



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

David L. Bulova
Secretary of Natural and
Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Roger W. Kirchen
Director
Tel: (804) 367-2323
www.dhr.virginia.gov

September 3, 2026

Christian Goodwin
Louisa County Administrator
1 Woolfolk Ave
STE 301
Louisa, VA 23093

Dear Mr. Goodwin,

The Virginia Board of Historic Resources will be considering a new historical highway marker for placement in Louisa County at its meeting on September 17, 2026. I'm writing just to make you aware of the project—no action is necessary on your part.

The applicant for the marker is Bright Hope Baptist Church, and the proposed location is 9833 Poindexter Road, which will require the approval of VDOT. The text is:

Bright Hope Baptist Church and Cemetery

Bright Hope Baptist Church emerged early in the 1880s from Oak Grove Baptist, founded by freedpeople shortly after the Civil War and led by the Rev. Fountain M. Perkins, a formerly enslaved man who had become a landowner and a member of the VA House of Delegates. Bright Hope acquired land and built its sanctuary here, reportedly with lumber salvaged from a house damaged in the Battle of Trevilian Station. The Rev. Dr. David N. Vassar, an early pastor, was a professor at Richmond Theological Institute. Prince Hall Masons and the Shiloh Baptist Association met here. Buried in the cemetery, established in 1957, are veterans of World Wars I and II. Oak Grove reconsolidated with Bright Hope in 1979.

The meeting will be held in the Center for the Constitution, Claude Moore Hall Potter Family Studio, at James Madison's Montpelier, 11350 Constitution Highway, Montpelier Station, VA 22957, and it will also be streamed on the Microsoft Teams video conferencing platform. The

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agenda, instructions for providing public comment, and a link to join the meeting will appear on this page: <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/boards/>

Please feel free to share this information with anyone who may have an interest.

A hard copy of this letter will follow.

Sincerely,
Jennifer

Jennifer R. Loux, Ph.D.
Highway Marker Program Manager
Jennifer.Loux@dhr.virginia.gov

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