dr., Virginia Beach, Va. 23462.

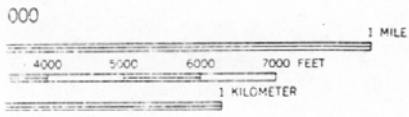
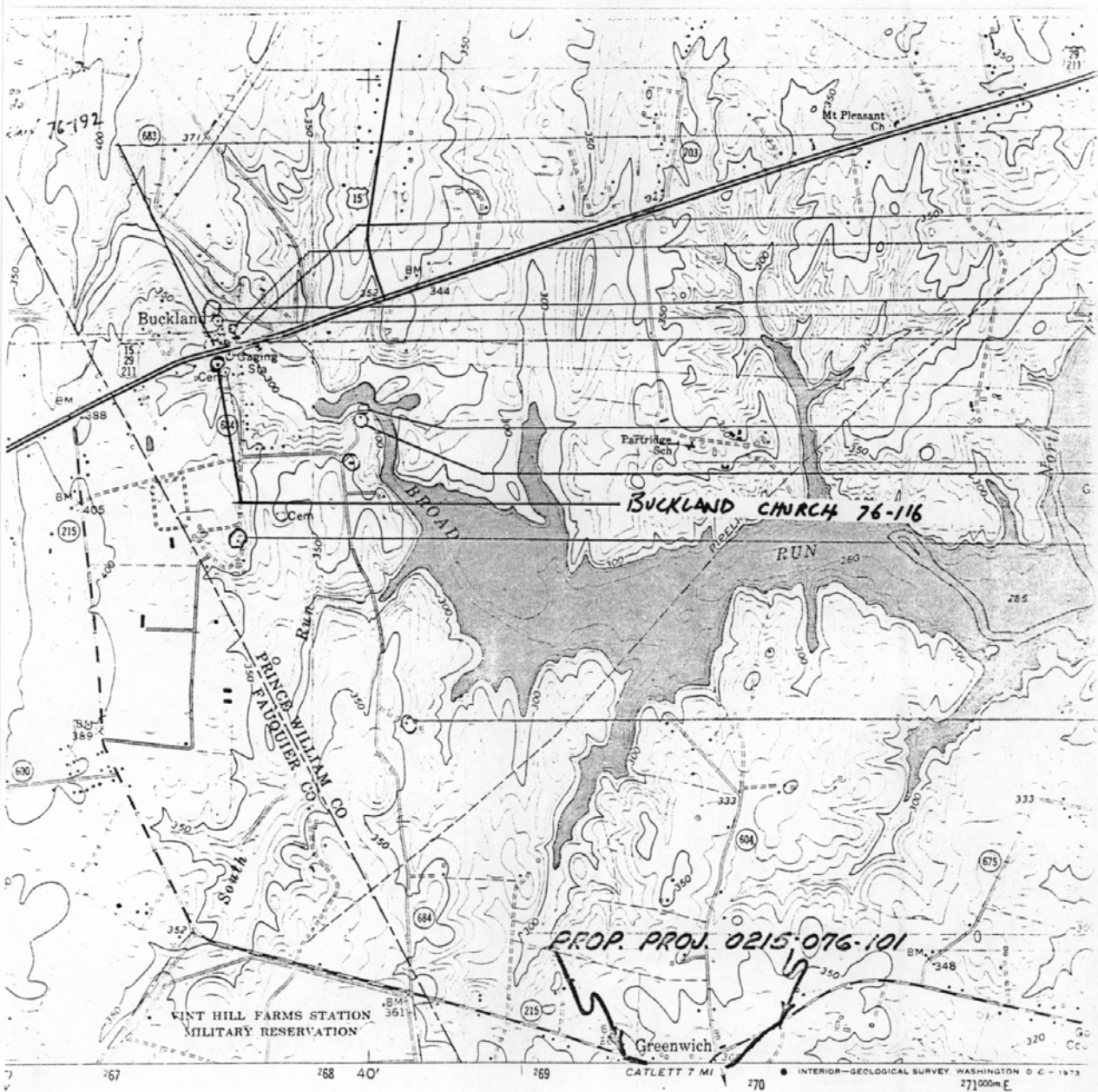
Names and addresses of persons interviewed Mrs. Vernon P. (Martha) Leitch, Deerlick Cottage, Buckland, or Box 412, Machipongo, Va. 23405.

Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)

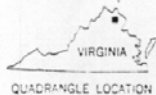


Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)





SCALE 10 FEET
SEA LEVEL



MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FEDERAL GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
FEDERAL CENTER, CHARLOTTEVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs
taken 1972. This information not field checked

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
- Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
- Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
- Unimproved road, fair to poor weather

- U. S. Route
- State Route

THOROUGHFARE GAP
N3845—W7737.5/7.5
1966
PHOTOREVISED 1972
AMS 5461 I SW—SERIES V83

Buckland Church History, con't.

In 1797, as described in the petition to establish the town of "Buck Land," there were about 20 houses and several gristmills, but there is no mention of a church. In 1835 there was a church in Buckland, described as a "house of public worhsip free for all denominations," in addition to 22 dwellings, a general store, a distillery, two flour mills and an apothecary shop. The village of Buckland had a Sunday school, a school, and a population of 130 whites, including a physician, and 50 blacks. This is recorded in Joseph Martin's New and Comprehensive Gazeteer of Virginia and the District of Columbia, published in 1835 and cited in Martha Leitch's article on Buckland in Echoes of History.

Published sources, con't.

"Buckland Church," in Manassas Journal-Messenger, 19 Apr 1962.
"Old Church Given a New Look by Civics Members," by Tommye Burton, in Martinsville Bulletin, 11 Oct 1974.