

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.

Listed On:	
VLRL	3/19/2015
NRHP	5/25/2015

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: The Meadow Historic District  
 Other names/site number: Meadow Farm, Meadow Stud, Meadow Stable, Secretariat's Meadow, DHR#016-0016  
 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: 13111 Dawn Blvd  
 City or town: Doswell State: Virginia County: Caroline County  
 Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 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      X statewide      X local  
 Applicable National Register Criteria:  
X A      X B      X C      \_\_\_ D

*Julie D. Langston*      7-5-15  
 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 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	Noncontributing	
<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business: Stud Farm

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Animal Facility, Agricultural Outbuilding

FUNERARY: Equine Cemetery

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Museum, Outdoor Recreation

FUNERARY: Equine Cemetery

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/Frame Animal and Agricultural Facilities

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; CONCRETE; WOOD; ASPHALT;  
METAL

### 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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Meadow Historic District is located along U.S. Route 30 in rural Caroline County and is situated within 331 rolling acres of former farmland now used as the State Fair grounds. The discontinuous district consists of a 2.795-acre north section and a .401-acre south section. Located north of Route 30, the district's north section contains 2 barns, a barn annex, a well house, and a pump house (5 contributing buildings), and an equine cemetery (contributing site). The L Shaped Yearling Barn, Yearling Barn Annex and Stallion Barn were constructed with many of the same exterior and interior architectural features. The interiors of the three buildings contain dirt floors, wooden walls separating each stall and 1 louvered window located at the back of each stall. The L Shaped Yearling Barn features 2 offices and 1 tack room in the northwest corner. The offices were used by Howard Gentry and his secretary. The interior of the offices feature brick floors, vertical board siding and 1 brick fireplace with an exterior chimney. The tack room is located to the right of Howard Gentry's office and contains a dirt floor and vertical board siding. The stable interiors are very utilitarian in nature to meet the needs of the horses stabled there. The well house and pump house are utilitarian buildings designed to house mechanical equipment for the farm's water system. The equine cemetery has four burials, each with a granite marker. In the district's south section, there are two buildings: a Foaling Shed and

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a Training Barn. The Foaling Shed was originally located north of Route 30 but was moved to its current location in order to avoid demolition. The Training Barn interior contains a dirt floor, vertical wooden board walls separating each stall and a wooden framed single-light window at the back of each stall. There is also an extra room on the far right of the building used as a feed room. The barn has a dirt floor, vertical wooden siding and a window located at the back of the building. This building contains 2 stalls and a separate room where the night watchman would stay while monitoring the expecting mare.

Although the historic district is comprised of two discontinuous sections, the spatial relationships among the contributing resources have been maintained and reflect the property's historic use as a thoroughbred breeding and racing facility. The historic district retains integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. Integrity of feeling and association also are present, although somewhat diminished due to non-historic changes to the district's setting. The Foaling Shed was moved from its original location, which was less than .25 mile away on the north side of U.S. Route 30, to its current location next to the Training Barn. All other resources are in their original location.

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### **Narrative Description**

The Meadow Historic District is located within 331 rolling acres in the southeast corner of Caroline County, extending north and south along the east/west Route 30 corridor, bordered by the North Anna River to the west and bottom land formerly known as the Cove to the northeast. The land south of Rt. 30 is bisected by Rt. 652 (or most commonly known as Meadow Farm Road). Meadow Farm (later shortened to The Meadow) was established in 1936 by Christopher Tompkins Chenery, who purchased the property with the hopes of creating a world-class horse racing facility at his ancestral home place. A self-made millionaire in the utilities industry, he drew heavily upon the engineering degree he earned from Washington and Lee University to design the facility's buildings and landscape.

Chenery began by clearing the Cove, north of Rt. 30, which had become overgrown with vines and foliage. He rebuilt a dike that had first been built by enslaved workers during the 1820s. The dike had kept the North Anna River back from the marshy acres of the Cove until it failed during the early years of the Civil War. After clearing the Cove, Chenery drained the swampland and built a series of 8-foot wide ditches with a system of locks and pumps. He also designed a pumping system that pulled water from a spring, filtered it and transported the clean water all over the farm, not only to the main house but to the horses as well ("Secretariat's Meadow" 10-40).

In 1937, Chenery began working with a neighboring architect, Charlie Hart, to add a wing and 2 bedrooms to a farmhouse that already existed on the north side of the property (beyond the historic district boundary). Its original L shaped footprint was converted into a U shaped plan facing the Cove to the north. This dwelling was demolished in 1985 and a new house was built on the site during the 1990s. Known as Meadow Hall, it is now used for conferences, meetings, banquets and weddings.

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Inspired by the success of his cousin Bernard Doswell's farm, Bullfield, in Hanover County, Chenery designed his outbuildings with similar primary materials – concrete foundations, weatherboard siding, gable roofs, asphalt shingles, and wooden cupolas running the ridge of the gable roof. With an eye toward function as much as form, he created an assemblage of buildings designed as a cohesive unit for the overall operation of the racing facility. North of Route 30, Chenery arranged and constructed the barns that housed the mares, stallions and yearlings just north of the main dwelling at a site overlooking the Cove. These buildings today comprise the north section of the historic district. The Foaling Shed originally stood in a pasture located west of the main house, but to avoid demolition, it was moved to its current location alongside the training barn in the district's south section, where other buildings that focused on the overall production of the racing facility, were placed. A non-historic race track is directly north of these buildings and replaced an older track that dated to Chenery's occupation ("Secretariat's Meadow" 40-45).

### **North Section of Discontiguous Historic District, located north of Route 30**

In the north section of the historic district, three barns are clustered together and are oriented on a generally east/west axis. The L Shaped Yearling Barn is in the center of the group, with the Stallion Barn to its immediate west and the Yearling Barn to its immediate east. A short distance northeast of the Yearling Barn, the equine cemetery occupies a grassy plot. The pump house and well house are located a short distance east of the equine cemetery. Encompassing 2.795 acres, this section's overall setting is pastoral, with grassy yards and mature trees surrounding all of the resources. The rolling topography and trees limit views from the barns toward non-historic resources such as Meadow Hall and parking lots associated with the State Fair, while the historic views toward the pastureland north of the district boundary is intact.

### **Yearling Barn Annex**

The yearling barn annex was used to house yearling colts until they were ready to undergo their initial training on the south side of the farm at the training complex. Often mares that were going to be bred to Meadow stallions stayed in the first 3 or 4 stalls in the annex.

The yearling barn annex is a wood framed, linear, one-and-one-half story building with a concrete foundation, white painted weatherboard siding trimmed with blue-painted sills and corner caps, and an asphalt-shingled, side-gabled roof. Two wooden cupolas are located along the roof ridge. On the south façade, the roof overhang shelters a walkway and features 8 white, wood posts, each hand hewed to appear as a column with a square base. The south façade also is distinguished by an unadorned gabled pediment at the east corner. The interior of the building consists of a single row of 10 horse stalls, with the stall doors on the south façade. Each stall is accessed by a symmetrically spaced, white, wood, Dutch-hinged stall door, which were designed to allow the horses to interact with each other and with visitors. The building was oriented so that the horse stalls were visible from the main house, located southwest of the annex. The annex's east elevation features a return cornice trimmed in blue and an arched hay loft and 2 small,

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square, boarded-over window openings. On the north (rear) elevation, there are 7 wooden louvered windows. There is also one louvered window located on the west elevation. The Yearling Barn Annex is a contributing building. The barn's interior features dirt floors, wood walls separating each stall, and 1 louvered window located at the back of each stall.

### **L Shaped Yearling Barn**

The L Shaped Yearling Barn also was constructed around 1937. The barn is a wood framed, one-and-one-half story building with a concrete foundation and white weatherboard siding trimmed with blue-painted sills and corner caps. The west wing of the building is oriented on an east/west axis, while the perpendicular east wing is on a north/south axis. The gabled roof is clad with asphalt shingles and 2 wooden cupolas are placed along each wing's roof ridge.

The east wing's south façade features a walkway sheltered by the overhanging roof, which is supported by 8 white wood posts, each hand hewed to appear as a column with a square base. The east wing's north (rear) elevation has 8 wood louvered windows that indicate the stall locations, as well as three double-hung windows located in the northwest corner that indicate the office location, which Chenery designed for his farm manager, Howard Gentry. Two small, square, boarded-over windows and a round-arched hayloft occupy the east gabled end wall. On the west wing's east façade, there are 7 boarded-over window and door openings, while the west (rear) elevation has 8 wood louvered windows. A hayloft is located on the south gabled end wall. A Flemish-bond brick chimney is located at the northwest (rear) corner of the barn.

The barn's interior features dirt floors, wood walls separating each stall, and 1 louvered window located at the back of each stall. In the northwest corner of the building, there are two offices and tack room. The offices were used by Howard Gentry and his secretary. The interior of the offices feature brick floors, vertical board siding and 1 brick fireplace with an exterior chimney. The tack room is located to the right (east) of Gentry's office and contains a dirt floor and vertical board siding

Over the 40-year period of significance, this barn housed Riva Ridge, winner of the 1972 Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes, and Secretariat, winner of the 1973 Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes, which made him the first Triple Crown Winner since 1948. Their victories gave Meadow Stable the distinction of being the only racing operation to win 5 of the 6 Triple Crown races in 2 consecutive years (Secretariat's Meadow 5-30). The L Shaped Yearling Barn is a contributing building.

### **Stallion Barn**

The stallion barn was used to keep the male horses separated from the mares and younger horses. This was a simpler structure compared to the other outbuildings, and does not feature a sheltered walkway on its façade. Located west of the L Shaped Yearling Barn, this building also was constructed around 1937 and is oriented on a north/south axis. The wood-framed barn has a concrete foundation, white wooden weatherboard siding and a side-gabled roof covered in

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asphalt shingles. The fascia and corner caps are painted blue. The east façade has 8 white, wood, Dutch-hinged stall doors and the west (rear) elevation has 10 wood window openings. On the south elevation, there is a single, centered louvered window and an arched hayloft door. On the north elevation, an arched hayloft door is centered. The barn interior is similar to the other barns in the district, with dirt floors, wood-framed walls separating each stall, and a louvered window at the rear of each stall. The most notable stallion to live here was First Landing, sire of Riva Ridge. The Stallion Barn is a contributing building.

### **Well House**

The pump and well house were designed as a part of Chenery's water filtering system for the farm in 1937. The well house is a wood-framed, single room building with a concrete block foundation and a steeply pitched gable roof. The walls are faced with horizontal weatherboard siding painted white and trimmed in blue and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The west façade has a wood batten door with strap hinges at the north corner and a louvered vent in the gable. The east elevation also has a louvered vent in the gable. The north and south elevations have single windows located directly under the eaves. The Well House is a contributing building.

### **Pump House**

The pump house, built in 1937, is located a few feet west of the well house and is built into the slope. The pump house is a single room, shed-roofed building, covered in corrugated metal with exposed rafters. It has a concrete foundation and concrete block walls. The east façade has a central wood batten door with strap hinges. The west and south elevations both have a single two-light window centered below the ridge line. Above the ridge line, the east, west and south elevations are faced with wood weatherboards painted white. A concrete block retaining wall extends out to the right on the southeast corner of the structure. The Pump House is a contributing building.

### **Equine Cemetery**

The Chenery family had a high regard for their horses and it is shown with the small equine cemetery in the historic district's north section. This small little plot is located northeast of the Yearling Barn Annex and features 4 arched granite grave markers facing west. The graves are for Imperatrice (1938-1972), who was Secretariat's grandmother; Hill Prince (1947-1970), who was Horse of the Year in 1950; Sun Beau (1923-1944), who was the top money-winning racehorse prior to Seabiscuit; and Blue, who does not have a date but was a pony that lived at the farm for a period of time. The cemetery is a contributing site.

### **South Section of Discontiguous Historic District, located south of Route 30**

The south section of the historic district is bounded by a horse show arenas, grassy areas, and utilitarian outbuildings. Although none of these features are historic age, they are still used for equestrian purposes, which is in keeping with the district's historic use. The south section



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includes two buildings, the Training Barn and the Foaling Shed. The Foaling Shed was originally located north of Route 30 in a pasture west of the farmhouse, but was moved to its current location to avoid demolition. The architectural design and features of the two buildings are similar to one another and to the five buildings in the district's north section.

### **Training Barn**

Oriented on an east/west axis, the training barn is a wood-framed, rectangular building with a concrete foundation, board and batten siding, and a side-gabled, asphalt-shingled roof covered with exposed rafter tails. The south façade is slightly recessed below the roof overhang to create a sheltered walkway. The south façade also contains wooden plank siding below the board and batten siding, creating a unique detail. There are 12 hinged, white-painted, Dutch doors on the south façade, while on the north (rear) elevation there are 13 wood-framed window openings. The east and west gabled end walls are devoid of fenestration. The Training Barn interior contains a dirt floor, vertical board walls separating each stall, and a window at the back of each stall. There is an extra room on the far right (east) of the building used as a feed room. This room also features wooden walls and a dirt floor. The Training Barn housed the young horses when they began their racetrack training. Riva Ridge and Secretariat stayed here while they received their early training as racehorses. The Training Barn is a contributing building.

### **Foaling Shed**

The Foaling Shed is a wood-framed, rectangular building with a cinder block foundation and a shed roof clad in standing seam metal. An overhanging eave spans the south façade. Board-and-batten siding clads the south façade and east and west end walls, while the north (rear) elevation has board-and-batten siding above wooden plank siding. The south façade has 2 irregularly spaced, wood, Dutch-hinged doors, one located on the west end of the building and the other located right-of-center. A row of eight, 6-light glazed windows extends between the two doors. At the east end of the building is a pair of larger, 6-light windows. On the interior, the barn has two stalls and a separate room at the east end, where the night watchman would stay while monitoring the expecting mare. All interior spaces have dirt floors and vertical wood partition walls.

The Foaling Shed originally stood in a pasture located west of the main house, but was moved to its current location to avoid demolition. When the Foaling Shed was relocated, additional supports members were added to the interior rear (south) wall. The additional interior vertical boards helped stabilize the structural integrity. The Foaling Shed was used for pregnant mares about to give birth. Secretariat was born here on March 30, 1970, with the assistance of Howard Gentry, the farm manager. The Foaling Shed is a contributing building.

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**Inventory:**

**North Section of Discontiguous Historic District, located north of Route 30**

Resource Name: Yearling Barn Annex  
Resource Type: Building  
Estimated Date: Circa 1937  
Architect: Christopher Chenery  
DHR ID#: 016-0016-02  
Contributing

Resource Name: L Shaped Yearling Barn 1  
Resource Type: Building  
Estimated Date: circa 1937  
Architect: Christopher Chenery  
DHR ID#: 016-0016-04  
Contributing

Resource Name: Stallion Barn  
Resource Type: Building  
Estimated Date: circa 1937  
Architect: Christopher Chenery  
DHR ID#: 016-0016-06  
Contributing

Resource Name: Well House  
Resource Type: Building  
Estimated Date: circa 1937  
Architect: Christopher Chenery  
DHR ID#: 016-0016-03  
Contributing

Resource Name: Pump House  
Resource Type: Building  
Estimated Date: circa 1937  
Architect: Christopher Chenery  
DHR ID#: 016-0016-05  
Contributing

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Resource Name: Equine Cemetery  
Resource Type: Site  
Estimated Date: Circa 1937  
Architect: Christopher Chenery  
DHR ID#: 016-0016-01  
Contributing

**South Section of Discontiguous Historic District, located south of Route 30**

Resource Name: Training Barn  
Resource Type: Building  
Estimated Date: circa 1937  
Architect: Christopher Chenery  
DHR ID#: 016-0016-07  
Contributing

Resource Name: Foaling Shed  
Resource Type: Building  
Estimated Date: circa 1937  
Architect: Christopher Chenery  
DHR ID#: 016-0016-08  
Contributing

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### 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

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCE

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1936-1973

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1936

1937

1950

1953-1958

1972

1973

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Chenery, Christopher T.

Tweedy, Penny Chenery

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Chenery, Christopher

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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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.)

The Meadow Historic District is significant at the statewide level under Criteria A and B in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation, Commerce, and Agriculture, due to the accomplishments of Christopher Tompkins Chenery and Penny Chenery Tweedy. Christopher Chenery established The Meadow as a Thoroughbred horse breeding and racing stable which produced several notable champions and influential broodmares. Tweedy carried on her father's work, kept the farm from being sold and presided over business operations of Meadow Stable during the period of its greatest success. Under her leadership, Meadow Stable won five of six consecutive Triple Crown races: Riva Ridge's Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes wins in 1972 and Secretariat's wins at the Kentucky Derby, Preakness, and Belmont Stakes in 1973. No other racing stable had ever accomplished this feat. Moreover, Tweedy was a trailblazer for women in this sport. The Meadow Historic District is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Christopher Chenery designed all of the buildings on the property in a similar style as the structures at Bullfield, the notable racing stable of his cousin, Bernard Doswell in nearby Hanover County. Each outbuilding was designed with a linear floor plan with clapboard siding painted white with corner caps painted blue. These colors, royal blue and white, symbolized his alma mater, Washington and Lee University. The Meadow also meets Criterion Consideration B as Secretariat's Foaling Shed was moved from its original location. The Foaling Shed is an iconic symbol in American horse racing as the birthplace of Secretariat. It remains situated in an equestrian setting that is still on its original parcel, and is next to the training barn and close to the horse show area. The Meadow Historic District meets Criterion Consideration G for properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years. In 1973, Secretariat became the first horse in 25 years to win the Triple Crown (the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness and the Belmont Stakes). He is the only one of the 11 Triple Crown winners since 1919 to break all three track records and all three still stand today, 41 years later. The property's period of significance is 1936-1973, beginning with the Chenerys' acquisition of the property and ending with Secretariat's Triple Crown win in 1973.

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

### **Historical Overview**

The area where The Meadow is today came under British ownership in 1674. The original 3,000-acre property was sold in 1724 to John Carter, who combined the property with his 10,000-acre North Wales Plantation in southwest Caroline County. His grandson, Williams Carter, sold the northernmost 4,000 acres to Dr. Charles Morris of Hanover County in 1805, who established a plantation here for his wife, Emily Taylor, and their children. Morris remodeled an old farmhouse already on the property overlooking the Cove, a large marshy area that lay in the bend of the North Anna River. The self-sustaining farm, reliant on enslaved workers, produced all the goods the family consumed. After Morris died in 1842, the property was divided among his children. It remained in the Morris family until 1912 when Emily Morris finally sold it. The

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property changed hands several times until 1936, when Christopher Chenery, a direct descendant of Morris, purchased the property and additional acreage in 1936 to create a Thoroughbred horse racing facility at the historic farm.

Due to Chenery's admiration for horses and his vision to create an empire built on broodmares, his business, Meadow Stable, grew to be one of the largest employers in Caroline County with over 4,000 acres, 25 paddocks and 200 horses. Chenery designed the farm's layout and was very specific with the placement of the outbuildings in relation to the horses' training and housing. The stable was later run by his daughter Penny Chenery Tweedy. Four of their champions, including Secretariat and Riva Ridge, are in the National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame. The bloodlines established by Chenery and manifested through Secretariat, continue to exert a strong influence on Thoroughbred racing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Tweedy carried on her father's work, kept the farm from being sold and presided over Meadow Stable during the period of its greatest success. In the world of horse racing during the period of significance, women were mostly relegated to the background. Penny was one of the first women to take an active role in the breeding, training and racing of her Thoroughbreds.

In terms of the evolution of The Meadow, the farm changed hands several times after Tweedy was forced to sell it in 1978 due to high estate taxes. First, a Virginia partnership bought it as an investment. Portions were later sold to Bear Island Paper Company and to Oran Jarrell to raise cattle and corn. In 1984, Eric Freedlander bought The Meadow and demolished the original house. In 1992, Ross Sternheimer, a Richmond businessman, bought the remaining 407 acres. He built the mansion now known as Meadow Hall, repaired fences and shored up the stables that exist today. He used The Meadow for boarding and training horses. In 2003, the State Fair of Virginia purchased The Meadow and in 2009 relocated the annual State Fair there. In 2010, an annual Secretariat birthday event was started, along with narrated tours of the historic stables and grounds.

In 2013, the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation became sole owner of The Meadow and the State Fair. Demonstrating their commitment to the history of the property, they hired Leeanne Meadows Ladin, co-author of *Secretariat's Meadow – The Land, The Family, The Legend*, to be the Secretariat tourism manager. They installed the Meadow Champion Galleries, Triple Crown Room and an exhibit for the Museum of the Virginia Horse in the Meadow Hall mansion. In terms of coming full circle, Ms. Ladin is in the process of bringing a grandson of Secretariat and Riva Ridge to live at The Meadow. By bringing horses back to the land, the Virginia Farm Bureau hopes to create an authentic heritage tourism experience that honors the Meadow's legacy.

### **Criterion A**

The Meadow is significant at the statewide level for its association with horse racing in Virginia, specifically in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation, Commerce, and Agriculture. Virginia had been a home to Thoroughbred racing since the colonial era, and reached a new pinnacle during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1936, Christopher (Chris) Tompkins Chenery made a decision that would forever change his life, his family's life and the sport of horse racing. In the middle of the

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Great Depression, he traveled from New York to Virginia and bought back his ancestral home place, The Meadow, which had been sold out of the family in 1912. As a man accustomed to shaping his own destiny, Chenery was determined to restore and reshape the dilapidated property into his vision of a first-class Thoroughbred horse farm and racing stable. Many of his wealthy friends who were involved in racing scoffed at the notion. The general consensus of horse racing was that the best Thoroughbreds were raised in Kentucky. Chenery's horse racing peers viewed The Meadow as being in the middle of nowhere, in a poor, rural county. Virginia did not even allow horse racing because of the unsavory nature of the professional gambling that permeated the once-respectable sport.

However, prior to the Civil War, horse racing had flourished in Virginia. Its origins dated back to the colonial period, when wealthy planters raced their horses against each other and wagered their own tobacco. In 1730, the first Thoroughbred from England landed on Virginia soil, imported by Samuel Gist of Hanover County. Thanks to horseman Major John Hoomes (1749-1805) Caroline County was acclaimed as "the cradle of American racing." Hoomes owned the legendary Diomed, who greatly elevated the quality of the emerging Virginia Thoroughbred. Hoomes also operated his own racetrack in Bowling Green, where he lived and founded the Virginia Jockey Club (Johnson and Crookshanks, 84-85).

John Baylor of Caroline County imported the famed Fearnought in 1764. Other famous horsemen of central Virginia who furthered the Commonwealth's reputation in racing circles included John Tayloe II, John Randolph, and William Ransom Johnson. At various times, they each owned Sir Archy, whose bloodline became the gold standard of the era (Johnson and Crookshanks, 70-72). Between 1800 and 1860, a Virginia horse was named the leading Thoroughbred stallion in America at least eight times. Central Virginia boasted several popular racetracks in the 19<sup>th</sup> century: Fairfield and Tree Hill in Henrico County, Broad Rock in Chesterfield, and New Market in Petersburg (Campbell, 25-27 and 47-56).

During the "Golden Years of Horse Racing," before the Civil War erupted, Hanover County produced one of Virginia's greatest racehorses, Planet. A descendant of Sir Archy, he was bred by Major Thomas Walker Doswell of Bullfield Stable. Planet, the "Great Red Fox," won 27 of 31 races, most of which were four-mile heats, during his career. He burnished the illustrious reputation of Bullfield Stable, which was renowned in racing circles from New York to New Orleans for both the excellence of its horses and its Southern hospitality (*Secretariat's Meadow*, 32-35).

Many of the stable's most noted champions were bred and trained in a partnership arrangement the Doswells had with Richard Hancock of Ellerslie Farm in Charlottesville. Later his son Arthur Hancock would move the Thoroughbred operation to Paris, Kentucky, to found the renowned Claiborne Farm. Both the Doswells and Hancocks would play roles in the life of Chris Chenery and his Meadow Stable.

In 1884, Bernard Doswell married Ellen Morris, a granddaughter of Dr. Charles Morris, who founded The Meadow farm in Caroline County in 1805. This would make Bernard a cousin by



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marriage to Christopher T. Chenery, a Morris cousin born in 1886 who grew up in nearby Ashland. Chenery spent his childhood in humble circumstances as did most Virginians after the Civil War. He spent many summers riding his cousin's horses at their ancestral home place, The Meadow. His affinity for horses was so well-known that Ashlanders would joke, "That boy will run any errand as long as it involves a horse!" (*Secretariat's Meadow*, 25)

Chenery's cousin, Bernard Doswell, later employed Chris during his youth to help exercise the few remaining horses at Hildene, his portion of the Bullfield property. Chris would walk seven miles from his house in Ashland to the legendary racing stable. There, the young man soaked up the lore of Bullfield's glory days and admired the gleaming trophies.

He eventually became an accomplished horseman and taught equitation for the U.S. Army during World War I. Driven by ambition, he became a self-made millionaire in the utilities industry. He founded the Federal Water Service Corporation and later the Southern Natural Gas Corporation and the Offshore Company. He put his assets into a new company, Chenery Corporation, and gave what became very valuable stock to his siblings. Finally achieving financial security for his family, he could indulge his passion for horses. Robust and vigorous, he played polo, fox hunted and even started his own riding club, Boulder Brook, in Westchester, New York.

After Chenery bought back The Meadow in 1936, he would not only restore his family's home place, but Caroline County's prominence in horse racing as well. It took several years for Chenery to rehabilitate the land, renovate the family home and construct the necessary barns and outbuildings to support a Thoroughbred breeding and training operation known as Meadow Stable. As noted in Section 7, key buildings dating from the 1930s still stand in two discrete sections on the north and south sides of US Route 30. They have remained essentially unaltered, except for basic maintenance and stabilization, despite the farm having changed hands several times since it was sold out of the Chenery family in 1978.

Once Chenery rebuilt the farm, he set about building up his foundation stock. He purchased well-bred but affordable broodmares, adhering to the theory that the mare was as important as the stallion in the breeding equation. This would prove to be visionary, especially in the case of Secretariat. Several of The Meadow's stable mares, such as Hildene, Iberia, Imperatrice and her daughter, Somethingroyal, became some of the most influential broodmares of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They launched a racing dynasty that became known as "an empire built on broodmares."

As the farm took shape and grew, so did the employment opportunities for residents of post-Great Depression Caroline County. In that poor, rural locality, jobs were mostly limited to the sawmill, railroad, machine shops, or farm labor. The Meadow became one of the largest employers in the area with about 45 full-time workers. In fact, many of the descendants of the enslaved workers who had worked for Dr. Morris prior to the Civil War came to The Meadow to work for Chenery, who was known to pay good wages. Many of their families intermarried and formed a close-knit web in the nearby community of Duval Town, now known as Dawn. Prominent names included Lewis Tillman, Sr., Lewis Tillman, Jr., Wesley Tillman, Garfield

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Tillman, Larry Tillman, Clarence Fells, Charlie Ross, Raymond Goodall, Bannie Mines, Alvin Mines, and Howard Gregory, to name a few. The Meadow would send a truck to Duval to pick them up and drop them off each day. They worked at The Meadow as farm hands, gardeners, housekeepers, and cooks. Some of the men would become the grooms who handled some of the most important horses in Thoroughbred racing. Later, when The Meadow horses started winning races, Chenery shared his winnings with all the Meadow employees, black and white alike. He also hosted barbecues and Christmas parties at the farm, and even helped some of his workers with college tuition for their children. He also provided health insurance for his employees, which was unusual in the racing business at the time. His generosity and concern for the well-being of his workers inspired great loyalty and appreciation (*Secretariat's Meadow*, 39-42).

A snapshot of the daily routine of the farm around the original barns would include:

- Stallion Barn – Howard Gregory was the stud manager and he supervised the care of Meadow Stable's breeding stallions, such as First Landing, Bryan G. and Tillman. (Chenery named some of his stallions after men who worked there.) In the morning, Gregory would feed the six or so breeding stallions about 7:00 a.m., then lead them each to their separate paddocks. Their stalls would be mucked out (cleaned) as they grazed and fresh straw put in. Around 5:00 p.m., they would be brought back for the evening feeding of grain and hay. During the spring breeding season, Gregory would take the stallions for their morning and/or afternoon appointments with mares. Some days there would be four or five mares to be serviced. No artificial insemination is allowed for Thoroughbreds, so the stallion must physically cover the mare. This took place in the breeding shed, which was located between the L Shaped Yearling Barn and the Yearling Barn Annex. Several workers could be involved: a groom to hold the mare's head; one to hold up her foot to prevent her from kicking the stallion; and one might hold the mare's foal since often a broodmare is bred again a few weeks after giving birth. Of course, the stallion manager held the stallion. This could be a very dangerous job. One stallion, after doing his duty, fell over dead, nearly crushing Howard Gregory and Howard Gentry against the shed wall. It is not uncommon for a breeding stallion to have a heart attack after the act. Riva Ridge's sire, First Landing, was Gregory's favorite stallion. "He was very, very mannerable," Gregory said. "When I would take him around to breed, you'd never hear him squeal or whimper or nothing" (*Secretariat's Meadow*, 70).
- Yearling barns – In the L Shaped Yearling Barn, the fillies were kept in the stalls on the southwest portion of the "L" and the colts in the northeast portion. A few colts might also be kept in the Yearling Barn Annex. In the early morning, the night watchman, Clarence Richardson, often would feed the yearlings. When the pickup truck arrived from Duval Town, the grooms would then take care of the colts or fillies, brush their manes and tails and coats and clean their hooves with a hoof pick. If the farrier (blacksmith) or veterinarian were coming, the grooms would hold each yearling for their hoof trimming or examination. Many routine shots and sutures for minor wounds were done by Howard Gentry or groom Harry Street (who worked there for 43 years.) Otherwise, each filly would be led to the fillies' paddock and the colts to their own paddock for the day's

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grazing. Their stalls would be mucked out and fresh straw added. Later the manure would be collected and spread on fields. Other farm chores such as mending fences, painting barns and getting up hay would take place while the horses were grazing. At 5:00 p.m. the yearlings were brought back to their stalls from their paddocks, fed their hay and grain and put up for the night.

- Training Barn – South of Route 30 at the training complex, a different set of grooms took care of the horses in training and those who were “laid up” from injury or sent there to rest from the track. The horses in training would be galloped first in the early morning, then hot-walked to cool off. After that, they would be bathed, groomed and put back in their stalls with grain and hay. They were not turned out in paddocks during the day because they were keyed up from their training and might be injured running around a paddock.
- The morning and evening routine was much the same for the broodmares and foals in terms of being kept in their barns at night, fed and turned out into their pastures in the morning. The main broodmare barn (no longer extant) was to the west of the Chenery house and stallion/yearling area on the north side of the farm. The pasture where Secretariat played as a foal was just down the hill from the broodmare barn and encompassed part of the bottomland of the Cove. The Foaling Shed originally stood in a large pasture to the south of the broodmare barn. This is where an expectant mare would be placed when she was close to giving birth. It held a small room where the night watchman could keep a close eye on the mare and be ready to call Howard Gentry when the time came. This is where Secretariat was born on March 30, 1970.

As referenced earlier, many of the grooms who took care of Secretariat, Riva Ridge and other Meadow Stable Thoroughbreds at the Virginia farm were from a nearby close-knit African-American community in Caroline County. When Secretariat and Riva left The Meadow for their advanced training and racing careers, they came under the expert care of two more African-Americans – groom Eddie Sweat and exercise rider Charlie Davis.<sup>1</sup> Sweat and Davis both hailed from South Carolina and worked for trainer Lucien Laurin. They were known as “the road team” and as the pressures of the Triple Crown journey increased, they never left Secretariat’s side. Sweat handled all aspects of the horse’s daily care: feeding, picking his hooves, washing and brushing him, walking him, mucking out his stall and putting in fresh bedding. He and Davis drove the van to transport Secretariat to each new racetrack. Davis galloped “Red” in the mornings to get him ready for each race. He would be the first to sense how the big horse was running. He has said that Secretariat gave him a very strong vibe before his Triple Crown races. Both Sweat and Davis enjoyed a very close bond with the champion and both contributed immeasurably to Secretariat’s success.

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<sup>1</sup> NOTE: Charlie Davis has attended the annual Secretariat Birthday Celebration at The Meadow three times in recent years, much to the delight of fans who love to hear his colorful stories. The original Meadow grooms from Caroline County also have attended this event and others at the farm and have shared their stories as well. At one gathering, they were honored with plaques from the Caroline County Board of Supervisors, and several are featured in the exhibits of the Meadow Champions Galleries.

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Prior to 1967 when he fell ill, Chenery propelled Meadow Stable into the big leagues of racing as a part-time venture while he was running his utilities empire from his Manhattan office. He was the driving force behind the stable but depended on a hand-picked team that included Howard Gentry, farm manager, who worked at The Meadow from 1946 to 1976. Gentry was Chenery's right-hand man who kept the operations of The Meadow running smoothly. Chenery typically would call Gentry every day to check on how things were going on the farm and to give him certain instructions. Chenery thought so highly of Gentry that he gave him 10 acres and a house on The Meadow property.

Gentry also was instrumental in the lives of Meadow Stable's two greatest champions – Riva Ridge and Secretariat. He helped nurse Riva back to health as a sickly colt and he helped deliver Secretariat on the night he was born. Penny Chenery Tweedy kept Howard on when she assumed management of The Meadow after her father's illness in 1967. Howard's office was in the L Shaped Yearling Barn, along with an adjoining tack room and a staff office. Though in disrepair, this area is suitable for restoration, which is being planned by the current owners.

Hill Prince was Meadow Stable's first big winner. He was a 1949 Champion Two-Year-Old Colt; winner of the 1950 Preakness; winner of the Jockey Club Gold Cup of 1950; 1950 Champion Three-Year-Old Colt; 1950 Horse of the Year; 1951 Champion Handicap Male; and was elected to the National Racing Hall of Fame. Hill Prince had been a favorite to win the 1950 Kentucky Derby but finished second. His racing record was a remarkable achievement considering how brief a time the stable had been in operation. Yet for Chenery, who seemed to possess the Midas touch in all his pursuits, winning the golden trophy of the Kentucky Derby would be his most elusive goal.

Chenery sent two more Derby favorites to the post: First Landing in 1959 and Sir Gaylord in 1962. First Landing finished third and Sir Gaylord broke down before the race. Cicada, the favorite for the fillies' race, the Kentucky Oaks, in 1962, could have run in the Derby after Sir Gaylord was injured. However, Chenery kept her in the Oaks, which she won handily. She held the title of top money-winning filly for nine years. Sir Gaylord was retired for stud and achieved a measure of redemption. He sired Sir Ivor, who won the 1968 Epsom Derby in England and became a very influential sire, thus taking the Chenery reputation to an international level. First Landing, who had been a champion in 1958 and 1960, became the first homebred stallion to stand at stud at The Meadow. He would also redeem his Derby loss.

In 1972, Chris Chenery's dream of breeding a Kentucky Derby winner finally came true. Riva Ridge (Riva), by First Landing, avenged his sire's defeat and brought home the roses for The Meadow. But by this time, Chenery was not in his customary box seats at Churchill Downs. The once indomitable figure lay mute and immobile, confined to a bed in New Rochelle Hospital, felled like a giant timber by the ravages of Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's. When the nurse pointed out his daughter Penny in the winner's circle with Riva, a tear rolled down his withered cheek.

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Secretariat was born on March 30, 1970, in a small foaling shed in a pasture near The Meadow's broodmare barn on the north side of the farm. He was truly racing royalty. His sire, Bold Ruler, was the top Thoroughbred stallion in the country. His dam (mother) Somethingroyal was one of Meadow Stable's most prolific broodmares. Howard Gentry, the farm manager, helped deliver Secretariat, exclaiming after the colt was born "Now there's a whopper!" Dr. Olive Britt, the resident veterinarian, noted "He was beautiful. He was well put together, correct; his legs were perfect. He had a beautiful head and was red as fire!" Her observations about Secretariat's appearance would be prophetic. Sportswriters later would wax poetic as they described how the stunning physicality of the colt "filled the eye." His perfect conformation would also be taught to future equine veterinarians as the "gold standard" of the Thoroughbred build. Penny Chenery Tweedy saw him a few days later on one of her frequent trips to Doswell from Denver, and pronounced him "too pretty to be any good" (*Secretariat's Meadow*, 114).

Secretariat spent his first 22 months of life at The Meadow. He frolicked in the bottomland pastures of the Cove with other foals, was eventually weaned from his mother, transferred to the Yearling Barn for basic handling and then, at the age of about 18 months, was walked across Rt. 30 to the training facility on the south side of the farm. As a foal, he was cared for by groom Lewis Tillman, Jr., whose great-grandfather had been a slave at The Meadow. As a young horse in training, he was cared for by groom Charlie Ross. Ross was the one who led Secretariat around the training ring area when he was first ridden by jockey Meredith "Mert" Bailes, the son of Meadow Stable trainer Bob Bailes. Ross would get Secretariat ready each morning for his training on the mile-long track; then walk him to cool him down, wash him, and return him to his stall for his grain and hay. Dr. Britt gave him his routine shots and with Howard Gentry, would watch him on the training track, checking for any sign of lameness or other problem. This early handling and care during Secretariat's formative time was very important, as it helped establish a foundation for future success. On January 20, 1972, Secretariat left The Meadow in a van headed for trainer Lucien Laurin's barn in Hialeah, Florida. There he would receive his advanced training and begin his meteoric racing career.

Secretariat set the track on fire in 1972, winning the Sanford Stakes, Hopeful Stakes, Belmont Futurity, Laurel Futurity, and Garden State Stakes in his dramatic come-from-behind fashion. Not only was he named Champion Two-Year-Old Colt, but he snatched the title of Horse of the Year from Riva Ridge. As winner of the Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes, Riva should have been a cinch for the title. Instead, his younger stablemate became one of the few Thoroughbreds ever to win Horse of the Year at the age of two.

Secretariat and Riva handed The Meadow its most successful year ever, pocketing winnings of over one million dollars. But the jubilation would not last. On January 3, 1973, Christopher T. Chenery died and was buried in the family plot in Ashland, Virginia. The man who had created "an empire built on broodmares" did not live to see the greatest manifestation of the breeding program he had set in motion more than thirty years ago (*Secretariat's Meadow*, 59). He also did not live to see the effect that the estate taxes of seventy percent would have on the farm, the horses and his family. The tax burden forced Penny Chenery Tweedy to syndicate Secretariat before he even started his bid for the Triple Crown. Thirty-two investors purchased breeding

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rights to the colt at \$190,000 per share. At \$6.08 million dollars, Secretariat's syndication set a new world record (Nack, 180). Riva's syndication brought \$5.12 million. Each horse could continue racing, but would be retired to stud at the end of 1973.

On May 5, 1973, Secretariat ran the fastest Kentucky Derby in history, breaking the two-minute mark for the mile-and-a-quarter at 1:59 2/5. Amazingly, he ran every furlong (1/8 mile) faster than the last, even to the finish line. Forty years later, his Derby record still stands. On May 19, 1973, at the Preakness, Secretariat sparked a frenzy in the grandstands when, coming out of the first turn, he catapulted past the entire field of horses in the space of less than a furlong. The momentum of that great swooping rush carried him across the finish line and into the record books for the mile-and-three-sixteenths. However, because of an electronic timer malfunction, his official winning time was set at 1:54 2/5, slower than he was hand-clocked. Not until 2013, with the help of 21<sup>st</sup> century digital technology was his official winning time corrected to 1:53. His Preakness record still stands today.

On June 9, 1973, Secretariat ran from the starting gate and into the realm of legend. He became the first horse since Citation in 1948 to win the Triple Crown. He smashed the existing Belmont Stakes record for the mile-and-a-half with a scorching 2:24. (For comparison, Riva Ridge had won the Belmont in 2:28, then the third fastest time.) Secretariat eclipsed the field by an unheard-of 31 lengths, seemingly running for the sheer joy of it. He was and still is the only champion among the eleven Triple Crown winners since 1919 to break the track records in all three races.

The incredulous crowds at Belmont knew they had witnessed a once-in-a-lifetime event. In that divisive time of the Watergate scandal and the Vietnam War, Americans had little to cheer about. The big red stallion in the blue and white silks of Meadow Stable carried them out of their despondency and back to believing in something that was untainted, something pure and perfect and powerful. Secretariat became, indeed, America's "Super Horse." *TIME*, *Newsweek*, and *Sports Illustrated* all featured him on their magazine covers.

Veteran horsemen called Secretariat the greatest horse they'd ever seen, rating him above the legendary Man o' War. Charles Hatton, the dean of turf writers, declared: "He's the greatest horse that anyone has ever seen...He could do anything, and he could do it better than any horse I ever saw..." Hollie Hughes said, "He's the horse of the century" (Nack, 334).

Secretariat and Riva Ridge gave Meadow Stable, under the leadership of Penny Chenery Tweedy, five out of six back-to-back wins in the Triple Crown races of 1972-1973. No other racing stable then or now has ever accomplished that feat.

Secretariat continued to race after the Triple Crown and to set even more records. He and stable mate Riva Ridge dueled in the Marlboro Cup at Belmont on September 15, 1973. Secretariat set a new world record for the mile-and-one-eighth, while Riva broke the track record with his second-place finish. On October 8, Secretariat set a track record for the mile-and-a-half turf (grass) Man o' War race, also at Belmont. On October 28, Secretariat handily won the last and

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longest race of his spectacular career – the one-and five-eighths-mile Canadian International at Woodbine Racetrack in Toronto.

On November 11, 1973, Secretariat and Riva Ridge flew from New York to their new home at Claiborne Farm in Paris, Kentucky, to settle into their new careers as stallions. Secretariat continued to be the superstar, outshining Riva and all the other Claiborne champions as thousands of people flocked to see him. “He was bigger than Elvis Presley,” said Melvin Olson, Jr., a stallion groom at Claiborne (*Riva Ridge*, 59).

Riva sired 359 foals out of twelve crops, producing twenty-nine stakes winners. He was named to the Top 50 Leading Active Sires by Average Earnings Index. He was elected to the United States Racing Hall of Fame and ranked #57 among the Top 100 U.S. Racehorses of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Riva died in 1985 at the age of 16.

Secretariat sired 653 foals out of 16 crops, producing fifty-seven stakes winners. His son, Risen Star, won the Preakness and Belmont Stakes in 1988; and his daughter, Lady’s Secret, won nineteen stakes races and over three million dollars to become 1986 Horse of the Year. Though some critics have faulted Secretariat for not duplicating himself at stud, he proved to be a very successful broodmare sire. By 1992, 135 of his daughters had produced winners of more purse money – \$6.2 million – than the daughters of any other stallion.

Three of his daughters – Weekend Surprise, Terlingua and Secrettame – produced such outstanding racehorses and sires as A.P. Indy, Storm Cat and Gone West. The progeny of those stallions – Smarty Jones, Bernardini, Pulpit, Tapit, and Giant’s Causeway, for example – have further distinguished themselves on the track and in the breeding shed. Thus, Secretariat’s bloodline continues to influence Thoroughbred racing today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In fact, in recent years, upwards of fifteen of the twenty Kentucky Derby contenders can trace their lineage back to “Big Red” (*Secretariat’s Meadow*, 137) The top Thoroughbred stallion in North America, Tapit, is a great-great grandson of Secretariat and was recently valued at \$140 million.

For his accomplishments, Secretariat continued to accumulate more honors. He was voted into the United States Racing Hall of Fame in 1974. In 1999, ESPN ranked him #35 on their list of the Top 50 Athletes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century; he was the only four-legged one. He was named #2 among the Top 100 U.S. Racehorses of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, behind Man o’ War, even though many felt Secretariat was the superior horse.

Secretariat died in 1989 at the age of nineteen. His autopsy revealed that his heart, weighing twenty-two pounds, was more than twice the size of a normal Thoroughbred’s heart. It was not pathologically enlarged, but just a “bigger power pack,” as Penny Chenery Tweedy would say (*Secretariat’s Meadow*, 135). This endowed him with the enormous stamina and speed that propelled him to such record-breaking feats on the racetrack. The large heart is passed to the colt on the X chromosome from the mother. In Secretariat, the bloodlines founded by Christopher Chenery with his “empire built on broodmares” surely achieved their highest expression.

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In terms of resources in The Meadow Historic District's discontinuous parcels that contribute to the property's overall significance, there are on the north side:

- the Stallion Barn, which includes the stall where First Landing, sire of Riva Ridge, stayed;
- the L-Shaped Yearling Barn, which includes the stall where Riva Ridge (1970) and Secretariat (1971) stayed as colts; and includes the former offices and tack room area of farm manager, Howard Gentry, Chenery's right-hand man.
- the Yearling Barn Annex, where additional colts stayed, as well as three or four mares being prepped for breeding;
- the Equine Cemetery, where three famous Thoroughbreds are buried: Imperatrice, Secretariat's grandmother; Hill Prince, Horse of the Year 1950 and Meadow Stable's first major champion; and Sun Beau, a stallion who was the top money-winning racehorse prior to Seabiscuit; and
- the well house and pump house, part of an elaborate water system devised by Chenery and part of his integrated design for the entire complex he built.

The district's south section includes

- the Training Barn where Riva Ridge and Secretariat stayed while they received their early training as racehorses; and
- the Foaling Shed (moved from the north side) where Secretariat was born on March 30, 1970.

## HISTORIC PHOTOS OF THE MEADOW AND ITS HORSES



Secretariat as a foal with groom Lewis Tillman, 1970



Secretariat at the Belmont, 1973



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Riva Ridge winning the Kentucky Derby, 1972



Chris Chenery leading Hill Prince, 1950



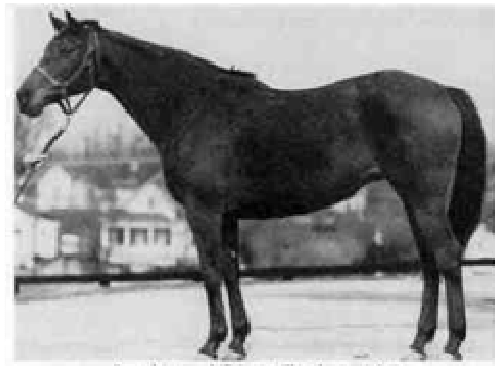
First Landing with groom Howard Gregory



Sir Gaylord, 1962



Mr. and Mrs. Chenery with Cicada



Somethingroyal, dam of Secretariat

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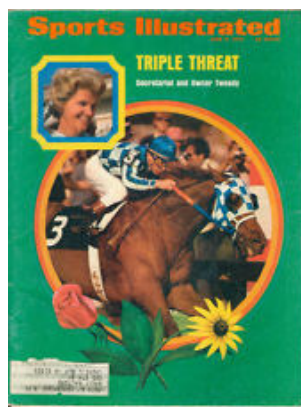
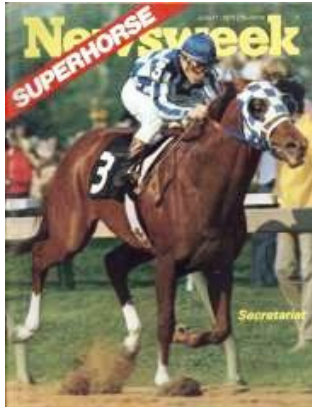
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Aerial view of The Meadow



Broodmares and foals in the Cove, 1965



Newsweek, Sports Illustrated and TIME Magazine covers featuring Secretariat, June 11, 1973



Penny Chenery, Ron Turcotte and Secretariat, 1973

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### **Criterion B**

The Meadow Historic District is significant at the statewide levels in the areas of Entertainment/ Recreation, Commerce, and Agriculture, due to the contributions of Christopher T. Chenery and Penny Chenery Tweedy. Chenery spent his life pursuing two great passions. Having grown up in humble circumstances, he wanted to achieve financial security for himself and his family. Having grown up horse-crazy, he wanted to win the Kentucky Derby. Often called “a man driven,” he would become a captain of industry and a breeder of champion Thoroughbreds, including Secretariat, the horse many consider the greatest racehorse of all time.

He seemingly had the “Midas touch” in business. In the middle of the Great Depression, Mr. Chenery became a millionaire in the utilities industry through the success of his Federal Water Service Corporation and Southern Natural Gas Corporation. That enabled him in 1936 to purchase his ancestral home place, The Meadow in Caroline County, which he transformed into a legendary Thoroughbred farm. His efforts would continue with the bloodlines he established and propel his stable far beyond his original goal of winning the Kentucky Derby.

Before he could bring one horse to the run-down old farm, he had to tackle the enormous task of restoring the property. Having worked as an engineer surveying a railroad route in the Yukon, Chenery applied that experience and his prodigious energies to clearing the land, draining swampy pastures, rebuilding the dike on the North Anna River, devising a water pumping and filtration system, and planting good grasses. Then he began building barns and stalls (modeled after those at Bullfield in Hanover County), erecting miles of fencing and finally restoring, expanding and modernizing the original ca. 1810 house built by his ancestor, Dr. Charles Morris. Seven of Chenery’s original buildings remain on the property today: on the north side are the Stallion Barn, L Shaped Yearling Barn and Yearling Barn Annex, Well House and Pump House; on the south side are the Training Barn and Foaling Shed.

Chenery, said to have “a good eye for a mare,” acquired or bred some of the most influential Thoroughbred broodmares of the 20th century. They include Hildene, Imperatrice, Iberia and Somethingroyal. The bloodlines that he established for Meadow Stable produced 43 stakes winners (Bowen, 9-20). Most outstanding were:

- Hill Prince: 1949 Champion Two-Year-Old Colt; winner of 1950 Preakness and Jockey Club Gold Cup; 1950 Champion Three-Year-Old Colt; 1950 Horse of the Year; 1951 Champion Handicap Male; elected to Racing Hall of Fame; total earnings \$422,140
- First Landing: 1958 Champion Two-Year-Old Colt; set an earnings record for a two-year-old at \$396,460; winner of Santa Anita Maturity and Monmouth Handicap as four-year-old; total earnings \$779,577; sire of Riva Ridge, winner of 1972 Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes.
- Sir Gaylord: 1962 Derby favorite; sire of Sir Ivor, winner of the 1968 Epsom Derby in England.

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- Cicada: 1961 Champion Two-Year-Old Filly; 1962 Champion Three-Year-Old Filly and winner of the Kentucky Oaks; 1963 Champion Handicap Female; elected to Racing Hall of Fame; her total earnings were \$783,674
- Riva Ridge: 1971 Champion Two-Year-Old Colt; winner of 1972 Derby and Belmont; 1973 Champion Handicap Male; elected to Racing Hall of Fame; total earnings \$1,111,497 (which made him the first Meadow Stable millionaire); syndicated in 1973 for \$5.12 million.
- Secretariat: 1972 Champion Two-Year-Old Colt; 1972 Horse of the Year; winner of 1973 Triple Crown and the only one of 11 Triple Crown champions to have broken all three track records; 1973 Champion Three-Year-Old Colt; 1973 Champion turf male; 1973 Horse of the Year; elected to Racing Hall of Fame; total earnings \$1,316,808; syndicated in 1973 for a then-record \$6.08 million.

As Meadow Stable prospered, Chenery remained mindful of his own humble beginnings. He believed in sharing his wealth and helping the community at large. Many area organizations, churches and colleges benefited from his generosity. This included his alma maters – Randolph Macon College and Washington and Lee. One of Chenery’s most memorable charitable contributions was the establishment of the Camptown Races at The Meadow in 1953. He had been hosting spring races for his friends at The Meadow’s racetrack since the 1940s. A group of local civic leaders approached him about hosting the Camptown Races (named after the popular folk song) there to raise money for the Ashland War Memorial. He gladly obliged and the inaugural “country race meet” took place on June 6, 1953. Over 3,000 spectators enjoyed a “farmer’s race” with work horses, a ladies’ race, Thoroughbred and Quarter Horses races and even a mule race. The event became a fixture on the local racing circuit, spawning the Varina Races and the Goochland Races, creating Virginia’s own Triple Crown. By 1958, the Camptown Races had outgrown the capacity at The Meadow and moved to more spacious accommodations at Mannheim Farm in Ashland.

Further afield, Mr. Chenery’s civic-mindedness almost singlehandedly saved Thoroughbred racing in New York. Serving on a committee appointed to clean up the “disgraceful state” of racing in the state, he and his fellow members proposed the creation of the Greater New York Racing Authority. The NYRA, as it became known, would run the industry and funnel all profits to the state. Surprisingly the New York banks balked at financing the project, despite the backing of moguls like the Vanderbilts, Whitneys, and others. Chenery borrowed \$30 million on his own credit to get the NYRA started. NYRA remains the dominant force in New York racing today, thanks to the generosity of the man known as “the Virginia Gentleman.” An oil portrait of Christopher Chenery hangs in the National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame in Saratoga as testament to his impact on American horse racing.

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### **Penny Chenery Tweedy:**

During the period of significance, Penny Chenery Tweedy assumed the management of The Meadow when her father fell ill in 1967. His mental and physical decline had progressed rapidly after the death of Penny's mother, Helen Chenery, that year. As he declined, so did the fortunes of Meadow Stable. There were no more high-profile winners and the farm's financial position began to wane. Tweedy's brother Hollis and sister Margaret pressured her to sell the farm and all the horses. Tweedy staunchly resisted, saying "Dad is still alive, and as long as he is, we owe it to him to keep the horses" (*Secretariat's Meadow*, 95). She bought more time to turn things around and plunged into the business of horse racing and breeding.

Tweedy was an accomplished horsewoman in her own right. She was a graduate of Smith College, and had been just a few months shy of earning her MBA from Columbia University when her future husband, Jack Tweedy, proposed. As did so many women of her generation, she dutifully put marriage and family ahead of career. She married, moved to Denver and raised four children. But, as her daughter Kate Tweedy has said, she was "born to be a CEO."

Defying the skeptics in her family and in the horse-racing world, much as her father had done, Tweedy took steps to place Meadow Stable on firm financial footing. Her sense of duty and unwavering determination would pay off in more ways than one. Her Derby winner, Riva Ridge, actually saved Meadow Stable from the auction block in 1971. As champion two-year-old that year, Riva won over \$500,000. The Washington Post reported, "Never in the history of Thoroughbred has racing had a horse won so much money so early in his career" (*Riva Ridge*, 18).

Riva's winnings in 1971 quelled the family's calls to sell the farm and its horses. Tweedy said unequivocally, "Riva saved the farm" (*Secretariat's Meadow*, 101). The fledgling Meadow racing team – Tweedy, trainer Lucien Laurin and jockey Ron Turcotte – coalesced around him, learning valuable lessons that would serve them well in the not-too-distant future. Tweedy said of Riva, "He kept everything – the morale, the plan, the program – going until Secretariat came along to do those remarkable things. Without Riva, I can't guarantee we would have even had Secretariat" (*Riva Ridge*, 65)

In 1972, Riva won both the Kentucky Derby and the Belmont Stakes, two-thirds of the Triple Crown. His time in the Belmont was the third fastest on record, surpassing the times of Triple Crown winners Count Fleet and Citation. He catapulted The Meadow and Tweedy into the national limelight, providing, in essence, a dress rehearsal for the greater glory that was to come with his stable mate, Secretariat, who was then a strapping two-year-old chestnut colt. Riva went on to become a champion four-year-old race horse in 1973, setting a world record in the Brooklyn Handicap while carrying ten pounds more weight than his closest challenger. Yet despite his racing success and saving Meadow Stable, Riva would always be overshadowed by Secretariat, or "Big Red" as he came to be known.

After Secretariat and Riva retired from racing, Tweedy continued to promote their legacy, the sport of Thoroughbred racing and aftercare programs for retired racehorses. She was

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instrumental in founding the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation. For her tireless advocacy, Tweedy is considered in horse racing circles as the “First Lady of Racing.” At the time of this nomination, Penny is 93 years old and is retired from racing and breeding horses.

### **Criterion C**

The Meadow Historic District is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for retaining character-defining features of Chenery’s horse breeding and racing facility. Farm plans began to change in Virginia around 1920. Typically, most farms had outbuildings placed in relationship to the main house. Most common arrangements placed the farmyard behind or to the side of the primary dwelling, or across a road or other manmade or natural feature. Horse barns and stables varied in appearance, but had a familiar array of architectural elements. Most contained a lower stable floor with stables to either side of a central aisle, and a gable roof with a hayloft at the gable end. There was typically a central door that would open to the aisle with stalls, and the aisle was generally about four feet in width (Lanier and Herman, 210-229).

Chenery designed his facility in the familiar courtyard approach that called for the main house facing a main road and the barn and other outbuildings behind the house, with an interior road creating a distinct division between where the horses were stabled and trained and where the Chenery family lived. Chenery followed this concept but altered the main house to have the main entrance facing north so the horses were always visible to the family (Lanier and Herman 215-225).

For the outbuildings at The Meadow, Chenery looked to those of Bullfield, the renowned racing stable of his cousin, Bernard Doswell, in nearby Hanover County. Founded in 1824 by Maj. Thomas Walker Doswell, Bullfield was acclaimed as one of the most successful Thoroughbred farms of the East Coast. Its most famous son was a long-striding chestnut stallion named Planet, considered one of America’s greatest racehorses prior to the Civil War. During this “golden era of Virginia horse racing,” Bullfield was known as the “mecca of Virginia turfmen.” In fact, the locality of Doswell in Hanover County is named for the family. After Major Thomas W. Doswell died in 1890, his son Bernard inherited a portion of the farm called Hilldene and ran his own small stable there. None of the historic outbuildings associated either with Bullfield or Hildene are known to be extant today.

Chenery designed his outbuildings with many architectural elements and features that were common on stables in Virginia and elsewhere in the United States. Each featured the same primary materials and forms – concrete foundations, weatherboard siding, gable roofs, asphalt shingles and wooden cupolas. Notably, however, instead of creating a central door with an aisle and stalls on each side, Chenery designed his stables with a linear plan and stall doors that had a cover to allow for interaction between horses and all occupants at The Meadow. Another distinctive aspect was that he painted the weatherboard siding of all of his outbuildings white and the corner caps blue. He chose these colors, royal blue and white, to symbolize his alma mater, Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. Chenery used the same colors for his racing silks for both jockey and race horses. Overall, Chenery’s design is well known and serves

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as an important example of the transition of the architectural landscape in Virginia and in the racing world in general.

The buildings today retain a high level of integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The spatial relationships among the barns and other resources in the district's north section have been maintained and the rolling topography and trees are important to preserving their historic setting. In the district's south section, the Foaling Shed and Training Barn also have integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Although the Foaling Shed was moved from its original location about a quarter-mile away, it remains on its original parcel and within an equestrian setting (see below).

### **Comparative Analysis**

Virginia is justifiably well known for its thoroughbred horse farms, although not all are associated with racing. Foxhunting, steeplechase, and polo also have been popular pursuits, particularly in the northern Virginia counties of Fauquier, Clarke, and Loudoun. Among the historic horse farms most recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places are Huntland (NRHP 2013; DHR No. 053-0487) and Old Welbourne and Dulaney Cemetery (NRHP 2014; DHR No. 053-6345), both of which are in Loudoun County. Locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Entertainment/Recreation, Huntland is distinguished by its close association with the early 20<sup>th</sup> century revival of foxhunting in Northern Virginia. The property's ca. 1912-1915 complex of outbuildings includes custom-designed stables and kennels that embodied for their time the most current design principles for animal facilities (Kalbian and Peters 2013). According to its National Register nomination, Old Welbourne and Dulaney Cemetery also has a strong association with foxhunting, and is home to the Piedmont Fox Hounds, the oldest recognized pack in the United States, established by the Dulany family in 1840. Its 1878 stable is a two-story, nine-bay, frame, bank barn with a long gabled, low-pitched roof, making it a representative example of late 19<sup>th</sup> century stable design. The original grain chutes for mixing horse feed remain in the building (Covington 2014). In contrast, Hunting Quarter (NRHP 1995; DHR No. 091-0031) is an example of a historic property associated with Virginia thoroughbred racing during the late eighteenth century. At the time of its National Register listing, the 517-acre property retained its architecturally significant late 18<sup>th</sup>/mid-19<sup>th</sup> century dwelling, but none of the barns or stables associated with thoroughbreds (Crisler 1989).

The Burrland Farm Historic District (NRHP 1997; DHR No. 030-1017) in Fauquier County is perhaps among the best documented examples of an intact early 20<sup>th</sup> century thoroughbred horse farm. Encompassing 458 acres of rural landscape with pastures and groomed paddocks and a historic domestic complex, its 1927-1932 outbuildings include a training barn, a polo barn, a stallion barn, two broodmare barns, a yearling barn, a field shed, an equipment shed, a farm manager's house, a trainer's cottage, a mess hall quarters, a foreman's dwelling, three mash houses, five garages, a pump house, and a feed and storage warehouse. The property's historic domestic complex also is extant. Burrland Farm's nomination notes that all of the stables in this group are white with green trim frame buildings with slate-covered roofs crowned with cupolas. The three-quarter-mile racetrack, one of the contributing sites, is situated just east of the training



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barn. Fenced paddocks, picturesque stone fences, and an internal road system are original and important features of the farm's designed landscape. According to contemporary accounts, by 1930, William Ziegler, Jr., had built Burrland into one of the best-equipped stud farms on the east coast. Both he and his wife maintained racing stables at Burrland, with colts racing in his name and fillies in hers. Three of the most successful horses during the founding years of Burrland were Polydor, winner of nineteen races, Goneaway, who split the Whitney pair Wichare and Boojur in a spirited contest of juveniles; and Spinach, who as a three-year-old, earned \$105,000 with victories at the Potomac Handicap, the Havre De Grace Cup, the Riggs Handicap, and the Latonia Championship. In 1938, El Chico was best two-year-old and won all seven starts to win \$84,000, and Esposa lifting the stable to number one among New York owners and sixth place overall. The same year, Ziegler was elected to membership in the prestigious Jockey Club. Bounding Home won the 1944 Belmont Stakes and Wait A Bit, one of the best handicap horses of the 1940s, provided great excitement with a triple dead heat finish at the 1944 Carter Handicap, the first such dead heat recorded in American stakes racing (Murphy 1997).

With regard to architectural design and integrity, Blue Ridge Farm (NRHP 2006; DHR No. 030-0894) ranks alongside Burrland Farm as one of Virginia's best-documented examples of a thoroughbred breeding and racing farm that also has an intact historic domestic complex. According to its National Register nomination, the outbuildings associated with the farm's horse breeding industry include three large ca. 1903 broodmare stables; two ca. 1913 stallion stables (stud barns); training stables; and an implement shed. Surrounding the residential and horse breeding complexes are approximately fifteen fields. There are no formal landscape features beyond the main residence, but numerous wooden rail fences and stone walls enclose the horse fields, while narrow gravel lanes provide vehicular access to and from the various buildings on the property. Californian Henry T. Oxnard developed the property as a horse-breeding farm at a time when Fauquier County was emerging as a popular rural retreat and "hunt country" for wealthy Americans. By the time of Oxnard's death in the early 1920s, Blue Ridge Farm reportedly was considered one of the leading breeding farms in the state and was recognized nationwide (Williams 2006). The nomination, however, provides no information about the specific accomplishments of the race horses bred here.

A number of 20<sup>th</sup> century thoroughbred breeding and racing properties also are noted in rural historic district nominations, including Clarke County's Greenway Rural Historic District (NRHP 1993; DHR No. 021-0963), Chapel Rural Historic District (NRHP 2013; DHR No. 021-5025), and Long Marsh Run Rural Historic District (NRHP 1996; DHR No. 021-0967), as well as Loudoun County's Middleburg Historic District (NRHP 1982; DHR No. 259-0162). Within the Chapel Rural Historic District, the National Register nomination states that Walnut Hall (DHR No. 021-0898, 021-5025-0054) was purchased by William DuPont, Jr., an avid racehorse breeder, in 1922. He constructed a huge complex of stables, barns, and turnout sheds to support his endeavor. Most of the buildings date to the mid-1920s and feature Colonial Revival embellishments, although some are similar to mass-produced designs of the period and may be pre-fabricated mail-order buildings. The property remained in the DuPont family until the 1970s.



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The complex was updated consistently over the years, but continued to be used as a breeding and racing facility into the 2000s (Kalbian and Peters 2013).

Thoroughbred breeding and racing remained an important aspect of Virginia's equestrian scene throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and design of horse facilities evolved accordingly. The National Register nomination for Cromwells Run Rural Historic District (NRHP 2008; DHR No. 030-5434) in Fauquier County includes discussion of Kinross (DHR No. 030-0753; 030-5434-0128), which was developed into an equine showplace in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The 500-acre farm is now a thoroughbred training facility, albeit with an emphasis on steeplechase. It includes a 20-stall racing barn, an indoor arena, a Polyturf (synthetic grass) track, and National fences (52 inches in height) for steeplechase training. The state-of-the-art racing barn (stable), constructed around 2001, features a center aisle with stalls opening both to the exterior and the interior. The facility includes wash stalls, a feed room with a tack room, a laundry room, and an office. The circa 2001 indoor riding arena, covered by a gable-on-hip roof with rounded ends, is also impressive for its size and for the facilities it holds, which allows training even in inclement weather. The farm now comprises about 500 acres and contains over 20 buildings including stables, run-in shelters, tenant dwellings, paddocks, a turf galloping strip, and steeplechase courses (McClane 2008).

Although Caroline County was home to some of Virginia's most prominent thoroughbred breeders during the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, such as John Hoopes, none of the county's 19 National Register-listed properties were nominated for their association with these activities. Furthermore, while nearby counties such as Clarke, Fauquier, and Loudoun feature some expansive and important horse farms, none produced a horse that matches the statures of Secretariat and Riva Ridge in the world of thoroughbred horse racing. Consequently, The Meadow Historic District warrants National Register listing for its historic association with significant patterns in entertainment/recreation, commerce, and agriculture, as well as its architectural resources that capture the property's period and areas of significance.

### **Criteria Consideration B**

The Foaling Shed at The Meadow in which Secretariat was born on March 30, 1970, is an iconic and treasured building in American horse racing history. The colt born within its simple walls became what many experts consider to be the greatest Thoroughbred racehorse of all time. His record-shattering Triple Crown victories of 1973 earned him the title of "America's Super Horse" and remain unsurpassed to this day. Moreover, Secretariat transcended his sport to attain hero status in the popular culture of his time. The big red stallion uplifted and united a nation dispirited and divided by the Vietnam War and the Watergate scandal. Secretariat was beloved by millions, whether or not they knew anything about horses or racing.

The Foaling Shed was moved around 2007 from its original location near the broodmare barn on the north side of the farm after the State Fair of Virginia purchased The Meadow. The Foaling Shed was relocated about a quarter-mile away on the south side of the property in what had been the original horse training complex. It was situated next to the original Training Barn where

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Secretariat stayed while he was learning the fundamentals of racing. Some repair work was done to stabilize the foaling shed and preserve its structural integrity. Both the Foaling Shed and Training Barn stand within the current equine complex containing the show arenas and stables used for horse shows and the State Fair.

The move of the foaling shed was necessary for three reasons:

- The broodmare barn which was located originally beside the Foaling Shed had fallen into disrepair and had to be demolished. This left the Foaling Shed standing in a field by itself, vulnerable to encroachment and demolition. The shed was on the site of a planned new Exhibit Hall for the State Fair. Even if the State Fair had constructed the Exhibit Hall beside or near the shed it would have lost its historic integrity and context.
- The State Fair wanted to preserve as many of the original Meadow buildings as feasible; therefore, they made the decision to move the Foaling Shed to a location that was more complementary to its original setting.
- Relocating the Foaling Shed to the south section of the Discontiguous Historic District kept it in an equestrian setting as part of both the original training center and the new equine complex for the fair. This insured that the Foaling Shed would remain accessible for public viewing during horse shows, the State Fair and now for narrated “Hoofprints of History” tours. Fans from all over the country come to The Meadow just to see this humble structure where a legend was born.

Therefore, even though it was moved, Secretariat’s Foaling Shed still has an orientation, setting, and general environment that are comparable to those of the historic location and that are compatible with the property’s areas and period of significance.

### **Criterion Consideration G**

The Meadow Historic District meets the requirements for properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years due to the outstanding contributions made by the Chenery family to thoroughbred horse racing, which reached its pinnacle with the breeding of Secretariat, whose bloodlines remain prominent in current thoroughbred champions, and due to the enduring importance of Secretariat’s victories, which continue to be a standard by which all other thoroughbred horses in the industry are measured. Secretariat’s place in American popular culture also is significant, placing him alongside other famous racehorses such as Seabiscuit, Man O’ War, and War Admiral.

In 1973, Secretariat became the first horse in 25 years to win the Triple Crown (the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness and the Belmont). He is the only one of the 11 Triple Crown winners since 1919 to break all three track records and all three still stand today, 41 years later. He is the only horse to have appeared on the cover of *TIME*, *Newsweek* and *Sports Illustrated*. His electrifying

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win by 31 lengths in the Belmont is still considered one of the greatest moments in sports history, by experts as well as by ordinary people who know little about horses or horse racing.

Secretariat became “America’s Super Horse.” In that turbulent era of Watergate and Vietnam, the great Thoroughbred carried a country disillusioned with political scandal and a bitterly divisive war out of the doldrums and into the winner’s circle. His victories became the nation’s victories. The big red stallion in the blue and white silks of Meadow Stable transcended the sport of racing to become a shining symbol of perfection and purity. The sports journalist George Plimpton said, “He was the only honest thing in the country at the time, this huge magnificent animal that wasn’t tied up in scandal and money.” Others said that Secretariat restored their faith in humanity. He was so famous that Penny Chenery Tweedy found it necessary to hire the William Morris Agency to represent him (*Secretariat’s Recording-Breaking Run, 40 Years Later*). Later, Secretariat starred in a television commercial for the First and Merchants Bank in Virginia. This was the only commercial Tweedy approved for him. In 1999, the United Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp in Secretariat’s honor, the first one designated for an equine (*Secretariat’s Recording-Breaking Run, 40 Years Later*).

Even though it has been 41 years since he won the Triple Crown, sportscasters and the public still invoke Secretariat’s name every year as the racing season starts anew, asking if there will ever be another Secretariat. The Disney movie “Secretariat” released in 2010 sparked fresh interest in him and also created a new generation of young fans.

The admiration for this horse remains so strong that fans from all over the country travel to The Meadow take tours of the remaining barns associated with his legacy and the heyday of the farm. An annual Secretariat birthday celebration in late March attracts hundreds of fans who come to visit with members of the original Meadow Stable team and to meet descendants of Secretariat in the paddock by the barns. Thousands more learn about the equine history of The Meadow at the annual State Fair of Virginia which takes place there.

The great sportswriter Bill Nack said in his book *Secretariat: The Making of a Champion* that, “In the end, it was the land that made them all.” Surely this timeless piece of Virginia land called The Meadow, with centuries of hopes and dreams and devotion embedded in its very soil, produced Chris Chenery, Penny Chenery Tweedy, and an American legend, Secretariat.

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## 8. Major Bibliographical References

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**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
- 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: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR No. 016-0016

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**9. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 3.197 (North Section is 2.795 acres; South Section is .401 acre)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: NAD 1983  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

North Section

1. Latitude: 37.852163

Longitude: -77.420021

South Section

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2. Latitude: 37.846183 Longitude: -77.424359  
3. Latitude: Longitude:  
4. Latitude: Longitude:

**Or**  
**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

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 boundaries of the North and South sections of the discontinuous Historic District are precisely drawn on the accompanying Location Map, Sketch Map, and Photo Log Map of the North and South Sections.

Sources: George Washington Regional Commission, Caroline County Tax Parcel Maps, Caroline County Commissioner of the Revenue

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Meadow Historic District boundaries correspond to the perimeters of the two discontinuous areas designed and developed by Christopher Chenery to create an equine farm dedicated to horse racing. The outbuildings in these distinct areas share the same architectural style, detail, scale, and materials. The Meadow Historic District is segregated into two parcels, with Route 30 running east and west between them. The outbuildings located north of Route 30 are 5 original buildings designed by Christopher Chenery in the 1930s. The north section's boundary extends from state road Route 30 and runs south to include the original well and pump house and 3 barns used to house yearlings and stallions. The two buildings located south of Route 30 were designed in the same architectural style as those in the North Section. The resources south of the highway were focused on the operations of the farm. The foaling shed originally belonged on the northern side of the property but was later moved beside the training barn. These two buildings are all that remains of Chenery's training facility south of Route 30.

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## 10. Form Prepared By

name/title: Leeanne Ladin, Eden Brown, Diana Utz and Danny Reese (Cartographer)

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city or town: Doswell state: Virginia zip code: 23047

e-mail: laladin@verizon.net

telephone: 804-363-1683

date: 12/01/2014

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## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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: The Meadow

City or Vicinity: Caroline

County: Caroline State: Virginia

Photographer: Diana Burton Utz

Date Photographed: September 18, 2014

Photos: 2-5, 8-16, 18-40

Photographer: Kathy Dixon

Date Photographed: February 25, 2014

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Photos: 1, 6, 7, 17

**Description of Photographs and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:**

Photo 1 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0001

View: West and south elevations of Yearling Barn Annex, camera facing northeast.

Photo 2 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0002

View: Cross gable and arched loft door detail of Yearling Barn Annex, south and east elevations, camera facing northwest.

Photo 3 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0003

View: South elevation of Yearling Barn Annex, hayloft detail, camera facing north.

Photo 4 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0004

View: South side of Yearling Barn Annex, hayloft rafter detail, camera facing north.

Photo 5 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0005

View: Yearling Barn Annex, east and north elevations, camera facing southwest.

Photo 6 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0006

View: South and east elevations of Yearling Barn Annex and east elevation of L Shaped Yearling Barn, east elevation, camera facing northwest.

Photo 7 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0007

View: South façade of L Shaped Yearling Barn, camera facing north.

Photo 8 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0008

View: L Shaped Yearling Barn, Riva Ridge and Secretariat's stall door, camera facing north.

Photo 9 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0009

View: Interior of Riva Ridge and Secretariat's stall, L Shaped Yearling Barn, camera facing northwest.

Photo 10 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0010

View: L Shaped Yearling Barn, Riva Ridge and Secretariat's open stall door, camera facing north.



The Meadow Historic District  
Name of Property

Caroline County, VA  
County and State

Photo 11 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0011

View: L Shaped Yearling Barn, Riva Ridge and Secretariat's plaque next to stall door, camera facing north.

Photo 12 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0012

View: L Shaped Yearling Barn, south elevation, detail of Howard Gentry's Office, camera facing north.

Photo 13 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0013

View: L Shaped Yearling Barn, east elevation, camera facing west.

Photo 14 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0014

View: L Shaped Yearling Barn, east and north elevations, camera facing south.

Photo 15 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0015

View: L Shaped Yearling Barn, north elevation, chimney detail, camera facing south.

Photo 16 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0016

View: L Shaped Yearling Barn, west elevation, exterior detail of Howard Gentry's office and louvered windows, camera facing east.

Photo 17 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0017

View: L Shaped Yearling Barn, south and west elevations, gable end and arched loft door detail, camera facing northeast.

Photo 18 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0018

View: Stallion Barn, south and east elevations, eight stable doors and gable detail, camera facing west.

Photo 19 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0019

View: Stallion Barn, west elevation, camera facing northeast.

Photo 20 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0020

View: Stallion Barn, north elevation, gable end and hayloft detail, camera facing south.

Photo 21 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0021

View: Equine Cemetery, view of four grave markers, camera facing east.

The Meadow Historic District  
Name of Property

Caroline County, VA  
County and State

Photo 22 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0022

View: Pump House, south elevation, camera facing north.

Photo 23 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0023

View: Pump House, east elevation, camera facing west.

Photo 24 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0024

View: Well House, east elevation, camera facing west.

Photo 25 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0025

View: Well House, north elevation, camera facing south.

Photo 26 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0026

View: Foaling Shed, south elevation, camera facing north.

Photo 27 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0027

View: Foaling Shed, north elevation, camera facing south.

Photo 28 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0028

View: Foaling Shed, west elevation, camera facing east.

Photo 29 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0029

View: Foaling Shed, interior, camera facing southwest.

Photo 30 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0030

View: Foaling Shed, interior of east wall, camera facing west.

Photo 31 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0031

View: Foaling Shed, open stall door detail, south elevation, camera facing west.

Photo 32 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0032

View: Training Barn, south elevation, camera facing north.

Photo 33 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0033

View: Training Barn, south elevation, detail end of building, camera facing north.

Photo 34 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0034

The Meadow Historic District  
Name of Property

Caroline County, VA  
County and State

View: Training Barn, north elevation, view of open space behind stable, camera facing south.

Photo 35 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0035

View: Training Barn, south elevation, detail of Secretariat and Riva Ridge stall, camera facing north.

Photo 36 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0036

View: Training Barn, south elevation, plaque next to stall detail, camera facing north.

Photo 37 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0037

View: Training Barn, interior detail of Riva Ridge and Secretariat's stall, camera facing northwest.

Photo 38 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0038

View: Training Barn and Foaling Shed from riding ring, camera facing south.

Photo 39 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0039

View: South elevations of Training Barn and Foaling Shed, camera facing northeast.

Photo 40 of 40: VA\_Caroline County\_The Meadow\_0040

View: South View of open paddock area looking towards the L- Shaped Yearling Barn and Yearling Barn Annex, camera facing north.

**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.



The Meadow Historic District  
 Caroline County, Virginia DHR  
 # 016-0016

Location Map

The Meadow North  
 Latitude: 37.852163 Longitude: -77.420021

The Meadow South  
 Latitude: 37.846183 Longitude: -77.424359

The Meadow  
Historic District  
Caroline County, VA  
DHR # 016-0016  
Sketch Map  
October 2014

'L' Shaped  
Yearling Barn 1  
Stallion Barn  
Equine  
Cemetery  
Yearling Barn Annex  
Pump  
House  
Well  
House

30

VA-30



Dawn Blvd

VA-30

D

Training Barn  
Foaling Shed

### Legend

 Historic Boundary  
 Contributing



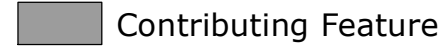
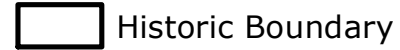
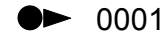
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Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp.,  
NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand),  
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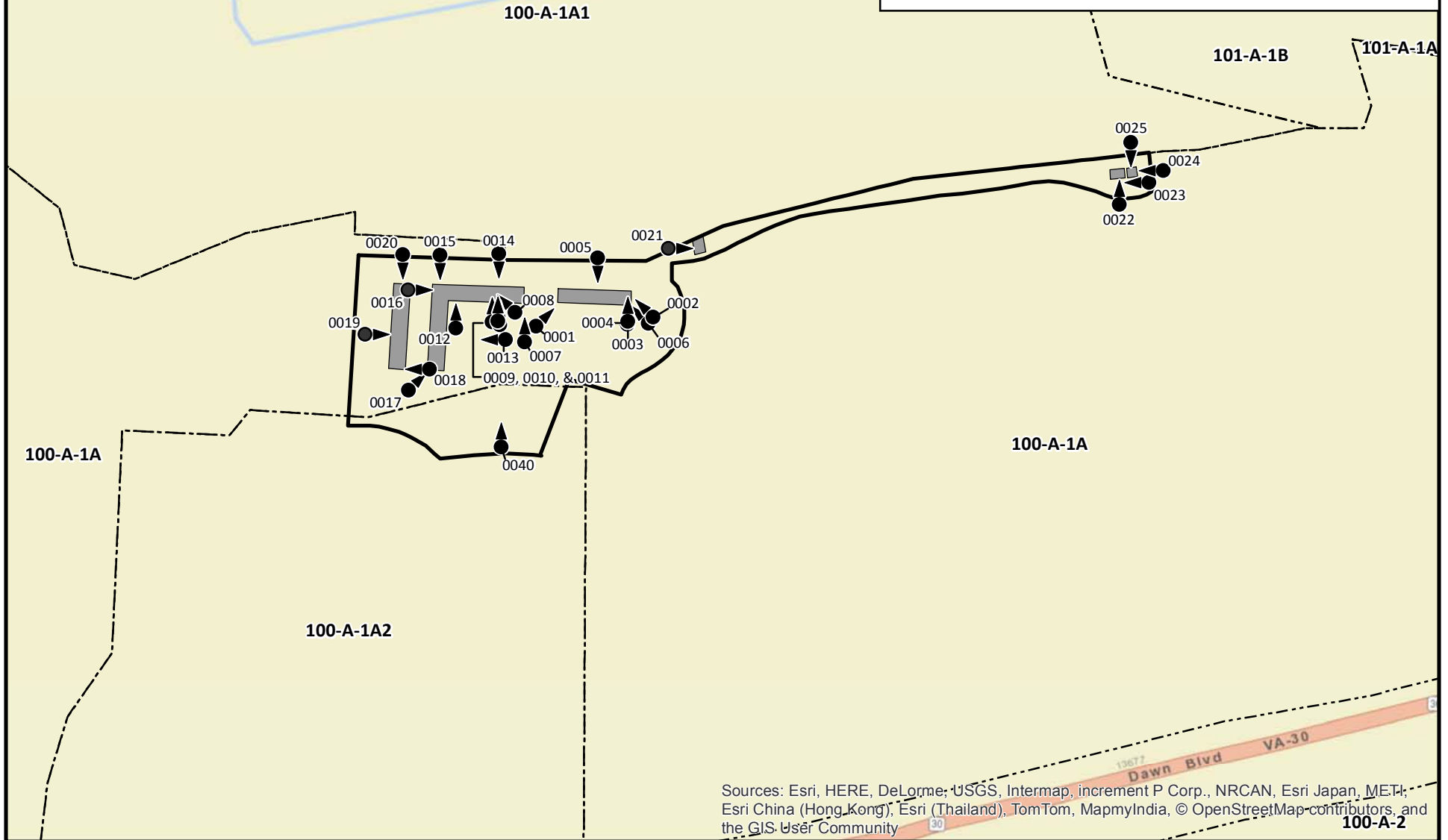
The Meadow HD- North Section  
Caroline County, VA  
DHR # 016-0016  
Photo Log Map  
November 2014

## Legend

Direction photo is facing and photo ID number.



1 inch = 200 feet



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

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The Meadow HD - South Section  
Caroline County, VA  
DHR # 016-0016  
Photo Log Map  
November 2014

100-A-1A

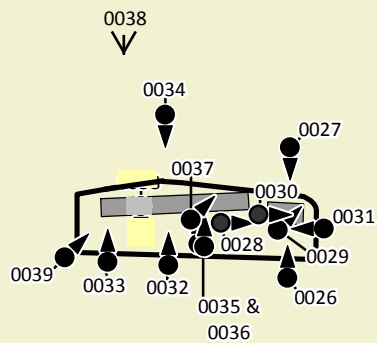
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30 Dawn Blvd VA-30

13100

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Meadow Farm Rd

### Legend

Direction photo is facing and photo ID number.

●▶ 0001

▭ Historic Boundary

▭ Contributing Feature 1 inch = 200 feet



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