



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) 024-5185

1. General Property Information

Property name: Mount Olive Baptist Church

Property address: 283 Sugarfork Road

City or Town: Cumberland

Zip code: 23040

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

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

Building X Site _____ Structure _____ Object _____

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 4.0

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:

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): _____

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: Unknown

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1912

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 is currently used to hold Sunday services on 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of every month. It is also used for funerals, weddings, and other events as deemed appropriate by the church. Youth events often open to the public as also held at the church (Easter egg hunts, trunk or treats, etc.). The church also has a fellowship hall with a kitchen that is commonly utilized for funeral repasts and other events. There is also a pavilion with a picnic table outside of the church that has been utilized for youth summer/spring community events.

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
- Pavilion with picnic tables on both sides
- Shed in need of repairs/restoration

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 Mount Olive Baptist Church was erected by Reuben Turner Coleman (R.T. Coleman) in 1875 and provided it with two acres of land. R.T. Coleman was the founding minister of Mt. Olive Baptist Church and served as the pastor until his passing in 1909. R. T. Coleman founded what is now referred to as Lucyville (known historically as Colemanville). R.T. Coleman was a well known in Cumberland County, he owned a hotel as well as a post office serving as a postmaster from June 1876 until July 1881. Within the town there was even a bank named The Colemanville Mineral Spring Dime Savings Bank. The community also had the only newspaper ever produced by Cumberland County, The Center Call, published by Grant Dungee, the son of Shed Dungee (R. T. Coleman's brother in law).

On February 27, 1882 R.T. Coleman was named by the Cumberland courts to fill a vacancy as justice of the peace. He was elected for a two-year term and ended up serving for approximately eighteen years, presumably uninterrupted. In 1901 her was appointed for a four year term as a notary public by the governor. He also established Colemanville Mineral Spring Company on December 29, 1891. He bottled and shipped water to many different cities. A large portion of land that he possessed in was located a few miles north of Cumberland County Courthouse and was said to contain approximately three dozen mineral springs. A large portion of the land previously known as Lucyville is now a part of the Cumberland State Forest and Bear Creek Lake State Park in Cumberland, Virginia. Some ruins from the prior community can still be found and observed at the park. After efforts and research conducted by Lewis Longenecker alongside the Cumberland County Middle School, a marker was placed on Trent Mill Rd in Cumberland, Virginia at the Entrance of Bear Creek Lake State Park.

Shed Dungee, a member of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, served as member of the Virginia House of Delegates. Shed Dungee was also a Cumberland County native. He is buried in the Mt. Olive Baptist Church cemetery.

The original structure of the church remains. However, in 1912, the church was structured was altered to accommodate the growing congregation. Over the years, small accommodations and additions have been made to the 1912 structure.

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.)

- Alexander H. Lorch III, "Reuben Turner Coleman (1844–1909)," *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, Library of Virginia, published 2006, rev. 2021. Accessed May 20, 2026.
http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/dvb/bio.asp?b=Coleman_Reuben_Turner
- <https://www.veanea.org/a-very-good-sign-cumberland-county-students-preserve-history-by-initiating-historical-roadside-markers/>
- Marilyn Mildred White, "We Lived on an 'Island'": An Afro-American Family and Community in Rural Virginia, 1865-1940.
 - Dissertation presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Texas at Austin

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: Lawanda C. Hampton, Pastor

organization: Mt. Olive Baptist Church

street & number: 283 Sugarfork Road

city or town: Cumberland state: VA zip code: 23040

e-mail: mountolivebaptistchurchclerk@gmail.com, lawandahampton1178@gmail.com

telephone: 804-750-9978

Legal Owner's Signature: _____

Date: 5/20/2026

• • *Signature required for processing all applications for privately-owned properties.* • •

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

Contact person: Taneijha J. Ford, Treasurer of the Trustee Board

Daytime Telephone: 540-607-5100

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

name/title: Taneijha J. Ford, Treasurer of the Trustee Board

organization: Mt. Olive Baptist Church

street & number: 283 Sugarfork Road

city or town: Cumberland state: VA zip code: 23040

e-mail: mountolivebaptistchurchclerk@gmail.com, taneijha@gmail.com

telephone: 540-607-5100

Date: 5/20/2026

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

Our Rich History

Mount Olive Baptist Church is rooted in the rural community of Cumberland County, approximately 65 miles west of Richmond, Virginia. The church traces its beginnings to around 1875, when it was founded under the leadership of Reverend Taylor of Mount Zion Baptist Church. What began as a small but devoted fellowship of about 50 members soon grew into a spiritual home that would serve generations of families in the surrounding community.

The original Mount Olive Baptist Church structure was erected between 1875 and 1880 under the leadership of Reverend Turner Coleman. Built on a two-acre lot and financed entirely by the congregation, this first building became the spiritual home for early membership and served as the center of worship, fellowship, and community life.

The 1970s and 1980s marked one of the most significant periods of spiritual growth in Mount Olive's history. During these decades, the church expanded its ministries, deepened its worship life, and strengthened its presence within the community. Much of this growth occurred under the long and faithful leadership of Reverend John W. Booker, who had shepherded the congregation for forty-four years.

As Reverend Booker's health began to decline, he reluctantly stepped down from the role of Pastor—a difficult decision for a leader so deeply woven into the life of the church. In recognition of his decades of service, devotion, and spiritual guidance, the congregation later honored him with the title of Pastor Emeritus, affirming his lasting impact on Mount Olive's legacy.

In 1984, the church body elected Reverend Dr. Howard C. Cooper, Sr. to serve as Pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church. His ministry ushered in a renewed sense of purpose and spiritual momentum, as he consistently challenged the congregation to reach its full potential in

faith, service, and community engagement. Under his leadership, the church once again experienced abundant growth.

A significant milestone during Dr. Cooper's tenure came in 1988, when Mount Olive expanded its worship schedule. Previously, regular worship services were held only on third Sundays. Recognizing the congregation's growing needs and spiritual hunger, the church extended worship to include the second, fourth, and fifth Sundays of each month. This shift marked a deepening of the church's spiritual rhythm and strengthened its communal life.

After 28 years of dedicated service, Reverend Dr. Howard C. Cooper, Sr. retired from the Pastorship of Mount Olive Baptist Church in November 2012. His long tenure left a lasting legacy of growth, stability, and spiritual enrichment—one that continues to shape the church's identity and ministry today.

In December 2012, the church body entered a season of prayerful discernment as it sought a new Pastor. In God's perfect timing, those prayers were answered when Minister Lowell A. Foster, then serving as Mount Olive's Youth Minister, accepted his call to the Pastorship in early 2013. He was formally installed in March 2013, stepping into the role with energy, compassion, and a deep love for the congregation.

Pastor Foster served until his untimely passing in March 2014. Though his time as Pastor was brief, his impact on Mount Olive was profound and unlike any other. His leadership, preaching, and heartfelt devotion left an imprint that continues to shape the church's spirit and memory.

The loss of Pastor Foster left the congregation grieving and deeply shaken. Yet even in sorrow, the church sought God's will and God's word. With gratitude for Pastor Foster's faithfulness, the congregation asked God to help them continue learning from his example—his teaching, his preaching, and his unwavering commitment to serving God's people.

In late March 2015, the Mount Olive Baptist Church body voted to install and extend the Pastorship to then-Interim Pastor Alvin E. Witcher, Jr., entrusting him to lead the congregation. Pastor Witcher served faithfully in this role until his departure in 2019. That same year, we were blessed to welcome Pastor Lawanda C. Hampton, who transitioned into the role of Senior Pastor.

Born and raised at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Pastor Hampton is truly a homegrown leader. In 2014, under the guidance and leadership of the late Pastor Lowell Foster, she accepted her call into ministry and became an associate minister at Mt. Olive. In 2019, she was prayerfully selected to serve as our Senior Pastor, continuing the legacy of faithful leadership within the church family.

Beyond her role as Senior Pastor, Pastor Hampton also serves as a Chaplain with James River Home Health and Hospice.

Through her compassionate leadership, she guides the congregation in spiritual growth, aligns our vision with God's mission, and helps cultivate a community shaped by God's presence and influence.

Previous Leadership

Reverend R. Turner Coleman

1875 – 1909

Reverend Henry T. Robinson

1909 – 1923

Reverend O.C. Perkins

1924 – 1927

Reverend O.B. Edwards

1928 – 1930

Reverend W.H. Winston

1932 – 1937

Reverend John W. Booker

1934 – 1984

Reverend Dr. Howard C. Cooper, Sr.

1984 – 2012

Reverend Lowell A. Foster

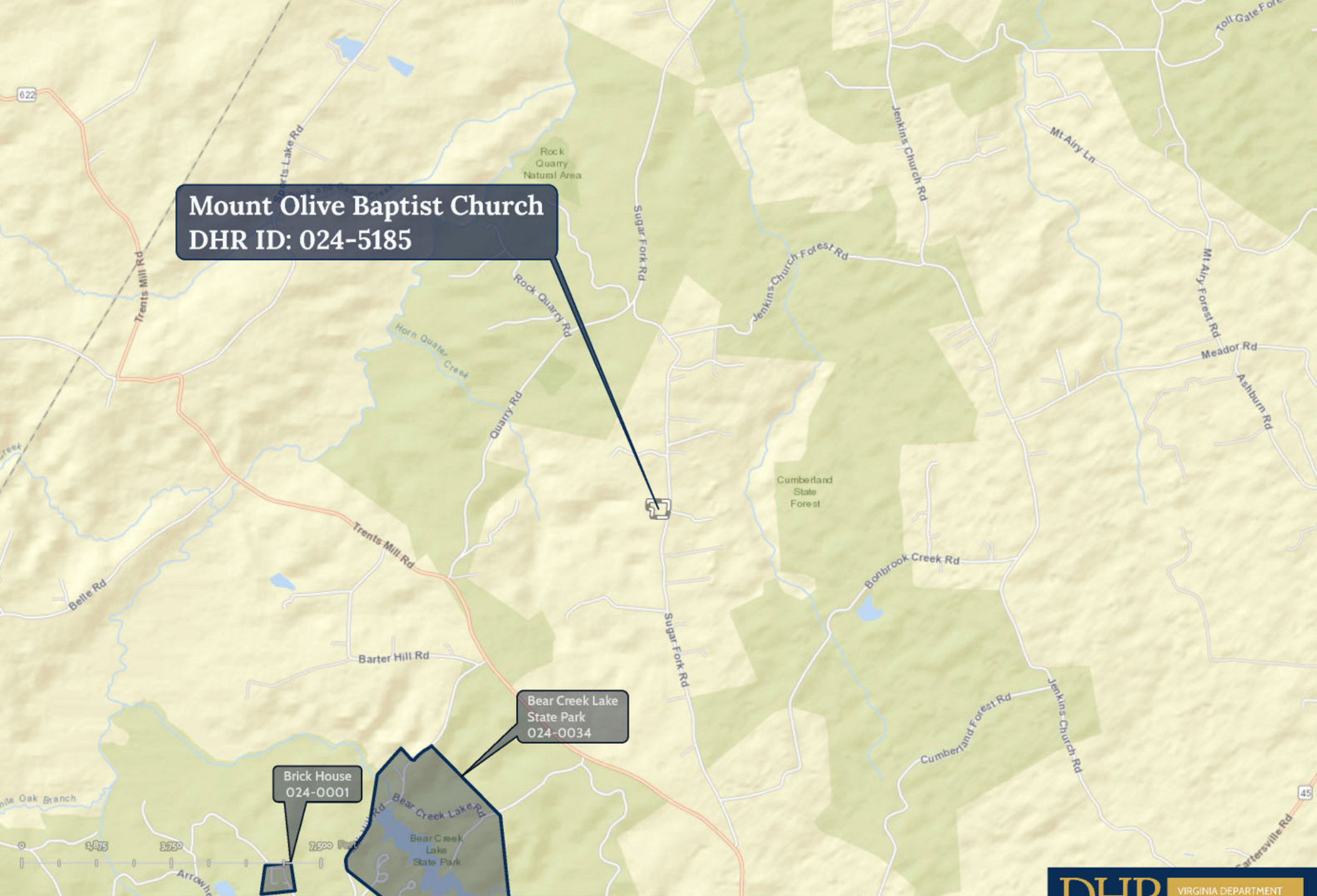
2013 – 2014

Reverend Avin E. Witcher, Jr.

2015 –

Reverend Lawanda C. Hampton

2017 - current



Mount Olive Baptist Church
DHR ID: 024-5185

Bear Creek Lake State Park
024-0034

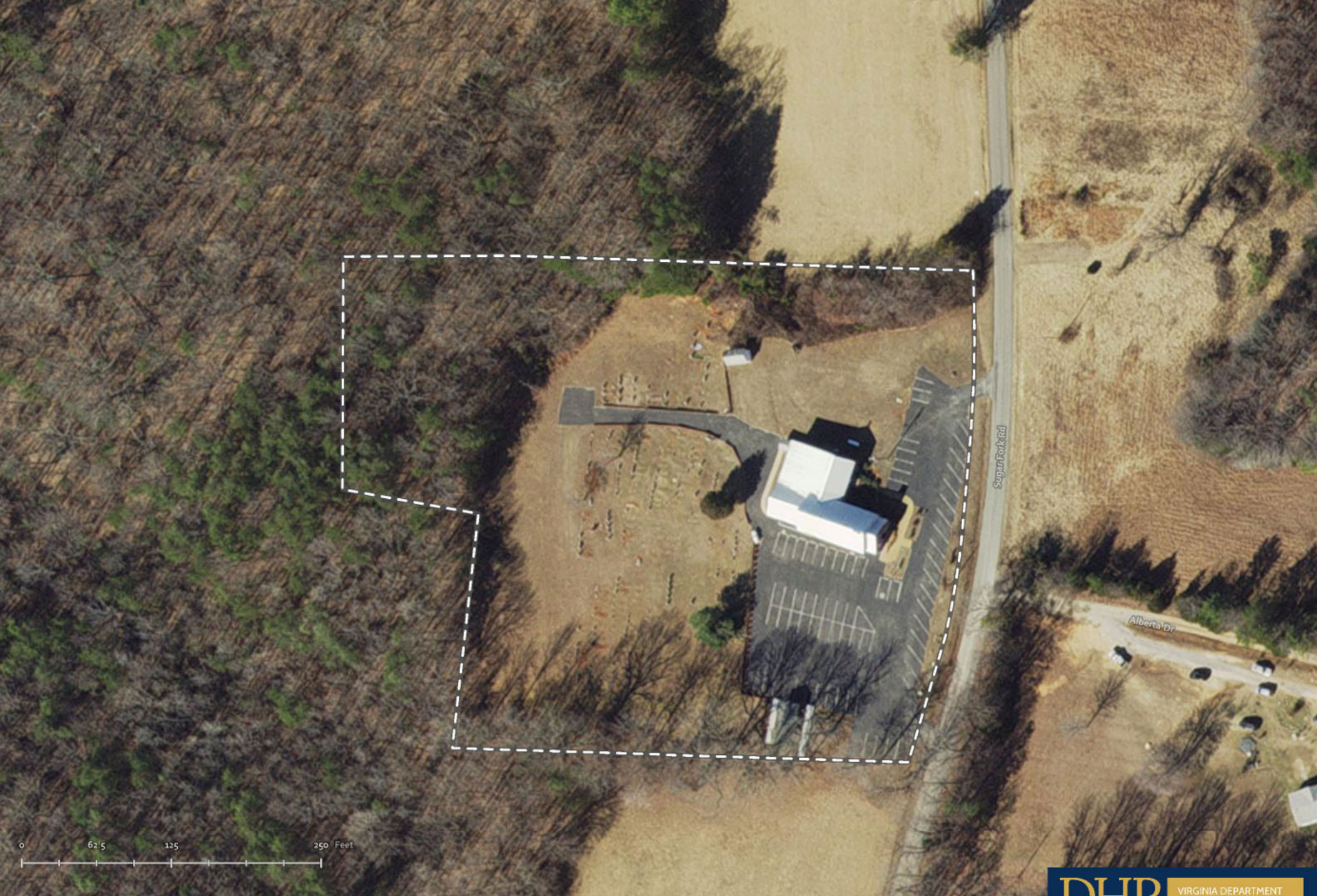
Brick House
024-0001

-  **PIF Boundary**
-  **Listed Architecture**



Created By: D. Bascone, 6/24/2026
Sources: VDHR 2026, ESRI 2026, VDOT 2026, VGIN 2026
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.

Mount Olive Baptist Church
Cumberland County, Virginia
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 **PIF Boundary**



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Mount Olive
Baptist Church
Love • Share • Serve
Sunday School 10:00
Worship Service 11:00am
Bible Study Wed. 6:30pm
All Welcome
Pastor: Rev. Laverda Hampton





























