



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 76-175
Negative no(s). 4925

SURVEY FORM

Historic name Greenwich Presbyterian Church	Common name
County/Town/City Prince William County	
Street address or route number 15305 Vint Hill Road,	Nokesville, Virginia 22123
USGS Quad Catlett	Date or period 1858-1859; 1948; 1972
Original owner Trustees of Greenwich Pres-	Architect/builder/craftsmen Mr. Spillman (contractor)
Original use Church	byterian
Present owner Trustees of Greenwich Presby-	Source of name
Present owner address 15305 Vint Hill Road	Source of date Architectural evidence; local histories.
Present use Church	Stories 1 story
Acreage c8 acres	Foundation and wall const'n Brick foundation; brick walls.
	Roof type Asphalt shingle-covered gable roof.

State condition of structure and environs Church and environs are in good condition.

State potential threats to structure
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.)

Greenwich Presbyterian Church is an excellent example of a rusticated Gothic Revival rural church.

Exterior decorative elements include a sawtooth design moulded brick cornice; decorative buttresses which define the bays on each long side and separated the lancet arch sliding sash windows; and twin front entrances, each having a shingle-covered gable-roof ed, 1-bay porch supported by rusticated cedar posts and having decorated bargeboards with pendant and finial. The wooden church tower has a louvered belfry and a shingle-covered spire topped by a weather-vane.

The brick is laid in 7-course Americana bond with scored mortar joints. There is a moulded brick water table all around. The front double doors have pointed arches, and are constructed in diagonally-laid board and batten style. The large, arched, sliding sash windows have pastel-colored diamond panes.

The interior is plain. Two rows of box pews painted white with dark accents fill the auditorium. The walls are plaster. The ceiling is coved. There is a crown moulding. There is waist-high, beaded wainscotting all around. A winding, enclosed stair opposite the left entrance rises to the balcony, which is supported by 8-sided wooden posts. There is a low platform at the altar end containing a lectern and other church furniture. Wooden pilasters attached to the altar end wall describe a Tudor arch.

In the churchyard is a cemetery containing over 50 markers commemorating such Greenwich area family names as Mayhugh, Sinclair, Thornton, Moxley, Washington, and Green, among others. The church property was previously surrounded by an iron fence, but that has been replaced by a wooden rail fence. The lot is heavily treed.

Beside the church is the relatively recent educational complex, consisting of a tradi-
(Continued)

Interior inspected? Yes.

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

The Presbyterians had a church in Greenwich in 1801. This is the second church on the property, the first having been a log structure which was built in 1812 in the northwest corner of the present church property. This building became obsolete in 1858 when the present church was completed, and although the brick church was not damaged during the Civil War, the old log church was used as a hospital for Union soldiers and, either accidentally or intentionally, was burned about the time of the Civil War.

The Greenwich Presbyterian Church had its beginnings in 1802 when Aminta Elizabeth Moxley, wife of Gilbert Irland Moxley began holding services in her house, The Grove, at Greenwich. Eventually, a small log structure was built for church services, and the congregation was organized in 1810. The group outgrew this building, and in 1812 a larger log structure was built as a church on the northwest corner of the present church property.

In about 1854, Charles Green, an Englishman who had settled in Savannah, Ga., purchased land in Greenwich which he named The Lawn, and married (his second marriage) Lucy Irland Hunton, a granddaughter of Mrs. Gilbert Moxley. The Greens acquired 3 acres beside the log Greenwich Presbyterian Church for a new church and largely financed the construction from 1854 to 1859 of the present brick church. Less than 1 year after its completion, the new church needed expensive repairs which were paid for by Mr. Green, then living in Savannah.

The minister during the construction of the Church was Rev. John W.R. Pugh, who also oversaw the rebuilding of the Warrenton Presbyterian Church in 1855-56.

(Continued)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (Cont.)

GREENWICH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(Cont.)

tional, 1-story, gable-roofed, brick educational building, in front of which was constructed in 1972 a modernistic, high 1-story educational wing and Sunday school.

HISTORY (Cont.)

Greenwich Church was not touched during the Civil War, it was said, because Charles Green persuaded the Union soldiers that, owing to provisions in the deed for the Church property, it was theoretically land owned by a British subject, and was therefore not subject to being seized by Federal troops. In the cemetery, among the graves of Greenwich area former residents, former church members, and soldiers who died during the Civil War, there is the grave of Capt. Bradford Smith Hoskins, a British officer who died in 1863 at the age of 30.

A manse was built in 1906 with the financial assistance of Charles Green's third wife, who was then living in Baltimore.

The two story brick and cinder block meeting place and Sunday school building were completed in 1948.

In 1951, the old manse was sold and a new manse was constructed.

An iron fence which encircled the church yard until recently was erected in 1908. The iron fence was replaced by a wooden rail fence. The stone entrance was erected in 1952.

In 1952 major repairs were made to the church interior. The floor, wide pine boards which had been destroyed by termites, was replaced with new oak flooring. A center aisle was installed to replace the former double aisles which had led from each door to the church front. The present pews were installed, and the mahogany-colored wainscotting was painted a light color.

The Educational Wing, a one-story, brick modern style structure, was erected beside the church and in front of the Hall and Sunday School in 1972.

PUBLISHED SOURCES (Cont.)

W.P.A., Writer's Project, Prince William, the Story of Its People and Its Places (c1941), pp. 148-150.

Sources and bibliography

Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.)

Gillis, Charles J., Greenwich Presbyterian Church, 1810-1953.

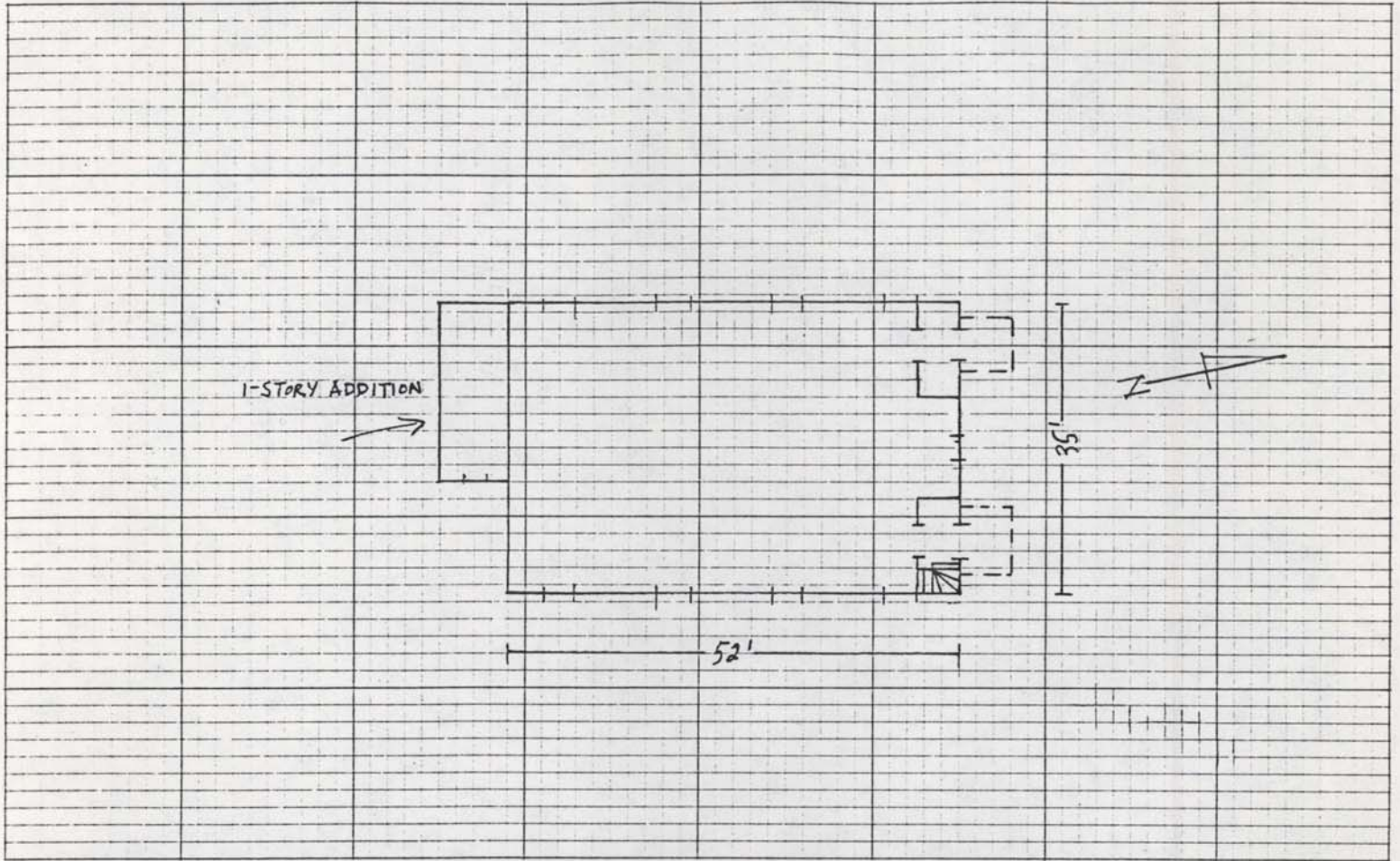
(Continued, p.2)

Ratcliffe, R.J., This Was Prince William (c1978), pp. 19, 25.

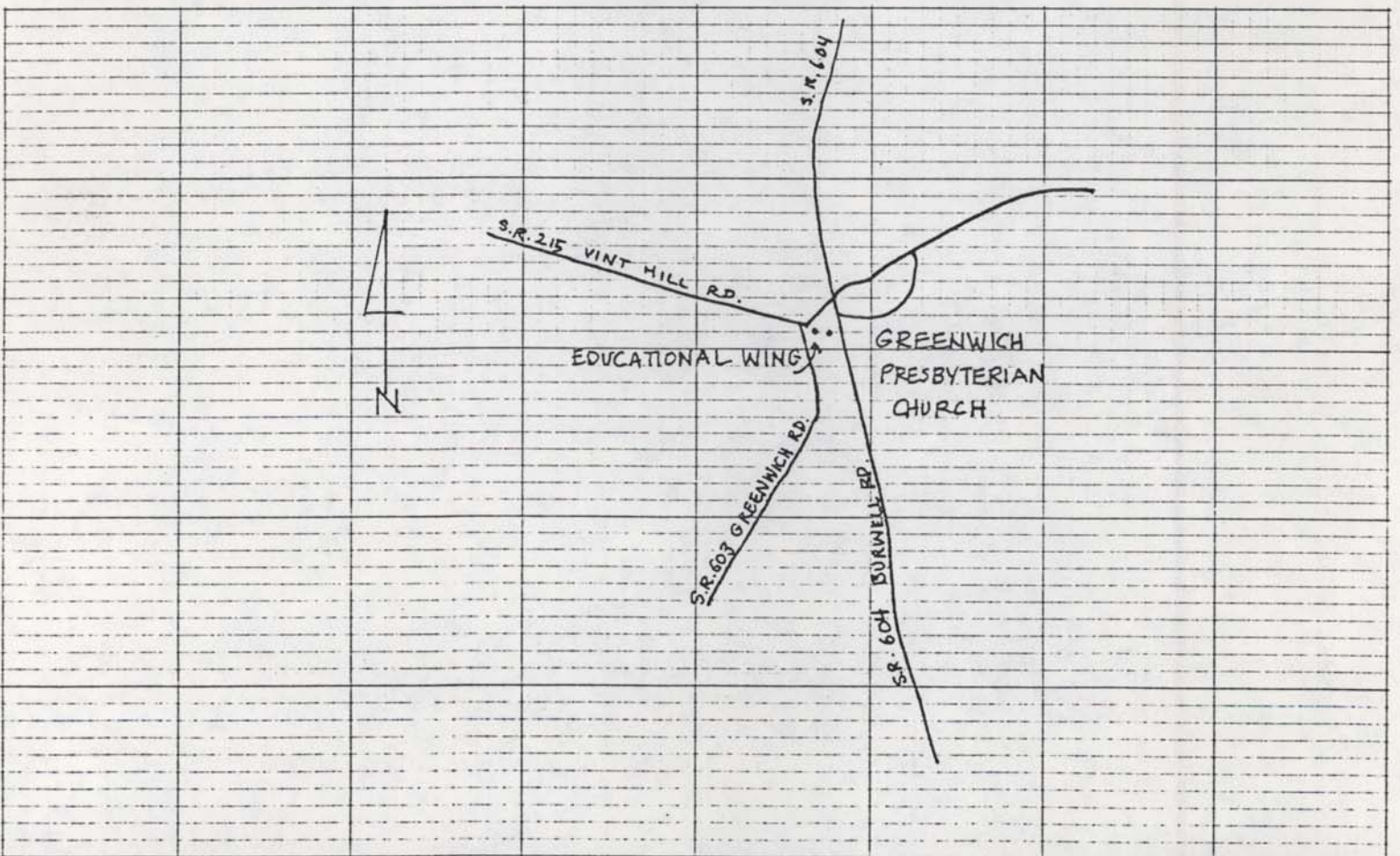
Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

Names and addresses of persons interviewed

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



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



GREENWICH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
76-175

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