

Request to Consider Historic Landmark Designation

Good Hope Baptist Church

Jeremy Bradham, Capital Area Preservation

March 17, 2025



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Wake County Historic Preservation Commission



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Background

- Historic Preservation Commission established by county ordinance in 1992.
- Purpose is to safeguard the heritage of Wake County and designate local historic landmarks.
- Certificate of Appropriateness is required before altering a landmark.
- The Commission represents 10 municipalities and the unincorporated areas of Wake County.
- Capital Area Preservation entered into agreement with Wake County in 2003 to provide staffing services for the commission (23 landmarks in 2003).
- Today the commission is responsible for 89 landmark designations and 2 roadside historic markers.

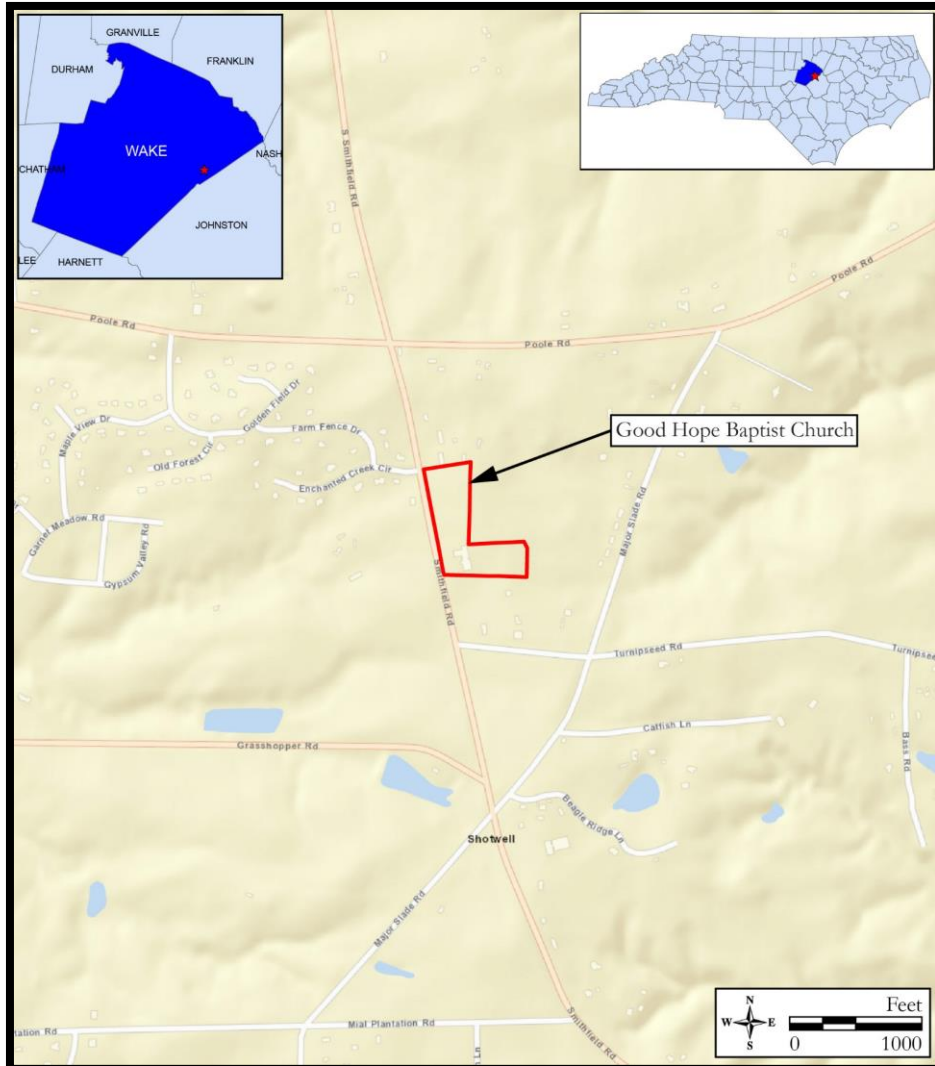
Good Hope Baptist Church

**4209 S. Smithfield
Road, Knightdale
(Wake County ETJ)**

**Owners: Good Hope
Missionary Baptist
Church**



Good Hope Baptist Church



Historical Background

Good Hope Baptist Church

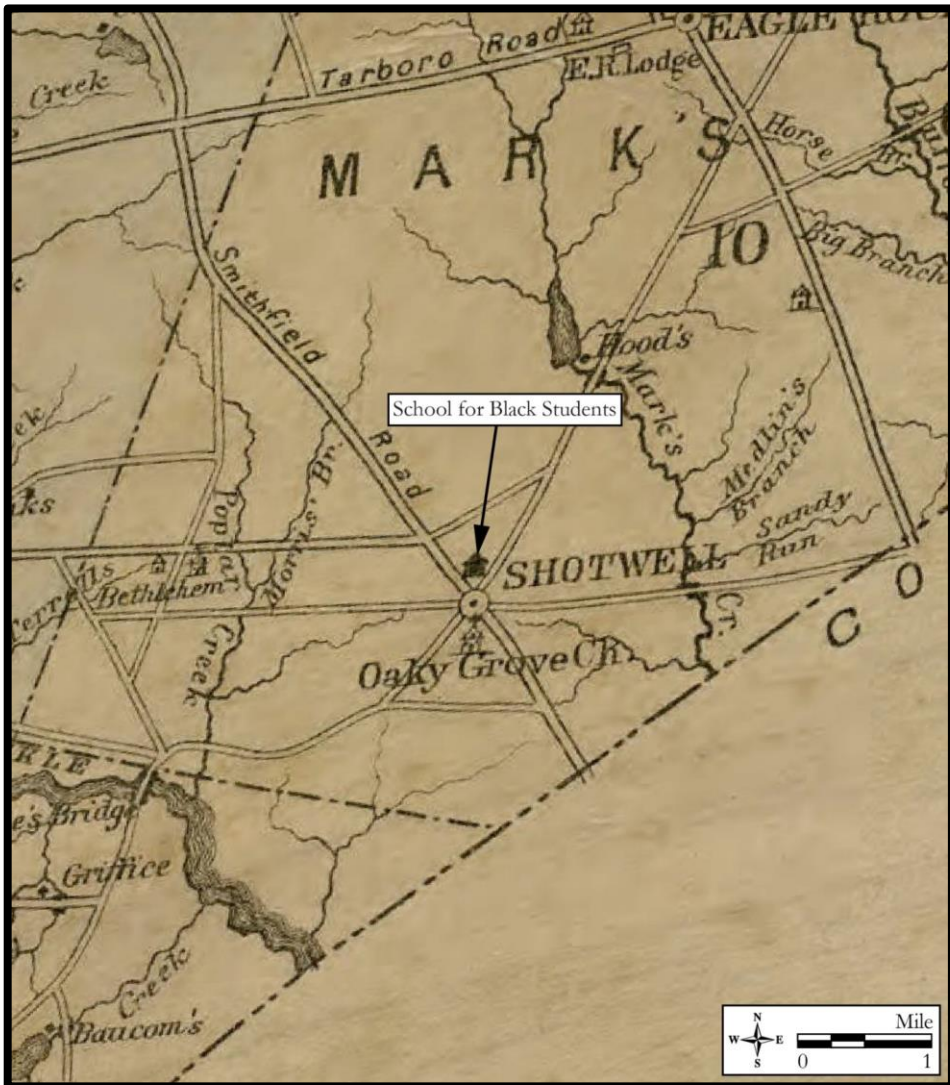


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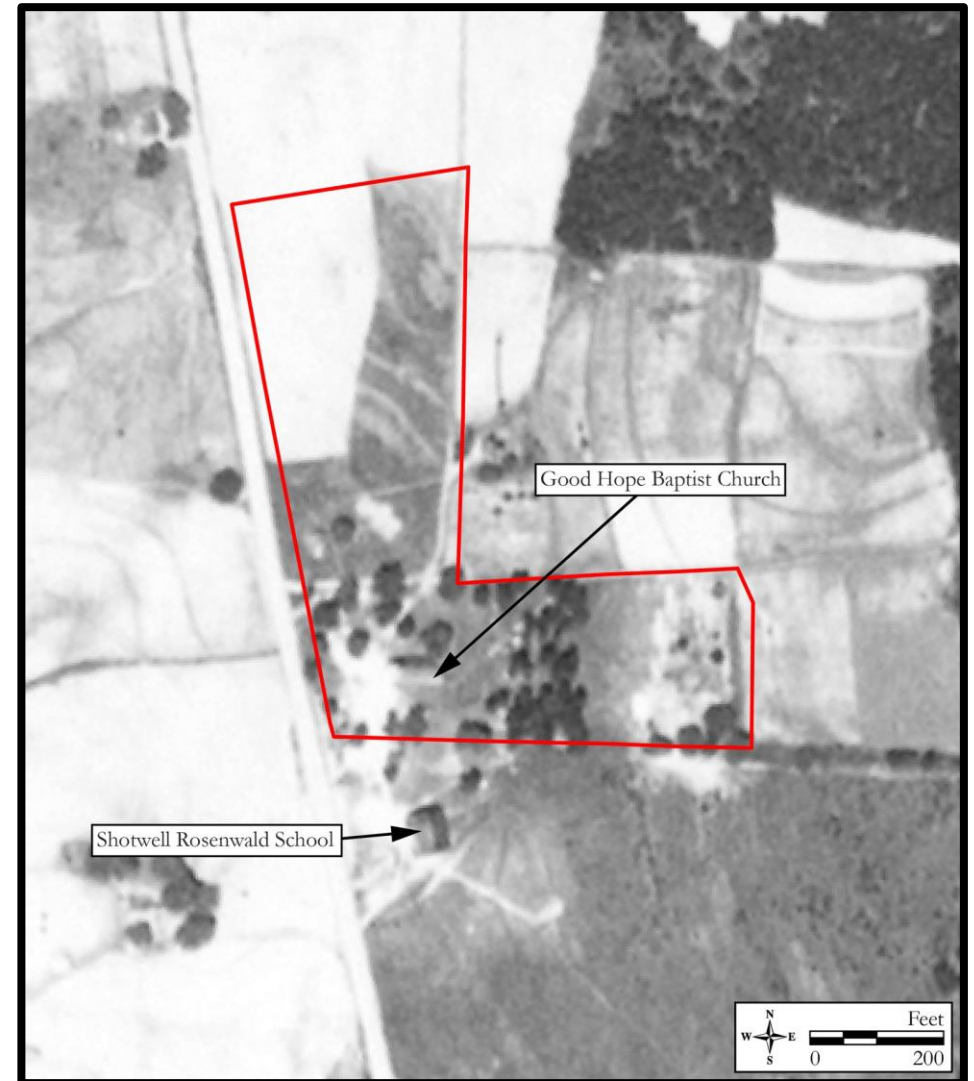
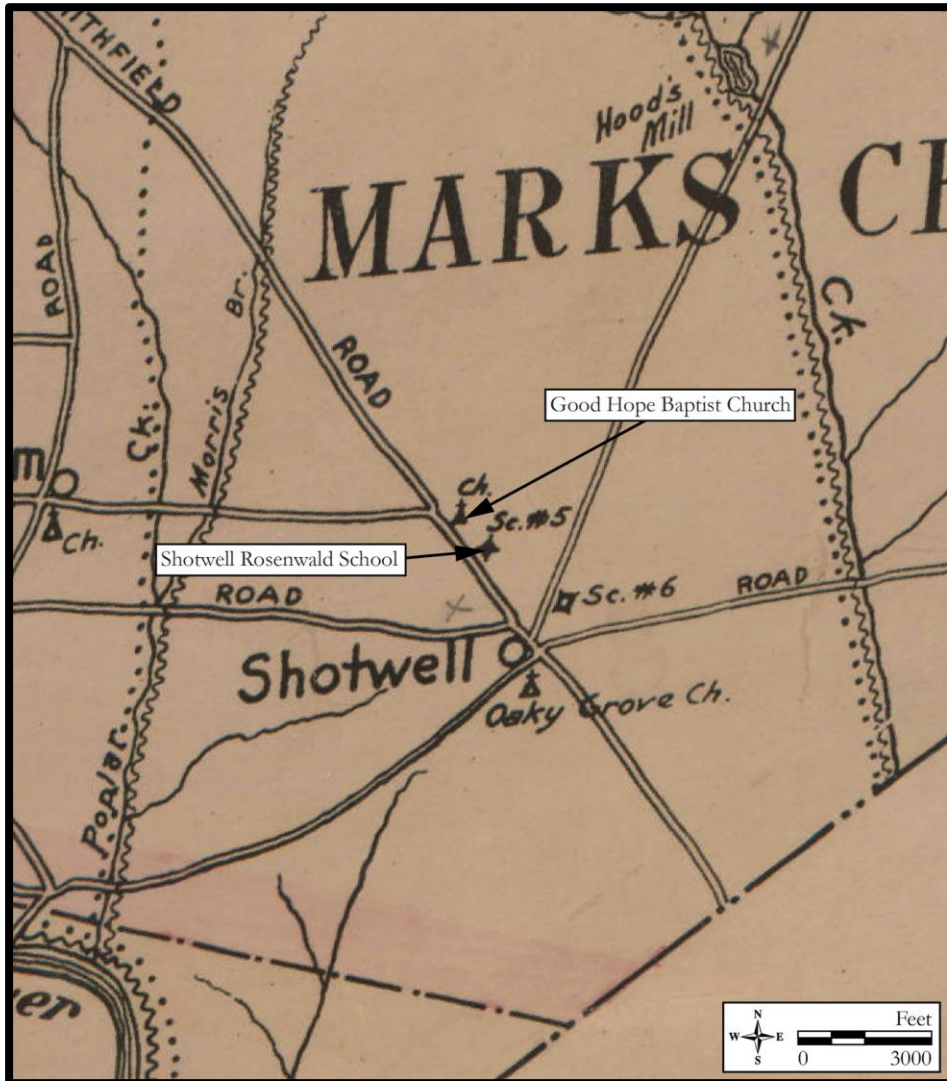
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Architectural Description

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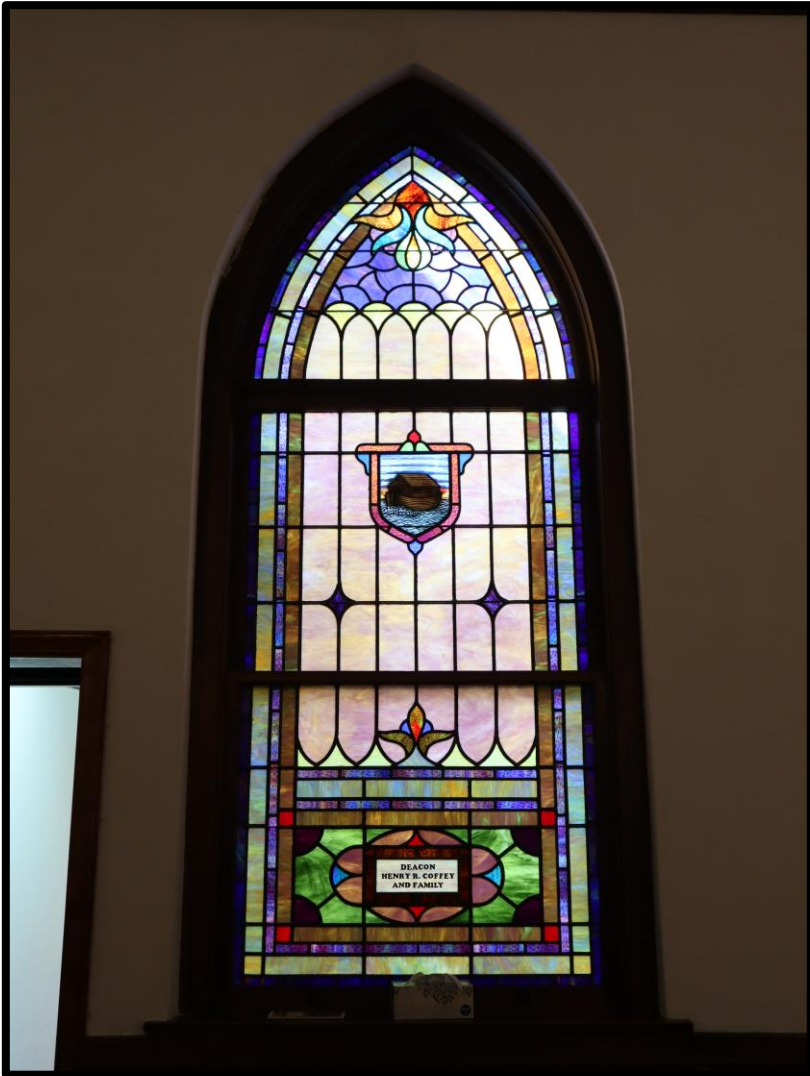
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Significance Statement

For nearly 160 years, Good Hope Baptist Church has played a special role as the center of African American life in the Shotwell community and continues to do so today, thus, giving the church special significance at the local level for its historical association with the Black community in Shotwell. Architecturally, the church building constructed between 1951-1957, is an excellent example of rural, post-World War II Gothic Revival-style ecclesiastical architecture in Wake County. The design of the church exhibits many of the hallmark features of the Gothic Revival style. The broad, gabled façade is anchored by crenellated towers. The original, stained-glass lancet-arch windows, set into bays which are divided by engaged buttresses, were donated by members of the congregation. The church has good overall physical integrity, with much of the original material and workmanship surviving. The church's setting remains rural, near the center of the Shotwell community, and remains on its original site that was purchased by the congregation in 1878.

WCHPC Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Wake County Board of Commissioners **DESIGNATE** the Good Hope Baptist Church at 4209 S. Smithfield Road, Knightdale as a Wake County Historic Landmark

WCHPC Recommendation

At its meeting on January 14, 2025, the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission unanimously **RECOMMENDED** that the Wake County Board of Commissioners **DESIGNATE** the Good Hope Baptist Church as a Wake County Historic Landmark and **ADOPT** the associated ordinance.



Public Hearing