



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 076-0237

Purpose of Evaluation

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

The Historical significance of the two churches, herein referenced to as the "the little church" and the "Chapel" is simple yet profoundly important to Prince William County's past, present and future. The Churches are inexorably linked in historical value. As represented best through the work of Ms. Mary Bushey, the church's evolution from May 25, 1875 through the present day exemplifies triumph over challenges, remarkable dedication, hard work and sacrifice by local farmers and subsequent congregations over a century.

Are you interested in applying for State and/or Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes [x] No

Are you interested in receiving more information about DHR's easement program? Yes [x] No

1. General Property Information

Property name: First Woodbine Church and Cemetery

Property address: 12912 Canova Drive

City or Town: Manassas

Zip code: 20112

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

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

Building [x] Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage:

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban Suburban [x] Town Village Hamlet Rural

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

The Woodbine property includes four resources, the "little church" or the original constructed ca. 1875, a cemetery, with burials dating to the late 19th century, and the "chapel" or new church, constructed in 1953. Attached to via a covered walkway is the fellowship hall and school, constructed in 1962. The property is located in central Prince William County, south and east of Manassas, in the community of Canova. The "little church" is nested under large oak trees near the southeast boundary of the property. The main "Chapel" is located near the entrance to the cemetery property which is located behind the main chapel and stretches from east to west. Adjacent to the chapel are gardens, fountains and pathways leading through the cemetery with burials dating back to the late 19th century. The property is well maintained, attractive while proffering visitors a needed "respectful and peaceful" setting.

### 3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Late Greek Revival (Vernacular), Colonial Revival

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

If the builder is known, please list here: Unknown

Date of construction (can be approximate): ca. 1875, 1953, 1957

#### **Narrative Description:**

In the space below, briefly describe the general characteristics of the entire property, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the architectural style, materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions, remodelings, or other alterations.

#### 1. The "Little Church" (ca. 1875)

The original church building is a simply designed rectangular building with one bay, front gable roof, plain frieze and cornice returns on top of a foundation of random rubble stone. There is a small half circle window centered in the gable that has been covered. The small church building is a vernacular example of late Greek Revival architecture. The building is clad in its original weatherboard siding and topped with a metal roof. There are three six-over-six double hung wood replacement windows symmetrically placed along each of the side elevations. The main and only entry, centered on the façade, is a simple wood paneled door topped by a small two light transom.

#### Interior

The main and only entry into the church leads to a small sanctuary with one center aisle between rows of pews facing forward towards the pulpit area. The church features its original wood floors, plaster walls, and original chair rail as the only adornment to the otherwise modestly designed interior.

After falling into disrepair in 1976, the "little church" was moved by members of the congregation to its current location. It was saved and carefully restored. It currently serves as a "living museum", housing a display of photographs and newspaper articles.

Briefly describe any outbuildings or secondary resources (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

2. The “Chapel”, New Church (1953)

The “Chapel” is located north and east of the “little church” and sits close to the road with a large parking area, north of the building. The church, constructed in 1953 is covered in stucco is another vernacular adaptation, this time in the Colonial Revival Style. The church features a steeply pitched front gable roof, gothic stained glass windows, bell tower, and large pillars supporting a centered portico. The interior features a large open sanctuary with a balcony situated along the front wall facing the pulpit area. The pews, original to the 1950s construction are situate

3. Cemetery

The cemetery is located behind the new church and seems have been laid out originally in a grid pattern and contains now over a 1000 markers. Some of the original families that settled the area have family plots in the cemetery, including the Purcells, Cornwells, Fairs, Bibbs and Keyeses. Some of the earliest burials date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

4. Fellowship Hall/School Building (1962/1980s)

The fellowship hall is connected to the east of the “new chapel” by a covered wall way. The two story brick building was utilized as the fellowship hall and school over the years. It features multiple classrooms on both the first and second stories and a large auditorium and stage and kitchen area, also located on the second story.

#### 4. Property's History and Significance

In the space below, briefly describe the history of the property, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property. Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

Woodbine Baptist Church is one of the few surviving 19<sup>th</sup> century churches in the area. The "little church" was also known as Union Grove Church. Land was donated for the construction of the church by E.C. Lyon, a farmer located in the community of Canova. Other members of the community, Mrs. James Fair and Mrs. Bertha Barnes led the campaign to raise money for the construction of the church building, which was constructed entirely by volunteers.

By the early 1900s, Woodbine Church contained a congregation of around 80 members. At the time of Woodbine's construction it met the needs of the Canova Community, which at that time was a small farming community outside of Manassas. The architecture of the small church represents both the area in which it was constructed and the tradition of the Baptist faith which, during the early and late 19<sup>th</sup> centuries overwhelmingly constructed modest buildings with little to no ornament.

The "Chapel" or the new church constructed in 1953 represents the continued evolution of the church and the congregation as it continued to grow. The need for additional space, larger sanctuary, baptismal pool, a nursery, fellowship hall, classroom space and a kitchen prompted the construction of a new church.

The "little church" continued to be used by the congregation as a Sunday school building but by the late 1950s the need for a larger building was realized and construction of the new fellowship hall and school began in 1962.

The story of the "little church" both its origins, its evolutionary process to the "Chapel" and the local folks who dedicated so much of themselves to insure this honorable journey encapsulate what can be described as the better part of our collective human nature.

Again, kindly note that time and care has been taken to submit the attached news articles, historical photographs and writings/research from historians notably the narrative of Ms. Bushey. (NOTE: I sincerely appreciate the extremely valuable assistance provided me by Mr. Quatro Hubbard in this effort. Thank you Mr. Hubbard)

Woodbine Church and cemetery is being considered for the NR as locally significant under Criterion C, with a period of significance of 1875, construction of the building, through 1971, using the 50 year cutoff and encompassing the date the building was moved.

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: EARZAM KEVIN ROUSTAZAD / DIRECTOR

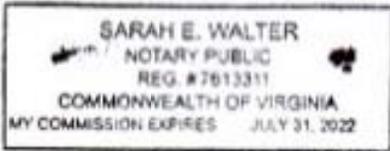
organization: CANOVA LAND & INVESTMENT COMPANY

street & number: 8790 CENTERVILLE RD.

city or town: MANASSAS state: VA zip code: 20110

e-mail: kevin@EasternMemorials.com & info@firstwosalbmcchurch.com telephone: (703) 929-2033

Legal Owner's Signature: *[Signature]* Date: 8/19/2021  
*\*\* Signature required for processing all applications. \*\**



*[Signature]*

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: Russell Morris, Corporate Advisor

Daytime Telephone: (703) 895-3879

Email: rmorris@gmail.com

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

name/title: \_\_\_\_\_

organization: \_\_\_\_\_

street & number: \_\_\_\_\_

city or town: \_\_\_\_\_ state: \_\_\_\_\_ zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

6. 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, City Manager, and/or Town Manager

name/title: Mr. Justin Patton, County Archaeologist

locality: Prince William County Planning Office Liaison

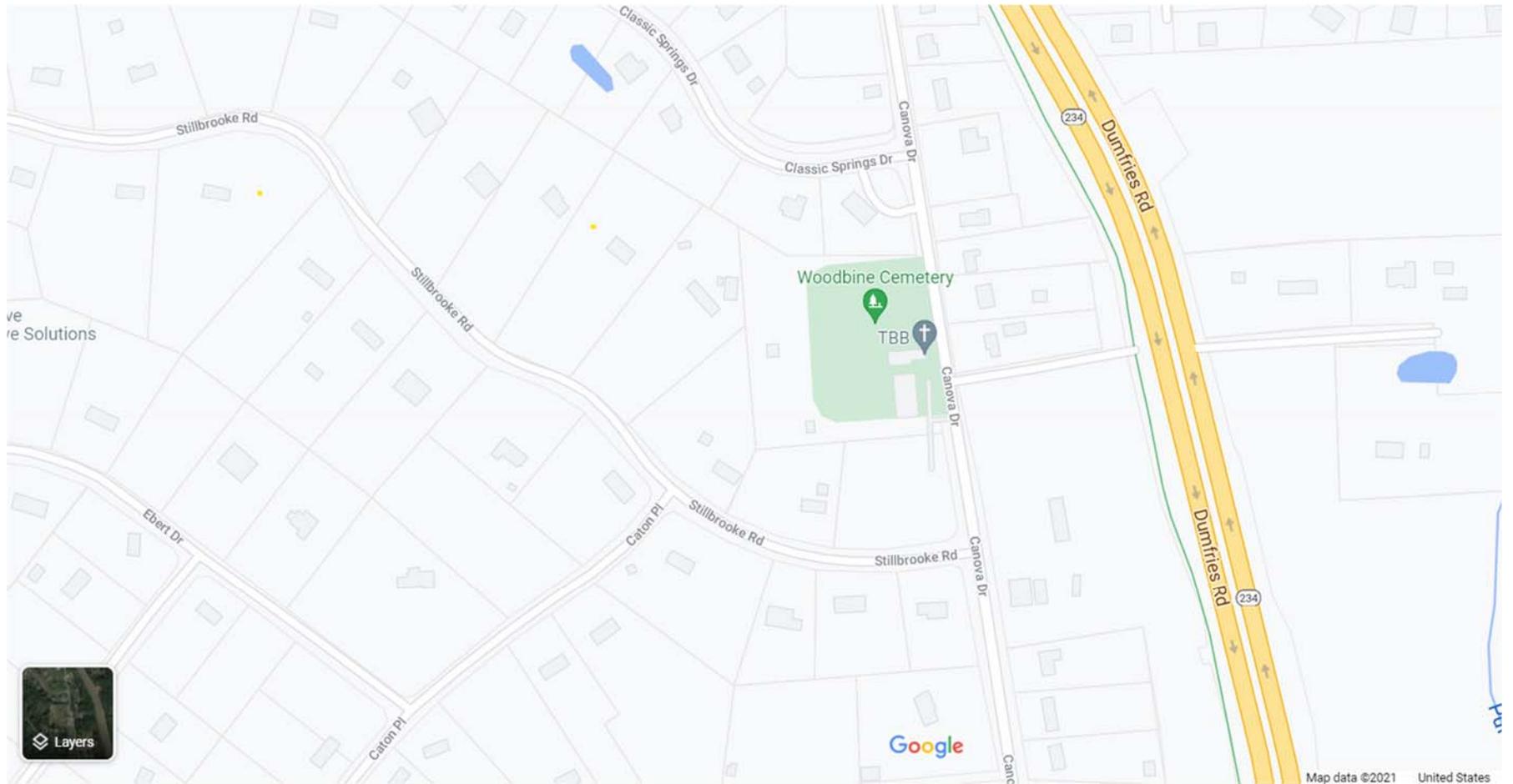
street & number: \_\_\_\_\_

city or town: \_\_\_\_\_ state: \_\_\_\_\_ zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

telephone: (703) 722-5722

076-0237

Woodbine Baptist Church and Cemetery



## ***AERIAL VIEW: WOODBINE CHURCH & CEMETERY***

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### ***AERIAL VIEW:***

***The “Chapel” is located on a site just off/to the right of Canova Road.  
The “Little Church” is located on a site to the rear left of the property as  
referenced by the “arrows”.***