



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) 083-5204

1. General Property Information

Property name: Bundy's Chapel Church

Property address: 275 Herald's Valley Road (Rt. 628)

City or Town: Castlewood, Virginia

Zip code: 24224

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

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

Building X Site _____ Structure _____ Object _____

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 0.282 acre

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:

Bundy's Chapel Church is located in Castlewood, Virginia. The church building is a south-facing building, set back 75 feet on the north side of Route 628, within a small, rural hamlet. The church is sited above grade on a forested steep slope. Bedrock is exposed along the sloping hillside. Conifers and deciduous trees surround the church while some were recently removed to protect the structure. The front of the lot is cleared, and the rear is forested. Immediately north of the church is an outhouse privy.

Source: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Russell County Reconnaissance Survey, 2008.

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: N/A

If the builder is known, please list here: N/A

Date of construction (can be approximate): c. 1918

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 church building is a white one-story, wood-frame church, sheathed in weatherboard, topped with a standing-seam metal roof, and resting on a foundation of stone piers with concrete-block infill. The double-leaf, wood, paneled doors are centered on a framed gable-roof portico with wrought-iron posts. The portico is raised on a concrete-block foundation with steep poured concrete steps. A brick, interior-end chimney rises from the east end of the roof which supported the wood stove that was used to heat the facility. A wooden access ramp has been added to accommodate those who are unable to navigate the steps.

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.

- To the north of the church there is an outbuilding, which served as an outdoor restroom facility.

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 structure was a house of worship and a school classroom for the "colored" citizens living in the Castlewood community. Its history has been passed down from the elders of each generation to the next. The structure was built upon land donated by R. P. Dickenson, W. A. Dickenson, and Ollie Dickenson. The deed was made on November 2, 1917, between said parties and the A.M.E. Zion Church, and an agreement was made for the sum of \$20, stating that the lot was to be used exclusively for church or school purposes, and if it failed to be used as such, the property would go back to the Dickenson heirs. The narrative from the elders indicates that there was a one-story log building that existed before the Civil War and was destroyed by a fire. The date of the fire is unknown. However, the building was rebuilt by the men in the community and remains in its original condition with very little changes to its structure. The narrative passed down speaks of a verbal agreement made between the Dickenson family and Samson Bundy that the land bequeathed to him by one of the Dickenson daughters was to be used to build a church.

Church services were to be held no less than once a year for no designated expiration date; however, if no church service was held at least once during any year, then the land would be returned to the descendants of the "white" Dickenson family. Based on this timeline, Bundy descendants, family, and friends have continued to return to Bundy's Chapel to worship for over 160 years. On January 25, 2023, the property owners sold the property to Bundy's Chapel Church for the sum of \$1.00. The building is currently being utilized for an annual homecoming service on the last Sunday in August of each year, and the facility is open by appointment to those who wish to tour.

Family and friends gather from near and far to celebrate and honor the homecoming tradition, which consists of an early Sunday morning worship service, lunch on the grounds, and an afternoon worship gathering. Historically, the original pre-Civil War site was a one-room log building. The existing structure was utilized as a church building and a school for African American children. In the early years of the school operation, the teachers (women) lodged with black families in the community, and the parents of the children being taught put their meager earnings together to pay the school teachers. Bundy's Chapel School was part of the Russell County School system from the mid-1930s to the mid-1940s. The church became part of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion denomination in 1917. Denominational pastoral support was removed later due to membership decline at Bundy's and other A.M.E. Zion churches in Southwest Virginia. Nevertheless, the Bundy's Chapel tradition has continued under the volunteer leadership of several pastors, including Rev. Woody Scott, who served as pastor for over 30 years, and in August 2023 the baton was passed to Rev. Robert White who is supported by a small group of trustees.

Sources

- State of Virginia/Russell County Deeds
- DHR – Virginia Department of Historic Resources Reconnaissance Level Survey
- 1810 US Census
- Russell County School Board Records
- Bundy's Chapel story written by Mrs. Clara Hart Rutledge

[PIF submitted by Tina McDaniel, a descendant of the Dickenson/Bundy family. Her father was a Dickenson and Samson Bundy was her great great great grandfather.]

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

Private:	X	Public\Local	Public\State	Public\Federal
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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: Rev. Robert White, Pastor

organization: Bundy's Chapel Church

street & number: 275 Herald's Valley Road

city or town: Castlewood state: VA zip code: 24224

e-mail: tdmcdaniel1980@gmail.com telephone: 423/967-7661

Legal Owner's Signature: See attached

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: Tina McDaniel, church trustee

organization: Bundy Chapel Church

street & number:

city or town: state: zip code:

e-mail: tdmcdaniel1980@gmail.com telephone: 423/967-7661

Date: August 28, 2025


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

ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOLS
AND
CHILDREN TRANSPORTED BY SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	WHITE							
	Enrollment		Transported		Enrollment		Trans	
	1934-35		1934-35		1939-40		1939	
	Elem.-	High	Elem.-	High	Elem.-	High	Elem.-	High
Chestnut Ridge	47		0		52		0	
Spruce Pine	72		0		39		10	
Blackford	36		0		-----Closed-----			
Elk Garden	218		130		190		137	
Denison	36		0		-----Closed-----			
Rich Mt.	29		0		31		0	
Drill	149		33		146		49	
Hobson	46		0		48		0	
Hess Creek	70		0		50		0	
Whited	53		0		52		0	
Mt. Pleasant	43		0		46		0	
Mill Creek	39		0		67		0	
Horton	46		0		39		0	
Miller Chapel	33		0		45		0	
Pine Creek	111		0		147		54	
McGlothlin	58		0		51		7	
Swords Creek	122		24		134		43	
Kents Ridge	32		0		29		0	
Barratts Chapel	15		0		-----Closed-----			
Stuart Institute	162		65	(Belfast)	175		92	
St. Paul	-		-		136		0	
Raven	-		-		50		0	
Longbranch	-		-		48		0	
Adam's Chapel	-		-		36		0	
Total WHITE	5554	911	630	440	5527	1301	1443	
NEGRO								
St. Hollow	35		0		28		0	
Segon Hollow	72		0		91		0	
Bundy's Chapel	29		0		14		0	
Lebanon	35		0		26		0	
Barnetts	23		0					
Total NEGRO	194	0	0	0	159	0	0	
TOTAL FOR WHITE AND NEGRO	5748	911	630	440	5686	1301	1443	

PIF BOUNDARY MAP

Bundy's Chapel
Russell County, VA
DHR ID# 083-5204


 Proposed Boundary

0 100
Feet



PIF AERIAL-VICINITY MAP

Bundy's Chapel
Russell County, VA
DHR ID# 083-5204

 Proposed Boundary

0 500
 Feet



















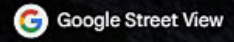






275 Heralds Valley Rd

Castlewood, Virginia



Mar 2024 [See more dates](#)



