

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.

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| General Property Information | For Staff Use Only DHR ID #: 070-0116 |
| Property Name(s): <u>Concord Primitive Baptist Church</u> | |
| Property Date(s): <u>1854 (land), 1912 (present building)</u> <input 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>453 Concord Road</u> City: <u>Meadows of Dan</u> Zip: <u>24120</u> | |
| County or Ind. City: <u>Patrick</u> USGS Quad(s): <u>Meadows of Dan</u> | |

Physical Character of General Surroundings

Acreeage: c. 3 Setting (choose one): Urban Town Village Suburban Rural Transportation Corridor

Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features:

The church is located on Concord Road in a rural area in southwestern Virginia about a half mile east of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the center of Meadows of Dan. This road was once part of the Danville & Wythville Turnpike. Constructed in the 1850s, the unpaved turnpike was the major east-west highway in the region. This section of the turnpike was not included in the paved Rt. 58 that replaced it. Concord Road remains largely unpaved and sees little traffic. The landscape is largely field and forest. Trees surround the clearing occupied by the church. Tuggle Creek flows behind the Church. The overflow of a natural spring that supplies the church and its baptismal pool feeds into the creek.

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

A wood framed two-stall outhouse (male & female sides) that has been converted into a storage shed. (This is in poor condition and is scheduled for removal.) A natural spring provided water for community and turnpike travelers prior to church ownership. The spring has since been improved and piped to provide water to the church and its exterior baptismal pool. The site of a previous Concord Church building (constructed mid 1850s) is on the same property as shown by the historical record and local knowledge.

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) n.a.

Architectural style or elements of styles: A simple vernacular building with a frame of sawn lumber, a gable roof, and weather board siding.

Architect, builder, or original owner: Builders: Newton Hylton & Grover Agee. Owner: Concord Primitive Baptist Church membership

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

Are there any known threats to this property? Yes. Declining membership and an uncertain future if its use as church ends. Declining membership and resources threatened maintenance and physical integrity of the building. Change of ownership may lead to the building's demolition to reclaim American Chestnut lumber.

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 block.

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 of sawn lumber. Three pine 7-8" square vertical structural support timbers are exposed in the center of the meeting room.

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

Exterior walls of plain painted yellow poplar weatherboard. The interior walls (plain plank) and ceiling (beaded plank) of the meeting hall are primarily of unpainted American Chestnut. The only painted chestnut is in the area of the pulpit. The interior of the foyer and bathrooms added to front of the church in the late 1950s are of conventional wood and wall board construction.

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?

Double wood sash windows with vertically sliding lower sashes. Six panes per sash, most panes appear to be original to the building.

Porch: Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details.

Concrete stoop in front. No porch.

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

Metal

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

Concrete exterior block chimney in rear for oil furnace.

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.)

Concord Primitive Baptist Church (also called the “Concord Church” in this document) is the congregation’s third church. The present property was donated in 1854 for the construction of its second church building, which was replaced by the present structure in 1912. It is a simple vernacular, wood framed gable roof structure. A lower gable in the front is associated with the addition of a foyer and restrooms in the early 1960s. The original structure measured c. 50’ x 32’. With this addition, it now measures c. 58’ x 32’. Both parts of the building have hardwood floors. The exterior is covered with yellow poplar weatherboard, which is painted white. The interior meeting room (c. 31’ x 49’) is distinctive for its undecorated unpainted American Chestnut plank walls and beaded chestnut plank c. 13’ high ceiling. Three exposed pine vertical structural support timbers are placed down the center of the room. There are three rows of oak benches, most of which appear to be original to the church. The pulpit is on a raised (9”) platform inset in a c. 9’6” wide by 4’ deep space in the rear wall. From the exterior rear of the building this structure appears as a small shed roofed extension of the building (its two former four pane sash windows have been walled off). The exterior baptismal pool is made of poured concrete with a sheet metal protective cover.

Despite the architectural simplicity of its design, the building does have some decorative elements. The three vertical posts in the center of the meeting room are planed smooth and sport wide decorative chamfers along most of their length. The exterior soffit boards and the weather board on the upper portion of the building front are decorated by half circles cut through their lower edges. In addition, the exterior rafter tails are cut into gracefully curved shapes.

The building systems and foundation were updated in the late 1950s and early 1960s. It was electrified and an oil furnace was installed. When the foyer/restroom addition was built, water was piped from a natural spring to the restrooms and baptismal pool. The detached two-stall outhouse that it replaced was then converted into a storage shed, which is in poor condition.

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.

The church’s records have been preserved and a substantial history of the church was published: Virginia H. Hodges, *History of the Concord Primitive Baptist Church: 1833-2003* (privately printed, n.d. [c. 2003]).

1. The division within the Baptist church that led to the establishment of the Old-School or Primitive Baptist denomination spanned the 1830s and 40s. The Black Rock Address of 1832 provided one of the most important statements of Primitive Baptist belief and practice and some have used it to date the consolidation of Primitive Baptist tradition. A sign on the Concord Primitive Baptist Church dates its founding as 1833, although there is a record of a meeting in 1831. *History of Patrick County, Virginia* (p. 340) describes the Concord Church as the oldest of the presently active Primitive Baptist churches in the county. The present structure is the third building occupied by the Concord Church. The first was a log building located elsewhere in Meadows of Dan. In 1854, about three acres of land was donated to the church as a site for a new building, which was completed in 1858. Construction of the present building began on the same property in 1912.

This building is a very well preserved example of such a place of worship in the early 20th century. The meeting room is little changed from the time of construction, but for the removal of a centrally located wood stove and the substitution of a central row of church benches in its place. The building’s footprint has changed little, but for the addition of the foyer/restroom area. The property is linked to

the origins of the Primitive Baptist tradition through its dedication to Primitive Baptist worship in 1854 and the construction of the second church on the property in 1912. The founding of the Concord Church, though, is rooted in the early 1830s and the very origins of the Primitive Baptist denomination.

This building embodies the Primitive Baptist tradition's significant role in the religious history of Meadows of Dan, Virginia, and the American South, as well as the Concord Church congregation's efforts to maintain this tradition within changing historical circumstances.

2. The church's distinctive unpainted American Chestnut interior links the building to the larger cultural history of the region. Virginia's early mountain communities depended upon this tree for logs to build their homes and rails to construct their fences, as well as for nuts to feed their hogs and turkeys and to sell or trade in local stores to meet their other needs. In the early twentieth century, Patrick County shipped more chestnuts than any other county in Virginia, providing the second largest source of income to its residents. This church's interior, built by local craftsmen with lumber cut from locally sourced chestnut logs, is an important part of this history.
3. This property includes a potential archaeological site. The previous Concord Church building (the church's second building) was constructed on this property in the 1850s, nearly 160 years ago. Its remains hold promise to document the early years of the Primitive Baptist tradition in Virginia. A number of people familiar with the church history report that they know the location of the second building's foundation stones, but this remains to be confirmed. The site of the church's first meeting house, a log structure, was located elsewhere in Meadows of Dan. If access to it can be secured, there is the possibility of documenting the history of this Primitive Baptist church back to the years in which this worship tradition originated.
4. The present church building was constructed by Newton Hylton and Grover Agee. Hylton was a highly respected local craftsman who worked with Ed Mabry to construct Mabry Mill's first water wheel and a subsequent replacement wheel. After the National Park Service acquired the mill, Hylton oversaw the restoration of the mill and built a new wheel for it. His work on the mill is described by Michael Ryan in his book, *Ed and Lizzie: the Mabrys and their Mill, a Blue Ridge Mountain History* (Castle on the Rock Publications, 2013), pp. 99-109. Earl Palmer, a southern Appalachian photographer, took a number of photos of Hylton demonstrating his many skills. Former director of the Virginia Tech Appalachian Studies Program, Jean Haskell Speer, featured a selection of Palmer's photos of Hylton in a section titled "The Eternal Mountaineer" at the beginning of her book *The Appalachian Photographs of Earl Palmer* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky 1990), pp 2-15. Earl Palmer wrote of Hylton, "Oldtime mountaineers were inherently proud and self-sufficient. The late Newton Hylton was of this breed, a tireless worker, good at anything he turned his strong hands and willing heart to. What a heritage he left for posterity!" (Speer, 2) The Concord Primitive Baptist Church is one part of this heritage.

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

There is serious concern about the future of this building. Formal membership of the Concord Church dropped to two people, although some additional folks joined in monthly worship. (A third member recently joined but has not yet been baptized.) The roof began to leak and the building was also badly in need of exterior painting and moderate repairs. The fear is that the building will eventually deteriorate and fall into a critical state of disrepair or ultimately fall into private hands and be demolished to salvage its American Chestnut lumber.

Recent action by the local community has begun to address these problems. The Meadows of Dan Community Association made a commitment to seek IRS nonprofit status to enable it to accept ownership

of the building if this becomes necessary in the future. In August 2016, Blue Ridge Heritage, a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, partnered with the Concord Church to hold an open house for the community. This stimulated significant public concern for the future of the church and attracted initial donations for improvements to the building. A November 2016 Concord Church fundraising event co-sponsored by the Community Association succeeded in raising funds sufficient to replace the roof and repair and paint the exterior. These improvements have been completed. As a result of these efforts, 30-40 people now regularly attend the monthly services. It is hoped that this will eventually lead to an increase in membership. Nevertheless, the Community Association continues to prepare for the worse.

We are seeking evaluation of this property as a part of this effort to recognize and preserve the historical value of the Concord Primitive Baptist Church as an important part of the history of Virginia and Meadows of Dan.

Note: An article about the church appeared in the June 11 issue of The Roanoke Times (pp. 1, 10, 11). The online version of this article can be found at: http://www.roanoke.com/townnews/christianity/fundraiser-brings-new-roof-and-new-life-to-tiny-patrick/article_b16f956a-4d53-11e7-a99e-437a79f327c3.html.

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

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| Legal Owner(s) of the Property (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.) | | Contact Information: | |
| Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> | Mrs. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Miss <input type="checkbox"/> | Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> | Hon. <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Barbara Knowles | | | |
| (Name) | | (Firm) | |
| 394 Dan River Road | | VA | 24120 |
| (Address) | | (City) | (State) (Zip Code) |
| | | 276-952-2785 | |
| (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: _____ | | Barbara Knowles, Concord Church Member | |
| Daytime Telephone: (276) 952-2785 | | | |

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|---|-------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property) | | | |
| Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> | Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> | Dr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Miss <input type="checkbox"/> | Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> | Hon. <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Ralph H. Lutts | | Blue Ridge Heritage | |
| (Name) | | (Firm) | |
| 311 Dan River Road | | VA | 24120 |
| (Address) | | (City) | (State) (Zip Code) |
| rhlutts@swva.net | | 276-952-6109 | |
| (Email Address) | | (Daytime telephone including area code) | |
| Applicant's Signature: _____ | | Date: 6/15/2017 | |

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.

Tom Rose

County Administrator

(Name)

(Position)

Patrick County

106 Rucker Street, P.O. Box 466

(Locality)

Stuart

VA

24171

(Address)

(276) 694-6094

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

trose@co.patrick.va.us