



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM

HISTORIC DISTRICT

A historic district is defined as a significant concentration of buildings, structures, or sites that are united historically and aesthetically by plan or physical development. The Preliminary Information Form (PIF) constitutes an application for preliminary consideration of a historic district for eligibility for the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. The PIF is **not** the same as a nomination to the Registers, but is a means for evaluating the **eligibility** of a historic district for listing. The PIF is evaluated by Department of Historic Resources (DHR) staff and the State Review Board and their recommendations regarding the property's eligibility will be provided to the applicant in writing.

Before Preparing a PIF

Contact DHR's Archivist for assistance in obtaining any information DHR may have on file about your property, such as a previous architectural survey record or eligibility evaluation. You are welcome to use this information in preparing your PIF. Contact DHR's Archivist by phone at (804) 482-6102, or by email at Quatro.Hubbard@dhr.virginia.gov.

Staff at one of DHR's three Regional offices are available to answer questions you may have as you begin preparing your PIF. Locations and contact information for each office is at http://dhr.virginia.gov/regional_offices/regional_offices.htm. (You also are welcome to ask DHR's Archivist for the contact information.)

Preparing a PIF

A PIF consists of three equally important parts:

1. **Form:** Complete the attached form to the best of your ability, using your own research about the proposed historic district as well as any information that DHR has provided. Remember that DHR's Regional staff also are available to assist you. The form may be completed using Microsoft Word software, typed, or hand-written. If using MS Word, the PIF can be submitted via CD, email, ftp, or other file sharing means.

Your PIF will not be evaluated if it is missing any of the following information:

- Applicant/Sponsor's signature
 - Contact information for the person submitting the form (if different from the applicant/sponsor)
 - Contact information for the City Manager or County Administrator where the property is located
2. **Photos:** Provide color photographs of the proposed historic district's general streetscape and a sample of individual buildings, sites, and/or structures that are representative of the district's character. Submit photo prints on 4" x 6" glossy photo paper and digital images on CD or other file sharing means approved by DHR's Regional staff.
 3. **Maps:** A minimum of two maps must accompany your PIF:
 - **Location map:** This map shows the exact location of the proposed historic district. The map can be created using Google Maps, Google Earth, Bing, or other mapping websites. A copy of a road map also may be used as long as the district's exact location and proposed boundaries are shown on the map. DHR's Archivist can assist in providing an acceptable location map with boundaries.
 - **Sketch map:** This map shows the proposed boundaries and locations of all resources within the proposed historic district as well as major landscape features such as a stream, formal gardens, roads, and parking areas. The sketch map can be drawn by hand; or an annotated aerial view, tax parcel map or survey map may be used. For large historic districts, the local government may be able to provide a base map that includes roads, tax parcel boundaries, and other information. Contact staff at the local government's planning and permitting office for assistance.

Note: All submitted materials become the property of DHR and will be retained in our permanent Archive. In addition, the materials will be posted on DHR's public website for a period of time during the evaluation process.

Thank you for taking the time to submit this Preliminary Information Form. Your interest in Virginia's historic resources is helping to provide better stewardship of our cultural past.



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Purpose of Evaluation

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

The church who owns these properties recognizes their value to the history of Amherst County and wants to help preserve and maintain that history. They hope that others in the community will want to join the effort.

1. General Information

District name(s): Pleasant View Historic District(VDHR # 005-5465)

Main Streets and/or Routes: Intersection of Buffalo Springs Turnpike (Rte. 635) and Puppy Creek Road (Rte. 610)

City or Town: Monroe

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

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: approx. 9.3 acres

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban _____ Suburban _____ Town _____ Village _____ Hamlet X Rural _____

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

The Heart of the Pleasant View Community is the intersection of Buffalo Springs Turnpike (Rte. 635) and Puppy Creek Road (Rte. 610) in Amherst County. It is about five miles from the turnpike intersection with Lexington Turnpike (State Rte. 60) on the north and Elon Road (State Rte. 130) on the south. The landscape is rolling as it lies between the Tobacco Row Mountains and the Blue Ridge Mountains. The village of Pleasant View is a rural hamlet whose boundaries stretch from the Timothy Baptist Church and the intersection with Love Lady Creek Road running south to the intersection with Dancing Creek Road along the turnpike.

3. Architectural/Physical Description

Architectural Style(s): Gothic Revival, Folk Victorian, Commercial, Colonial Revival, and Vernacular

If any individual properties within the district were designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here:

N/A

If any builders or developers are known, please list here:

N/A

Date(s) of construction (can be approximate): c.1890, c.1930, c.1898, c.1895, c.1924, and

c. 1917 _____

Are there any known threats to this district? none

Narrative Description:

In the space below, briefly describe the general characteristics of the entire historic district, such as building patterns, types, features, and the general architectural quality of the proposed district. Include prominent materials and noteworthy building details within the district, as well as typical updates, additions, remodelings, or other alterations that characterize the district.

The heart of the Pleasant View community consist of four properties that sit on or near the intersection of Buffalo Springs Turnpike and Puppy Creek Road in central western Amherst County. The historic properties include a church, a store, and an evolved store with attached house, a former school auditorium, two houses, and multiple outbuildings. All of these dating between 1890 and 1930. The church was built in the Gothic Revival style and vernacular buildings influenced by the Folk Victorian, Commercial, and Colonial Revival styles and other vernacular style buildings. There are ten contributing buildings, a contributing structure, and a contributing site. The site is a cemetery that consists of about eleven graves, some of which are only marked with stones and the earliest etched granite stone dates 1882.

New Prospect Baptist Church (VDHR# 005-5273) - Church c.1890, Family Life building 1994, School Auditorium/Social Hall c.1930, Pavilion 2001, and Cemetery c.1882

The church yard is on the south corner of the Puppy Creek and turnpike intersection. The c.1890 church sits near the road. Behind the church, to its east are three buildings. These are the 1994 Family Life building, the c.1930 school auditorium, and a 2001 pavilion. On the south side of the church is the graveyard.

The church is a frame, vernacular Gothic Revival style building. It prominently features stained-glass lancet arch windows. It has a random rubble foundation under the earliest section with concrete block under the additions. It has aluminum siding over the original weatherboard siding, a standing-seam gable roof with a steeple that houses a working bell. The additions also have standing-seam metal roofs. This frame building was the second meetinghouse or church on this site. The first church was constructed in 1828, this was replaced in 1847, and the current building was constructed around 1890. The building is oriented on an east-west axis with the gable front, main elevation facing west. According to various records there were alterations to the original building in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These included the addition of a steeple, the vestibule on the western elevation and the church bell. Classrooms were added to the eastern end of the church at the northeastern and southeastern corners between 1950 and 1951. These additions created a T-shaped building. The typical windows of this section have 2/2 double-hung sash windows and on the interior simple two-panel doors.¹

In 1954, the church approved the replacement of its original multi-paned, clear glass, single-hung sash, lancet arch windows, as seen in a 1967 photograph, with lancet arch stained-glass, hopper-style windows. There were nine stained-glass windows installed sometime after that photograph. Each of the windows is in memory of either a single person or a family. These were all made by the Winebarger Church Furniture and Stained Glass Window Company of Lynchburg. On the interior, the window bays are rectangular in shape and have trim that includes turned corner blocks. These windows memorialize

¹ James Percy Davis (1934-1959) was credited with work on the 1950s addition and other repairs until his death. He was an Army MP and died in the service. He was a great grandson of Abram Carter and a great nephew of Rev. Thomas B. Gatewood. He is memorialized in one of the stained-glass windows. Berta S. Caulfield, *New Prospect Baptist Church of Christ (Amherst County, Va.), Minute Book, 1828-1849, Accession 32176, Church Records Collection, the Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219, Misc. Reel 994; Amherst County Deed Book Z, p. 420; New Prospect Baptist Church File, Amherst County Museum and Historical Society; and Sally Lambert Turner, New Prospect Baptist Church: 240th Anniversary Homecoming: Church History 1778-2018, 2018.*

some of the prominent families within the church and the community. They include the Smith, Lamb, Gatewood, Meador, Dodd, and Pryor families.²

In 1968, the church installed new pews and a removeable curtained rail, “modesty rail,” in the front of the choir area. It was replaced by wooden pulpit rails and a new pulpit was installed. Both were built by Thomas O’Neil “Tommy” Gordon in the 1990s.³

The building was again enlarged between 1974 and 1975. Three additional rooms were added onto the 1951 addition and included a basement and indoor plumbing for two restrooms on the eastern side of the building. Finally, in 1977 the exterior was sided with aluminum, and the interior sanctuary was completely redone. The sanctuary ceiling was modified to a gambrel shape, and new chandeliers and sconces were installed. Today, the original church is not in regular use because it needs repair. It is used for special occasions and events.⁴

The oral tradition of the church history cannot be documented by church records and is not backed by the existing physical evidence. According to the oral tradition, the existing church was erected around 1890 and is the third church building on the site. It is known that the congregation was formed and originally worshipped in a log building on Maple Creek in 1778. In 1828, the congregation decided to move to its current site in what was then a village known as New Prospect. Church tradition claims the 1828 meetinghouse was a log-framed building. The church records do not describe the building. In 1847, the church obtained ownership of the land and built a frame church. According to oral tradition, the 1847 had a balcony where the enslaved persons would attend worship with their masters. This building is believed to have burned and was replaced with the current edifice about 1890. The church records from this period are missing.⁵

The 1994 Family Life building is east of the church. It is one story with a basement and is constructed of textured concrete block. It has an asphalt shingle gable roof. There is a double-leaf glass door entry in on the north elevation near the northeastern corner. The windows of the great room now used as the sanctuary are tall narrow tri-partite hopper style windows divided into three sections, and each section has eight lights. The windows on the basement level are 6/6 double-hung sash windows. The interior has a great room area on the west side of the building and a hall with multiple room used for offices and storage on the eastern side. The basement has a center hall with seven classrooms and is created for use as a temporary shelter, if needed. In 2007, the exposed wooden areas were covered with vinyl.⁶

The c.1930 school auditorium/social hall building and the 2001 pavilion are east of the Family Life building. The frame Colonial Revival style building originally had a concrete pier foundation that has since been filled. The one-story gable front edifice has aluminum siding over the original weatherboard, likely completed when the church was sided in 1977. The building retains its tall, narrow 9/9 double-hung sash windows and standing-seam metal roof. Historic photographs show the interior of the building having board and batten wood paneling on the walls above and below a chair rail. The original entry had two single-leaf, five horizontal panel doors in separate frames at the entry. In 1984, the building underwent a rehabilitation. A vestibule was built onto the main elevation. On the interior, the stage was removed and a kitchen and restrooms were installed. This building was acquired from the county in 1967, two years after Pleasant View High School, the large frame two-story edifice next to this building was razed.⁷

² The Winebarger Church Furniture Company expanded to stained-glass production in 1973. This company was dissolved by 1994. The main artist Robert C. Speake (1941-2021) joined the firm in 1973 and left to work in his own studio in 1983. (Lynchburgstainedglass.com). The company seems to have dissolved by 1994. <https://virginia-compnay.com/co/winebarger-church-furniture-inc>. Turner, 5, 8-9.

³ Information regarding the church rails came through visual reference in a group of pictures from the private collection of Sally Lambert Turner. Thomas O’Neil “Tommy” Gordon (1939-2004) was a veteran of the army. He has a large, wooden cross in the Family Life building that is dedicated to his memory.

⁴ Turner, 6.

⁵ Caulfield; and Turner, 4.

⁶ Turner, 6-7.

⁷ *Amherst Heritage Book*, Vol I, p. 43; Sally L. Turner, a long-time member and wife of the current pastor has a private collection of photos that show the interior of the auditorium before the 1984 rehabilitation. Photos of the school

The 2001 pavilion that sits to the south of the 1930 building has corrugated metal siding and roof. It sits on the site of the former two-story school. The pavilion has a concrete pad and measures 84 x 64 feet. The east and west sides are open from the ground and have partial metal siding from the roof. The north and south sides are fully enclosed. The pavilion sits on the site of the c. 1906 three-room school building. This building was razed and replaced by the 1911 two-story school, also on the same site.⁸

The cemetery is on the south side of the church yard, near the road. It has approximately eleven graves with nine marked graves. Five have simple fieldstone markers and four have etched fieldstones, the earliest known burial dating 1882. This was once owned by the Smith family and was given, according to church lore, by Berta Smith Caulfield, but no documentation has yet been found.⁹

2206 Buffalo Springs Turnpike (VDHR# 005-5271) - Store c.1895 with c.1954 House Addition and post 1987 Additions

The c.1895 store sits on the western side of Buffalo Springs Turnpike in front of the church. The foundation is concrete block and the earliest part of the building is a two-story frame section built in the commercial style. It has an asphalt shingle roof. The gable front has a two-story wooden porch. The first floor is commercial space, and the second story is residential. The first floor has a centered recessed single-leaf entry flanked by two three-sided bay windows. The center of the bay has a large 2/2 fixed-sash windows. The side windows are 2/2 double-hung sashes, like most of the windows in the oldest part of the building. The current board and batten siding was added after 1987 when the additions to the north were completed. There is a c.1954 one-story frame house with concrete block basement that was built onto the south side of the store. It is a side gabled building with an asphalt roof. Typical windows are horizontal pane 2/2 double-hung sash windows. The three-bay main elevation has a single-leaf entry with a set of double windows on each side of the entry. The two bay porch has a brick railing with decorative metal supports under the extended roof. After 1987, the building was expanded to the north. Multiple smaller, individual store buildings were added, and each one had a special section of the larger store. The first floor interior of the original building retains some of its original built-in shelving along the walls.¹⁰

2179 Buffalo Springs Turnpike (VDHR# 005-5274) - House c.1898, Well Pump c.1920s, Garage c.1960 and 2014, Frame Outbuilding c.1900, and Log Outbuilding c.1900

The c.1898 two-story, frame, Folk Victorian style house sits on the north side of the Buffalo Springs Turnpike and Puppy Creek Road intersection. It is locally known as the Dodd house, named for the last family to occupy it. The house has a random rubble foundation and an asphalt shingle roof. Most of the windows have 2/2 double-hung sashes. There is a three-sided bay window on the north elevation; its three sashes are like those of others on the house. The gable front house features gable end returns and an asymmetrical arrangement of bays. This bay arrangement reflects the interior side hall plan of the house. The one-story, three bay porch has turned supports and decorative brackets under the standing-seam metal shed roof. Two additions were made to the eastern end of the house. The first, which likely dates from the early twentieth century, was a one and a half-story addition and has a brick foundation. Around 1960, a large one-story covered concrete block porch was added onto the earlier addition. The building is currently used for storage.

There is a c.1920 well pump that sits in a concrete pad between the house and garage.

buildings appear in *In the Shadow of Tobacco Row Mountain*, and there is a 1940 collection of school photographs from Library of Virginia that feature the two buildings dating from 1940.

⁸ Archives of the New Prospect Baptist Church.

⁹ Conversation with Sally Lambert Turner.

¹⁰ Florence Nixon, *In the Shadow of Tobacco Row Mountain : Elon, Monroe, and Other Villages*, (Lynchburg, Virginia: Blackwell Press, 2010), p. 237-242; Amherst County Deed Book 582, p. 97; and New Prospect Baptist Church Archives 1899 to present.

The c.1960 concrete block garage was a simple one-story side gabled outbuilding. In 2012, the roof was raised and the building expanded to the west. It is currently used to house the community food bank.¹¹

The c.1900 frame outbuilding and c.1900 log outbuilding are located behind the house along the farm road leading to Puppy Creek Road. The frame building is near the end of the road and has a concrete block foundation, weatherboard siding, and the gable roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. The gable front building has a batten door with a wooden closure. The c.1900 log outbuilding rests on rock piers. It is a side gabled building with a standing-seam metal roof. The entry does not have a door. Both are neglected, and these were likely used for farm storage of some type.

2223 Buffalo Springs Turnpike (VDHR # 005-5272)-Store c. 1924, House c. 1917, Wooden Shed and Barn c. 1917, and a Shed unknown date and modern

The c. 1924 Commercial style store sits on the eastern side of Buffalo Springs Turnpike and adjacent to the south side of the New Prospect churchyard and cemetery. This frame store sits near the road with the remaining buildings shielded from the road by a palisade privacy fence. The store has a concrete block foundation and is frame with horizontal weatherboard siding. It has a gable roof hidden behind a false front. The roof is standing seam metal and has a brick chimney flue from the center of the roof. The building has a concrete block addition on the north which has a shed roof covered section spanning the addition to the end of the building at the northwest corner.

The main elevation faces the road on the west. There is a shed roof porch supported by brackets which spans a combined poured concrete and concrete block porch. And metal pipe railing. The concrete block foundation and porch retain evidence of being painted to appear as brick. The centered double-leaf entry is recessed and has a four-light transom. Each leaf of the entry has five horizontal panels with original hardware. There is evidence that there was a double-leaf screen door over the solid doors. The doors are flanked by two four-light fixed sash windows in the recess and on the elevation at either side of the recess are two six-light fixed sash windows.

South of the store and hidden by the palisade fence is a c. 1917 two-story frame, gable front, Vernacular style house. This house was not entered but appears to have a similar plan to the Dodd house at 2179 Buffalo Springs Turnpike (VDHR# 005-5274). The standing- seam metal roof has a centered chimney flue from the roof peak. On the main or west elevation there is exterior horizontal weatherboard and asymmetrical bay placement. There are two bays on each story and a screen porch spans the elevation. The hipped porch roof is supported by wooden posts and sheathed with asbestos shingles. The north and south sides of the building are covered with vinyl siding and additions can be seen to the rear or east side of the house.

Immediately to the north of the house and between it and the store is a small shed with vertical board siding and it has a gable front facing the west. It is of unknown construction date. To the northeast of the store there is a vertical board barn and a vertical board shed, both dated to around 1917. The shed is to the northwest of the barn. The shed is one story and the barn is a story and a half. Both have a standing-seam gable metal roof. The door to the shed is on the gable front and there is a door on the west side of the barn.

Discuss the district's general setting and/or streetscapes, including current property uses (and historic uses if different), such as industrial, residential, commercial, religious, etc. For rural historic districts, please include a description of land uses.

Pleasant View is located in a rural section of central to northwest Amherst County. The community sits between Tobacco Row Mountains and the Blue Ridge Mountains and has a rolling

¹¹ Turner, 7.

landscape. The properties included in this PIF are the heart of the community, and all sit at the intersection of Buffalo Springs Turnpike and Puppy Creek Road. The turnpike was a major thoroughfare from the nineteenth century, and it remains one the major roads in this area of the county. The church sits on the south end of the T-intersection, the house sits on the northern end, and the store is almost at the intersection along the western side of the turnpike. The church retains its original use, the house is still at the edge of a large farm, and both stores are closed, but a new reuse is being considered for the larger store as a gathering and entertainment venue. The area remains rural.

4. District's History and Significance

In the space below, briefly describe the history of the district, such as when it was established, how it developed over time, and 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.) Normally, only information contained on this form is forwarded to the State Review Board.

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

The Pleasant View community is significant for the period of 1828 to 1965 which spans creation of the community with the construction of the earliest form of the New Prospect Baptist Church and the planning for the Buffalo Springs Turnpike to the point where the Pleasant View High School was razed and the community began to decline in prosperity. This community is significant in the area of Exploration and/Settlement with the purposeful creation of a new creation of a new settlement with the construction of a church at an area that would become a crossroads area. The community also features examples of significance in the area of Transportation with the construction of the Buffalo Springs Turnpike and the area as a crossroads and the last major settlement for travelers headed from Lynchburg to the Buffalo Springs Resort and beyond that over the mountains into Buena Vista. It was a well-used travel route. The community was significant in the areas of, Religion, Education, and Commerce. The buildings at the heart of the community include the church, the former school location on the church property, and the stores nearest to the church that remain.

Pleasant View was formed sometime around the early nineteenth century and was originally known as New Prospect. One of the earliest buildings was the 1828 meetinghouse. It was built at the intersection of two roads running through the community, and this intersection would become the heart of the community. The Lynchburg and Buffalo Springs Turnpike began construction in 1837 and used the road running north-south through the community. This road created a connection between Lynchburg and the Buffalo Springs Resort; it eventually crossed the Blue Ridge leading into Buena Vista and Lexington. It became a major travel route between Lynchburg and Lexington and helped lead to growth in the community as a stop along the route. The intersecting road connected the area to Pryor's Vale community, Sandidges and led to the Amherst courthouse village. The meetinghouse at the intersection was used for both secular and religious events. In 1843, Independence Day was celebrated by the community on the grounds. Many communities would allow churches to share use of the meetinghouse, but it seems the Maple Creek Baptist Church of Christ had exclusive use of the building. The turnpike led to growth in the community. In 1840, a wagon maker named Fletcher D. Hall advertised his shop near the New Prospect Meetinghouse as well as his Lynchburg City shop. Period newspapers report on various political meetings and public entertainment events being held at the meetinghouse. The Maple Creek Baptist Church of Christ purchased the meetinghouse and property from Abram Carter in 1845. They razed the

old meetinghouse and erected a new church on the site in 1847. The new building remained a well-used community gathering place.¹²

In June 1874, the community obtained postal service and a post office was established. The first postmaster was Mayo C. Harlow (1842-1885). The community was asked by the postal service to choose a new name to prevent conflict with New Prospect in King and Queen County, Va. According to local lore, Harlow choose the name Pleasant View. This officially became the new name of the community in November 1874. Ironically, the New Prospect Post Office in King and Queen County was discontinued in December 1874.¹³

The church was the center of most social activity as well as the regulator of community discipline. The members of the church held each other accountable. The congregation was created around 1778. Their first church was located on a bend in the Pedlar River where Maple Creek emptied into the river. The congregation chose to move to New Prospect in 1828. They continued maintenance on their original log church until they sold the property in 1840. Between 1840 and 1846, the congregation considered a name change to New Prospect Baptist Church (NPBC) several times. They officially changed their name after obtaining ownership of the property on which they were meeting. After purchasing the property, they began planning a new church. It was dedicated on October 3, 1847, though construction was not complete (See Fig 1). The congregation would have business meetings once a month, and the conduct of some members would be brought before the church leaders. The elders would meet punishment, many times the offender was banned from church activity until they confessed and repented publicly. The offenses listed in the church minutes include dancing, drinking, theft, adultery, and mistreatment of slaves. The church enrollment states there were 434 members with 207 whites and 227 blacks. The leadership decided in 1847 to create and choose a group of enslaved black men to work with the black members. Their work was also recorded in the minutes. After the Civil War, the black members of the church were likely some of those who formed Colonial Baptist Church. The land on which the church was established was part of Chester T. Watts farm and he is considered one of the people who helped found the church. Today, the congregation is known as Timothy Baptist Church. It is located on the northern edge of the community along the turnpike near Love Lady Creek Road.¹⁴

Around 1968, the church installed nine stained-glass windows. The windows memorialize many of the prominent families of the church and the community. These families include the Smith, Lamb, Watts, Pryor, Meador, and Gatewood families. Many of their descendants continue to worship at NPBC.¹⁵

¹² *Annual Report* (Lynchburg, Virginia, 1887), books.google.com; *Lynchburg Virginian*, 20 July 1843, 11 November 1841, and 3 March 1843, virginiachronicle.com; Amherst County Deed Book Z, p. 420, Caulfield, and Turner, 4-5.

¹³ Washington, U.S., Postmaster Indexes Prior to 1965, ancestry.com; and U.S. Appointments of U.S. Postmasters: 1832-1971, ancestry.com.

¹⁴ Caulfield; Turner, 4; Sandra Esposito, *Amherst County Churches*, available at Amherst County Museum and Historical Society; and Timothy Baptist Church file, available at the Amherst County Museum and Historical Society.

¹⁵ Turner, 8-9.



Figure 1. The 1847 Church. Photo Date Unknown. Archives of New Prospect Baptist Church.

Education was a community priority. At least two schools, Elliott's (1830) and Chestnut Grove (1845), were established in the area before the Commonwealth of Virginia enacted the program for establishing "Public Free Schools" across the state in 1870. Many more are found in the area after 1870: Pryor's Vale (1886), Phillips (1898), and Red Hill (date unknown). These include the African American school at Timothy Baptist Church. An advertisement in 1905 states that Nannie P. Dunnaway will be teaching at the private school of M. P. Gatewood.¹⁶

In 1906, Amanda V. Gatewood and husband, M.P. Gatewood sold a lot behind the church for use as a "public free school." This school would have classes for post-elementary education. This was described as a three-room school. This was one of the earliest higher level schools in Amherst. The building was soon outgrown and in 1910, the Gatewoods sold additional property to the county. A two-story frame school was erected and opened by 1913 for classes. In 1930, the auditorium was built near the school. Sometime between 1913 and 1940, a two-story addition was added to the front of the school. These buildings were used until the 1950s. The classroom building was considered a "fire trap" due to the oil used to maintain the wood floors. It was not replaced with a new high school because the county was consolidating schools into the two main high schools at Madison Heights and at Amherst. A new elementary school was constructed on Dancing Creek Road, and it opened in the mid 1950s. The old buildings were abandoned, and the two-story building was razed in 1965. NPBC had a campaign to save the 1930 building and use it as a social hall for the church. The campaign was led by former church member, Ruby Pryor Oddendino (1897-1986). She was so dedicated to the project that her home church in Washington, D.C. donated to the project. The Amherst court ordered the sale of the building to the church in December 1967. The old school auditorium was used for square dances and as the enlistment

¹⁶ Caulfield; Amherst County Deed Book ZZ, p. 230; SS, p. 325; *Amherst County Heritage*, Vol I, p. 43; Nixon, 247; and *Times Dispatch*, 27 October 1905, virginiachronicle.com.

site for WWII recruiting and as the place to register for ration stamps during the war as well. During the Covid pandemic, the building was used as a vaccine center.¹⁷

Due to WWI, the Pleasant View High School (PVHS) employed one of the first female principals, Miss Clyde B. Parr (1889-1955), in Amherst County Schools in 1918. She later moved to Montvale High School in Bedford County during the 1920s. She later taught at Schuyler School in Nelson County. An article in 1950 states that Earl Hamner, creator of “The Waltons” TV show, credited her with being an influence in his life.¹⁸

The community had a variety of commercial buildings including general stores, undertakers, a blacksmith, and a wagon maker. The c.1895 store on Buffalo Spring Turnpike was built by Richard A. Smith (b. 1848). He likely operated the store until 1902. For a time there were several short-lived owners until Claude G. Watts bought the property from his father, but his father died before deeding him the property. Watts resided on the property and managed the store before his father’s death in 1938. He likely began running the store in 1934 when he was appointed postmaster. Claude operated the store until 1968. During his occupation, he built a one-story house onto the south side of the two-story building, and he was one of the last postmasters. He resigned in early 1963 and was succeeded by Helen Eubank. The postal service to the community was discontinued soon after Eubank was appointed to the postmaster position. After Watts, there were other short term owners of the property until 1987 when Glenn H. Campbell (1938-2017) bought the property. His vision was to create an all-in-one place that was more than just a convenience store. He added multiple one-story additions onto the north end of the original store building, each one a different store such as a restaurant and hardware store. He also created a petting zoo in memory of his son, Richard K. Campbell (1965-1996). The zoo was to the rear of the building. Campbell sold the store property in 2005 to the Wade family who operated the store until 2010. They sold the property to a corporation called Pleasant View Grocery, LLC. Tommy Lloyd led the corporation and, in 2015, gifted it to NPBC. Currently, the building is used for emergency housing and storage. The church hopes to create a community coffeehouse in the old store.¹⁹

Cheswell T. Watts (1851-1923) was a noted businessman and farmer in the Pleasant View community. He built the c.1898 house, locally known as the Dodd house, located across from and owned by the church. It was the manor house of a large farm. Watts was the nephew of the Rev. Thomas B. Gatewood, a long serving minister of the church. C. T. Watts was buried in the old Wilsher house field across Buffalo Springs Turnpike from his home. He was buried by himself, not with the other Wilsher and community burials in the same field. The remnant of the stone chimney from the old Wilsher home stands in the field as well. The Watts family retained the house until 1966. Watts son, Aubrey Chester (1883-1961) took over the house and farm after his father’s death.²⁰

The property was purchased by Elbert White Dodd, Jr. (1887-1973). Dodd may have purchased the house as his retirement home. Dodd worked as an eye surgeon in Buchanan County for most of his life. He was related to both the Pryor and Dodd families who helped settle the area.²¹

Amanda Victoria Smith Harlow Gatewood (1859-1928) was a member of the Smith family who were prominent in the village. Her family were descendants of Abram Carter who originally sold the property to the church and continued to own property surrounding the church. Her brother, Richard A.

¹⁷ Amherst County Deed Book 57, p. 317; 66, p. 512; 68, p. 41; 86, p. 267; 266, p. 216; E.M. Sandidge, “Pleasant Vie, One of the First Public Schools in State,” *Amherst New Era-Progress*, 1957 ed. 02, virginiachronicle.com; Turner, 18; and conversation with Sally L. Turner.

¹⁸ “Amherst Needs Teachers,” *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, August 24, 1918, virginiachronicle.com; *Bedford Bulletin*, May 27, 1920, and April 19, 1928, virginiachronicle.com; *Nelson County Times*, November 13, 1936, and August 28, 1941, virginiachronicle.com; and *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, July 16, 1950, newspapers.com.

¹⁹ Amherst County Deed Book VV, p.58; XX, p. 110; 54, p. 322; 58, p. 68; 62, p. 260; 113, p. 94; 273, p. 129; 319, p. 102; 323, p. 331; 509, p. 206; 582, p. 97; 814, p. 379; 1022, p. 164; 1078, p. 766; 1153, p. 500; 1162, p. 769; 1275, p. 168; Washington, U.S., Postmaster Indexes Prior to 1965, ancestry.com; and U.S. Appointments of U.S. Postmasters: 1832-1971, ancestry.com.

²⁰ Amherst County Deed Book 52, p. 97; 263, p. 363; and C.T. Watts obituary, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, August 29, 1963, newspapers.com.

²¹ Various Databases, ancestry.com.

Smith, built the c.1895 store. Her parents and other family members are buried in the graveyard now owned by the church. Amanda's first husband was Mayo C. Harlow (1842-1884), the first postmaster. He drowned while trying to save his young son who was drowning. After his death, she became the village postmaster. Her second husband was Marshall P. Gatewood (1863-1928). He was Rev. Thomas B. Gatewood's son and a successful village merchant. He took over the postmaster position from Amanda in 1904, and the position was retained by members of the Gatewood family until 1930. He is likely the one who constructed the store building at 2223 Buffalo Springs Turnpike (VDHR# 005-5272) and this likely served as the post office for a period as well. M. P Gatewood supported education and sponsored a private school until he and Amanda sold land to the county for building a school in 1906 and again in 1911. He also served as a Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly from 1916 to 1922.²²

The community doctor for over fifty years was Dr. E. M. Sandidge (1875-1957). He lived in Pleasant View but traveled to patients all over the western part of Amherst County. Sandidge and other prominent men in the community such as M.P. Gatewood, Rev. Thomas B. Gatewood, and C.T. Watts were members of a local debate club. Sandidge served on the Amherst Board of Supervisors. He supported increasing public funding for education, worked on a regional board to create an almshouse, and he was part of the development of the Chatham home for elderly people.²³

Today, the Pleasant View community consists of farms and residences that are found along the turnpike road. It was once a vibrant village along a well-traveled turnpike that, with the advent of faster roadways, became a smaller community center and many of its commercial stores were no longer viable. The NPBC remains an active part of the community and seeks to care for those who live nearby and its members.

²² Another relative of Amanda Gatewood, Berta Caulfield Campbell (1897-1984) gave the graveyard to the church, but there is no deed to confirm this transaction. The Harlow Gatewood graveyard is in the side yard of a house about a quarter of a mile from the church. Washington, U.S., Postmaster Indexes Prior to 1965, ancestry.com; U.S. Appointments of U.S. Postmasters: 1832-1971, ancestry.com; Nixon, 237-242; *Alexandria Gazette*, April 29, 1885, newspapers.com; *Staunton Spectator*, May 6, 1885, newspapers.com; *Richmond News Leader*, April 4, 1928, newspapers.com; *Times Dispatch*, August 2, 1900, March 20, 1901, May 30, 1904, July 17, 1911, newspapers.com; and *Times Dispatch*, October 27, 1905, virginiachronicle.com.

²³ *Roanoke Times*, December 31, 1904, virginiachronicle.com; *Bedford Bulletin*, February 18, 1908, virginiachronicle.com; and "M. Sandidge," Pleasant Vie, One of the First Public Schools in State," *Amherst New Era-Progress*, 1957 ed. 02, virginiachronicle.com.

Bibliography

Amherst County Deed Books, Amherst County Courthouse, Various Books.

Caulfield, Berta S. *New Prospect Baptist Church of Christ (Amherst County, Va.). Minute Book, 1828-1849. Accession 32176. Church Records Collection, the Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219., Misc. Reel 994.*

County, Amherst. *Amherst County Virginia : Volume II.* Amherst, Va.: Amherst County Heritage Book Committee, 2004.

———. *Amherst County Virginia.* Amherst, VA: Amherst County Heritage Book Committee ; Summersville, WV, 1999.

New Prospect Baptist Church Records 1899 to present.

Nixon, Florence. *In the Shadow of Tobacco Row Mountain : Elon, Monroe, and Other Villages.* Lynchburg, Virginia: Blackwell Press, 2010.

Turner, Sally Lambert. *New Prospect Baptist Church: 240th Anniversary Homecoming: Church History 1778-2018,* 2018.

Virginia. *A History of the Churches in the Piedmont Baptist Association of Virginia.,* 1976.

Various databases available from [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)

Various newspapers from [newspapers.com](https://www.newspapers.com)

Various newspapers from [virginiachronicle.com](https://www.virginiachronicle.com)

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

Private: X Public\Local Public\State Public\Federal

6. Applicant/Sponsor (Individual and/or organization sponsoring preparation of the PIF, with contact information. For more than one sponsor, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: Sally Lambert Turner
organization: New Prospect Baptist Church
street & number: 2209 Buffalo Springs Turnpike
city or town: Monroe state: VA zip code: 24574
e-mail: _____ telephone: 434-661-8882

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

***** Signature required for processing all applications. *****

In the event of organization sponsorship, you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: Sally Lambert Turner Sally Lambert Turner
Daytime Telephone: 434-661-8882

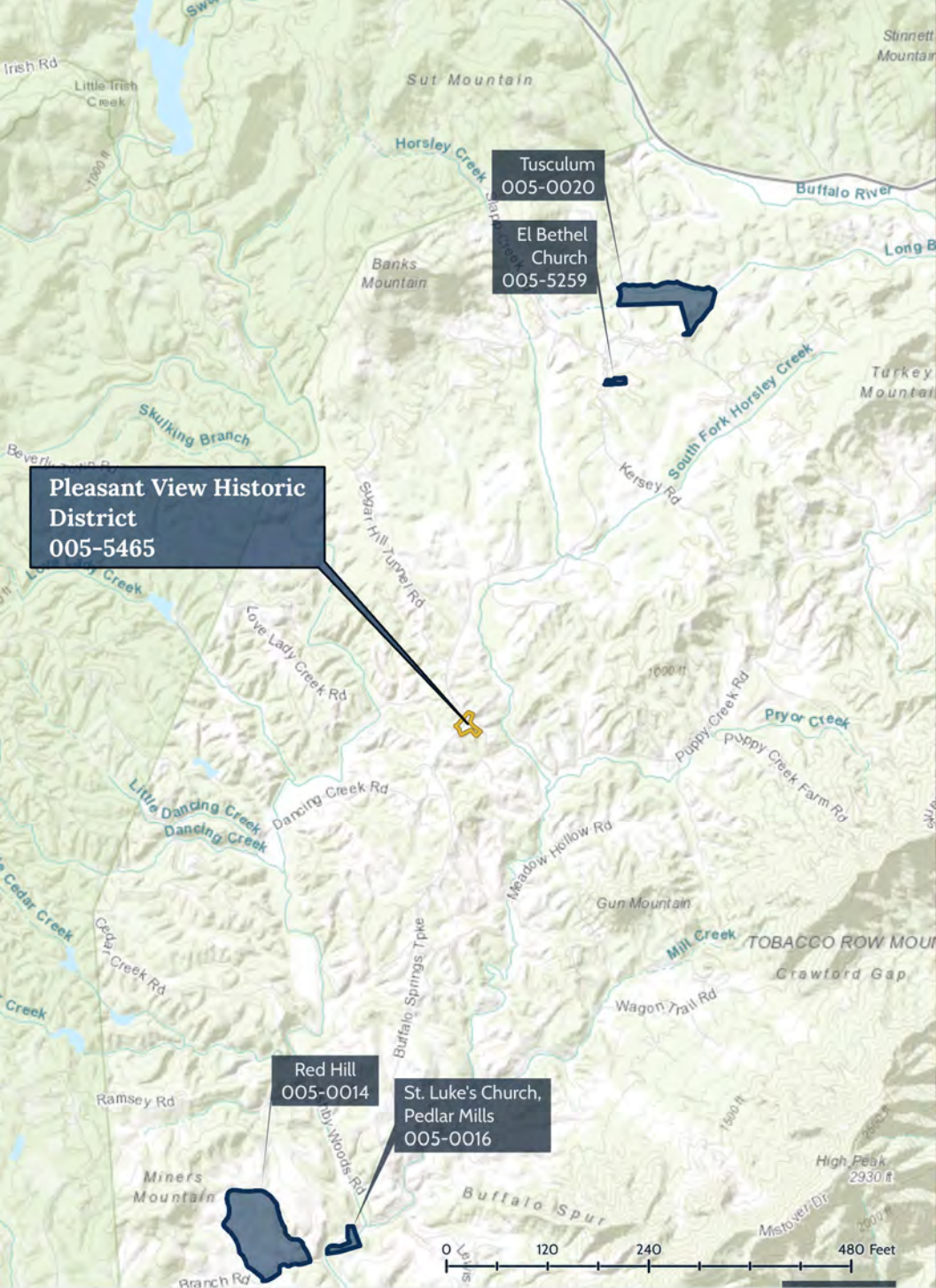
Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than applicant/sponsor listed above)

name/title: Sandra F. Esposito
organization: n/a
street & number: 140 Cradon Hill Ln
city or town: Amherst state: VA zip code: 24521
e-mail: sandiesposito@icloud.com telephone: 540-529-0205

7. 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: Dean Rodgers/ County Administrator
locality: Amherst County
street & number: _____
city or town: Amherst state: VA zip code: 24521
telephone: _____



Pleasant View Historic District
Amherst County, Tobacco Row Mountain Quad
DHR ID: 005-5465

Listed Resources
005-5465

Created By: D. Bascone 11/3/2023
Sources: VDHHR 2023, ESRI 2023, VDOT 2023, VGIN 2023
Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years and the representation depicted is based on the field observation date and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general illustration purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. The map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". Contact DHR for the most recent information as data is updated continually.



Heart of Pleasant View



September 5, 2023 Sketch Map

Heart of Pleasant View 005-5465 Includes

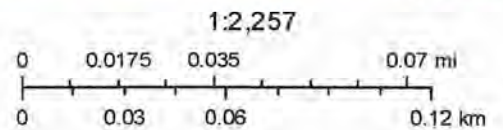
New Prospect Baptist Church 005-5273

Store 005-5271

House 005-5274

Store and House 005-5272

Amherst County, VA



The GIS data is proprietary to the County, and title to this information remains in the County. All applicable common law and statutory rights in the GIS data including, but not limited to, rights in copyright, shall and will remain the property of the County. Information shown on these maps are derived from public records that are constantly undergoing change and do not replace a site survey, and is not warranted for content or accuracy.



0001_NewProspectBaptCh_looking SE



0002_NPBC_&_Store_Looking W



0003_House_Looking NE



0005_NPBC_005-5273_ S & W Elevations



0006_NPBC_005-5273 _W Elevation



0007_NPBC_005-5273_W & N Elevations



0010_NPBC_005-5273_E Elevation



0014_NPBC_005-5273_S Elevation



0040_NPBC_005-5273_Family Life Ctr_Facing SE



0041_NPBC_005-5273_Family Life Ctr_N Elevation



0043_NPBC_005-5273_Family Life Ctr_E & S Elevations



0046_NPBC_005-5273_Auditorium & Pavilion_Facing Se



0047_NPBC_005-5273_Auditorium_W & N Elevations



0053_NPBC_005-5273_Auditorium_N Elevation



0057_NPBC_005-5273_Pavilion_Facing SE



0060_NPBC_005-5273_Pavilion_Facing NE



0064_NPBC_005-5273_Cemetery_Facing SE



0065_NPBC_005-5273_Cemetery_Stone Detail



0066_NPBC_005-5273_Cemetery_Stone Detail



0067_NPBC_005-5273_Cemetery_Stone Detail



0069_Store_005-5271_Facing SW



0070_Store_005-5271_Facing W



0072_Store_005-5271_Rear Elevation_Facing SE



0074_Store_003-3271_Main Elevatin_Facing w



0077_Store_005-5271_Attached House & S Elevation



0081_House_005-5274_House & Garage_ Facing N



0082_House_005-5274_W Elevation



0083_House_005-5274_W & S elevations



0084_House_005-5274_W Elevation



0086_House_005-5274_N Elevation



0087_House_005-5274_N Elevation



0092_House_005-5274_Garage_w & N Elevations



0093_House_005-5274_Garage_ N & E Elevations



0095_House_005-5274_Log Outbuilding_Facing E



0096_House_005-5274_Log Outbuilding_Facing SE



0097_House_005-5274_Log Outbuilding_Facing NE



0098_House_005-5274_Frame Outbuilding_Facing sE



0099_House_005-5274_Frame Outbuilding_Facing NE



0100_House_005-5274_Frame Outbuilding_Facing SE



thumbnail_0101_Store_005-5272_Frame store_Facing SE



thumbnail_0102_Store_005-5272_Frame Store and house_facing E



thumbnail_0103_Store_005-5272_Frame store_West and main elevation_Facing E



thumbnail_0104_Store_005-5272_Frames store and house_Facing NE



thumbnail_0105_Store_005-5272_Frame Store detail_Facing NE



thumbnail_0106_Store_005-5272_Wooden Barn and Shed_ Facing E