



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 074-5093

Purpose of Evaluation

Please use the following space to explain briefly why you are seeking an evaluation of this property. The First Czechoslovakian Presbyterian Church has been chosen by the ERPO as one of two churches for a partnership project with the Cameron Foundation and Preservation Virginia.

Are you interested in applying for State and/or Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes No

Are you interested in receiving more information about DHR's easement program? Yes No

1. General Property Information

Property name: Historic: First Czechoslovakian Presbyterian Church/Current: Prince George Baptist Church

Property address: 6717 Middle Road

City or Town: Prince George, Virginia

Zip code: 23875

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Prince George County

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building X Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: About 1 to 2 acres

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban Suburban X Town Village Hamlet Rural

Briefly describe the property's overall setting, including any notable landscape features:

The church sits on a large parcel that is mostly open field on the west side of the building. Several mature deciduous trees shade the church's primary elevation. A cemetery occupies most of the east area of the original parcel. Currently, the Prince George Baptist Church owns the building and the open field to the south and west. The Presbyterian Church owns the cemetery, on the east side of the building.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Classical Revival

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: Unknown

If the builder is known, please list here: Unknown

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1913

Narrative Description:

In the space below, briefly describe the general characteristics of the entire property, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the architectural style, materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions, remodelings, or other alterations.

The building was constructed for use as a church in 1913 and has been used continuously as a house of worship up to the present.

The Classical Revival style brick church was built in 1913. The church has a rectangular sanctuary, four bays long, with brick pilasters defining the bays, and large 4/4 windows with segmental arched lintels. The facade (north elevation) has a pedimented gable end, and a central gabled frame vestibule. (The vestibule appears in a ca. 1935 photograph of the building). The vestibule is clad in aluminum siding. Two large 6/6 sash windows with stone or concrete lintels flank the vestibule. An extensive treated-wood wheelchair ramp provides access to the entrance. The south elevation of the church is not pierced (a blank brick wall).

The structural system and exterior treatment is brick laid in an American 8-course bond. The foundation features American 6-course bond. The roof is a front gable form clad in asphalt shingle.

The interior main floor is comprised of two spaces. The entry area is a large vestibule that allows access to the basement by a staircase on the east side of the room. The staircase features a newel and rail that may have been moved from inside the church when the vestibule was constructed c. 1920-1935. The newel style appears more late Victorian. The nave is a central aisle configuration with a chancel defined by a slightly raised dais. The pews are replacements of the original and most likely date from the c. 1960s-1980s. The floor is clad in wall-to-wall carpet. The walls are clad in thin modern wood panel. The original plaster-on-brick walls survive underneath the paneling. The ceiling features patterned tin with decorative squares, edged by a garland motif, and transitioning to cornice molding that features a horizontal fasces motif set above a coved molding with ribbing. A small wooden molding strip closes the bottom edge of the tin material.

The wooden paneling covers over the two heating stove flues that are in the east and west walls at about the halfway point in the nave. The chimney on the east side survives above roof level. The western chimney has been truncated and the roof cladding covers the patch. The flues are still visible on the interiors walls, covered over in paneling.

The basement is about seven feet high. It has a concrete floor. There is one large multiuse space and three smaller rooms. The smaller spaces include a kitchen, an office, and storage. Support piers interrupt the large space. Frame walls partition the smaller spaces. Some of the doors in the basement may date to the original construction period or the pre-World War II period. There is a dropped ceiling, built in modern modular materials, that dates to the past 20-30 years. Most of the finishes in the basement are less than 50 years old.

The Presbyterian Church owns the cemetery (not part of the sale of the church to Prince George Baptist in 1985). It has approximately 100 burials, dating from the 1920s to the 21st century. Czech and other Slavic names in the cemetery include Burian, Cibula, Dvorak, Golnic, Holc, Jerebak, Makovsky, Mistr, Ondra, Opocensky, Prichystal, Skalsky, Sodomka, Sulc, Sumska, Svetlik, Tomko, Vavricek, Vejnar, Voda, and Vtipil.

The cemetery has sections that have gridded areas defining rectangular grounds for family burials. Some of the family plots are edged concrete curbing. The defined plots create aisles in several areas of the cemetery.

Physical Integrity: The building has been updated overtime with some of the more modern changes noted in the physical description above, but overall, the form of the building is intact and the interior spaces have some updates, but the spaces are still intact to the period of historic use.

Briefly describe any outbuildings or secondary resources (such as barns, sheds, dam and millpond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

The property has one modern maintenance shed located at the edge of the field, to the east of the church.

4. Property's History and Significance

In the space below, briefly describe the history of the property, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property. Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

The following history has been adapted from John Wells' (Architectural Historian) paper titled: "The Czech and Slovak communities in Virginia, John E. Wells, VDOT Richmond District, 10 December 2004 (First Draft) 19, September 2007." A complete copy of the paper is part of this DHR file #074-5093.

In the years after the Civil War and the dismantling of enforced servitude, Virginia and other states of the former Confederacy aggressively courted new settlers, a general movement by governments, railroads, and private interests, with promises of inexpensive land and temperate climate.¹ These measures were largely unsuccessful, as European and Asian immigrants ignored the South in favor of the northeast, the Great Lakes, and the prairie states. One of the largest and most enduring ethnic migrations in the South was that of Czechs and Slovaks to south central Virginia.

Czechs and Slovaks: The Czech and Slovak peoples have different (but adjacent) homelands, different (but closely related) languages, and other cultural distinctions. Their histories are closely intertwined. The Slovak and Czech homelands were absorbed in the Austrian Empire by 1848. For much of the 20th century, the homelands were united as Czechoslovakia, and the peoples were jointly identified as Czechoslovakians. The Czech and Slovak patterns of settlement in the New World were closely linked. The Czech immigrants were predominantly Roman Catholic, and the Slovaks were predominantly Protestant.²

The "new immigration": European migration to the United States is sometimes characterized as "old immigration," from Great Britain, Germany, France, the Netherlands, and Scandinavia; and "new immigration," from Mediterranean, central, and eastern Europe.³ Immigrants from Italy, Poland, Hungary, the Austrian Empire, Russia, and other lands began arriving in large numbers in the middle 19th century.

¹ William H. Gaines, Jr., "New Blood for the Old Dominion: Virginia's Search for Land Seekers, 1866-1910," *Virginia Cavalcade*, No. II, Summer 1952, pp. 39-43.

² Eugene K. Keefe, *Czechoslovakia: A Country Study* (Washington, D.C.: United States Government, 1982); Emily Greene Balch, *Our Slavic Fellow Citizens* (New York, New York: Charities Publication Committee, 1910), p. 86; James J. Zatzko, *The Social History of the Slovak Immigrants in America, 1873-1914* (Ph. D. Dissertation, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, 1954).

³ Brown and Roucek, pp. 67-199 on "old immigration," and pp. 200-405 on "new immigration."

The new immigration was made up of poorer people, less well educated, who were often corralled in Europe by tricky American agents of industry, land-grant railroads, and steamship companies, and then victimized after they had landed in the incredible, bewildering world of the United States.⁴

Čechs (Czechs), Slovaks, and other Slavic peoples began to emigrate in large numbers following the unsuccessful Revolution of 1848.⁵ “The modern Czech immigration began in 1848, when the first weak waves of the Czechs left European shores. The number swelled constantly until 1870, and then again from 1890 to the World War, the greatest influx coming around 1905-1906.”⁶ Nearly 87% of the estimated 400,000 Czech immigrants to America arrived between 1848 and 1914.⁷ Many settled in New York City, Detroit, and Chicago.⁸ Slovaks began migrating in large numbers in the 1860s, and their numbers increased significantly in the 1870s and 1880s.⁹

Virginia after the Civil War: In the years after the Civil War and the dismantling of enforced servitude, Virginia and the other states of the Confederacy confronted depleted soils, little money, and an agricultural workforce poorly positioned to confront the changed conditions.¹⁰ Nels Anderson described the conditions:

It was a period of transition in agriculture from a plantation system in which the proprietor exploits the labor of others to a farming economy in which the proprietor exploits his own labor and that of his family. The Virginians had really lost touch with the soil. There was need of a new vision, a new domestic economy, and a different philosophy of labor. . . The old estates had been wasted and misused; the land had been impoverished by renting, or had been sold bit by bit, or had been stripped of its timber. Virginian farmers were at the end of their resources. Land was selling for as low as five dollars an acre and renting for the cost of taxes.¹¹

⁴ Richard Hofstadter, William Miller, and Daniel Aaron, *The United States: The History of a Republic*, second edition (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1957, 1967), pp. 539-540, 571-573.

⁵ Brown and Roucek, p. 231; Keefe, pp. 23-24; Derek Sayer, *The Coasts of Bohemia: A Czech History* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1998), pp. 88ff; Gay & Webb, pp. 713, 718-720, 729-731, 734; Daniel William Mair, *Kde domov můj: Relations between the Czech “Homeland” and the Banat Czech Community of Romania with Special Emphasis on Re-emigration* (MA Dissertation, University College London, School of Slavonic and East European Studies, September 2004), p. 7.

⁶ Brown and Roucek, p. 231; Balch, pp. 215-228. Political persecution, religious oppression, and poor social conditions in the Austrian and Austro-Hungarian empires are the most commonly cited causes for the migration. For conditions in Europe, see Balch, pp. 28-36, and *What Life Was Like at Empire’s End: Austro-Hungarian Empire, A.D. 1848-1918* (Alexandria, Virginia: Time-Life Books, 2000).

⁷ David Murphy, “Czechs,” in Dell Upton, ed., *America’s Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups that Built America* (Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, ca. 1986), p. 112. Murphy describes characteristics of Czech-American houses that appear frequently in the Midwestern states.

⁸ The Bohemian National Cemetery on Crawford Avenue in Chicago, containing 130 acres, was established in 1877. See <http://www.graveyards.com/bohemian/index.html>.

⁹ Brown and Roucek, p. 233.

¹⁰ G. Terry Sharrer, *A Kind of Fate: Agricultural Change in Virginia, 1861-1920* (Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 2000).

¹¹ Nels Anderson, “Petersburg: A Study of a Colony of Czecho-Slovakian Farmers in Virginia,” in Brunner, *Immigrant Farmers and their Children*, p. 184.

Part of the response was a general movement by the State, local governments, railroads, and private interests to bring new settlers to the South, with promises of inexpensive land and temperate climate.¹² Some of these ventures were directed towards American farmers in the northern and Midwestern states. For example, the Roanoke Land and Colonization Company, organized in Mecklenburg County in 1867, promoted Chase City as “the largest and wealthiest Northern colony in the Southern States.”¹³ In 1882-3, Joseph Orwig advertised in Pennsylvania for 100 farmers and mechanics to establish a colony in Lancaster County, Virginia.¹⁴ The Norfolk & Western Railway published *The Southern Homeseeker and Investors Guide*, describing Virginia as “the land of sunshine,” and carrying promotional, testimonials, and advertisements of farms and land for sale.

Other ventures were aimed at European nationals and recent immigrants from Europe. In 1866, the Virginia legislature passed an Act “to promote and encourage immigration,” and established a Board of Immigration (the first of five successive immigration authorities).¹⁵ Gaspar Tochman, the Board’s European Agent, wrote a promotional pamphlet, “Virginia: A brief memoir for the information of Europeans desirous of emigrating to the New World.”¹⁶ The pamphlet was issued in both English and German.

Journals published in America for immigrants, including the Bohemian newspaper *Slavie* and the Slovak magazine *Jednota*, had advertisements for land in Virginia.¹⁷ The German community in Virginia published *Der Süden*, promoting the real and alleged advantages of the South over the Midwest.¹⁸

The most popular and most desired type of settlers [sic] throughout the postwar period was the independent farmer, capable of taking over a tract of abandoned land and restoring it to cultivation.¹⁹

Small numbers of first- and second-generation European immigrants, who had initially settled in the Northern and Midwestern states, relocated to the South in the later 19th century.²⁰ A small colony of exiled Poles settled in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, ca. 1867.²¹ In James City County, Carl Bergh, a Norwegian native who

¹² Gaines, “New Blood for the Old Dominion;” Reed, “New Immigrants in the New South.”

¹³ Susan Sheppard Bracey, *Life by the Roaring Roanoke: A History of Mecklenburg County, Virginia* (Boydton, Virginia: Mecklenburg County Bicentennial Commission, 1977), pp. 304-306. See also Douglas Summers Brown, *Chase City and its environs: the southside Virginia experience, 1765-1975* (Chase City, Virginia: Publication Committee, 1975).

¹⁴ Joseph R. Orwig, *A Selected Colony for Virginia: Associated Emigration for 1882-83*. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: n.p., 1882-83.

¹⁵ Gaines, p. 40.

¹⁶ Richmond, Virginia: Wm. A. R. Nye, book and job printer, 1868.

¹⁷ One such advertisement, printed in 1905, read (in translation) SLOVAK COLONY IN VIRGINIA. The land is better than at any other place, plenty of work, good opportunity, the crops are always good. The climate here is healthy. On the farms, we work constantly, summers and winters since the climate is such that we never have any frosts or temperatures too high. Many Slovak families have come to our colony. It is located only two miles from the town of West Point and 15 from the city of Richmond, where about 35,000 people are employed. For the colony, it is also close to the cities of Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and NY. Last month over twenty families bought farms here. Train and boat service available every day. Each farm has meadows and woodlands that are for sale with the buildings at \$6 to \$15 per acre, payments are low. For more information, contact me in person or by mail at the address below: John Jelinek, 1116 Pine Alley, Braddock, Pa.

¹⁸ Balch, pp. 383-384; Brunner, p. 188. Joseph Mikuska, who came to Prince George in 1905, was drawn by an advertisement in *Jednota*. See Prince George County, Virginia – Where History was Made, p. 21. Zatko references *Jednota* often.

¹⁹ Gaines, p. 40.

²⁰ Klaus Wüst, *The Virginia Germans* (Charlottesville, Virginia: The University Press of Virginia, 1969), pp. 227-230.

²¹ Tochman, p. 10; Gaines, p. 42.

worked as a land agent for the C & O Railway, promoted a planned community called Norge, using newspaper advertisements and multi-lingual promotional pamphlets; he encouraged Norse, Danish, Swedish, and German immigrants to move from the Midwest to Virginia.²² William Grossman, a promoter in Petersburg, lured Russian-German farmers from South Dakota to Port Walthall, Chesterfield County.²³ In Fairfax County, Carl A. M. Wiehle laid out a German community town near Dranesville in 1886, and built several buildings, but the project was a financial failure.²⁴ In Amelia County, a group of Dutch farmers relocated from New Holland, Michigan, in the 1870s and established a lasting community at Mattoax.²⁵ Another group of Dutch settlers, under the auspices of the Dutch American Orchard Co., Inc., settled in Augusta County, near Basic City, ca. 1911.²⁶ In Middlesex County, Joseph Friedenwald attempted to establish a farming settlement at Waterview as a haven for Russian Jews in the 1880s.²⁷ A Polish agricultural community was established at Sunray, Norfolk County (now Chesapeake City) ca. 1908.²⁸ Several thousand Ukrainian immigrants, of the Protestant “Shtoondisty” sect, came to Virginia in the 1870s.²⁹ Ukrainian farmers settled near Yale, Sussex County, in 1894, and other Ukrainians settled near York.³⁰ A group of Hungarian immigrants in Lunenburg County, 1895 (Reed, *Nativism*, p. 10; citing *Southern States* III (1895), p. 443. Other ethnic colonies in Virginia included small groups of Estonians;³¹ Russians and Poles near Richmond;³² Hungarians in the coal towns of Tazewell County; Italians and others in the coal counties; and Greeks in Richmond, Charlottesville,³³ and Martinsville.

Other southern states encouraged similar patterns of migration and planned communities. In North Carolina, the planned community of Castle Hayne, New Hanover County, was established ca. 1909, with colonies of Italian, Dutch, German, Greek, Polish, English, and Hungarian farmers.³⁴ The towns of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, in South Carolina, were founded by people of Scandinavian ancestry. The Bohemia Village Colony

²² McCartney, *History of James City County*, pp. 362, 365.

²³ Wüst, p. 227.

²⁴ Wüst, pp. 227-228.

²⁵ Kathleen Halverson Hadfield, editor, *Historical Notes on Amelia County, Virginia* (Amelia, Virginia: Amelia County Historical Committee, 1982), p. 150.

²⁶ *The Southern Homeseeker and Investors Guide*, Roanoke, Virginia, June 1914, p. 11.

²⁷ Myron Berman, *Shabbat in Shockoe* (Charlottesville, Virginia: University Press of Virginia, 1979), p. 224; Louis Ginsberg, “The Jewish Colony at Waterview,” *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 66, No. 4, pp. 459-462.

²⁸ See VDHR 131-5325, the Sunray Agricultural Historic District, recorded by Kimble David, 2001-2002; and VDHR 131-5044, the Herz Cemetery.

²⁹ Brown and Roucek, p. 212.

³⁰ Wasyl Halich, “Ukrainian Farmers in the U.S.,” *Agricultural History*, Vol. 10, #1, January 1936, pp. 25-39.

³¹ Brown and Roucek, p. 283.

³² The Moses Montifiore Synagogue in Richmond, whose members were of Russian descent, was founded ca. 1890. Co-founder Jennie Slaboka (1865-1938), born in the Province of Kovno, Russia, immigrated to the United States around 1885. See Berman, *Shabbat in Shockoe*, pp. .

³³ Gloria Fennell, “A Greek community takes root in Charlottesville: the first fifty years, 1903-1953,” *Magazine of Albemarle County History*, Charlottesville, Virginia, v. 54 (1996), p. 1-27.

³⁴ Brunner, pp. 139-154.

was organized in Louisiana in 1910.³⁵ Italian and Chinese farmers attempted to settle in Louisiana and Mississippi in the 1880s and 1890s.³⁶ Slovak communities were found at Slovaktown, Arkansas, and at Slavia (Seminole County) and Masaryktown (Hernando County), Florida.³⁷

The 1870 census listed many Virginians who were born in other lands, especially Great Britain and the German states. The census listed a handful of Virginians who were born in Bohemia, including Albert Wise of Rockingham County, Leopold Wice of Rockingham County, and Gus Teiser of James City County.

In the late 19th century, Czech and Slovak immigrants living in the Midwest began to disperse in search of better farming land. Some relocated to sparsely occupied regions of Florida, Louisiana, and Virginia.³⁸ The 1910 census listed 1,059 Czechs in Virginia, concentrated near the communities of Churchland, Disputanta, New Bohemia, Petersburg, and Vontay.³⁹ The 1906, 1911, and 1917 Virginia state gazetteers listed many farmers of likely Czech or Slovak descent living in the New Bohemia, Disputanta, Prince George Courthouse, and Newville (near Petersburg) communities.⁴⁰ Balch, citing the *Annual Reports of the Commissioner General of Immigration* for the decade ended June 30, 1908, numbered 158 Bohemians and Moravians and 439 Slovaks (among a total of 2,375 Slavs immigrating to the U.S.) giving Virginia as their destination.⁴¹

How many Czechs and Slovaks came to Virginia? Josef Machat spoke of “over 500 families” in 1915. Anderson suggested 1,800 Bohemians in Prince George County in 1920; 1,000 in Dinwiddie County; and 700 in Chesterfield County. The 1930 census identified 2,641 Czechoslovakians in Virginia counties and cities:

- Caroline County, 125
- Chesterfield County, 107
- Dinwiddie County, 157
- Petersburg, 43
- Greensville County, 97
- Hanover County, 40
- Henrico County, 260
- Richmond, 147
- King William County, 76
- New Kent County, 56

³⁵ Chada, p. 26.

³⁶ Reed, “New Immigrants in the New South;” Jean Ann Scarpaci, “Immigrants in the New South: Italians in Louisiana's Sugar Parishes, 1880-1910,” in Milton Cantor, ed., *American Workingclass Culture: Explorations in American Labor and Social History* (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1979), pp. 377-395.

³⁷ Brown and Roucek, p. 234.

³⁸ Chada, pp. 25-26. Rechcigl has good information on the Czech towns of Libuse and Kolin, established in Rapides Parish, Louisiana, in the early 20th century.

³⁹ Čapek, pp. 60, 67.

⁴⁰ Likely Slavic surnames in Prince George County in the 1906 gazetteer included Bresko, Devorak, Hantzlek, Jerebeck, Kadlek, Kail, Kanak, Krasnicka, Kratockvil, Krummell, Mifka, Mistr, Mucos, Necol, Nemis, Prochask, Pudil, Rott, Rusnok, Sarna, Skalak, Skalsky, Suda, Tomco, Totusek, Vesili, Walta, and Zaruba. Names in the 1911 gazetteer included Bresko, Cilinda, Devorak, Fence, Jerebeck, Kadlek, Kanak, Milfka, Mistr, Mucos, Nemis, Prochack, Sebera, Sipos, Skalak, Tamco, Tomco, Walta, and Zuchin. Surnames listed in 1917 included Bresko, Devorak, Ference, Kolar, Jerebeck, Kanak, Milfka, Mistr, Mucos, Nemic, Prochazhak, Sipos, Skalsky, Tamko, Zajic, and Zuchin. No such names were listed in Prince George County in the gazetteers of 1887-78, 1888-89, or 1893-94.

⁴¹ Balch, pp. 256-257. Zatko, p. 90, identified Slovak colonies at Antioch (Fluvanna County? Or Prince William County?) and at North Emporia, Virginia.

Norfolk, 57
Prince George County, 340
Hopewell, 125
Prince William County, 78
Stafford County, 37
Surry County, 22
Warwick County, 42
Sussex County, 21
Wise County, 28
Elsewhere, 783

Kovács suggested that this estimate was low, that there were actually about 4,000 Czechs and Slovaks in Virginia. For comparison, the 1920 census listed Prince George County with 14,312 residents, counting 1,397 in the City of Hopewell.

New Bohemia, Prince George County

The greatest number of Czech and Slovak settlers in Virginia lived in Prince George County. Josef Machat, “Prince George’s pioneer Bohemian settler,” came from Nebraska in 1887.

The “Land Company” with the German-speaking representative was evidently the firm of Charles H. Pyle and Robert W. DeHaven, of Petersburg. They advertised as Pyle & DeHaven, Real Estate Agents and Land Brokers, and as Agents of the Virginia Immigration Society. They promoted the cheap lands, good markets and excellent climate of Virginia.⁴² Machat bought his farm in Prince George through the agency of Pyle & DeHaven. Pyle & DeHaven were also involved with the Basl family and the Greenway property.⁴³

Machat’s farm was located near the present-day intersection of Interstates 95 and 295. The farm was on Second Swamp in Rives District, and it measured 159.39 acres.⁴⁴ Josef Machat seems to have outlived his wife, his brother Frank, his son Joseph F., and his son’s wife, and in 1927, near the end of his life, he sold the farm to Stanley Lipchak.⁴⁵ Circa 1990, the Commonwealth of Virginia acquired part of the farm for construction of I-295. The fate of the Machat buildings is not yet known.

Other farmers of Czech and Slovak descent followed. Early Bohemian settlers in Prince George County were Fred Suda, Frantisek Kvasnicka, and August Holc.⁴⁶ Frank Mistr, drawn by advertisements of cheap farms in Virginia, bought the 376-acre Alexander Livesay Farm in 1892.⁴⁷ Emanuel Kvasníčka (Krasnicka) came from

⁴² Petersburg City Directories, 1886-87 and 1891-92; also Chada, p. 26, quoting “Dějiny Čechů, v okolí, Petersburg, Virginia.”

⁴³ *Prince George County, Virginia -- Where History was Made*, p. 50.

⁴⁴ The 1902 Prince George Land Book shows Machat with 159½ acres on Second Swamp in Rives Magisterial District; the land was valued at \$723.50, and the buildings at \$318.66.

⁴⁵ See Prince George DB 73, p. 320 (1919); DB 91, p. 227 (1927); and DB 126, p. 284 (1944). Lipchak was a Czech or Slovak name. The Lipchak Management LLP held the land, 157.11 acres, until ca. 1990, when construction of the northbound lanes of I-295 resulted in a taking of 54.36 acres (see DB 281, p. 136, and DB 303, p. 362). The LLP further subdivided the holding, and now retains 35.7 acres. Plate LXXVII, map 2 of The Civil War Atlas shows three “Alley” properties in the area; also, “Sturdivant’s Mill.”

⁴⁶ Francis Earl Lutz, *The Prince George/Hopewell Story* (Richmond, Va.: William Byrd Press, 1957), pp. 209-210. Suda arrived by 1890; see Prince George DB 37, p. 395.

⁴⁷ Prince George County Deed Book 39, p. 25 (November 17, 1892). The farm, now owned by the Bresko family, is located on Laurel Springs Road (Route 616). Frank Mistr (1839-1913) is buried in the cemetery at the Bohemia Congregational Church.

Europe in 1894, worked for four years as a farmhand, and purchased his own farm ca. 1898.⁴⁸ Vaclav Shredl came from Bedford, Ohio, in 1897.⁴⁹ Michael Balaš and his family came to Prince George in 1897. Joseph Troch, a native of Bohemia, came to Prince George County from Baltimore in 1902. Andrew Sluka, born in Hungary, came to Prince George County from Detroit in 1918.⁵⁰

The Czechoslovakians had expertise in reclaiming worn-out farmland, and they developed prosperous farms and dairies in the Estes community of Prince George County. Estes was renamed New Bohemia in 1912.

The New Bohemia settlement was the core of a Czech-Slovak community that spread to other areas of Prince George County. They founded churches that reflected their cultural origins, both Catholic and protestant churches dotted the rural county landscape. The Wells paper identifies these congregations as either founded by or associated with the Czech-Slovak community of Prince George County:

Roman Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart

Bohemia Congregational Church (also called Begonia Church; now known as Bethlehem Congregational Church)

Czechoslovak Congregational Church

St. Paul's Slovak Lutheran Church

Czech-Slovak Oakland Baptist Church

Gregory Presbyterian Church

First Czechoslovakian Presbyterian Church

The First Czechoslovakian Presbyterian Church (known also as the Prince George Church and as the Old Brick Presbyterian Church) at routes 156 and 646, was founded by Czech immigrants who came to Virginia from “the old country” and from other states, seeking inexpensive farmland and a warm climate.⁵¹ Many of the immigrants were members of the Czech Reformed Church. Thirty members organized as the First Bohemian Presbyterian Church of Petersburg, in 1908. The “colonial style” brick building was built in 1913. In 1920, the church was renamed First Czechoslovakian Presbyterian Church. Services were conducted in the Czech tongue for many years. Revs. Frank Uherka, J. A. Kohout and were early pastors.

Reverend Kohout, the church building, and a gathering of the congregation were photographed for the Bohemia Land Company’s 1915 brochure, “Dějiny Čechů, v okolí, Petersburg, Virginia.” The church cemetery has approximately 100 burials, dating from the 1920s to the 21st century.⁵²

⁴⁸ “A Letter from Bohemia,” *The Southern Homeseeker and Investors Guide*, Roanoke, Virginia, March 1914, p. 29.

⁴⁹ “Voclar Sredl” purchased the former R. H. Williams property, 278 acres with improvements, 4 miles from Petersburg near Jerusalem Plank Road, from R. G. and Mary S. Marks. See Prince George County DB 42, p. 191.

⁵⁰ Kovács, pp. 41-42, 44.

⁵¹ “History of the First Czechoslovak Presbyterian Church of Prince George County, Va.,” *East Hanover Presbytery. Its Minutes. Hanover, VA* (Apr. 24, 1934), pp. 48-50; Kovács, pp. 78-81; Hagy, p. 28.

⁵² The church is identified both as a Presbyterian and as a Baptist church. Czech and other Slavic names in the cemetery include Burian, Cibula, Dvorak, Golnic, Holc, Jerebak, Makovsky, Mistr, Ondra, Opocensky, Prichystal, Skalsky, Sodomka, Sulc, Sumska, Svetlik, Tomko, Vavricek, Vejnar, Voda, and Vtipil.



The picture reproduced above, from Kovács, p. 79, shows Reverend Adolph Makovsky and Mrs. Makovsky in front of the First Bohemian Presbyterian Church. The church maintained missions in Henrico (using an old school building at Sandston) and New Kent counties. Both of these missions were discontinued by 1939.

The Presbyterian congregation continued in the building until the early 1980s. The church building was sold to the Prince George Baptist congregation in 1985. Pastor Lewis Garrett has led his congregation up to the present day. Pastor Garrett, a native of Appomattox County, began his education at the University of Richmond, initially pursuing a medical degree. He later pursued a divinity degree (at University of Richmond) and received his advanced degree from Union Seminary (Richmond). Garrett has been an active Pastor since 1958, serving at Liberty Baptist Church, Red Oak Baptist Church, Falling Creek Baptist Church and Charity Baptist Church. He formed the Prince George Baptist Church in 1984. The current building, with land, was purchased for \$84,000. The Southern Baptist Convention contributed \$25,000 towards the purchase. Garrett ran Hallmark shops from 1971 to 1979 in the Petersburg and Appomattox areas. The Prince George Baptist Church actively supports the Annie Armstrong Mission and the Lottie Moon Christmas Mission. They recently raised \$11,000 as part of their mission support.

Bibliography

Kovács, Sándor Bodonsky. Czechoslovaks in Virginia. Ph. D. Dissertation, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, 1939.

Krupar, A. C. "Dejiny Cechu, v okolí, Petersburg, Virginia: History of the Bohemians in the vicinity of Petersburg, Virginia." Petersburg, Virginia: Bohemian Land Company, 1915.

Prince George County Tricentennial Committee. Prince George County, Virginia: Where History was Made. Richmond, Virginia: Dietz Press, 2003.

Claudia Hagy, Survey of Prince George County, Virginia (Wytheville, Virginia, 1924)

Garrett, Lewis, Pastor. Interview by Marc Wagner, January 9th, 2018.

5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: X Public\Local _____ Public\State _____ Public\Federal _____

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: Pastor Lewis Garrett
organization: Prince George Baptist Church
street & number: (Same as Church address above)
city or town: _____ state: _____ zip code: _____
e-mail: MarLew2004@aol.com telephone: 804-541-1777

Legal Owner's Signature: _____ Date: _____

•• Signature required for processing all applications. ••

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: _____
Daytime Telephone: _____

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

name/title: Marc Wagner
organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources
street & number: 2801 Kensington Avenue
city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23228
e-mail: Marc.wagner@dhr.virginia.gov telephone: 804-482-6099

6. Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator, City Manager, and/or Town Manager

name/title: Percy C. Ashcraft, Prince George County Administrator
locality: Prince George County
street & number: 6602 Courts Drive (3rd Floor)
city or town: Prince George state: VA zip code: 23875
telephone: (804) 722-8600