



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staff and the State Review Board based on information known at the time of preparation. Recommendations concerning PIFs are subject to change if new information becomes available.

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 022-5078

1. General Property Information

Property name: Hebron United Methodist Church

Property address: 1981 Caldwell Mtn Rd

City or Town: New Castle

Zip code: 22127

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

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

Building Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 1.85 acres

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban Suburban Town Village Hamlet Rural

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

The church stands about 170 feet north of Caldwell Mountain Rd (Rt. 606) and about 230 feet south of the waters of Craigs Creek, a tributary of the James River. A rectangular area immediate east and southeast of the church contains a cemetery with perhaps 100 or more graves, some of them recent and some dating back to ca. 1900, aligned in rows oriented roughly north-south. About 40 feet east of the church is a small fully enclosed frame woodshed.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): No discernable style

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

If the builder is known, please list here: _____

Date of construction (can be approximate): c. 1847

Narrative Description

Hebron is a small country church, built of frame clad with weatherboards and later covered with aluminum siding. It has a stone foundation with later concrete-block infill in some areas, and a front-gabled roof clad with old standing-seam tin. Appended to the rear elevation is a modern, frame addition that extends to each side well beyond the original church walls. Historic images depict the church without the additions, but with a doorway in the west side of the church near the front corner, which led to the gallery used by enslaved persons before emancipation, and perhaps by freedman thereafter. The doorway is now covered but gallery remains well intact. The church interior has otherwise been heavily remodeled, yet the original wall finish--hand-planed-and beaded boards--remain in place, mostly obscured by circa 1970s manufactured wood paneling that could be removed. At some point a steel tension rod was installed to keep the side walls of the church from spreading. The narrow rod crosses through the sanctuary in front of the gallery but does not present a conspicuous intrusion.

Cemetery

The cemetery, located immediately east and southeast of the church edifice, is comprised of several long rows of graves oriented roughly north-south within an area of approximately 250 feet by 100 feet. The graves face east as per Christian tradition. Most are headstones or tablets of granite, but a well-preserved white marble obelisk is also present.

Other Secondary Resources

About 40 feet east of the church is a small fully enclosed frame woodshed clad with vinyl siding.

4. Property's History and Significance

Traditional holds that Hebron Church was erected in 1847 and is the oldest extant church in rural Craig County. The 1847 construction date is supported by courthouse documentation of the land transfer to two Protestant congregations in 1845, and by architectural analysis. When, in 1845, 1.25 acres of land for the church was donated by James Hannah (1785-1850) and wife Sarah Coffman Hannah (1783-1861) to be used the erection of a house of worship "for the benefit of the Presbyterian and Methodist Episcopal congregations and none other", the land was in Botetourt County, but later became part of Craig County. Both congregations were to "equally enjoy the premises" but other congregations could be allowed use if the Presbyterians and Methodist Episcopalians consented "unitedly".

Although physically altered with additions off of the rear elevation and new windows and doors, and early materials including a side door that led enslaved persons to the gallery are obscured by aluminum siding on the exterior and pressed-board paneling on the interior, many of the alterations are reversible. Arguably, sufficient early fabric exists to convey significance under Criterion A (Social History) with applicable Criteria Considerations A and D. The adjacent cemetery, established no later than 1906, is a significant associated site.

Excerpted from the book, *Churches of Craig County, Virginia, Past and Present* (2012):
Slaves cleared the land and lumber was sawed from the trees to build the church. The building included a balcony with an outside entrance by which the slaves entered for services. Hebron church was built on the old Sweet Springs and Prices Turn- pike, which crosses Caldwell Mountain. It is the oldest church with continuous service in Craig County, beginning in 1847. It has a beautiful kerosene chandelier in the center of the sanctuary with oil lamps on the side walls. In later years these were converted to electric lights. It was tradition that the men sat on one side of the church and the women sat on the other side. A curtain was pulled in the sanctuary to make 4 rooms for Sunday School classes. There was a small pump organ. In 1947, Samuel Crush paid the \$1.50 membership fee for Hebron to join the REA. Also, he bought materials to wire the church for electricity. At different periods of time, several classrooms, bathrooms, a kitchen and social hall have been added. New siding has been installed, a gas heating system put in, the roof has been painted and the construction of pew racks have been added to hold thirty-five Bibles. The church did not have a bell or steeple. In 2001, the Boitnott family gave money in memory of Pastor Charles R. "Buddy" Boitnott. Richard Dudding designed and built the steeple. It is a beautiful improvement to the church.

Excerpted from Eakin, "Hebron Church History 1847 to 1997":
Thomas Crowder Coles Drewry [whose portrait hangs on the front wall, within the church entrance vestibule] served in the Civil War. Later, while at Sweet Chalybeate Springs for ill health he felt a call to preach. He became an ordained Methodist minister, and returned to that part of Southwest Virginia to serve a circuit of churches, including Hebron. He married Johanna Blount Smiley, the daughter of the owner of White House Inn. White House Inn was opposite the Sulphur Spring, at the foot of Caldwell Mountain. It was a stop for stagecoaches on the Fincastle - Sweet Springs road, and was near Hebron Church. Rev. Drewry was injured by a train, at sometime in his life, and could not walk. He would ride his horse to church, and be carried to and from the pulpit by the men of the church. His sermons were said to be outstanding. He died in 1887 and is buried on his land.

Sources

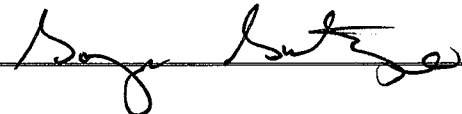
- 1) Indenture "made and entered into" on May 31, 1845, found in the Craig County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, "between James Hannah, Sr. and Sarah, his wife, of the one part, and Joseph Hannah and Philip Crist on the part of the Presbyterian Congregation, and George H. and Elisha T. Walker on the part of the Methodist Episcopal Congregation, of the second part, all of the County of Botetourt and State of Virginia.
- 2) Deed recorded by Botetourt County Clerk's Office, January 13, 1846.
- 3) Eakin, Flo Jones. "Hebron Church History 1847 to 1997." 1998: 5-6. Unpublished paper, 15 pages.
- 4) Book: Churches of Craig County, Virginia, Past and Present (2012: F-6) from the Craig County Historical Society's "In and Around Craig County" series.

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

Private: 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: N/A
organization: Hebron U. M. Church
street & number: _____
city or town: New Castle state: VA zip code: 22127
e-mail: sswitzer@tds.net telephone: _____

Legal Owner's Signature: 
Date: 6/6/2024

•• *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: Sonya Switzer, trustee
Daytime Telephone: 540-580-8275
street & number: 219 Virginia Mineral Springs Rd
city or town: New Castle state: VA zip code: 24127

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

name/title: Mike Pulice
organization: DHR
street & number: _____
city or town: Salem state: _____ zip code: _____
e-mail: michael.pulice@dhr.virginia.gov telephone: 540-387-5443
Date: June 5, 2024



Decimal Degrees ^ Lon (X): -80.00803 Lat (Y): 37.55810



BM 1192

Hebron
Ch

606

606

612

BM

1213

614

1442



HEBRON CHURCH

EST. 1947

WORSHIP 11:00 AM

































Hebron Church
Craig County, Virginia
1847









MILDRED V. CROWDER

JUNE 29, 1938

JULY 1, 1938

Asleep in Jesus.



MOTHER FATHER

SOPHIA EUGENIA
MILTON
HIS WIFE
BORN
SEPT. 16, 1855.
DIED
MAY 24, 1932

ANDREW JACKSON
MILTON
BORN
MAR. 17, 1852
DIED
SEPT. 30, 1919.

*Another link is broken in our household band,
But a chain is forming in a better land.*



CLARA E. CROWDER

BORN

SEPT. 15, 1895.

DIED

JAN. 21, 1906.

Budded on earth
To bloom in heaven.

+

IN MEMORY OF
BETTY
SWITZER
HALE
OCT 28 1944

+

IN MEMORY OF
CECIL
FREDERICK
SWITZER
PFC
US ARMY
WORLD WAR II
JUL 10 1920
JUN 26 2003

+

IN MEMORY OF
LOUISE
MABRY
SWITZER
APR 29 1926
NOV 20 1997

SWITZER

SWITZER

SWITZER

D
JU



LOWMAN
7 1906
8 1945

DAUGHTER
THELMA JOSEPHINE CRUSH
AUGUST 17 1924
MARCH 11 2002
LIFE GIVEN FOR US

CRUSH
PEACE
MILLER ALLEN SR.
DECEMBER 21 1935
JUNE 17 1942
AGNES WHITE
MAY 22 1887
SEPTEMBER 28 1979

DAUGHTER
AGNES LOUISE CRUSH
APRIL 8 1920
FEBRUARY 14 1983
GOD GRANT HER ETERNAL PEACE



Rock of Ages

WILLIAM
CLARENCE
BORN
SEPT. 27, 1887.
DIED
FEB. 3, 1911.


*A loved one from
us has gone,
A voice we love
is stilled,
A place is vacant
in our home
Which never can
be filled.*

CROWDER







A photograph of a white wooden church building. The building has a gabled roof and a smaller gabled entrance. A sign above the entrance reads "HEBRON CHURCH" and "SERVICE SUNDAY 10:00". The building is surrounded by trees and a lawn.

HEBRON CHURCH
SERVICE SUNDAY 10:00

