

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| STATE:           | West Virginia |
| COUNTY:          | Kanawha       |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |               |
| ENTRY DATE       |               |

## 1. NAME

COMMON:  
"The Little Brick Church" -- Virginia's Chapel

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
"Virginia Chapel" -- "William Tompkins Church"

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
3/4 mile east of Kelley's Creek on Route 60

CITY OR TOWN:  
Cedar Grove

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Third

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

COUNTY:  
Kanawha

CODE:  
039

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)  | OWNERSHIP  | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE<br>TO THE PUBLIC  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object  | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work<br>in progress                    | Yes:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No   |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)   |  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Comments<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____ |

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Cedar Grove Methodist Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Cedar Grove

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Kanawha County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
400 Virginia Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Charleston

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  
☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
West VirginiaCOUNTY:  
KanawhaFOR 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

Virginia's Chapel is a small, unpretentious brick structure on Route 60 at Cedar Grove, West Virginia. According to Ruth Dayton's Pioneers and Their Homes on Upper Kanawha, the Chapel was built as a graduation present for Virginia Tompkins by her father William. The bricks were brought from Cincinnati to balance export shipments. They are laid in a common bond and, except for their angled placement in the cornice, afford very little ornamentation.

The chapel is affixed to the front of the church and contains the white double doors and fanlight in its bottom brick section. The higher wooden part is covered by thin shingles and holds a small wooden cupola. These sections are separated by a beam which bears the date, "1853."

At the time of its construction, the building was nearly square; three narrow Gothic windows lighted each side, but within a few years, the church was lengthened and a fourth window was added to the sides. At the same time this addition was made, the louvered, octagonal cupola and finial were added. (The exact date of these additions is not known.)

The entire foundation is stone; however, the foundation under the newer addition is approximately a foot below the older section.

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)

1853 (Built)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☐ Architecture☐ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☒ Military☐ Music☐ Political☒ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The little church known as Virginia's Chapel is historically significant because it was used by both the North and South during the Civil War.

Virginia Tompkins was the daughter of William and Rachel Tompkins of Cedar Grove. William was one of the earliest pioneers in the Kanawha Valley and is credited for discovering the first commercial use of natural gas. His wife Rachel was just as noteworthy. She was the aunt of U.S. Grant and possessed a letter from him which protected her home during the Civil War. When Virginia, who many said was a favorite of her father, finished her education, William offered to give her a present of anything she wished. Oddly enough, she requested a church. Soon thereafter, Mr. Tompkins began building a small ecclesiastical structure for his daughter. As indicated by the date above the door, William completed his task in 1853.

The Chapel was occupied during the Civil War by both sides. The Confederates used it as a hospital while the Union officers used it as a stable. According to Virginia's niece, Rachel Settle, the church was slightly damaged during Yankee occupation. Afterward, a William Tompkins (probably Mrs. Settle's uncle) wrote to the Federal government asking for repayment for damages. Seven hundred dollars was granted and used for repairs.

Virginia's Chapel was built for all denominations and used indiscriminately for a time. Later, it was used exclusively by the Methodist. In 1904, it was sold to the Methodist Episcopal Christian Church of Cedar Grove who worshipped here until establishing a larger sanctuary. The Chapel is used now only for special occasions; its early name was dropped, and it gradually became known as the "Little Brick Church."

Upon the outer walls are placed bronze plaques to two Kanawha Valley pioneers and their wives; one to William Morris, Sr., the other to his son, Major William Morris, veteran of the Battle of Point Pleasant. The Morris and many other early settlers of the Kanawha Valley are buried in the graveyard. According to Mrs. Rachel Settle, William Tompkins' granddaughter, the Chapel is built directly over the grave of William Morris. She says that it was often told that this was the only way they could keep him down.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Annual Report 1970, West Virginia Antiquities Commission.

Dayton, Ruth Woods, Pioneers and Their Homes on Upper Kanawha,  
Charleston: West Virginia Publishing Company, 1947.

Interview by Michael Powers with Mrs. Rachel Settle, August 17, 1970.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |                         |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |                         |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | 38° 13' 3"  | 81° 25' 34.7"           |                         |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |                         |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |                         |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |                         |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3/4 Acre

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:  
Ted McGee, Field Agent

ORGANIZATION  
West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE  
October 25, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

CITY OR TOWN:  
Morgantown

STATE  
West Virginia

CODE  
54

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Leonard M. Davis, Ph.D.

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

\*Bates copy for letter of transmittal

27°30'

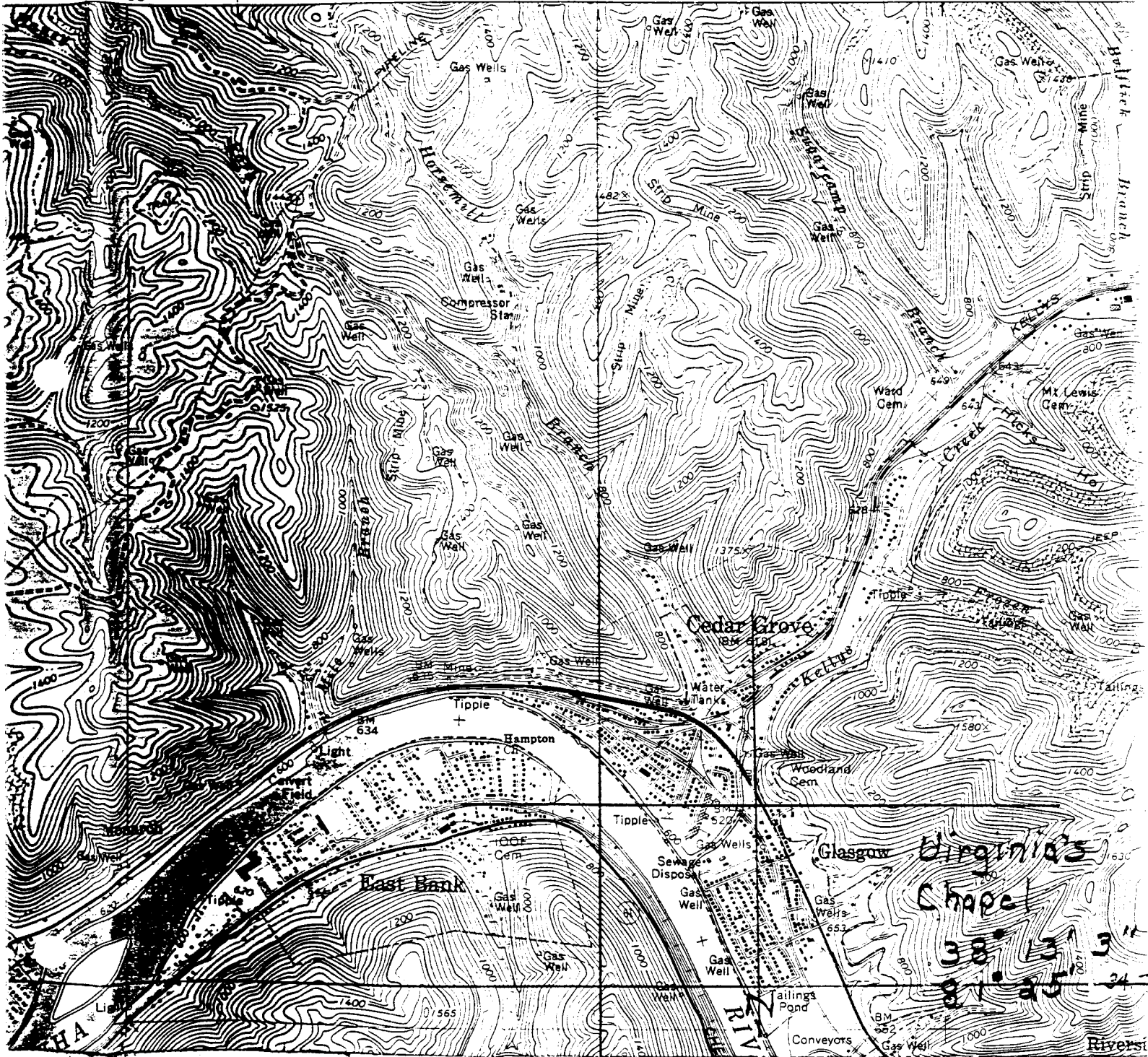
461

4750 IV SW  
(QUICK)

462

1 880 000 FEET 25'

464



CEDAR GROVE QUADRANGLE  
 WEST VIRGINIA-KANAWHA CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NW 1/4 MONTGOMERY 15' QUADRANGLE

47°00'14" SE  
 (MAMMOTH)

380 000 FEET 25'

467 81°22'30"

38°15'

THE LITTLE BACK  
 CHURCH  
 KANAWHA COUNTY  
 WEST VIRGINIA  
 UTM REFERENCES  
 17/462700 4229  
 82D

