



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



SOUTHEAST REGION, P. O. BOX 10008
FEDERAL BUILDING, RICHMOND, VA. 23240
AUG 19 1966

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30
SER(OM)

*Leping
Judd*

Memorandum

To: Chief, Design and Construction, WSC
Attention: Chief Architect, Division of Project Design

From: Regional Director, Southeast Region

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Salem Church -
Fredericksburg

Four copies of the subject report, which I recommended today,
are enclosed for review and approval.

It should be noted that the scope of the work proposed for this
building has been changed from that shown on PCP B-43-1 resulting
in a substantial reduction in the estimate for this project.

Elbert Cox

Elbert Cox

Enclosure

cc:
Supt., Fredericksburg

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART I

for

SALEM CHURCH

**Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania
National Military Park
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401**

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT APPROVAL SHEET

PART I

SALEM CHURCH

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania
National Military Park
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Recommended

D. F. Northrup, Jr.
Superintendent

7/26/66
Date

(Sgd) Elbert Cox
Regional Director

8-18-66
Date

Chief, Division of Design and
Construction

Date

Approval Director

Date

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ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

- a. Name and Number: Old Salem Church, Building No. 45.
- b. Proposed Use: It is planned to rehabilitate and restore the exterior of this building generally to its Civil War appearance. On the interior, work will be limited to repairs necessary to make the building safe and structurally sound. Use of the interior in the immediate future is not proposed.
- c. Justification: Rehabilitation and preservation are important because this is the landmark on the Salem Church Battlefield giving its name to a decisive battle of the Chancellorsville Campaign of Generals Hooker and Lee, May 1863. Its use as a fortress on the Confederate line, as a field hospital after the battle, and as a socio-religious institution in its community for over a century are contributing factors. It will serve as an exhibit-in-place on a stop of the Battlefield Tour and as an initial Park stop on a heavily traveled East-West route.
- d. Operation: Since Old Salem Church will be an exterior restoration only, no provisions for operating the interior of the building will be required.
- e. Construction Activity: Project includes installation of an underground electrical service, installation of water lines, removal of later additions, pointing

of brickwork, repair of plaster, removal of metal roofing and replacement with wood shingles, repair or replacement of exterior woodwork, repair and/or replacement of wood flooring, installation of electric outlets, termite treatment, painting.

Size of building: 38' - 1" x 42' - 2".

Construction Data: Walls-bricks; windows, doors, floors, trim, roof framing, balconies, ceiling and stairs-wood; roofing (original) - wood shingles; interior wall finish-plaster.

f. Cost estimates:

Restoration & Rehabilitation	24,000
New pump, water lines and hose bibbs	400
Removal of overhead electric service and installation of underground service	550
Installation of audio equipment	<u>150</u>
Total construction estimate (not including PS&S and contingencies)	25,100



Old Salem Church, West End (Front) and South Side

Photograph by Ralph Happel, Summer 1965

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6	Southeast Region

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION PROPOSAL

h. Copy of PCP

1. STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT'S REQUIREMENTS, PROPOSED WORK, AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FACETS OF THE PARK PROGRAM. (Provide detail data for "Management Information" on Form 10-411a, Supplemental Sheet and attach.)

Rehabilitation and restoration of the exterior of historic Salem Church to its Civil War appearance and repairs to the interior necessary to make structure safe and structurally sound. Project includes installation of an underground electrical service, installation of water lines, removal of later additions, pointing of brickwork, repair of plaster, removal of metal roofing and replacement with wood shingles, repair or replacement of exterior woodwork, repair and/or replacement of wood flooring and installation of electric outlets.
Size of building: 38' - 1" x 42' - 2"

Construction Data: Walls-bricks, windows, doors, floors, trim, roof framing, balconies, ceiling and stairs-wood; roofing (original) - wood shingles; interior wall finish-plaster.

Work proposed is necessary to interpret more completely this historic landmark and the events of the Chancellorsville Campaign which took place here.

2. ADVANCE REQUIREMENTS DATA

LAND STATUS Government Owned - National Park Service	MASTER PLAN NO. NMP-FS 3004	APPROVAL DATE 10/25/55
PCP NUMBERS OF PREVIOUSLY COMPLETE PORTIONS None	INTERRELATED & DEPENDENT PROJECT PCP NUMBERS M-60 R-60	
INTERPRETIVE PROSPECTUS APPROVAL DATA First draft of Prospectus for Salem Church approved by SERO and W&O; Final Prospectus to be forwarded by Park July 1966		DATE --
WATER RIGHT NEEDS & STATUS N.A.		

RESEARCH NEEDS & STATUS FRSP-H-1, Salem Church Historic Structure Project incomplete; Historical Data, Part II, completed; not typed; Architectural Data, Part II, programmed FY 67.
OTHER

Master Plan Narrative, Chapters 1, 2, and 3 completed; approved by SERO; Master Plan Field Study scheduled ~~1967~~. 1966.

3. RECOMMENDED BY SUPERINTENDENT (Signature & Date) O. F. Northington, Jr.		4. APPROVED BY REGIONAL DIRECTOR (Signature & Date)	
5. LOCATION WITHIN AREA OR TERMINI Salem Church		6. BLDG. OR RT.# AND SEC. 45	
7. REGION Southeast	8. PARK Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania NMP		
9. PROJECT Rehabilitation of Salem Church		10. PCP INDEX NO. B-43-2	
		Spotsylvania (County) Virginia (State)	

HISTORICAL DATA

Old Salem Church (so called to distinguish it from the nearby new house of worship) is the landmark of the Battle of Salem Church, a phase of the Chancellorsville Campaign, which campaign included several engagements, May 1863. Historians agree in calling this dazzling series of engagements Lee's greatest achievement. Chancellorsville marked the high tide of the Confederacy (leading to Confederate defeat at Gettysburg and subsequent ebb of fortune), and the Salem Church battle was a crucial part of the Chancellorsville Campaign. General Cadmus Wilcox's rearguard action at Salem Church not only insured Lee's overall victory, it indeed saved the Confederate army from possible defeat after initial success. Thus this Salem fight, "one of the most brilliant and important of the minor affairs of the war," is doubly significant in that it was an especially noteworthy part of a spectacular whole.

The Battle of Salem Church raged around and within the building itself, as well as over a field of some extent. After the battle, the building was used as a Confederate hospital, where both Confederate and Federal wounded were treated.

Aside from its primary (military) associations, the Salem Church building is significant as an example of the mid-nineteenth century brick structures built by the Baptists in this part of Virginia. These brick buildings, much alike, replaced the earlier modest frame houses used by the rural Virginia Baptists. Some were actual replacements and others, like Salem, housed new congregations. The Baptists were firmly intrenching in rural Virginia, where during

the century before they had at first been not tolerated and then barely tolerated by the Church of England. These mid-nineteenth century churches are just as important to social and architectural history as the eighteenth century Anglican buildings.

Many of the existing churches of the Salem period have been altered. Fortunately, Salem has suffered no drastic alterations. The building needs repair and stabilization, however, regardless of restoration. As to restoration to its 1863 appearance, a number of details require attention, such as restoration of the non-historic (and now deteriorated) main floor to a period floor; removal of raised modern floors in galleries, beneath which additions the original floors exist unimpaired; removal of non-historic railings on galleries; removal of inside steps and door to slaves' stair well; removal of non-historic flue through roof and replacement of period wood shingles on roof, now tin; removal of cement platform across front and replacement of simple stone steps, one at each of the two doors.

A brief list of changes with dates is as follows:

1883	Tie-rods installed to strengthen walls.
c1894	Old main floor replaced.
1908	New shingles put on roof. As far as appearance was concerned, this would still be the historic roof.
1929	Church wired for electricity.
1929	Tin roof put on.
1934 and later	Foundation planting.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1934-35 | Cement platform built across front. |
| 1947 | Galleries remodelled and inside door installed to old slaves' stair well. |
| 1953 | Non-historic flue added near peak through west end of north side of roof. |

The west gable end (front) of this brick structure is wood (horizontal weatherboarding) from eaves line to peak. This was once vertical board-and-batten. Historical evidence has not been adduced to prove one way or another that this end was formerly all brick. If architectural evidence can not prove that it ever was all brick, board-and-batten will remain the oldest form known. It was definitely board-and-batten as early as the 1880's.

The Salem congregation was established in 1843, apparently as a convenience to the growing Baptist communion of the neighborhood, forced before the establishment of Salem to travel to comparatively distant houses of worship. Ecclesiastical records show 1844 as the building date.

The congregation built a new church on adjoining property, purchased for that purpose, in the 1950's. In 1961, the congregation donated the old church and 1.06 acres of land to the United States to be a part of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. The church cemetery, between the land donated and the grounds of the new church, was retained by the congregation, as well as access to the graveyard across the land donated.

ARCHITECTURAL DATA

Old Salem Church is a rectangular gable-roofed brick structure, approximately 42 feet long and 38 feet wide. The west gable end,

with its two doors, is the front and faces Va. 639, a side road running into Va. 3, four miles west of Fredericksburg. The north side of the property is bounded by Va. 3. It should be noted that the State of Virginia has a rather wide right-of-way on both roads.

The building is two-storied, i.e., it has a main floor and galleries. There are six shuttered windows to a side, three up and three down. There are, as mentioned, two front doors (west end). The east end (pulpit end) has one opening, a middle window. The south side has a door leading to the stair well to the gallery.

Two historic chimneys are within the wall on either side of the peak at the east end. The top of the west gable end, as mentioned above, is wood, all the rest of the church being brick.

It might be noted that a similar building, Waller's Baptist Church, built shortly after the Civil War, also has wood for the top of its front gable end. The old parts of Waller's, Massaponax and Old Hebron, all Baptist churches of the period in Spotsylvania County, are generally similar to Salem. These structures vary among themselves in similarity and difference of details. Waller's and Massaponax have additions. Old Hebron, though apparently completely unchanged, is now derelict; a new Hebron Church almost touches it.

The gallery arrangement at Salem is unusual in that there are two galleries but no connecting cross gallery. Each gallery, thus, has its own stair well. The south gallery was once accessible only from the outside (door at west corner of south wall) and was for the use of the slave members.

The condition of the structure is basically good. In addition to aspects of rehabilitation and restoration touched on above, it

might be mentioned that the plaster is in bad shape. The bricks should be treated with clear waterproofing and other measures taken to insure interior dryness and protection of new plaster. Note, however, that scars on the exterior, particularly the east end, are projectile marks and thus important reminders of the battle. Not only the scars but old patches should be retained. The tie-rods with their star-shaped ends, though put in after the war, should be retained as historical parts of the building.

It is estimated that architectural research and investigation on this project would cost about \$2000.

ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA

Archeological work not required.

LANDSCAPE DATA

Basically, the ground immediately around the Old Salem building is unchanged, but the locations and grades of the roads which bound the property on two sides have been changed since the Civil War. (The old Orange Turnpike, now Va. 3, bounds the property on the north, and Va. 639 bounds it on the west.) Up until about 1960, Va. 639 ran just west of the church. Now it is some distance west and closer to its Civil War period position. One postwar position was east of the church. Va. 3 was about in its Civil War bed until the dual-laning work of the early 1960's.

The church cemetery, bounding park property on the east, is not historic. An historic log school house (which, like the old church, was used as a citadel during the battle) disappeared many

years ago. The school house stood within the area now comprising the cemetery. Since that area is not park property, this information is given as part of the record, but not for any landscaping or other plan.

The Confederates dug an earthwork on May 4 on a north-south line just east of the church. This no longer exists. If it existed, it would be valuable as remains. It should not be reconstructed, however, because it was not there on May 3, the day of the Union attack, when the Confederate's main line was west of the church.

At the time of the battle, an oak grove surrounded the church. A few descendant oaks exist and should be preserved except where a removal might enhance another specimen. Judicious removal might help create an unobtrusive parking area south of the church.

Foundation planting (now rampant) exists around the church, and ivy grows on the walls. Neither planting nor ivy is historic.

Further landscape research as such is not needed, since all available historical data will be cited in Part II, the definitive historical report.

FURNISHINGS AND EXHIBITS DATA

No historic furnishings are in the structure. The pulpit is believed to be old, but is considered part of the building.

Since the interior will not be exhibited, a Furnishing Plan has not been drafted. If it is decided in the future to furnish and exhibit the interior, the park can prepare all of the required sections. It is estimated furniture and furnishings will cost about \$5,000 (not including PS&S and contingencies).