



COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE
Department of Planning & Community Development
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Rebecca Ragsdale
FROM: Julie Mahon
DATE: November 11, 2004
RE: SP 2004-00053 *Wildon Grove Baptist Church Expansion* – Historic Resources Review

The above referenced submittal has been reviewed for possible impact to known historic (fifty years old or older) architectural resources and known or potential archaeological resources with the following results:

1. Tax Map 36 and Parcel 22 is located within the boundary of the *Southwest Mountains Rural Historic District* (DHR #002-1832). This 31,000 acre district includes some of the Piedmont's most pristine and scenic countryside and is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Registry (8/21/91) and National Register of Historic Places (2/27/92).
2. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources' (DHR) Data Sharing System (DSS) identifies *Wildon Grove Baptist Church* (c. 1929) (DHR #002-1268), an early African-American church, as historic and a contributing structure in the historic district.
3. The building currently used for church services was constructed in c. 1970 and is therefore not considered historic or contributing to the integrity of the historic district.

Based upon the information above, I recommend the following:

1. It is my understanding that the historic chapel is in severe disrepair and the congregation has decided to have the building demolished. Since this building has been identified as contributing to the integrity of the historic district, I recommend that the building and site be documented by an architectural historian, or other qualified person approved by staff, prior to proceeding with this project.
2. Since the building currently being used for church services is not historic, I have no objection to the proposed addition. However, the building is located within the boundary of the *Southwest Mountains Rural Historic District* and should be designed in such a way that does not detract from its rural setting and other existing historic resources in the area.