



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) 036-5311

1. General Property Information

Property name: Union Zion Baptist Church

Property address: 6145 Ware Neck Road

City or Town: Gloucester

Zip code: 23061

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

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

Building X Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: One (plus unknown cemetery acreage)

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban Suburban Town Village Hamlet Rural X

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

Union Zion Baptist Church is located within the Ware District of Gloucester County, Gloucester, Virginia. The Ware District is a rural spit of land in the northern end of the county; a peninsula with one main road (Ware Neck Road) that loops around. It's located about 3.3 miles in from the closest main highway. The original church (est. 1867) was built on the same land where our cemetery is presently located, about 1.4 miles away in the same district on Pole Bridge Lane.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Victorian

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

If the builder is known, please list here: Charles Evans

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1866-67

Narrative Description (Please do not exceed one page in describing the property):

Briefly describe the property's general characteristics, 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 materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions or other major alterations.

The property contains the main church building and a small storage shed in the rear of the property. The church's primary use currently is a house of worship but in the past it has also been a school. The church is prominently featured at the front of the property facing the main road. It is white with a gray pitched roof. The front is a two-tiered bell tower with a Mansard style roof capped with a steep spire and features sawtooth shingles on the sides. The main sanctuary building has vinyl siding (added later) and along the roofline a swag serpentine ribbon design. This same swag motif is also found along the window molding above the stained glass windows and the transom top molding at the front entrance. The interior walls are done in plaster and beadboard wainscoting. There is a wooden floor with carpeted walkways and stairs. The balcony railings and support columns are darkly stained and varnished in a high gloss. The ceilings also feature beadboard cut at a 45 degree angle and laid in between thick wide planks of decorative trim. Overall the physical appearance is good, however some attention needs to be paid to the front entrance shingles and plaster walls.

In a bullet list, include any outbuildings or secondary resources or major landscape features (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

- Prefab composite wood shed in good condition, purchased @2012.
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4. Property's History and Significance (Please do not exceed one page)

Briefly explain the property's historic importance, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property.

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

Union Zion Baptist Church is the sister church to the first black church established in Gloucester County – Zion Poplars Baptist Church (located in the National Register). It was built just after the Civil War ended when many blacks in the neighborhood desired not only their *own* place of worship but also a closer place of worship instead of walking through marshy conditions and taking boats to the mother church. Its designer and builder Charles Evans was a member of the congregation and a recent graduate of architecture at Hampton Institute (now Hampton University). He envisioned a church designed with the latest architectural details of the Victorian period. Mr. Evans would go on to become an instructor at the Tuskegee Institute and work with Booker T. Washington. Another notable congregant is Daniel T. Gardner, a founding member but also a Medal of Honor winner during a Civil War Battle.

Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property, such as deeds, census and tax records, and/or published articles and books. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

- Union Zion Baptist Church historical church records and deeds
- Articles from the Gloucester/Mathews Gazette Journal
- Information provided by Hampton University
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5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: X 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: James Carter, Thomas Carter, Lorenzo Grimes: Board of Trustees of Union Zion Baptist Church

organization: Union Zion Baptist Church

street & number: 6145 Ware Neck Road; (mailing address) PO Box 1029

city or town: Gloucester state: VA zip code: 23061

e-mail: uzbc6145gloucesterva@gmail.com telephone: 804.693.6565

✓ Legal Owner's Signature: *James K. Carter*
Date: 8-5-23 FOR UZBC TRUSTEES

• • 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: Mary S. Gordon, Church Clerk

Daytime Telephone: 804.699.3016

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

name/title: Cori A. Gordon

organization: n/a

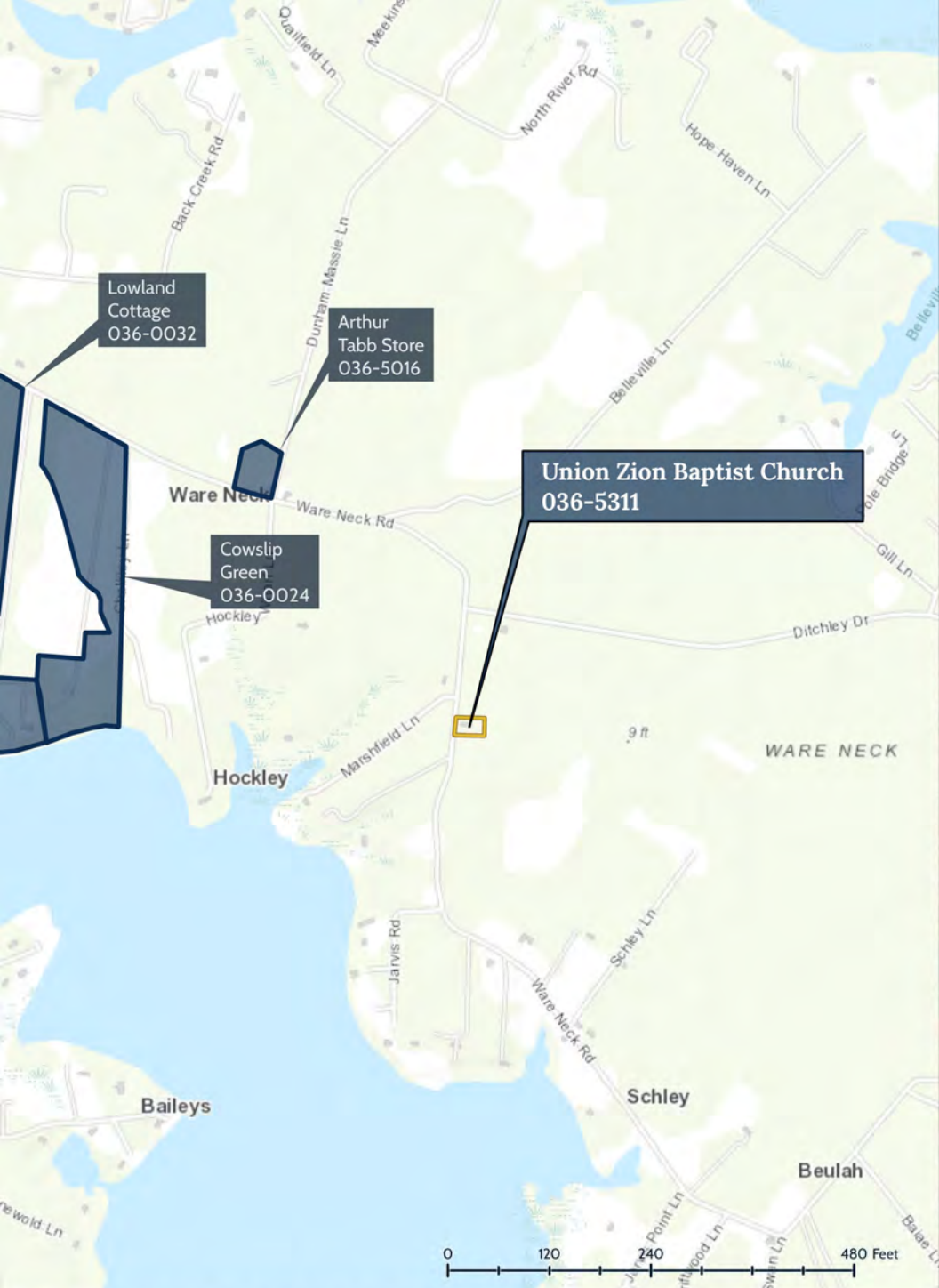
street & number: 2403 E. Clay St

city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23223

e-mail: cori7374@hotmail.com telephone: 804.677.0441

Date: 7-9-2023

PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH CONTINUATION SHEETS TO THIS FORM. THANK YOU!



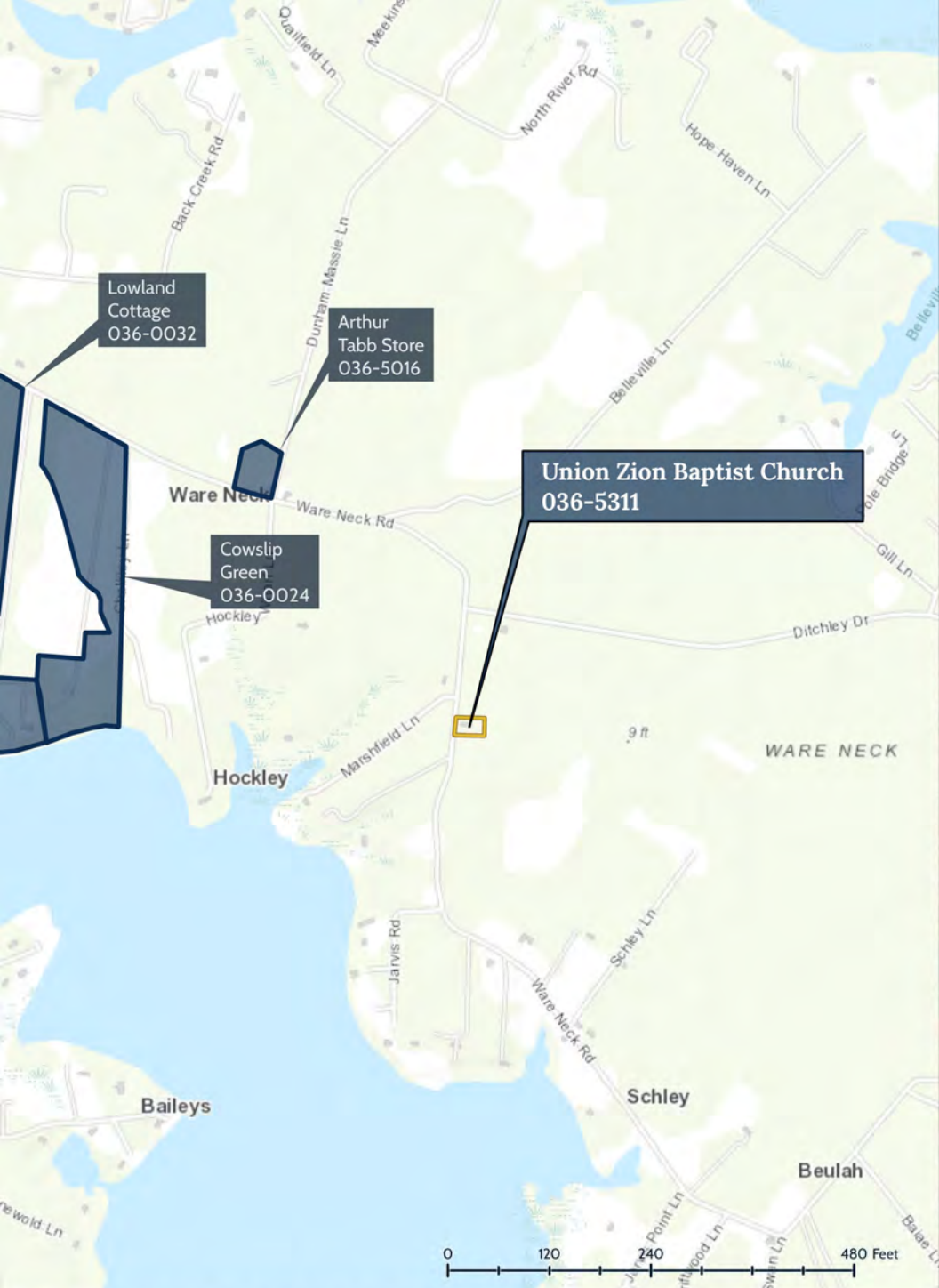
Union Zion Baptist Church **Gloucester County, Ware Neck Quad** **DHR ID: 036-5311**

Listed Resources
 036-5311



Created By: D. Bascone 9/21/2023
 Sources: VDHR 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.



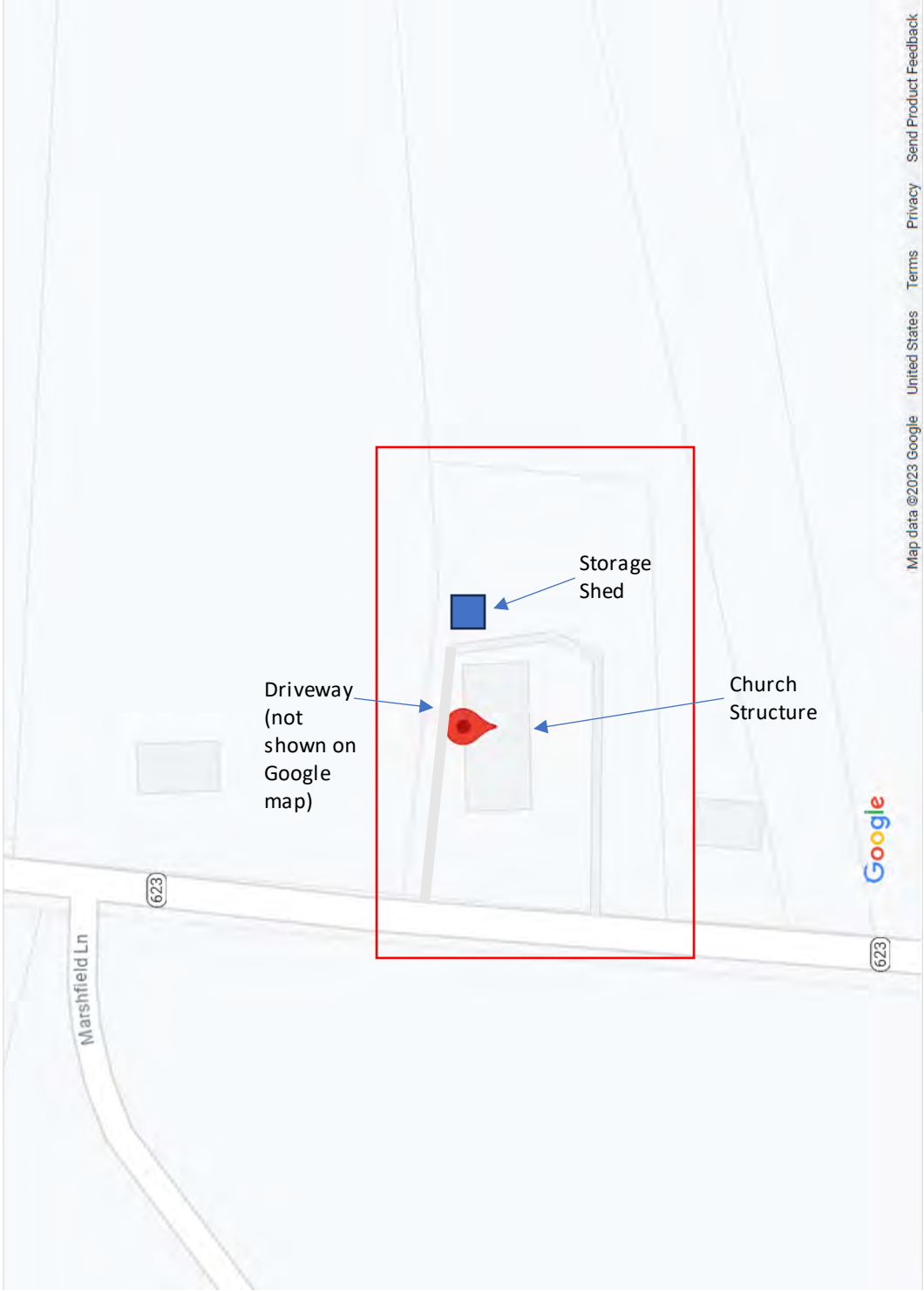


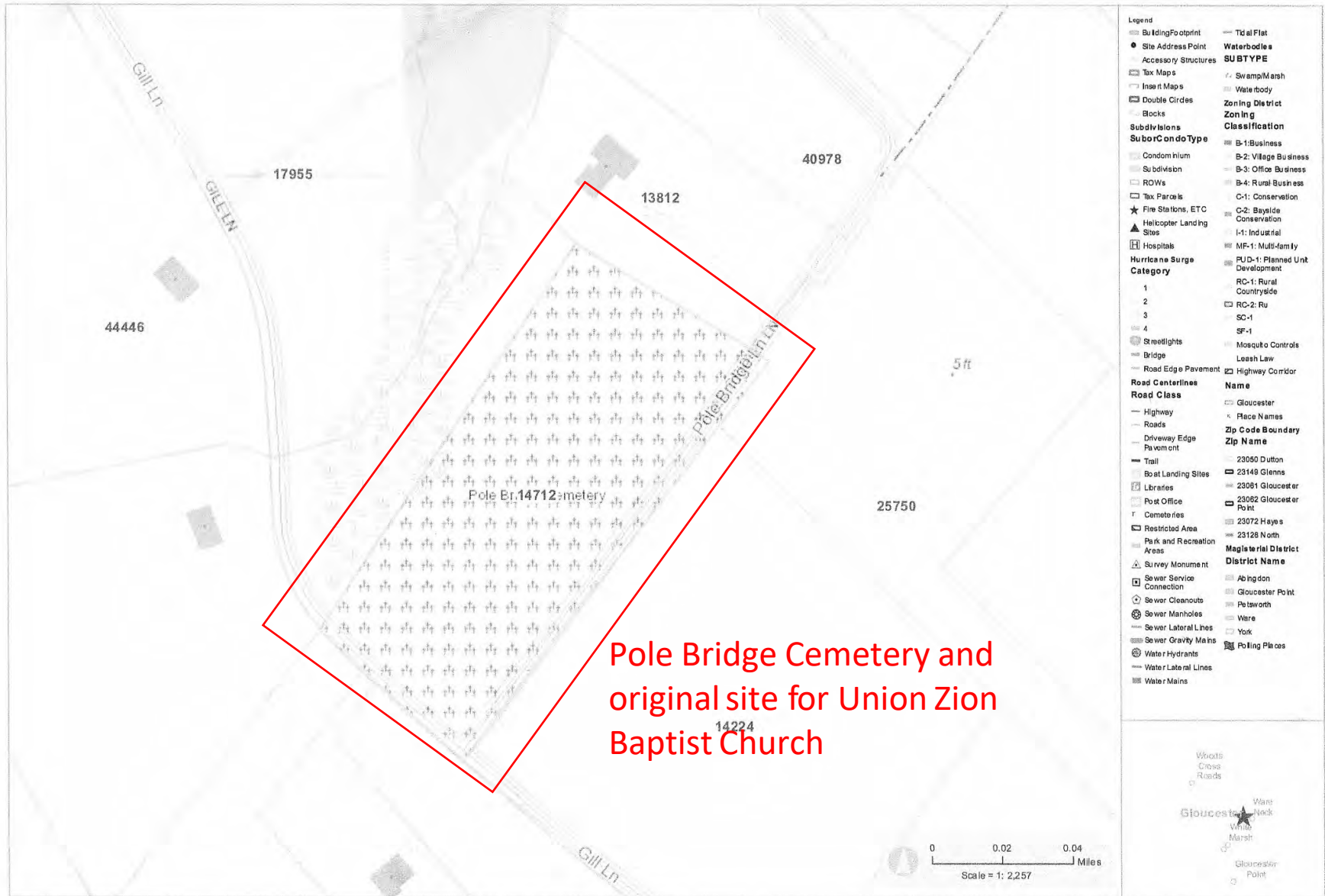
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"Rebuilt in 1894"



"Union Zion Bapt"



