

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 #: 005-5259
Property Name(s): <u>El Bethel Church</u>	
Property Date(s): <u>1930</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post Open to Public? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Limited <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Property Address: <u>925 Buffalo Springs Turnpike</u> City: <u>Monroe</u> Zip: <u>24574</u>	
County or Ind. City: <u>Amherst County</u> USGS Quad(s): <u>Forks of Buffalo</u>	

Physical Character of General Surroundings	
Acreage: <u><1</u> Setting (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Corridor	
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features: <u>The building stands on a hill side overlooking the Pedlar River and on the west side of Buffalo Springs Turnpike (State Route 635).</u>	
Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property: <u>There is a stone retaining wall in front and a cemetery behind the church.</u>	
Ownership Category: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/> Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	

Individual Resource Information	
What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc...	
Church & Cemetery	
What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) <u>Church</u>	
Architectural style or elements of styles: <u>Vernacular interpretation of Neo-Classical Revival and Gothic Revival</u>	
Architect, builder, or original owner: <u>unknown</u>	
# of stories <u>1</u> Condition: <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Rebuilt <input type="checkbox"/> Renovated	
Are there any known threats to this property? <u>None known</u>	

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.
Concrete slab

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.
Frame (sawn lumber)

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

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?
All windows are stained-glass windows

Porch: Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details.
Portico has a concrete slab foundation and the pediment is simple. There are four fluted wooden Doric columns.

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.
Concrete flue on the east elevation

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.*

El Bethel is a former Methodist church located on the east side of Buffalo Springs Turnpike in the Allwood community of Amherst County. The building is now owned by the Allwood Community Association. The congregation which formed in 1837 built the first church on the site soon thereafter. According to church tradition, the original structure was larger than the present building and it was torn down around 1930; they reused material from the original church in the new building.

The church sits on an acre lot which has a rolling landscape. The Allwood Cemetery is northeast of the church and the former Allwood School is southwest. The church is sited on a rise like an ancient temple. There is a stone wall with concrete stair at the first terrace above the drive. A concrete sidewalk leads to the platform stair that spans the width of the main elevation beneath the portico.

The foundation of the frame, gable-front building is a concrete slab. The exterior has weatherboard covering the exterior and a standing-seam metal gable roof. There is a concrete block chimney flue on the east elevation. Each elevation has three symmetrically placed bays that are lancet windows of stained-glass; the entry has a stained-glass window above it.

The main elevation faces west. The portico has a concrete stair of three risers spanning the elevation. The simple pediment is supported by four fluted wooden Doric columns. There is a fan-shaped vent in the pediment. The double-leaf entry has a stained-glass lancet above it. The entry is centered between two windows.

The north and south elevations are identical with three large lancet windows of stained-glass. At the roof eave are exposed rafter tails.

The east or rear elevation has three bays with center window larger than the two which flank it. There is access to a crawl space or cellar by means of a double-leaf slanted doors.

The interior of Ell Bethel has a nave and chancel separated by a wall containing three lancet arches. The nave has a center aisle with nine rows each side of wooden pews. The pulpit is raised above the main

floor and the chancel area is raised above the pulpit. The sides of the pulpit area have two partial walls surrounding the choir areas. The medium gauge wood floors are carpeted along the aisle and the pulpit and chancel areas, the areas beneath the pews is exposed wood. The shape of the pew supports are lancets.

There is simple wainscot beneath the chair rail and there are original 1930s era pendant lights suspended from the barrel-vaulted ceiling; this type ceiling is an unusual feature of rural Amherst County churches.

All of the stained-glass windows are dedicated to prominent people of the church, members and pastors, and all but one window contain Christian symbols. One single window is dedicated to a veteran of the Confederate army; it contains a flag with the St. Andrews cross that has become a symbol of the Confederacy but not the official Confederate flag.

The building retains its historical integrity and is unaltered. The church closed in 1988 and the building was essentially abandoned until 1998 when the Pedlar Ruritan Club restored and repaired the building.

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.

This building is significant architecturally as 1930s vernacular expression of ecclesiastical architecture in rural Amherst County. Its prominent features are its Neo-classical temple design and siting, the stained-glass windows and the barrel-vaulted ceiling. The church was constructed by the local community. It remains intact and has not been significantly altered since construction in 1930. The Methodist congregation formed in 1837 and soon thereafter they built the first building on the site. In 1930, the congregation decided to replace the original building and according to church lore materials from the original building were salvaged and used in the newer and smaller building. The congregation worshipped in the new building until 1988 when due to the small membership the church closed. The building was essentially abandoned until the Pedlar Ruritan Club restored the building as a community project. The Allwood Community Association took ownership of the church and started using it for special event. The church was the focal point of the community at one time.

Behind the church is a cemetery that was once part of the church land. It is now administered by another community group. Also once part of the church property was the two-room school that was sold off and turned into a house, it is now abandoned.

References

Amherst County Heritage Book Committee. *Amherst County Virginia Heritage 1761-1999*. n.d.
Amherst County Museum and Historical Society. "El Bethel Church Files." n.d.
History Tech and Landmark Preservation Associates. "Amherst County Historic Resources Survey Report July 2010." 2010.

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

Mr. Mrs. Dr.
 Miss Ms. Hon. El Bethel Community Association
(Name)

925 Buffalo Springs Turnpike Amherst VA 24521
(Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

(Email Address) (Daytime telephone including area code)

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: Julie Watts 2818 Buffalo Springs Tpke, Monroe, VA 24574

Daytime Telephone: (434)922-7660

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

Mr. Mrs. Dr.
 Miss Ms. Hon. Sandra F. Esposito
(Name)

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

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

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)

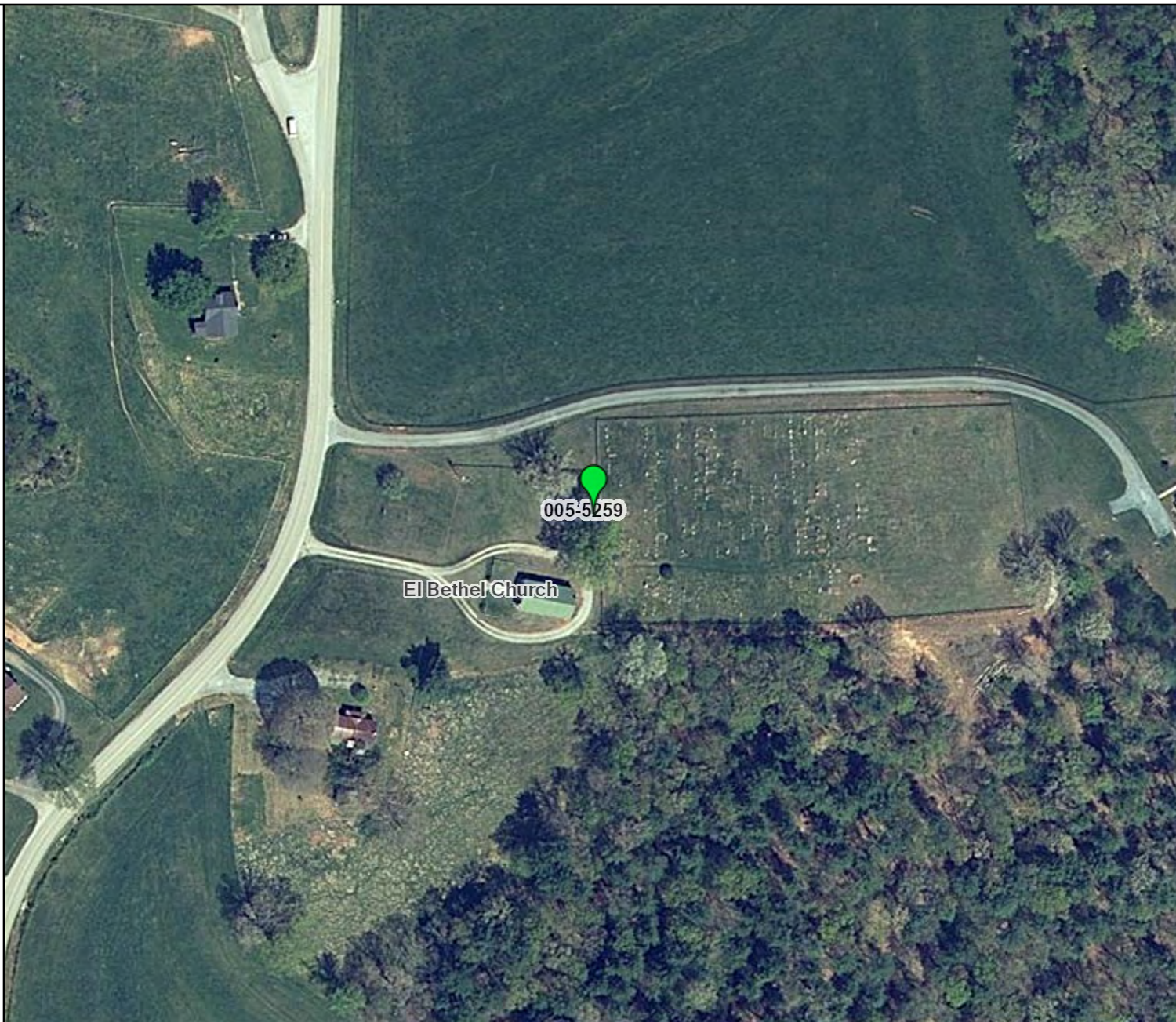
Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.
This is a unique example of rural ecclesiastical architecture in Amherst County and was an integral part of the Allwood community.

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: El Bethel Methodist Church

Date: 12/15/2016

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.

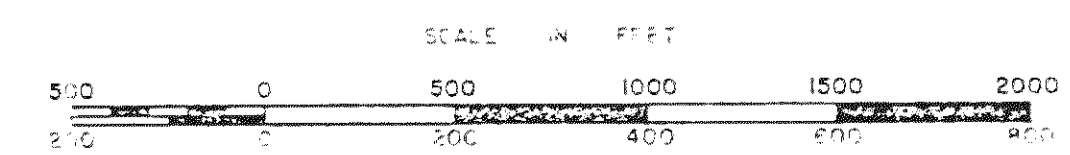
AMHERST COUNTY



60

62

77



PEDLAR COURTHOUSE DISTRICT

SECTION 61