



Virginia Department of Historic Resources PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

General Property Information

For Staff Use Only
DHR ID #: 005-0016

Property Name(s): St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Property Date(s): c.1831, c. 1873 Circa Pre Post Open to Public? Yes Limited No

Property Address: 3788 Buffalo Springs Turnpike City: Monroe Zip: 24574

County or Ind. City: Amherst County USGS Quad(s): Forks of Buffalo

Physical Character of General Surroundings

Acreage: 14 Setting (choose one): Urban Town Village Suburban Rural Transportation Corridor

Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features: The building sits on a hill side overlooking the Pedlar River and on the west side of Buffalo Springs Turnpike (State Route 635). The cemetery is on the hill side above the church to its northeast side. Southwest of the church is the now abandoned parsonage [formerly DHR No. 005-5185]. Most of the land behind the church is wooded. Scattered around the church are mature hardwoods and conifers. In the front of the church, at the portico, are shrubs and flowers.

Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property: There is a cemetery to the northeast and an abandoned parsonage to the southwest. The cemetery is still in use with the earliest known (marked) burial dating 1901 and the latest 2016. There are approximately 80 plus burials most with markers including headstones, footstones, fieldstones and a headstone forged of metal. The frame parsonage is abandoned and in poor shape.

Ownership Category: Private Public-Local Public-State Public-Federal

Individual Resource Information

What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc...

Church

What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) Church

Architectural style or elements of styles: Vernacular interpretation of Greek Revival and Gothic Revival

Architect, builder, or original owner: unknown

of stories 1 Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Poor Ruins Rebuilt Renovated

Are there any known threats to this property? None known

Resource Component Information

Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer "n/a." If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.

Foundation: Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete.
Random stone

Structure: Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known.
Brick, 4:1 Common Bond

Walls: Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles.
Brick

Windows: Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically) Have the windows been replaced?
Stained-glass windows on two sides and one 9/9 double-hung sash window

Porch: Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details.
Portico has random stone foundation a brick floor outlined with flat concrete slabs surrounding the outside of the portico. There are four wooden Doric columns and a wooden pediment

Roof: Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material.
Standing seam metal

Chimney(s): List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible.
Two brick flues at the southwest end

Architectural Description of Individual Resource: *(Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated.*

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is located on the west side of Buffalo Springs Turnpike in the Pedlar Mill Community. It is a brick one-story gable roofed church measuring 28 x 30 feet. The c. 1831 Neoclassical Revival style building has a stone foundation, 4:1 common bond brick walls and the roof is standing-seam metal. There are two brick flues: one on the northwest and one on the southeast sides. The rear brick ell was constructed sometime after 1831; it is similar in construction but is not tied into the original construction of the building. It measures 15 x 12 feet. Sometime around 1873, the church was, according to sketch histories, rebuilt using the original materials.¹ The main elevation of the building has a 9 x 28 portico constructed around 1926. The building sits on a hillside with a cemetery behind the building and the abandoned parsonage located to the northwest.

The main elevation faces southwest. The gable front building has a concrete stoop and stair. The stoop is inscribed 1926. There are eight risers to the portico and it has round metal railings along both sides. The floor of the portico is brick in a running bond pattern with flat concrete blocks along the edges. The simple undecorated pediment is supported by four symmetrical wooden Doric columns. At the top of the pediment is the remains of what was once a wooden cross, on the vertical section remains. There are two sets of double-leaf entries with wooden lintels with simple corner blocks.

The northwest and southeast elevation both have two symmetrically placed rectangular stained-glass windows with wooden lintels and simple corner blocks, like the entries. On the northwest side there is a wooden handicap ramp to the portico.

¹ According to Sr. Warden, Thomas C. Wallace III, the church records were stored at a home which burned in the 1950s. Early church history is known through a 1957 unpublished paper by Rev. Paul A. Walker and though convention journals available online.

The northeast elevation has the rear ell addition. The main block of the building has gable end returns. The rear ell is centered behind the main block. The addition is decorated with three rows of corbels at the eaves. At the junction of the addition and main block on the northwest and southeast are two smaller rectangular stained-glass windows. On the southeast is a single-leaf entry, a five-paneled door typical of the late 19th century. Centered at the northeast elevation of the ell is a 9/9 double-hung sash window with a brick lintel.

The interior of the building is separated into the nave and chancel areas and likely dates from 1873. The nave has a double aisle plan with three sets of painted oak pews, possibly dating from 1831. The outside aisles each have seven rows of 6 ft. pews and the center section has eight rows of 12 ft. pews; all likely dated from about 1831. The room has bead board wainscoting around the room. At the northwest corner is a half wall marking the choir area; it contains an old piano at present time. Centered along the northwest wall is a raised pulpit area in front of the raised chancel area. The separation between the nave and chancel is marked by a simple pediment supported by square pilasters. Throughout the interior is heart pine flooring. In 1976, the coal stove was removed and electric baseboard heating was installed.

The windows in the nave and chancel areas are stained-glass and are identical in design; they feature lancets with trefoils near the peaks of the lancets and crosses on the sides. The memorial notations are at the bottom of the window.² Between the nave windows and the doors on the southwest wall are three marble memorial plaques to the Ellis family.

The chancel area has bead board walls. The northwest wall has a lancet window of stained-glass with a trefoil and image of Christ between two single-leaf lancet doors. Behind the chancel is a storage/changing room with a single 9/9 double-hung sash window and single-leaf door to the exterior of the building.

² Mr. Wallace told a story of the stained-glass window in the northwest side of the chancel. He stated the window, until repaired in 1976, had a bullet hole. It was from the inside. The incident in which the window was shot remains unknown.
2/17/2017

Significance Statement: Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form will be posted for consideration by the State Review Board.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is a significant architectural resource of Amherst County. It is one of the earliest buildings and the only church in the Pedlar Mills village. It retains much of its historic integrity and has not been significantly altered since 1926.³

The congregation was organized between 1790 and 1815. It was known as the Pedlar Church until it was consecrated as St. Luke's Episcopal Church on 11 May 1876. It was formed under Rev. Charles Crawford after the Revolutionary War when the faith was unpopular with most Americans. The congregation met in a tobacco barn and around 1826 they decided to build a permanent building. It was completed around 1831. Around 1873, diocese records note the building in need of repair; the church lore states the earlier building was torn down and rebuilt with the original materials. This was about the time when membership was at an all-time high. The early church records were lost in the 1950s when there was a fire at the home in which the records were stored.⁴

St. Luke's Church remains active despite a small membership. It was an important part of the Pedlar Mills community and the Ellis family of Red Hill (005-0014). The Ellis family were prominent landowners and merchants, they gave the land on which the building was constructed and donated heavily to the church. This family has three memorial plaques within the church and these are dedicated to three generations of the family: Charles Ellis (1719-1754), Josiah Ellis (1746-1810) and Powhatan Ellis Lewis (1819-1847).⁵

References

- Amherst County Heritage Book Committee. *Amherst County Virginia Heritage 1761-1999*. n.d.
- Amherst County Museum and Historical Society. "St. Luke's Episcopal Church Files." n.d.
- History Tech and Landmark Preservation Associates. "Amherst County Historic Resources Survey Report July 2010." 2010.
- Meade, William. *Old Churches in Virginia, Vol. 2*. 1861. books.google.com (accessed 2016).
- Smith, W. Scott Breckinridge. "Pedlar Mills Rural Historic District (005-5025)." 2009.
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church. *Church History*. n.d. stlukespedlarmills.net (accessed 2016).
- Virginia Department of Historic Resources. "St. Luke's Episcopal Church (005-0012) Archive." n.d.
- Virginia Diocese of Protestant Episcopal Church. *Journals of Councils of Protestant Episcopal Church 1790-1880*. various. books.google.com (accessed 2016).
- Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff. "Red Hill (005-0014)." 1980.
- Walker, Rev. Paul A. "History of St. Luke's Church at Pedlar Mills." unpublished, 1957.

³ (Smith 2009), (History Tech and Landmark Preservation Associates 2010) and (Virginia Department of Historic Resources 2015.)

⁴ (Walker 1957), (Virginia Diocese of Protestant Episcopal Church various), and conversations with Sr. Warden Thomas C. Wallace III.

⁵ (Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff 1980)

Legal Owner(s) of the Property (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.)

Mr. Mrs. Dr.
 Miss Ms. Hon. Thomas C Wallace IV Senior Warden St Luke's Episcopal Church

(Name) (Firm)

181 Father Judge Road Amherst VA 24521
 (Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

(Email Address) (Daytime telephone including area code) 434-929-7525

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)

Mr. Mrs. Dr.
 Miss Ms. Hon. Sandra F. Esposito

(Name) (Firm)

140 Cradon Hill Ln Amherst VA 24521
 (Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

(Email Address) (Daytime telephone including area code) espositosf@earthlink.net 434-946-7496

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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 or City Manager.

Mr. Mrs. Dr.
 Miss Ms. Hon. Dean C. Rodgers County Administrator

(Name) (Position)

Amherst County PO Box 390
 (Locality) (Address)

Amherst VA 24521 434-946-9400
 (City) (State) (Zip Code) (Daytime telephone including area code)

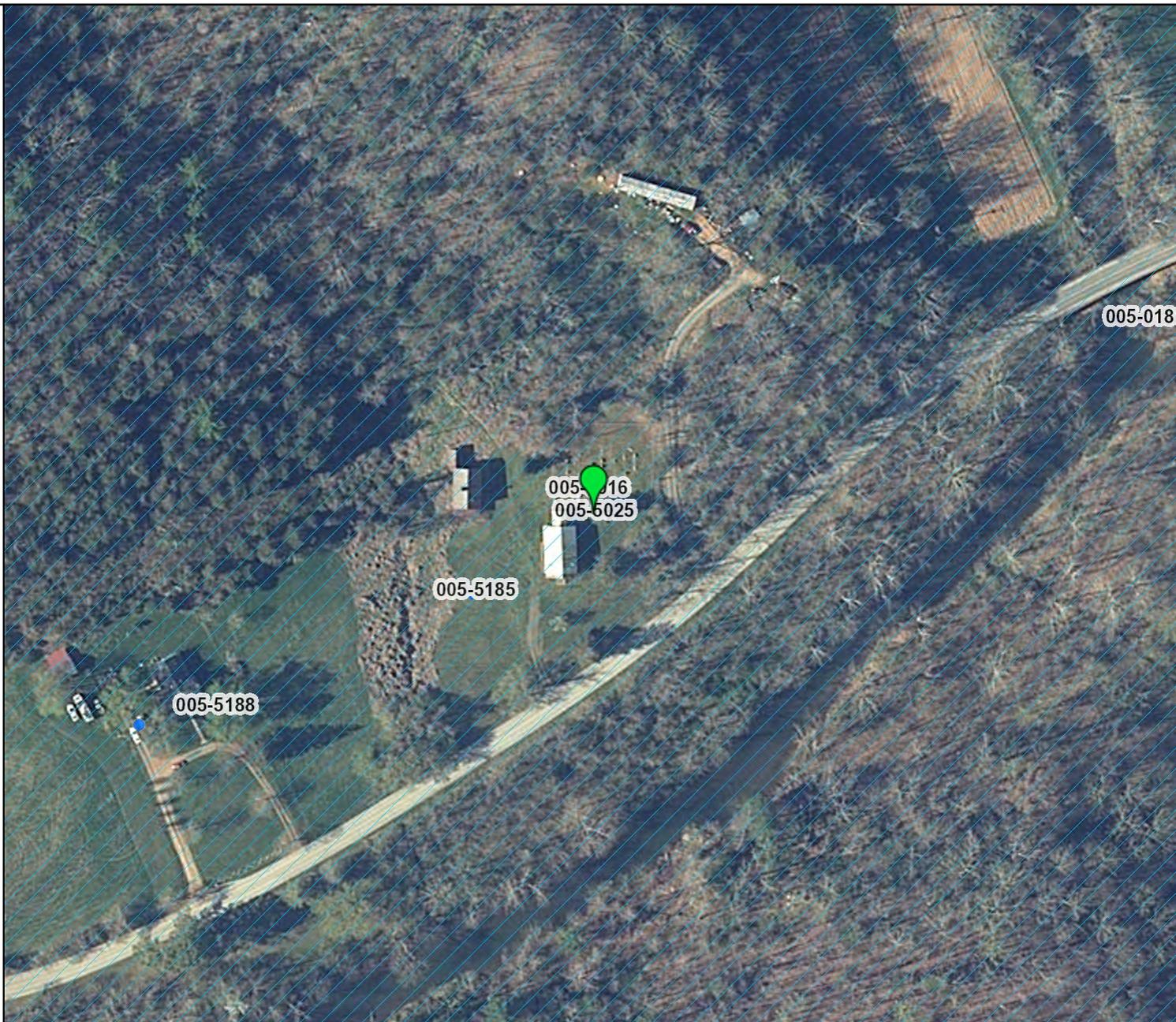
Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.
This is one of the oldest church buildings in Amherst County. It is also one of the few surviving buildings of the village of Pedlar Mills.

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes No
 Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes No

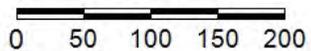


Legend

- Architecture Labels
- Architecture Points
- ☑ Historic Districts
- USGS GIS Place names
- County Boundaries



Feet



1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet

Title: St. Luke's Church

Date: 12/28/2016

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

AMHERST COUNTY



#'s not used
2
4
8



PEDLAR DISTRICT

SECTION 105

REVISED: 12/3/88

PROPERTY TAX DIV. - VIRGINIA DEPT. OF TAXATION