



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) 087-5416

1. General Property Information

Property name: Gilfield Baptist Church

Property address: 9390 Doles Rd

City or Town: Ivor

Zip code: 23866

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

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

Building Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 2

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:

This parcel of land, the grounds of Gilfield Baptist Church, is situated on the Courtland Ivor Road about one mile from Ivor. The Courtland Ivor Road intersects with Doles Crossroad (later known as Doles Rd.). The Church stands on a hill in a grove of trees. There are two cemetery locations, beside and behind the church building. The back of the Church is also surrounded by trees. Gilfield Baptist Church is a familiar landmark in the African American community and became known as "The Church on the Hill at the Turn of the Road".

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Vernacular

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): 1940

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 primary building on this property is the Gilfield Baptist Church. The church is wooden with a double door entry. It has two floors. The sanctuary has stained glass windows, wooden pews, deacon and deaconess pews on opposite sides with 4 entrances and exits on the first floor. An immersed baptism pool is located at the front of the church. The Pulpit is elevated as well as the choir stand. There is seating upstairs, with access by steps on each side. Inside the sanctuary, there is a side exit that leads to the bathrooms, two offices, kitchen and open fellowship area. The second floor of the church houses an office for church historical records and a meeting room. While Gilfield Baptist Church started with dirt trails for walking or horses, it now has a paved parking lot.

When entering the church from the right side, you can observe a hanging cord, which historically was pulled to hear the church bell that rings to announce the beginning of Sunday service. This original bell remains operational.

While we are proud of the current church building, it is important to note our humble beginning started under a "Brush Arbor" in 1863. Members used the trees and other natural materials that were located at this site as building materials.

information becomes available.

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.

- Cemetery
- The church cemetery is one quarter acre and has burial plots dating back to 1904. There are various types of headstones and grave markers. In many instances, there are three generations of families buried at this site.
-
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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.

The first members of Gilfield Baptist Church were former members of Tucker Swamp Baptist Church, Zuni, VA. In 1863, the slaves were told they had to find somewhere else to worship. This occurred prior to the end of the Civil War. The slaves began to hold prayer meetings on the land of a Freedman, William H. Diggs and his wife Ann Eliza Diggs. This parcel of land was later conveyed by deed of gift on May 9, 1873 to Trustees at Gilfield Baptist Church. The first place of worship was under a "Brush Arbor" as was customary in many rural and small communities. The pews were wood planks over large blocks of tree stumps. The openair worship continued for some time until members created a small frame building. After many years the church was enlarged to the present design. In 1947, the church underwent repairs and restrooms were installed under the rear of the church. New wooden floors were installed, oil heaters replaced wood burning heaters and the foundation of the church was enclosed. The third phase of structural development at the church included the addition of a fellowship hall, two indoor bathrooms, two offices and storage. A fourth phase added a partial second floor that added additional space for meetings and storage of historical documents. The Church has been the first social institution owned and administered by African Americans. Gilfield Baptist Church has a long history of ministering to spiritual and other needs of the congregation and the community at large. The Black church has been a resource during the Civil Rights Movement. One of the movement's leaders is Rev. Curtis Harris. He was Pastor at Gilfield Baptist Church from 1961-1994. Not only did Reverend Harris guide the church, he dedicated his life to helping African Americans advance their social condition. He was active in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and participated in the famous civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery Alabama. He was instrumental in having Dr. Ralph Abernathy (Civil Rights Leader) as a guest at Gilfield Baptist Church for a voter registration drive. While the history at Gilfield Baptist Church has included strong leadership, we are very proud to have Reverend Elizabeth Jones in the pulpit. She is the first woman to hold this position at Gilfield Baptist Church. The church continues to move forward as one body, with one vision, serving one God, under Pastor Jones' dynamic leadership.

Department of Historic Resources Preliminary Information Form 4 2/28/2023 Rev. September 2022 *Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staf 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.*

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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.)

-
- Deeds
- Family members (4 generations at Gilfield Baptist Church)
- Church Leaders
-
-

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: _____

name/title _____

name/title _____

organization: _____

street & number: _____ city or

town: _____ state: _____ zip code: _____ e-mail:

_____ telephone: _____

Legal 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: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

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

name/title: Felecia McClenny, Church Member, Gilfield Baptist

Church _____ organization:

street & number: 900 Ellington

Square _____ city or town:

Portsmouth state: VA zip code:

23701 e-mail: feemcclenny@gmail.com

telephone: 804-677-7446 Date: 2/13/20024

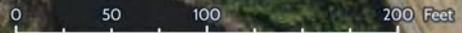
PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH CONTINUATION SHEETS TO THIS FORM. THANK YOU!



Gilfield Baptist Church
Southampton County, Ivor Quad
DHR ID: 087-5416

-  Listed Resources
-  087-5416

Created By: D. Bascone 3/13/2024
 Sources: VDHR 2024, ESRI 2024, VDOT 2024, VGIN 2024
 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.





















Church Covenant

The members of this church covenant themselves to the Lord of the Church, to His Word, and to His Sacraments. They promise to keep His commandments, to love one another, and to be faithful to the church and its officers. They also promise to support the church financially and to participate in its worship and activities.







EXIT











































GBC







19103963D

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 751

Offered January 25, 2019

Commending Gilfield Baptist Church.

Patrons—Tyler; Senator: Lucas

WHEREAS, for more than 155 years, Gilfield Baptist Church in Ivor has enriched the Southampton County community through opportunities for worship, joyful evangelism, and generous mission work; and

WHEREAS, the oldest African American church in Southampton County, Gilfield Baptist Church was established by former members of Tucker Swamp Baptist Church in 1863, two years prior to the end of the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, Gilfield Baptist Church held its first services in a brush arbor on land owned by the Diggs family; the church's location on a hill at the turn of a road made it an important local landmark for years to come; and

WHEREAS, the members of Gilfield Baptist Church eventually erected a small frame building, which was renovated and modernized in the 1940s, adding new floors, heaters, windows, pews, lighting, and a pulpit to better serve the growing congregation; and

WHEREAS, Gilfield Baptist Church was active during the Civil Rights movement, hosting numerous important speakers who inspired the entire community to take a more active role in civic life; and

WHEREAS, in the 1990s and continuing into the new millennium, Gilfield Baptist Church greatly expanded its worship services, programs, and ministries, enhancing the quality of life for all residents through its generosity and leadership; and

WHEREAS, throughout its storied history, Gilfield Baptist Church has benefited from the wise leadership of 11 pastors, the Reverend Jordan Thomas, the Reverend Ashley Lewis, the Reverend Holland Powell, the Reverend Henry Madison, the Reverend Collin P. Madison, the Reverend Ralph Page, the Reverend George W. King, the Reverend Curtis W. Harris, the Reverend Eustis Mitchell, Jr., the Reverend Kenneth W. Ricks, and the Reverend Elizabeth B. Jones; and

WHEREAS, the current pastor, the Reverend Elizabeth B. Jones, was the first female minister in the Berlin District of Southampton County, and she has helped Gilfield Baptist Church continue to grow in faith and numbers; and

WHEREAS, Gilfield Baptist Church has worked diligently to make Christian values a part of everyday life and has played a vital role in supporting and strengthening the African American community for generations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Gilfield Baptist Church on the occasion of its 155th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Gilfield Baptist Church as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for its legacy of contributions to the residents of Southampton County.

INTRODUCED

HJ751

Cemetery Listing (ABC order)

| | Last Name | First Name | Month of Birth | Day of Birth | Year of Birth | Month of Death | Day of Death | Year of Death | Age (yrs.) | Section # | Row # | Grave # |
|----|-----------|---------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|----------------|-------|---------|
| 1 | Adams | Della D. | September | 18 | ✓ 1884 | July | 13 | 1980 | 96 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | Adkinson | Eunice | January | 5 | 1912 | March | 26 | 2002 | 90 | 2 | 14 | 1 |
| 3 | Anderson | Romine | | | 1886 | | | 1967 | 81 | 4 | 2 | 19 |
| 4 | Bailey | Lula | | | ✓ 1883 | | | 1944 | 61 | 2 | 4 | 17 |
| 5 | Ballard | Eva J. W. | August | 7 | 1893 | April | 27 | 1977 | 84 | 2 | 6 | 21 |
| 6 | Banks | Ish R. | June | 5 | 1896 | January | 18 | 1967 | 71 | 1 | 1 | 39 |
| 7 | Banks | Roseanna | June | 16 | 1901 | September | 15 | 1980 | 79 | 1 | 1 | 38 |
| 8 | Barrett | Cleo McClenny | March | 3 | 1914 | January | 26 | 1995 | 81 | 2 | 11 | 3 |
| 9 | Bellinger | Mary E. | January | 15 | 1896 | August | 6 | 1976 | 80 | 2 | 8 | 27 |
| 10 | Binns | Anthony | November | 28 | 1976 | November | 26 | 2000 | 24 | 4 | | 17 |
| 11 | Binns | Clara D. | August | 6 | 1901 | February | 26 | 1965 | 64 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| 12 | Binns | Lizzie | February | 15 | 1892 | October | 21 | 1942 | 50 | 2 | 16 | 3 |
| 13 | Binns | Louise P. | March | 11 | 1936 | July | 12 | 1998 | 62 | 4 | 4 | 21 |
| 14 | Binns | Phillip | December | 10 | 1886 | November | 19 | 1957 | 71 | 2 | 16 | 2 |
| 15 | Blackwell | Dianne O. | August | 25 | 1955 | October | 26 | 2002 | 47 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 16 | Bowe | Ella L. | February | 19 | 1913 | March | 21 | 2009 | 96 | 1 | 1 | 51 |
| 17 | Bowe | George | April | 24 | 1905 | September | 23 | 1981 | 76 | 1 | 1 | 52 |
| 18 | Bowers | Emma | | | ✓ 1885 | | | 1950 | 65 | OLD CEMETERY?? | | |
| 19 | Bowers | Ernest R. | February | 11 | 1954 | March | 22 | 1954 | 1 month | 1 | 8 | 40 |
| 20 | Bowers | Ernest Thomas | April | 25 | 1930 | February | 8 | 2009 | 79 | 1 | 9 | 40 |
| 21 | Bowers | Fleetwood | May | 12 | 1905 | August | 14 | 1970 | 65 | 1 | 6 | 17 |
| 22 | Bowers | Grace W. | June | 10 | 1910 | May | 5 | 1979 | 69 | 2 | 8 | 28 |
| 23 | Bowers | Gracie Lee | August | 19 | 1929 | February | 26 | 2020 | 91 | 1 | 9 | 39 |
| 24 | Bowers | John Melvin | July | 25 | 1907 | February | 28 | 1995 | 88 | 1 | 2 | 44 |
| 25 | Bowers | Lucille P. | June | 15 | 1904 | September | 13 | 1999 | 95 | 1 | 6 | 18 |
| 26 | Bowers | Pearl H. | September | 11 | 1897 | January | 1 | 1995 | 98 | 5 | 1 | 6 |

Cemetery Listing
(by Date of Death)

| | Last Name | First Name | Birth Month | Day of Birth | Year of Birth | Month of Death | Day of Death | Year of Death | Age | Section # | Row # | Grave # |
|----|--------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----|----------------|-------|---------|
| | | | | | 1848 | January | 11 | 1904 | 56 | OLD CEMETERY?? | | |
| 1 | Hawks | Mary | | | 1910 | December | 5 | 1923 | 13 | 2 | 10 | 4 |
| 2 | Bowers | Violetta | December | 6 | 1880 | May | 13 | 1927 | 47 | 2 | 10 | 4 |
| 3 | Bowers | Rosa M. | June | 1 | | November | 17 | 1931 | | OLD CEMETERY?? | | |
| 4 | Holmes | Mrs. Mary | | | | June | 26 | 1933 | | OLD CEMETERY?? | | |
| 5 | Purdie | William | | | | | | 1935 | 37 | OLD CEMETERY | | |
| 6 | Wilson | Mamie V. Clark | | | 1898 | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Brockman | George W. | November | 20 | 1878 | January | 10 | 1936 | 58 | 2 | 4 | 38 |
| 8 | Clark | Mollie W. | | | 1880 | | | 1936 | 56 | OLD CEMETERY?? | | |
| 9 | Green | Charlie A. | August | | 1882 | June | 22 | 1937 | 55 | OLD CEMETERY | | |
| 10 | Taylor | Al Virginia | March | 10 | 1923 | September | 8 | 1938 | 15 | OLD CEMETERY?? | | |
| 11 | Holloman | Trilby | April | 8 | 1897 | April | 11 | 1939 | 42 | 1 | 3 | 32 |
| 12 | Tucker | Florence Warren | November | 25 | 1915 | June | 12 | 1939 | 24 | 5 | 2 | 10 |
| 13 | Green | Annie Johnson | October | | 1874 | July | 15 | 1939 | 65 | OLD CEMETERY | | |
| 14 | Harris | Richard | | | | January | 18 | 1941 | | OLD CEMETERY?? | | |
| 15 | Warren | Bertha V. | February | 14 | 1924 | March | 21 | 1941 | 17 | 5 | 1 | 10 |
| 16 | Warren | Fannie L. | | | 1879 | | | 1941 | 62 | OLD CEMETERY?? | | |
| 17 | Smith | Roosevelt | | | 1913 | March | 1 | 1942 | 29 | 2 | 16 | 4 |
| 18 | Smith | Odell | December | 20 | 1917 | May | 1 | 1942 | 25 | 2 | 16 | 5 |
| 19 | Pierce | Julia Warren | March | 2 | 1894 | July | 1 | 1942 | 48 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| 20 | Jones | Mrs. Annie | | | | October | 11 | 1942 | | 2 | 13 | 4 |
| 21 | Binns | Lizzie | February | 15 | 1892 | October | 21 | 1942 | 50 | 2 | 16 | 3 |
| 22 | Warren | Cleveland R. | April | 5 | 1921 | February | 19 | 1943 | 22 | 5 | 1 | 9 |
| 23 | Stith, Jr. | Eddie | August | 29 | 1914 | June | 13 | 1943 | 29 | 2 | 16 | 6 |
| 24 | Eley | John R. | June | 2 | 1919 | July | 25 | 1943 | 24 | 2 | 4 | 11 |
| 25 | Holoman, Sr. | Jacob H. | | | 1883 | | | 1943 | 60 | 2 | 8 | 1 |