

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 #: 045-0005
Property Name(s): <u>McDowell Presbyterian Church</u>	
Property Date(s): <u>1856</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post Open to Public? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Limited <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Property Address: <u>9099 Highland Turnpike</u> City: <u>McDowell</u> Zip: <u>24458</u>	
County or Ind. City: <u>Highland County</u> USGS Quad(s): <u>McDowell</u>	

Physical Character of General Surroundings

Acreeage: 2 acres Setting (choose one): Urban Town Village Suburban Rural Transportation Corridor

Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features:

First organized in 1822 and constructed in 1856, this church is located on U.S. Highway 250 at the intersection of state route 678 and the entrance to the village of McDowell. The Bullpasture river flows south past the church down the Bullpasture Valley. The church is overlooked by the Bullpasture mountain, and two significant ridges: Hull's Hill and Sitlington Hill. The Battle of McDowell was fought primarily on this latter feature on the afternoon-evening of May 8, 1862. This battle is generally considered by historians as the first victory in Stonewall Jackson's 1862 Valley campaign.

The church was registered with the American Presbyterian/Reformed Historical Sites Registry, as indicated in records as 8 September 1983.

Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property:

The church Manse, completed in 1879, is located on the property.

The church is the proprietor of the small grave yard to the east, across U.S. route 250. Casualties from the McDowell battle are interred in this grave yard.

A historical marker in front of the church states that the building was used as a hospital during the battle.

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...

Presbyterian Place of worship

What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) Presbyterian worship and religious activity

Architectural style or elements of styles: Mid-19th century "American", replacing a two-room log church built around 1822.

Architect, builder, or original owner: Philip B. Rodgers, Carpenter/builder; John Page, brick maker

of stories 2 Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Poor Ruins Rebuilt Renovated

Are there any known threats to this property? No

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.
The foundation consists of hewn limestone blocks.

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.
The structure is fired red brick for double-thick walls. John Page, a brick maker, instructed members of the congregation in brick-making, and this was done in the adjoining field (circa 1856.)

Walls: Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles.
Exterior walls are double-thick 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?
Interior: six windows per side. Window above porch. Vertical windows flank porch. Original windows, probably plain glass, were replaced by stained-glass windows, date uncertain. Several such windows carry family names, such as "Bradshaw," a family supporting the church. Windows no longer can be raised.

Porch: Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details.
Porch, plain, no porch roof. Poured concrete from later date provides porch and walkway. Double wooden doors, flanked by stained-glass vertical lancet-type windows. Above porch the legend: MCDOWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ORGANIZED 1822. An ugly chain-link fence in front of the church was replaced in the, approximately, 1990's by a grant providing a beautiful split rail fence. The historical marker attributing the church to serve as a hospital during the battle stands in front of the porch.

Roof: Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material.
Standing steel tin, probably replacing original wood shingles.

Chimney(s): List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible.
1 chimney probably replacing wood-fired stove in old church, 1 chimney for new fellowship hall, see below. Both chimneys are brick, bonding harmoniously with original brick of the building.

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.)*

The present writer is unable and unqualified to specify a particular architectural style, since "vernacular" seems to be not permitted. Basic style: mid-19th century American. Many 19th century churches either fell into disrepair or were upgraded and remodeled. McDowell Presbyterian was sustained, upgraded, remodeled, with a social hall added. For example, the flues to the church were

rebuilt in 1951, replaced now by electric heating. The old pews were replaced in 1952 (beautiful polished oak. NO CUSHIONS! Very Presbyterian!) Funds for a new fellowship hall were solicited in 1956 for a hall, kitchen, two washrooms, 2 classrooms, all now functioning.

Most likely at the time of original construction a white wooden door was installed in the southern side of the building with, presumably, wooden stairs leading up to the door. Conventional wisdom indicates this door was used to allow slaves and other African Americans entrance to the building, and access to stairs leading up to the church balcony (gallery) so that they could attend services.

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.

ORGANIZATION: “The preaching of the gospel, having been attended with pleasing success on the Bullpasture River in the County of Pendleton, and there being no Presbyterian Church organized (there)...we on this date agree...and voluntarily consent to be known as the Central Union Church.”
Date: November 2, 1822. (Source: Sessional Records of the Presbyterian Church, Central Union, Pendleton County, Va., 1822.)

“It is proposed to erect an edifice for purposes of public worship, upon or near, the grounds of the Central Union Church under the care & in connection with the Presbytery of Lexington...Oct. 6, 1855...” “Calfpasture Aprile the 10th 1856....I will Do the Carpenter work to your church...” (signed Philip B. Rodgers to Robert “Settlington”...) (Source: Robert Sitlington Collection, housed in the Highland Historical Society (museum) in McDowell, Virginia.)

THE CHURCH AND THE BATTLE OF MCDOWELL, 8 MAY 1862:

Conventional wisdom and local history relate that “...the church saw various uses during the Civil War....Troops were billeted there, and once the pews were burned for firewood...General Stonewall Jackson and General Milroy fought an important battle in McDowell...and the church was used as a hospital for both Union and Confederate troops....dead from both sides were buried in a mass grave across from the church.”

Richard Armstrong, author of **THE BATTLE OF MCDOWELL**. As primary sources he relates the following:

“...Their dead were found piled up in different places in houses and churches...” (Source: History of the Doles-Cook brigade of northern Virginia, C.S.A.)

“...In May 1862, Reverend Price mentioned ‘ During his absence attending meeting of his presbytery, the enemy took possession of the two churches in which he ministered—one at McDowell, Highland County, Virginia, the other at Williamsville.’(Source: William T. Price Papers, H.L. Sheets Collection)

“...May 4—Sunday. “ Cool with a few clouds flying. Going to McDowell this afternoon. rode over to McD in an ambulance...quartered in a church that is being used as a hospital...” (Source: Diary of John S. Sosman, 73rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio, see p. 2.)

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

Mr. Mrs. Dr. **Patricia Wright/Julia Williams,**
Miss Ms. Hon. **Trustees**

9099 Highland Turnpike (Address) McDowell (City) VA (State) 24458 (Zip Code)

beth.pyles@gmail.com (Email Address) 540-396-3450 (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: _____

Daytime Telephone: () _____

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

Mr. Mrs. Dr.
Miss Ms. Hon. **William Crisp**

P.O. Box 84 (Address) McDowell (City) VA (State) 24458 (Zip Code)

Crispin@ntelos.net (Email Address) 540 886 55723 (Daytime telephone including area code)

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: 1/30/2018

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. **Roberta Lambert, County**
Miss Ms. Hon. **Administrator**

Highland County (Locality) P.O. Box 130 (Address)

Monterey (City) VA (State) 24465 (Zip Code) **540 468 2347** (Daytime telephone including area code)

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

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