



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

David L. Bulova
Secretary of Natural
and Historic Resources

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

August 11, 2026

Christian R. Goodwin, County Administrator
Louisa County
1 Woolfolk Ave, Suite 301
Louisa, VA 23093

Re: Goldmine Baptist Church, Louisa County

Dear Administrator Goodwin:

The Department of Historic Resources, Virginia's historic preservation office, has received a completed nomination for the above referenced resource. The DHR is planning to present the proposed nomination to the Virginia State Review Board and the Virginia Board of Historic Resources for recommendation to the National Register of Historic Places and for inclusion in the Virginia Landmarks Register.

For your review and comment, **enclosed** is a copy of the draft nomination as it is to be presented to the Boards on **Thursday, September 17, 2026**. Your comments will be forwarded to the SHPO Director and the Boards along with the nomination for consideration. Should you have any questions regarding the nomination or the register process, please contact Austin Walker, National Register Program Manager, at (804) 482-6439 or austin.walker@dhr.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

Jolene L. U. Smith
Director, Division of Resource Information & Register

Enclosure

Western Region Office
962 Kime Lane
Salem, VA 24153
Tel: (540) 387-5443
Fax: (540) 387-5446

Northern Region Office
5357 Main Street
PO Box 519
Stephens City, VA 22655
Tel: (540) 868-7029
Fax: (540) 868-7033

Eastern Region Office
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221
Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391

Goldmine Baptist Church, Louisa County, DHR File No. 054-0029

Goldmine Baptist Church is a well-preserved Greek Revival structure in Louisa County, located on 0.7 acres just south of Lake Anna on Goldmine Creek. Situated within a protected agriculture and forestry district, the church sits on a rural stretch of Goldmine Road and backs up to the vegetative buffer controlled by Dominion Energy. The house to the east of the church is the former Sunday school that has since been turned into a private residence. Dotted along the rest of Goldmine Road are bucolic farms and private residences. The circa 1852 brick church is the only contributing resource, and there are no secondary resources. With its Greek Revival and Gothic Revival details and striking stepped gable facade, the building is the clear result of substantial community investment in the 1850s and retains its historic integrity. In the 1970s, a vestibule was added to the façade, which covers the two original entryways. In addition to the sanctuary, there is also a gallery that has been enclosed to create four rooms on the second story and facilitate systems upgrades. The changes made over time have not impacted historic integrity of the church in irreparable ways. The two most significant changes, the vestibule and the enclosing of the gallery, did not destroy the historic fabric and if removed, would largely return the church to its original appearance. The façade, both original exterior double doors, and molding survive behind the vestibule. The Doric columns still support the former gallery. The church retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Goldmine Baptist Church is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The church meets Criteria Consideration A because its historic significance is grounded in its architecture, rather than religious importance. The structure is exceptionally well-preserved and retains architectural features that differentiate it from other mid-19th-century religious structures in the county. Though the Greek Revival and Gothic Revival styles were popular at the church's time of construction, Goldmine is distinguished by its stepped gable, original moldings, curved brick cornice, and hand-hewn interior Doric columns. The period of significance dates to the circa 1852 construction.

BOUNDARY MAP

Goldmine Baptist Church
Louisa County, VA
DHR ID# 054-0029

 Nominated Boundary

0 300
Feet



Rd

Goldmine Rd



The National and State Registers in Virginia

A Quick Guide to the National Register of Historic Places and Virginia Landmarks Register

- Established under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the **National Register of Historic Places** is the Nation's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation, administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Properties listed in the National Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.

In 1966, the Virginia General Assembly established the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, now the Department of Historic Resources. DHR is the State Historic Preservation Office responsible for nominating properties to the National Register and managing the **Virginia Landmarks Register**, the State's official list of properties important to Virginia's history. The same evaluation criteria and nomination form are used for the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.

■ Key Points

- Listing in the National and State Registers is honorary. It recognizes a historic property's importance to its community, the State, and/or the Nation and encourages good stewardship.
- National and State Register listings do not place any obligations or restrictions on private property owners. Owners remain free to do what they wish with their property within existing laws and regulations and are not required to restore or maintain a property in particular ways as a result of listing.
- To ensure public participation in the process, property owners and local officials are notified and given the opportunity to comment on proposed nominations. When a nomination is submitted to the National Park Service, another public comment period is published in the Federal Register.

■ Benefits of Register Listing

- Owners of listed properties may qualify for Federal and State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits, historic preservation easements, and Federal and State grants for historic preservation when funding is available.
- Federal agencies whose projects affect a listed property must give the Department of Historic Resources an opportunity to comment on the project and its effects on the property.

■ Additional Information

DHR Historic Registers Program:

<https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/programs/historic-registers/>

VLR Online, an online database of State and National Register listings in Virginia:

<https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/>



The National and State Registers in Virginia

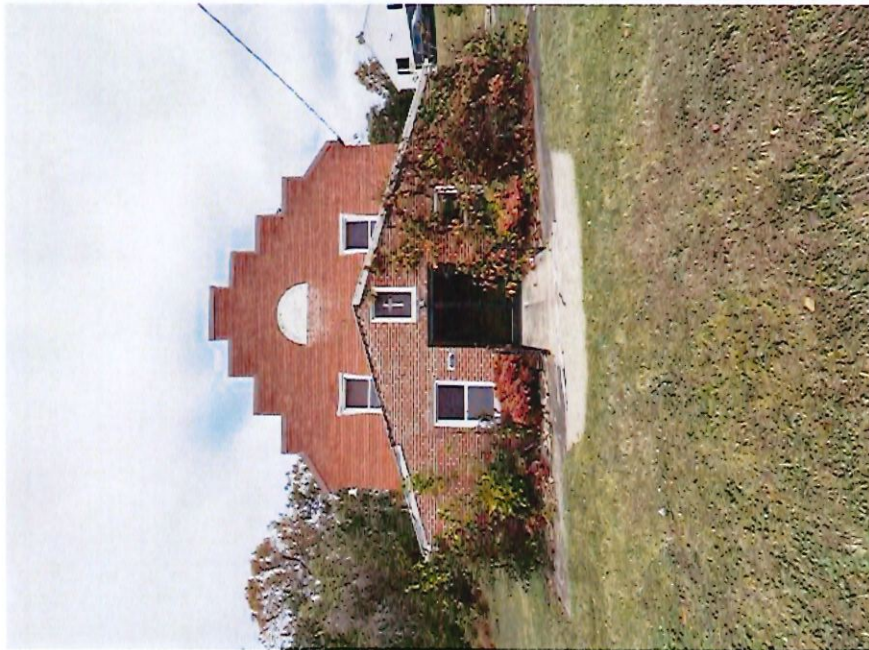
Rights of Private Property Owners to Comment or Object to a Nomination for Listing

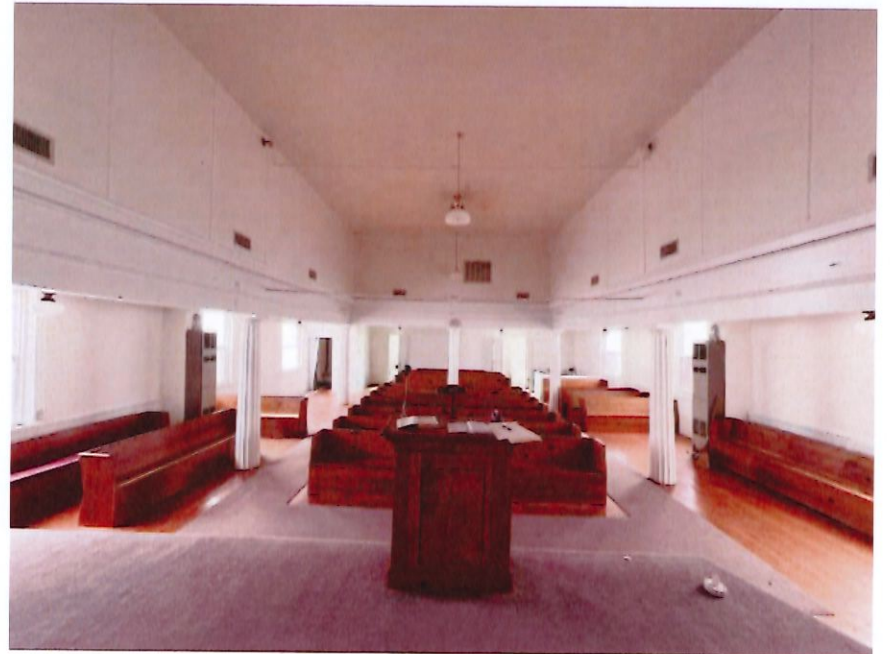
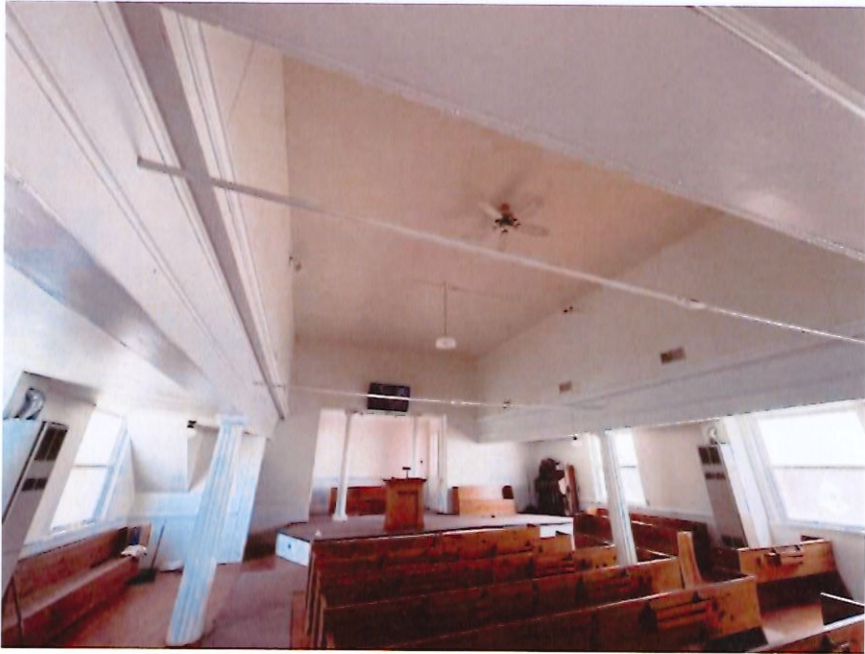
■ Supporting and/or Commenting on a Nomination

- A private property owner who supports a nomination for listing in the Registers is invited to send a letter of support but is not required to do so for the nomination to proceed. Private property owners are also welcome to comment without formally supporting or objecting to a nomination. Copies of letters of support and/or comment are provided to the Boards for review, along with the nomination to which they refer, and are included with the nomination if it is recommended to proceed to the NRHP.

■ Objecting to a Nomination

- Per 17VAC10-20-200, a private property owner has the right to object to listing in either or both Registers. For a private property being individually nominated, each owner or partial owner may object to listing regardless of the portion that party owns. For a historic district that is being nominated, each owner of private property in the district is counted as one individual regardless of how many properties that party owns or whether the properties contribute to the significance of the district.
- An objection to listing must be provided to DHR in writing a minimum of 7 business days prior to the Board meeting. Letters of objection must be addressed to the State Historic Preservation Officer at the Department of Historic Resources, 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221.
- When objecting to listing, any owner or partial owner of private property must submit to DHR a written statement that references the subject property by address and/or parcel number and certifies that the party is the sole or partial owner of the private property, as appropriate.
 - For objections to listing in the VLR, the written statement of objection must be attested and notarized by a notary public in order to be counted by DHR in determining whether a majority of private property owners has objected to a nomination.
 - Objection letters concerning NRHP listing are not required to be notarized. Per 28 U.S. Code § 1746, a written objection should state: "I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on (date). (Signature)".
 - A property owner may submit a single written objection to listing in both the VLR and NRHP, but in order for the objection to be applied to the VLR listing, the letter must be notarized.
- If a majority (50% + 1) of private property owners object according to the process above, the nomination will not proceed to listing. In such cases, DHR is still required to submit the nomination to the National Park Service for a Determination of Eligibility for the NRHP, per 36 CFR 60.6(n).
- Letters of objection received a minimum of 7 business days prior to the Board meeting will be copied to Board members for review, along with the nomination to which they refer. If the nomination is approved to proceed to the NRHP, all letters of objection will be forwarded to the National Park Service to consider with their review of the nomination, along with any letters of support or comment that DHR has received.
- Letters of objection to listing in the NRHP may be submitted to DHR even after the Board meeting at which the nomination is approved. DHR will forward any letters of objection to the National Park Service. The National Park Service continues to accept letters of objection up to the date of listing in the NRHP. The National Park Service typically concludes review and approval of a nomination within approximately 45 days of receipt of the nomination from DHR.





United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Goldmine Baptist Church

Other names/site number: 054-0029

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 2007 Goldmine Road

City or town: Louisa State: VA County: Louisa

Not For Publication: NA

Vicinity: NA

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B X C D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☒

District

☐

Site

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

buildings

sites

structures

0

objects

1

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/ religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/ NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival, Gothic Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Walls: BRICK, Foundation: BRICK, Roof: METAL/Tin

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Goldmine Baptist Church is a well-preserved Greek Revival structure in Louisa County, located on 0.7 acres just south of Lake Anna on Goldmine Creek. Situated within a protected agriculture and forestry district, the church sits on a rural stretch of Goldmine Road and backs up to the vegetative buffer controlled by Dominion Energy. The house to the east of the church is the former Sunday school that has since been turned into a private residence. Dotted along the rest of Goldmine Road are bucolic farms and private residences. The circa 1852 brick church is the only contributing resource and there are no secondary resources. With its symmetry and baseless fluted Doric columns, Goldmine Baptist Church was largely influenced by the Greek Revival architecture popular between the 1820s and 1860s. The church also incorporates Gothic Revival details that were gaining traction in the United States between the 1830s and 1860s, such as the steeply pitched roof and drip molds. With its Greek Revival and Gothic Revival details and striking stepped gable façade, the building is the clear result of substantial community investment in the 1850s and retains its historic integrity. In the 1970s, a vestibule was added to the façade, which covers the two original entryways. In addition to the sanctuary, there was also a gallery that has been enclosed to create four rooms on the second story and facilitate systems upgrades. The changes made over time have not impacted historic integrity of the church in irreparable ways. The two most significant changes, the vestibule and the enclosing of the

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gallery, did not destroy the historic fabric and if removed, would largely return the church to its original appearance. The façade, both original exterior double doors, and moldings survive behind the vestibule. The Doric columns still support the former gallery. The church retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description

Exterior

Both the original façade and the added vestibule are constructed of brick in running bond. A steeply pitched roof sits behind the stepped gable. Metal flashing protects the gables. In the center at the top of the façade is a lunette sign that is embedded within the masonry. The sign reads "Goldmine Baptist Church, Organized 1770," commemorating the congregation's establishment more than 80 years before the construction of the church in 1852.¹ Above the vestibule two equally spaced windows are located on the second story of the façade, both of which are one-over-one, double-hung vinyl replacement windows. In the 1970s, a one-story front-gabled brick vestibule was added to the façade, adding much needed bathrooms to support the building's use as the home of an active congregation. The vestibule includes symmetrical windows on either side of glass double doors. Centered above the door is a small window with a cross. The vestibule modified the appearance of the church, but the original façade survives behind the vestibule, including the exterior doors.



Figure 1. Façade featuring the vestibule added in the 1970s, facing north.

¹ Quintus Massie, *200 Years at Worship: Goldmine Baptist Church* (1970), 10.

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Figure 2: Façade prior to the addition of the vestibule, photographed in 1968 by K. Read, facing north.

On either side of the sanctuary are three equally spaced two-story windows. The straight-headed windows are topped with Gothic Revival drip molds. The original wood window frames have been replaced with smaller, one-over-one vinyl replacement windows that open only onto the first floor through panes of dimpled, opaque glass. Above them, the window openings have been filled with wood. There is a single wooden door on the southern end of the east elevation which appears to date to the church's period of construction. Atop the structure, the steeply pitched metal roof sits supported by thick, live edge rafters visible from the church's attic.

The side elevations feature Flemish running bond, which is one course of Flemish bond between courses of running bond. The courses of Flemish bond are interspersed at irregular intervals, although most commonly run between every five or six courses of running bond. There is also a curved brick cornice along the east and west elevations.



Figure 3: West elevation, facing southeast.

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Figure 4: East elevation, facing southwest.

The rear elevation has a twelve-foot section that extends beyond the footprint of the rest of the building by about four feet in depth. On either side there are symmetrical single doors. The eastern door is a wooden door that is likely original. The western door is a non-original metal door. An added wood ramp curves from the westward back door around the corner to the parking lot.



Figure 5: Rear elevation, facing south.

Interior

The front glass double doors into the 1970s vestibule. The primary purpose of this addition was to provide space for the construction of two small bathrooms, each accessed through a door on the entrance hall's east side. On the west side, a single, centered door provides access to a large closet. At the back of the vestibule, two stately sets of original wooden double doors welcome visitors into the sanctuary beyond.

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Figure 6: Original double doors at the back of the vestibule, facing north.

Immediately inside the two-story sanctuary on its west side, a small area has been partitioned off with a non-historic waist-high wall, likely intended to provide a space for event production. Around the periphery of the room, non-original beadboard wainscoting has been added.

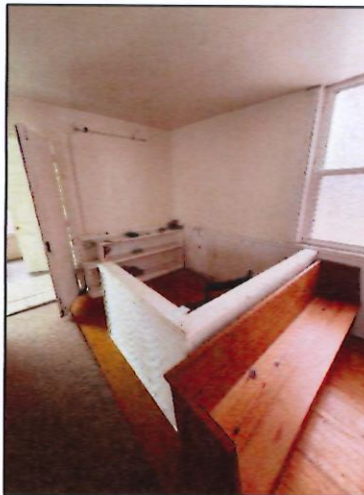


Figure 7: Partitioned area, pew, and wainscoting in the southwest corner of the sanctuary, facing southwest.

Inside the sanctuary are unpainted wooden pews, organized in three rows facing forward towards the stage at the sanctuary's rear. Between the rows are two parallel carpeted aisles, extending from the two sets of double doors at the sanctuary's entrance to the stage at the rear. Towards the center of the room, five original hand-hewn baseless fluted Greek Doric columns support what was once an open gallery upstairs along the south, east, and west of the sanctuary. Now, the gallery is enclosed to house the forced-air heat system, which according to its installation sticker, was added in the mid-1990s. The panels that were added to cover the balcony have impacted the

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look and feel of the two-story sanctuary but could be removed to restore the original grandeur of the space.



Figure 8. View of sanctuary facing northwest, with a Doric column in foreground with stage in background and sealed balcony visible above.

The presence of the former gallery creates a lower ceiling height along the perimeter of the sanctuary. Near the room's entrance, three columns support the overhead balcony and delineate where the ceiling becomes two stories. Halfway across the sanctuary two more columns stand, one on either side, supporting the overhead balcony on the sides of the sanctuary. The six milk glass light fixtures under the gallery were likely added by the 1940s or 1950s. In the center of the sanctuary, spanning the width of the building, are two metal tension rods. These rods were added to stabilize the structure; however, it is unclear when they were installed. Two non-original light fixtures hang in the center of the two-story portion of the sanctuary.

On either side of the sanctuary, two historic chimneys have been repurposed to vent large propane-fired heating units, likely installed with the heating system in the 1990s. On the northern end of the sanctuary, a non-original stage extends beyond the altar cavity, supporting two non-original unfluted Doric columns and partially obstructing one of the two rear exterior entrances. The unobstructed rear entrance is usable but features a modern metal door.

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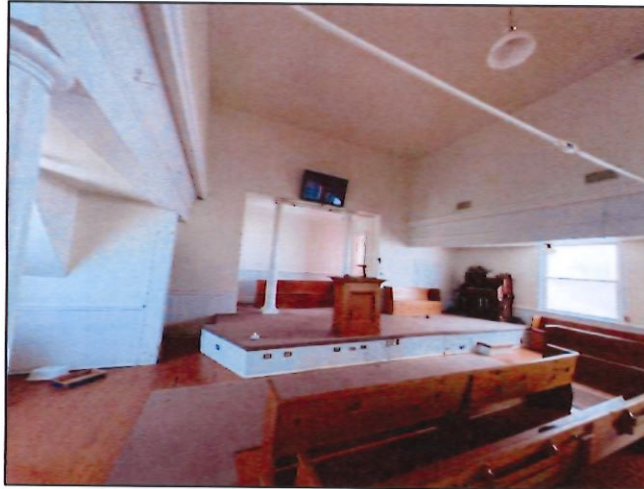


Figure 9: Alter alcove with unfluted doric columns, facing north.

Toward the front of the sanctuary, beyond the propane-fired heating units, church pews are turned inward and creating rows that are perpendicular to the center pews. On the eastern side there are two rows of pews facing the center and the western side has a single pew along the western wall. In the south-eastern corner of the sanctuary is a small passageway leading to a staircase, which can be accessed both from the sanctuary as well as through the exterior door on the right-side elevation.

The rear balcony is about ten feet wide with two one-over-one vinyl replacement windows piercing the building's façade. The second-story portion of the three windows on the east and west elevations are boarded up, providing no light. The original pilaster molding surrounding the windows survives. The panels enclosing the side balconies give both a closet-like appearance, accessible only through doors from the enclosed rear balcony.

In the northwestern side of the sanctuary, a boarded-up staircase previously provided access to the second-story balcony, originally intended to serve as segregated seating for African American congregants.² Prior to its enclosure, the staircase could have been accessed from within the sanctuary beside the back door now leading out onto the non-historic ramp. The eastern balcony mirrors the narrow western balcony corridor but lacks a staircase near the stage. The balconies meet above the rear of the sanctuary and remain accessible by the eastern staircase. This rear balcony has been divided into three rooms, one of which is presently filled with HVAC equipment. Since its enclosure, the balcony space was most recently used as storage for the church.

² Massie, *200 Years at Worship: Goldmine Baptist Church*, 10.

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Figure 10. HVAC equipment in the second story.

Integrity Statement

Goldmine Baptist Church retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Having never been moved, the property remains at its original location a short distance from Goldmine Creek. Sitting amid a county-protected Agriculture and Forestry Area, the surrounding parcels are largely shielded from development by local ordinance, preserving its rural setting. The only other structure visible from the property is the former community center to the east, which was recently renovated into a single-family home. Behind the property, a dense forest owned by Dominion Energy extends from the property line to the bank of Lake Anna.

From a design perspective, the original building remains a remarkably intact example of rural church architecture from the mid-nineteenth century. The structure has been attentively maintained and remains true to its builders' original vision. Though a vestibule was built in the 1970s to allow for the addition of bathrooms, the original brick façade was left entirely intact and uncovered as an interior wall. Consistent with its Greek Revival layout, the sanctuary is still accessed through two imposing sets of original wood double doors, still functional after more than 150 years of weekly use. Inside, five hand-hewn fluted Doric columns still support the now-enclosed balcony space, standing as testament to the impeccable workmanship of their builders. Though original wood windows have had their lower portion replaced with smaller, one-over-one vinyl windows and their top portion filled, the grandeur and scale of the original openings is still evident from outside the structure. Other than the replacement windows, the primary

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alterations did not destroy the historic fabric. If the vestibule and the paneling enclosing the gallery were removed, would largely return the church to its original appearance. Overall, the property remains in good condition given its age, having been actively maintained by the congregation for much of its lifetime. Though no records have been found, it is clear an engineered solution has been put in place to ensure the longevity of the structure, as evidenced by the tension rods that span the sanctuary and the concrete buttress supporting the foundation of the structure's eastern side wall.

Though no longer owned by the congregation or used for religious purposes, the core architectural character and ambiance of the church remain intact. Except for the front vestibule and overhead electric lights, the visitor experience is largely the same as it would have been in the 1850s immediately after the church's construction.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☒ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

C. 1852

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Goldmine Baptist Church is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The church meets Criteria Consideration A because its historic significance is grounded in architecture, rather than religious importance. The structure is exceptionally well-preserved and retains architectural features that differentiate it from other mid-nineteenth-century religious structures in the county. Though the Greek Revival and Gothic Revival styles were popular at the church's time of construction, Goldmine is distinguished by its stepped gable, original moldings, curved brick cornice, and hand-hewn interior Doric columns. The period of significance dates to the ca. 1852 construction.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historic Background

The 1760s were a time of growing frustration with British rule, and by extension the Church of England. As early as 1763, the preaching of Nathaniel Saunders, Samuel Harris, James Read, Lewis Craig, and others had stirred the interest of many people in the Goldmine Creek area, resulting in calls for the creation of a formal Baptist congregation in Louisa County. Housed in a 40' x 20' building erected on the land of Joseph Thompson, the new church was named "Thompson's Meeting House" after its first minister, Reverend David Thompson. Though he was briefly jailed for preaching without a license, Thompson built a thriving congregation, passing off the reins to John Leland, who served as pastor until 1791.³

In 1801, the selection of Reverend George Morris as minister led to a division within Thompson's Meeting House, leading a minority of members to leave the congregation and establish a new church two miles to the east on land donated by William and Frances Martin. With recognition from the Goshen Baptist Association, the congregation's membership flourished inside a newly constructed frame meeting house named Goldmine Baptist Church. Reverend William Waller became pastor of the church in 1807 and was succeeded by Reverend William Y. Hiter, who ministered to the church for 30 years.⁴

In 1829, geographic diversity in the congregation led to the establishment of Lower Goldmine Church, now known as Louisa Baptist Church. Despite the distance, Goldmine Church – which was for a time known as Upper Goldmine Church – shared a pastor with its offshoot. From 1852 to 1855, both churches fell under the ministerial guidance of Alfred Elijah Dickinson, who would later rise to prominence as director of the Baptist General Assembly of Virginia's colportage

³ Massie, *200 Years at Worship: Goldmine Baptist Church*, 7-8.

⁴ Massie, *200 Years at Worship: Goldmine Baptist Church*, 10.

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ministry during the Civil War and subsequently led Richmond's stately Leigh Street Baptist Church.⁵

Having been constructed prior to the Civil War, the church's physical structure reflects the racial and gender inequality inherent to Virginia in the 1850s. The structure has two front doors, likely to provide distinct entrances for white men and women who would then be seated on opposite sides of the church's first story. According to the history of Goldmine Baptist Church compiled by Quintus Massie in 1937, the two smaller doors to the building's side and rear provided segregated access to narrow stairs and the balcony above, which was the assigned seating for enslaved people. According to the then-living congregants interviewed by Massie, all but one African American congregant continued to worship at Goldmine Church after emancipation.⁶

Criterion C: Architecture

The Goldmine Baptist Church was built circa 1852 and stands out as architecturally distinctive among the churches of Louisa County. Though modifications have been made to the structure over the years, it retains its character defining features and stands as a testament to the craftsmanship that went into Goldmine Baptist Church's construction. The stepped gable, interior Greek Revival columns, original moldings, and brick cornice make it an architecturally significant rural vernacular church.

Goldmine Baptist Church's design was influenced by the Greek Revival and Gothic Revival movements popular in Virginia in the mid-nineteenth century. Its façade and plan feature characteristic Greek Revival symmetry. Among the church's most notable architectural features are the five hand-hewn fluted Greek Doric columns that line the sanctuary, supporting the former gallery. Greek Revival buildings typically feature a low-pitched roof, but Goldmine Baptist Church's steeply pitched roof is more consistent with the Gothic Revival movement. The drip molds above the straight-headed windows on the west and east elevations are another Gothic detail. In the first few decades of the nineteenth century, Catholic and Episcopal churches began adopting Gothic architecture. By the 1840s and 1850s, Gothic Revival was more widely used among other denominations, disrupting the dominance of Greek Revival ecclesiastical architecture.⁷ Goldmine Baptist Church represents these architectural trends with its mixing of Greek and Gothic details in the 1850s.

The brickwork is more elevated than might be expected of a rural vernacular church. The running bond façade is more highly finished than the rest of the elevations. It appears to feature penciled joints, rarely seen after the 1870s, indicating that the façade is original to the building. The distinctive stepped gable is an unusual detail. The side and rear elevations are a Flemish stretcher bond, with typically five or courses of stretchers between one course of Flemish bond. The church also features a fine molded brick cornice along the east and west elevations.

⁵ Massie, *200 Years at Worship: Goldmine Baptist Church*, 10; "Dictionary of Virginia Biography - Alfred Elijah Dickinson (3 December 1830-20 November 1906) Biography."

⁶ Massie, *200 Years at Worship: Goldmine Baptist Church*, 10-11.

⁷ Carl Lounsbury, "God Is in the Details: The Transformation of Ecclesiastical Architecture in Early Nineteenth-Century America," *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture* 13, no. 1 (2006): 9-10.

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Embedded in the masonry is a semi-circular panel used as a sign. Goldmine Baptist Church also features surviving trim and doors. While the vestibule alters the appearance of the church, the original exterior double doors and pilaster trim have been preserved within it. The sanctuary windows feature matching original pilaster trim.

Aside from Goldmine Baptist Church, there are eleven churches built between 1830 and 1860 in Louisa County that are recorded in the Virginia Cultural Resources Information System (VCRIS). The two that seem to share the most architectural similarities with Goldmine Baptist Church are Lasley Meeting House (DHR ID# 054-0047) and Little River Baptist Church (DHR ID# 054-0170). Built in 1833, the Greek Revival Lasley Meeting House features two front entrances with double doors, windows above each entrance, and 3 bay side elevations. Like Goldmine Baptist Church, Lasley Meeting House has a side door likely to accommodate segregated entrances and a small extension at the rear of the sanctuary that protrudes several feet beyond the rectangular footprint of the building. Little River Baptist Church features two front entrances with double doors, windows above each entrance, 3 bay side elevations, and notably a lunette masonry panel on the façade.



Figure 11. Façade and east elevation of Lasley Meeting House, photographed in 1968 by K. Read.

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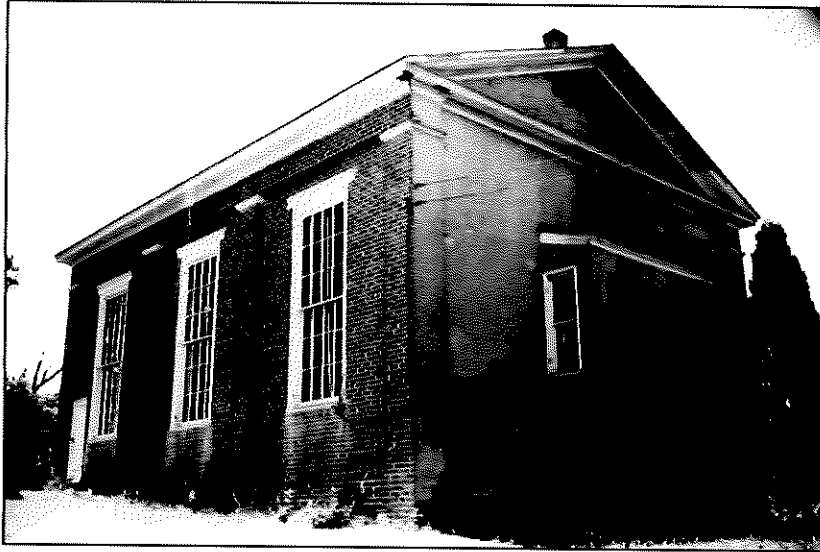


Figure 12. East and north elevations of Lasley Meeting House, photographed in 1968 by K. Read.

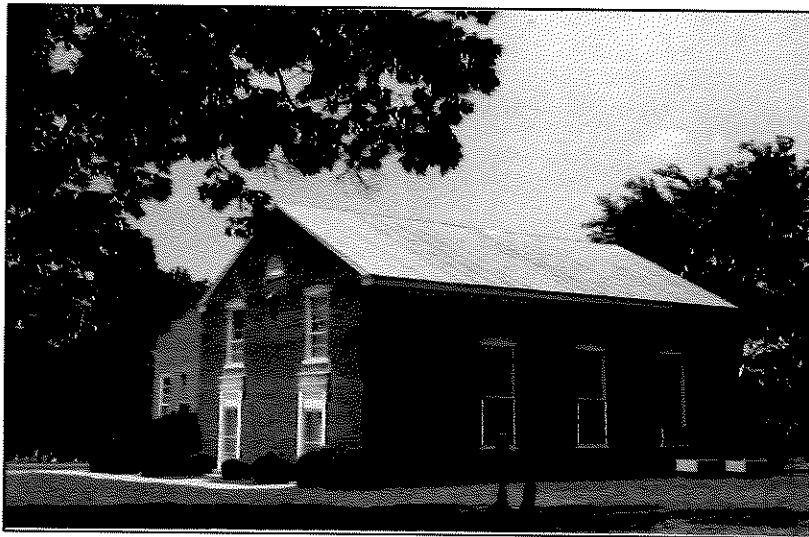


Figure 13. Façade and east elevation of Little River Baptist Church, 1972, unknown photographer.

Although all eleven churches from this period in Louisa recorded in VCRIS are extant, none of them are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. All feature three bay side elevations and nine feature two front entrances with double doors, and almost all are either Classical Revival or Gothic Revival. With its rectangular plan, two double door entrances, and three bay side elevations, Goldmine Baptist Church reflects the typical form of mid-nineteenth century churches in Louisa, which is a typology not represented on the National Register for this county. Yet, it also diverges from this norm in a notable way. None of the other Classical or Gothic Revival churches in Louisa County from this period feature a stepped gable. This detail seems to be unique among Antebellum era churches in Louisa County.

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While Goldmine Baptist Church appears to be the singular example of a stepped gabled church in Louisa, there is likely some regional influence for this form. The most similar structure in the region is Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church in neighboring Fluvanna County (DHR ID# 032-0346), also constructed in the early 1850s. Wesley Chapel's façade also has two symmetrical front doors, a stepped gable, running bond, and a lunette masonry sign embedded in the brickwork. Wesley Chapel also features three bay side elevations, although it lacks the Gothic Revival drip molds found at Goldmine Baptist Church. The striking resemblance in form suggests that there may have been a connection between these churches, such as a shared builder. However, there is no known documentation for such a connection.



Figure 14. Façade and south elevation of Wesley Chapel, photographer unknown.

Outside of the state, there are numerous churches that have a similar stepped gable façade, including Methodist Episcopal Church South in Kentucky built in 1848, Joseph Priestley Memorial Chapel in Pennsylvania built in 1834, St. Paul's Parish in Maryland built in 1841, and Poolesville Presbyterian Church in Maryland built in 1847. These examples of stepped gables constructed in the mid-nineteenth century further support that the façade is original to Goldmine Baptist Church. The Goldmine Baptist Church is an unusual manifestation of mid-nineteenth century rural vernacular church architecture in Louisa County.

Crucially, the brick construction, minimal ornamentation, and utilitarian design are consistent with the vernacular architecture of the area and the aesthetic sensibilities of Virginia's Baptist community. As ardent supporters of religious freedom, Virginia's Baptists rejected the ornate, expensive architecture that defined Anglican churches, instead opting for simple, functional design. The practicality and simplicity of Goldmine Baptist Church are not just reflective of

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aesthetic preference; they are illustrations of the religious values and political independence prized by its builders during its period of construction.⁸

The property meets Criteria Consideration A because it derives its significance from its architectural distinction, not religious importance. With a period of significance covering its time of construction, the building serves as an architectural focal point for the region, illustrating the evolution of local construction techniques and the adaptation of neoclassical elements to a rural ecclesiastical context. Its stepped gable, hand-hewn Doric columns, and surviving millwork stand as testament to the dedication and hard work of the skilled craftsmen responsible for its construction.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"Dictionary of Virginia Biography - Alfred Elijah Dickinson (3 December 1830-20 November 1906) Biography." Virginia.gov, accessed July 27, 2026, old.lva.virginia.gov/public/dvb/bio.asp?b=Dickinson_Alfred_Elijah.

Isaac, Rhys. *The Transformation of Virginia, 1740-1790*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Virginia, 1982.

Lounsbury, Carl. "God Is in the Details: The Transformation of Ecclesiastical Architecture in Early Nineteenth-Century America." *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture* 13, no. 1 (2006): 1-21.

Massie, Quintus. History at Gold Mine Church. Aug. 1937.

Massie, Quintus. *200 Years of Worship: Goldmine Baptist Church*, Goldmine Baptist Church, Louisa, Virginia, 1970.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

⁸ Rhys Isaac, *The Transformation of Virginia, 1740-1790* (University of North Carolina Press, for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, 1982), 166.

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☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property 0.7

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 38.095378 Longitude: -77.960340

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

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- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The proposed Goldmine Baptist Church register listing encompasses the full parcel. On its southern boundary, the property line follows Goldmine Road. Just after the driveway, the property line takes a 90 degree turn northward for around 50 feet, after which it takes another 90 degree turn, runs about 20 feet, then continues its northeastern trajectory for about 100 feet. After a flattened point about ten feet wide, the property line returns to Goldmine Road, intersecting with the street at a perpendicular orientation just after the neighbor's driveway.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The proposed boundary includes the full church parcel, encompassing the relevant historic structure and associated land.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Felix Schapiro
organization: 2007 Goldmine LLC
street & number: 106 E 16th Street
city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23224
e-mail Felix.Schapiro@gmail.com
telephone: 804-432-9652
date: 10/14/2025

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Goldmine Baptist Church

City or Vicinity: Goldmine Creek

County: Louisa County

State: Virginia

Photographer: Felix Schapiro

Date Photographed: 10/14/2025

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 20.

Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0001.jpeg

View: Facing north from in front of the church

Description: Historic façade can be seen, as well as recent vestibule addition.

2 of 20.

Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0002.jpeg

View: Looking northeast from southwest corner of church

Description: Clear demarcation can be seen between historic structure and recent vestibule addition.

3 of 20.

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Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0003.jpeg

View: Facing north from in front of the church

Description: Close-up view of detailing on historic façade, including running bond brick work, dedication tablet, and stepped gable.

4 of 20.

Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0004.jpeg

View: Looking northeast from southwest corner of church

Description: Southern and western faces of the church can be seen, as well as the forested area behind the structure.

5 of 20.

Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0005.jpeg

View: Looking southeast from northwest corner of the church

Description: Handicap ramp can be seen providing access to the rear of the sanctuary. Also visible is a chimney and the exterior of the altar alcove.

6 of 20.

Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0006.jpeg

View: Looking south from the north side of the church.

Description: Rear view of the church, showing two original doorways and the altar alcove.

7 of 20.

Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0007.jpeg

View: Northeastern corner looking southwest.

Description: Eastern exterior wall can be seen, including tension rod plates, jacks, and concrete used for structural stabilization.

8 of 20.

Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0008.jpeg

View: Northeastern corner looking west

Description: Detail showing locally produced brick and original lime mortar. Some evidence of past repointing can also be seen.

9 of 20.

Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0009.jpeg

View: Southeastern church corner looking west

Description: Historic slaves' entrance leading directly to the balcony overlooking the sanctuary.

10 of 20.

Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0010.jpeg

View: Looking southwest through the front door from inside the church vestibule

Description: Recently added entrance door can be seen from within the modern vestibule.

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Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0011.jpeg

View: Looking east from just inside entrance vestibule

Description: Former bathrooms alongside the eastern historic double doors – once on the building's exterior, now an internal door.

12 of 20.

Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0012.jpeg

View: Looking north from the western side of the church vestibule

Description: western historic double doors – once on the building's exterior, now an internal door

13 of 20.

Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0013.jpeg

View: Looking north from the western historic sanctuary entrance

Description: A view of the sanctuary, including now enclosed balconies, historic columns, and non-original stage.

14 of 20.

Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0014.jpeg

View: Looking north from the middle of the western aisle.

Description: Close up on non-original stage and front of sanctuary

15 of 20.

Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0015.jpeg

View: Looking south from sanctuary stage

Description: sanctuary can be seen, including now enclosed balconies, five historic columns, and two double door entrances at the room's rear. Additionally, the staircase to the enclosed balcony can be seen on the left.

16 of 20.

Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0016.jpeg

View: Southeastern corner of sanctuary, looking northeast

Description: Interior sanctuary wall can be seen, including evidence on the floor of past structural stabilization efforts. One of two internal chimneys is also visible.

17 of 20.

Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0017.jpeg

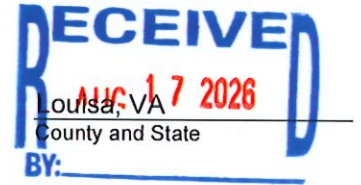
View: Looking upstairs from the original structure's southeastern corner.

Description: A photograph showing the physical relationship between the second story balcony and sanctuary. The staircase can be seen.

18 of 20.

Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0018.jpeg

View: Looking southwest from top of stairs.



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Description: A view of the enclosed and subdivided rear balcony.

19 of 20.

Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0019.jpeg

View: Looking east from the northwest corner of the rear balcony.

Description: Non-historic partitions can be seen providing space for modern forced air system.

20 of 20.

Name: VA_Louisa_Goldmine_Baptist_Church_0020.jpeg

View: Looking north from the northwest corner of the rear balcony.

Description: Western balcony now enclosed to provide space for ductwork. Tension rods and interior window moldings are visible.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.