

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
VLR 09/18/2014
NRHP 02/13/2015

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Farmer's Rest

Other names/site number: Coxley; Virginia DHR #043-0041, 043-5073, and 44HE0560

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: 9341 Varina Road

City or town: Henrico State: VA County: Henrico

Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  X

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

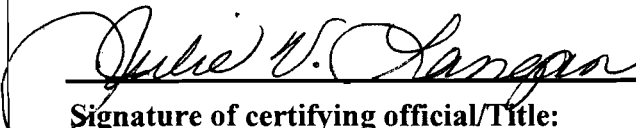
I hereby certify that this x nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide   x   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  x   A   \_\_\_   B   x   C   \_\_\_   D

	<u>12/20/14</u>
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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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>4</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

FUNERARY: Cemetery

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Processing: Smokehouse

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Animal Facility: Chicken Coop

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

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

FUNERARY: Cemetery

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Storage

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

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; WOOD; weatherboard; ASPHALT

### 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

Farmer's Rest is set back from Varina Road in Eastern Henrico County's Varina District on a rural 26-acre parcel in close proximity to the National Park Service's Civil War-era Fort Harrison. The land was originally part of a larger plantation owned by the Bullington family and sold to Henry Cox in 1835. It is believed that Henry Cox built the current house circa 1835-1836. Farmer's Rest is a three bay, two-story Greek Revival style house with a low-hipped roof, and a transom front door. Distinguishing exterior features include a raised English basement on a three-course American bond brick foundation, original six-over-six double-hung sash windows, and replicated beaded pine weatherboard. The rear (east) elevation has two chimneys, which is a rarer placement for Greek Revival houses of the period in Virginia, and a one-story hipped-shed roof extension. The interior features include an unusual transverse hall plan that opens onto two exterior side porches. The interior contains nearly all of the original trim, including late Federal style mantels with colonettes, an open string dogleg stair with a turned Federal newel, crown moldings, door trim with bulls-eye corner blocks and recessed panel doors. Alterations made over time by various owners include asphalt shingled roofing, new beaded pine weatherboard, replacement porches, new gutters, updated bathrooms and kitchen, and removal of the south stair in the transverse hall (the stair alteration occurred in the nineteenth century). The majority of the

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renovations were done throughout the house's history with care by multiple owners to maintain the historic character of the home. In addition to the main house, there are three outbuildings, a family cemetery, and an archeological site (VDHR File #44He0560) where an extraordinary example of slave quarters has collapsed sometime since 1978 (documentation of the slave dwelling is part of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources file). All resources associated with the property retain a high level of integrity.

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### **Narrative Description**

The following resources are located at Farmer's Rest:

*Primary Dwelling, c. 1835, Contributing Building*

*Smokehouse /Workshop, c.1835, Contributing Building*

*Chicken Coop/Shed, 1930-1940, Contributing Building*

*Hay Barn, 1930-1940, Contributing Building*

*Cemetery, c. 1835, Contributing Site*

*Archaeological Site # 44HE0560 (Slave Quarter), c. 1835, Contributing Site*

Each is discussed in sequence below.

### **Primary Dwelling**

#### Exterior Description:

The primary dwelling at Farmer's Rest has a rectangular footprint, a low profile, hipped roof and a simple Greek Revival appearance as one approaches the front (west) facade. It is a three bay, two-story, Greek Revival-style house with a centered entry. The raised English basement features three-course American bond brick. The overall newer weatherboard siding is painted, beaded pine to replicate the original (some areas of original board were left in place). Symmetrically arranged windows have original six-over-six double-hung sash windows with unadorned casings. The windows retain much of their original glass. Historic photos indicate the house once had operable wood slat shutters, but these appear to have been replaced with smaller, fixed wood shutters. The house has a deep closed cornice and original soffit; the original internal gutters have been replaced by updated fabric that blends well. The current asphalt-shingled roof replaced a standing seam metal roof sometime between 1940 and 1960.

Although the façade's fenestration is symmetrical, the spacing of the three bays are close together towards the center with blank wall expanses to the corners of the house. This is due to the interior plan of the original two stairs on each side of the unusual front transverse hall. There is a brick front porch with eight steps and a wrought iron railing leading up to the front door. The door is a wide-wood flush six-panel door. The front door framing has two flat low profile pilasters topped with a straight and simple pediment and a three light transom. From various historical photos, it appears that the front porch has changed multiple times. The original porch is believed to have been a shallow hipped roof over a brick porch approximately the same width of the current porch with simple round column supports, then during the late 1800s it was changed to a wider wooden covered porch on brick piers that extended past the lower windows on each side. In 1960, the owners at the time built the current brick open porch.

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The north and south sides of the house are similar, with each having five window openings and a first-floor porch with entry. Above each porch, a single window is placed lower than the others on the second story because of the location of the central hall dogleg stairs on the south and north ends of the entry hall (the south stair was removed during the nineteenth century). There is a basement door under the north porch but not under the south porch.

The west (rear) elevation has a shed addition with a low, hipped-shed roof. Given the gradual slope to the floor, it was most likely originally a porch; its brick foundation appears to be identical to the house. Historic photos indicate the space was closed in to make two rooms and a center screened porch sometime in the mid-nineteenth century. In recent years, the center portion has been enclosed with windows and a patio door, and a wood deck has been added. The two original semi-exposed chimneys, that service three interior fireplaces each, are equally spaced on the back of the two-story portion of the house. The chimneys' three-course American bond brick matches the foundation. Historical pictures and notes indicated that the chimneys were originally much taller. They were damaged during a storm in the early twentieth century and were altered to the current height.

#### Interior Description

The interior of Farmer's Rest has an interesting plan that is rare in Virginia. The original general plan was a transverse entry hall; at the north and south ends of the hall, matching symmetrical dogleg stairs accessed the second floor and doors opened onto side porches. The original south stair was removed and built-in shelving installed in its place, while the door to the porch was not altered. It is unclear when this change was made but from the matching trim and floor boards, the alteration occurred most likely early in the house's history. With the exception of the south stair's removal, the original plan is intact. The north, open string dogleg stairs feature a turned Federal newel. The painted simple squared balusters are two per step and the stained wood railing is gracefully curved at the dogleg. There is a center plaster ceiling medallion in the center of the entry hall with an electrical light fixture. The overall first floor interiors retain nearly all of the original trim throughout, with recessed six panel doors, door trim with bullseye cornerblocks, decorative marbelized baseboard and heavy crown molding. The flooring throughout the house is random width heart pine boards.

Across from the primary entry on the east side of the entry hall, there are two doors that lead into two almost identically sized rooms that comprise a double parlor configuration. Deteriorated original wallpaper was replaced in both parlors in the 1960s. Historic photos indicate that almost all of the applied tiger maple pattern trim was painted around the same time.

The north parlor was most likely used as a dining room. All trim is original, other than a chair rail and simple wainscotting that were added in the 1960s. There are two windows on this room's north wall, and a fireplace is centered on the east (rear) wall; it features a brick surround, flush brick hearth and a late Federal mantel with colonettes.. The ceiling in this room once had an imported 8½-foot diameter wallpaper medallion by Joseph Dufour of Paris that was installed by the the Cox family in 1853. Joseph Dufour was a fashionable early 1800s French wallpaper

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designer and was very well known for wallpaper murals. This wallpaper medallion was installed by a Richmond wallpaper installer, William Watson, who signed the plaster under the wallpaper with his name and the installation date of September 1853. The medallion was removed in 1959 and preserved by the Valentine Museum of Richmond and is still currently in their collection.

Centered on the north parlor's south wall are double doors leading into the south parlor. These doors are hinged, double leaf, six-panel doors. The south parlor mirrors the north, with the same configuration of two windows on the side wall and an identical fireplace centered on the east (rear) wall.

Also on the east (rear) wall of each room, there is a door that leads to the one-story rear addition. The north parlor opens to an eat-in kitchen with newer finishes. The south parlor opens to a bathroom with newer fixtures. The bathroom side of the door from the parlor has the only surviving example of the original, finely painted, tiger maple pattern. Within the rear addition, the historic brick fireplace and beaded weatherboard exterior wall are exposed and the original windows are extant. Although the kitchen and bathroom feature newer finishes, the renovation was well done with minimal impacts to the historic physical integrity.

The second floor has the same general layout with a transverse hall on the west (front) side and two bedrooms over the parlors below. A full bathroom was added during the 1960s between the two rooms. Similar to the first floor parlors, each bedroom has two windows on their side walls and a fireplace on their east (rear) walls. The fireplaces have original flush brick hearths, dark painted, bracketed, wood mantels and infill brick dating from their conversion to coal. The trim is simpler than the formal rooms downstairs with no crown molding and the doors are a standard, recessed, four panel configuration. A small room was added during the nineteenth century where the south stairs once had been. Its floor boards show evidence of the seams where the south stairs would have ended and the hall railing edge would have been. The back side of the north bedroom's closet door shows writing that is believed to be from a Civil War-era soldier. According to oral history accounts, Farmer's Rest was a Union soldier hospital and the doors were removed from the hinges and used as stretchers.

The English basement has three entry points: one by way of stairs under the north interior staircase and two by way of exterior doors. The basement staircase has the same wood rail and balusters as the upstairs. As with the upper two floors, the basement has a transverse hall and two rooms. The detailing and the trim of the basement strongly indicate that it was used by the family and not just as servant work areas. This also was the location of the original cool season kitchen until the Roses bought the property in 1959. The floors originally had the same random wood pine boards as the rest of the house, but the original flooring was removed due to water damage; it is believed the original flooring most likely was installed on sleeper beams that sat directly on the dirt. The current owners have completed a full renovation of the space, including repairing the plaster; incorporating french drains; and pouring a concrete floor to try to eliminate dampness issues. They plan to reinstall wood floors sometime in the near future. The historic trim, doors and one mantel are consistent with the upstairs bedrooms, with simple low profile moldings and low profile four-panel doors. One fireplace appears to have a replacement mantel. On the

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basement's west (rear) wall, one door leads to the basement area under the rear one-story addition. There is evidence of painted beams, door trim, original bricks, as well as a brick floor in the space that indicates it was most likely used historically as a functioning room. The space is currently being used for HVAC and storage. On the east wall of the one-story addition, an exterior door is currently not being used.

### **Secondary Resources**

The Farmer's Rest property, once a larger parcel, retains remnants of a working farm. There are three historic ancillary buildings, an archaeological site of slave quarters, and the ruins of a cemetery on the property. There are also boxwood and old specimen trees that would indicate some designed garden spaces. A few of the trees dating to the nineteenth century are in close proximity to the house.

#### *Smokehouse /Workshop, c.1835, Contributing Building*

Behind the main house, to the southeast is a one-story dogtrot-plan outbuilding measuring 14 x 34 feet in size, with one half historically used as a smokehouse and the other as a workshop. The building dates to circa 1830-1845. The large steep hipped standing-seam metal roof is an unusual type for outbuildings, as buildings of this size more often are topped by a gable roof. There are doves in the cornice eaves and beaded horizontal siding. The sills are 9" pine and the heavy wood frame is set on brick piers. The construction shows antebellum cut nails. The north (smokehouse) side was most likely used for fire curing tobacco since there is charring on the beams where tobacco sticks are still extant. The south (workshop) side still has a work bench and has a few old farm tools and artifacts present. There is a set of original main house shutters that could be used for producing reproductions at a later date.

#### *Chicken Coop/Shed, 1930-1940, Contributing Building*

Off the northwest side of the house is a 1930-1940 one-story shed with a standing seam metal shed roof, and horizontal wood siding. It was probably used for a chicken coop or tool/farm storage. There is a single door into each of the three rooms with two window openings into the center portion. The rooms do not have interior passages. This building most likely dates to the early- to mid-twentieth century. Likely contemporary to this shed, there is a one-story, frame, hay shed further back on the property.

#### *Cemetery, c. 1835, Contributing Site*

Slightly further back from the shed and workshop, toward the east, is a family cemetery. Farmer's Rest was originally part of the larger Bullington estate. On October 19, 1835 (Deed Book 37:454-458), the Bullington farm property was deeded to Henry and Lucy Cox. It was stated that a half acre lot be reserved and accessible to Maria Bullington and her family and heirs for a burying ground. The only headstone that is currently present is a stone for Williams D. Jennings, Maria Bullington's husband. This taller stone has fallen over. The dates on the stone read: Born Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1799 Died July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1853. The Henrico County Historical Society conducted a survey of the cemetery and determined that there were approximately 10-11 graves at the site. There are a few unmarked stones and the remains of a wrought iron fence still present.



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*Hay Barn, 1930-1940, Contributing Building*

The hay barn is located near the south side of the cemetery. Of sawn, dimensional lumber construction, its walls are sheathed with vertical board siding and standing seam metal covers the side-gabled roof. A single door composed of vertical boards is located right-of-center on the south façade, and a square opening is on the west gabled end wall. An open, gable-roofed frame addition extends from the east gable end wall and is used to shelter farm equipment.

*Archaeological Site # 44HE0560 (Slave Quarter), c. 1835, Contributing Site*

The site of the slave quarters is located to the southeast of the smokehouse/workshop. The only above-ground evidence remaining of the slave quarters are bricks, and they have been moved south toward a treeline at the edge of the current parcel boundary. The quarters were photographed and documented by Jeffrey M. O'Dell of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in 1976. The area around the slave quarters was recorded as an archaeological site from work completed by a Virginia Department of Transportation survey in 1984. It is DHR File # 44HE0560.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Criteria Considerations

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

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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

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

**Period of Significance**

1835-1964

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

**Significant Dates**

circa 1835

circa 1854

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

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

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

### **Justification Summary**

Farmer's Rest is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture because of its excellent state of preservation for an early to mid-nineteenth-century rural Greek Revival house built circa 1835 by the very prominent and wealthy landowner, Henry Cox. The house has high quality construction and is an excellent and rare example of an intact transverse front hall plan with two semi-exposed rear chimneys. It is one of only a few surviving pre-Civil War dwellings with this type of plan in Henrico County. Also, its location along Varina Road and proximity to Fort Harrison and the James River make the property's history during the Civil War a subject for potential further study. The period of significance begins with the construction of the house in c. 1835 and ends in 1964 when the Rose family worked on preserving the house and rebuilt the single bay porch on the primary elevation.

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

### **Acknowledgements**

The nomination was enhanced by research conducted by the current owner, Rhea Hale. Other major contributors include National Park Service Historian Robert Krick, Jr., for sharing substantial original research and data on Civil War activity on or near Varina Road. Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Architectural Historian Dr. Carl Lounsbury confirmed the moderate rarity of the transverse hall plan house in Virginia. Robert Krick shared the unpublished research of Andre Trudeau, who is currently completing a book on Abraham Lincoln's activities in the last few months of the Civil War. The nomination also benefitted from an email interview with local resident Marjorie Lyne (a suggested contact from Robert Krick).

### **Architectural Significance: Criterion C**

Farmer's Rest is a rare surviving intact example of a Greek Revival style house with a transverse hall plan in Henrico County. It is also more unusual for the placement of double chimneys on the rear elevation. As noted in the architectural description, the house has undergone a moderate evolution of architectural fabric since its construction in the 1830s. The current house features about seventy percent original material fabric and the exterior cladding has been repaired with matching weatherboard (with some sections of original siding still in place). Considering that the house was within a few miles of Civil War battle lines and that it sat along a major transportation thoroughfare, Varina Road at the front, with a temporary military road at the rear, it is fortunate that the house survived. It appears to have been used by Union troops at various periods, but most intensively in 1864-1865.

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The Varina area of Henrico County was settled by the second quarter of the seventeenth century. Most of the settlers lived close to the James River in the early period. Plantations like Curles Neck (DHR #043-0035; NRHP 2009), Malvern Hill (DHR #043-0008; NRHP 1969), and Wilton (DHR #059-0010; NRHP 1979) are typical examples of early period Virginia and Henrico settlement. Most of these farms had medium to large-sized brick houses. By the mid-eighteenth century the typical plantation in this area was of wood construction with a center hall plan. Due to the extensive Civil War activity (and damage incurred) and later residential development in Varina, examples of the typical eighteenth and nineteenth century houses are rare. Farmer's Rest shows an interior plan with a transverse entry hall that became somewhat popular in the Mid Atlantic region by the late eighteenth century. According to architectural historian Carl Lounsbury, the plan appears in Virginia at the c. 1797 Moses Myers House (DHR #122-0017; NRHP 1970) in Norfolk and formal Federal-style versions of this house plan become more popular in the first third of the nineteenth century; examples like White Hall (DHR #036-0051; NRHP 1984), Gloucester County (c. 1836) and Morgan House in Pasquotank County, eastern North Carolina (c. 1825) show a more formal gable front temple form. Farmer's Rest is a more conservative rural example, exhibiting more generalized Greek Revival details with a low-hipped gable roof instead of a prominent temple form as seen on these other examples. The Willis Church Parsonage, which survived the Battle of Malvern Hill, but later succumbed to fire in 1988, was also a vernacular example of the transverse hall plan. An 1860s Civil War period drawing of the Parsonage by Robert Knox Sneden shows the house with a similar low hipped roof and rear chimney placement. In 1936, Benjamin Garner recorded the Parsonage as part of his W.P.A Historical Inventory work. He noted a "ten foot hall running across the front of the house" and "sham windows" covered by shutters, possibly windows that were at stairwells at either end of the transverse hall. His date of c. 1840 makes the house a contemporary example with Farmer's Rest. While other examples of this interesting vernacular plan may exist in Virginia, Farmer's Rest is the only surviving example in Henrico County, and it is a rarer rural example of this style and plan in central Virginia.

### **Historic Background**

Farmer's Rest and the land surrounding it have a rich history and past. The land where the house is located belonged to the Bullington family of Varina during the colonial period. Nicholas Bullington, Sr., was born in England in 1597 and died in 1692. He was one of the early settlers of Jamestown (included in the 1623 census). He had moved to Henrico County in 1624, per the Henrico Census. He married Cynthia Clarke of Henrico Parish. They had seven children and the youngest, Nicholas Bullington Jr. was born in 1636.<sup>1</sup> In turn, Nicholas had a son, John Robert Bullington, who secured a patent to 130 acres in Varina Parish in 1690. This was the first documentation of land ownership in the vicinity of Farmer's Rest by the Bullington family.

A direct deed trace of the Bullington family land on which the home is situated is not confirmed. However, the names leading up to the 1835 deed that transfers the property to Henry Cox are John Robert Bullington Jr. (1705-1757), Josiah Bullington (1733-1778), and Josiah Bullington II (1757-1822).

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Josiah Bullington II married Maria and they had eight children during their marriage.<sup>2</sup> Josiah Bullington II died in 1822, leaving his property to his wife, Maria S. Bullington. On October 19, 1835, Maria S. Bullington and three of her adult children had to auction off 192 acres that settled a lawsuit between Maria S. Bullington and Albert Bullington. Henry Cox purchased the 192 acres and set up payments and interest in a deed of trust to be paid to Maria S. Bullington.<sup>3</sup> Interestingly, there is an addendum to this document that reads:

*It is expressly understood by all the parties to this deed and especially by Henry Cox and Lucy his wife that the said Maria Bullington and her family and heirs for and in consideration of five dollars in hand paid to them by the said Maria Bullington at or before the execution of this deed is to have forever the privilege and liberty at any time to use and occupy one half acre of land where the present burying ground is located on the above mentioned tract of land for a burying ground for them and their heirs. In witness whereof the said Henry Cox and Lucy his wife have to this memoranda put their hands and seals this 19th day of Oct. in the year 1835.<sup>3</sup>*

The cemetery on the property currently has only one legible stone for William D. Jennings, the husband of Maria L. Bullington Jennings, daughter of Maria S. Bullington. However, the Henrico County Historical Society conducted a survey of the cemetery in 2002 and there are believed to be about 10 graves total at the site with no head stones. The one legible stone reads: "William D. Jennings/ Born Dec 2nd 1799/ Died July 2nd 1853." According to William Jennings' will, he freed many of his enslaved African American workers and paid for their passage to Africa from his estate.<sup>4</sup>

Henry Cox (1807-1888) and Lucy Wilson (1813-1862) were married November 17, 1829, in Amelia County and they had no children throughout their marriage. However, through the 1850s and 1860s it appears that several members of the Wilson family lived in their household. It is thought that Henry Cox and his wife built the Greek Revival house circa 1835, shortly after they purchased the property and lived there throughout their lives. The footprint of the dwelling today is the same as what was believed to have been built at that time, other than the back one-story addition which was thought to have been an open porch until the 1850s. From a land survey in 1849 and his personal property tax records of 1850, it appears that Henry Cox was very wealthy at the time and had a great deal of land in both Chesterfield County and Henrico County.<sup>5</sup> The house location on the 1849 map appears to match the current location. The survey indicates that Henry Cox owned 1,957 acres on the peninsula beyond Dutch Gap up the James River and north on both east and west sides of Varina Road. Henry's wealth is also indicated by his personal property records for 1850 which show that he owned 18 horses, one gold watch, one piano valued at \$1,150 and a four wheel pleasure rig valued at \$1,300. Additionally, the enslaved labor force at Farmer's Rest included 34 workers over the age of 16 and 39 over the age of 12. Another deed in 1854 acquits and discharges Henry Cox from the 1835 deed of trust and grants him full ownership.<sup>6</sup> This is also about the time it is believed that the back porch was enclosed for the one-story living space on the foundation of the original raised brick basement.

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As the 1860s and the Civil War approached, turmoil would take hold for Henry Cox and the region. In 1862, his wife Lucy died at the age of 49. During the Civil War years, between 1862 and 1865, Henry Cox filed several claims against the Confederate government regarding materials sold to Confederate officers and claims for vouchers left to him by officers who impressed things from his property.<sup>7</sup> Some examples of items taken were 39,000 lbs. of clover hay, 50 cords of wood, 2,400 lbs. of fodder, and 23,000 feet of timber for the construction of a fort at Drewry's Bluff. He also posted a notice in the newspaper for a runaway slave in 1861. Another record indicated that two of Henry Cox's enslaved workers were apprehended by men of the Confederate States Marine Corps in 1864.<sup>8</sup> Henry also had to provide in 1863 a certain number of African American workers to work on fortifications.<sup>9</sup>

In the latter part of the war, because of Farmer's Rest's prominent Varina Road location between the Union Army's Fort Harrison and the James River landing (also known as Aiken's Landing at Varina Plantation), it is believed that the house was utilized in some fashion by the Union Army. There is no confirmed documentation, but many verbal accounts indicated that the house was used as a Union soldier hospital in the latter part of the war as the Union Army was closing in on Richmond.<sup>10</sup> Farmer's Rest is within the boundaries of the Fair Oaks & Darbytown Road Battlefield (DHR #043-5073) and the New Market Heights Battlefield (DHR #043-0307). In 1864, in combination with moves against the Boydton Plank Road in Petersburg, Major General Benjamin Butler attacked the Richmond defenses along Darbytown Road with the X Corps. The XVII Corps marched north to Fair Oaks where it was repulsed by Confederate forces. The Richmond defenses remained intact.<sup>11</sup> The Rose family, who acquired the property in 1959, indicated there were many names written on the original nineteenth-century wallpaper throughout the house and parlors before they removed it for renovations.<sup>12</sup> As well, there is still writing on an upstairs closet door; the writing is upside down, indicating that the door was probably off the hinges when the writing was done. Although the writing is in cursive, and parts are very difficult to read, it is thought to read "Signal Corps/ This House is Emty/ for the present [*sic*] /By Order of/ F A Landell.

The person who wrote this inscription may have been Frederick A. Landell, who served in the 112<sup>th</sup> Infantry of New York until he transferred to the Signal Corps in July 1863. He was a sergeant with the Signal Corps during the September 1864 operations along the James River, and is praised in print for his bravery under fire on September 19, 1864, apparently while manning a signal tower along the James River.<sup>13</sup> There was also an Edwin A. Landell in the 119<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania volunteers who could have been in the area of the James River en route to Bermuda Hundred in 1864, but no specifics have been found for his connection to the house.<sup>14</sup> It is more probable that the writing was that of Frederick Landell.

By the end of the war, Farmer's Rest was fortunate to have been spared immediate fighting that could have threatened the house, but verbal accounts tell of minie balls, belt buckles, and other artifacts being found in the fields during plowing. One of the most interesting and notable events for this property took place just a few weeks before President Lincoln's assassination. On March 26, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln, General Ulysses Grant, General Edward Ord, and all three

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of their wives crossed the James River to Aiken's landing, rode up Varina Road, and reviewed the Army of the James. They saw one of the 25<sup>th</sup> Corps, which were all United States Colored Troops, plus two white divisions of the 24<sup>th</sup> Corps. Careful research by prominent historian Andre Trudeau and National Park Service Historian Robert Krick indicates that the location of this meeting was in the fields around the Farmer's Rest house.<sup>15</sup>

After the war, Henry Cox lived out his life at Farmer's Rest until his death in 1888. His lifestyle was altered by the war, as were many wealthy landowners who had relied on an enslaved labor force for their economic success. His Henrico County personal property taxes indicate a drop in personal wealth by 1879 and the records show that he owned 1 horse, 1 hog, 1 carriage, \$15.00 in value for kitchen furniture, and \$1.00 value in firearms.<sup>16</sup> Although his personal property at Farmer's Rest declined, he still owned a great deal of real estate in Henrico County and Chesterfield County.

After Henry Cox's death in 1888, a series of property transfers occurred over the next eight years. Henry willed the "house farm" to Seddon Aikin, son of Seddon P. Akin and Martha G. Akin for reasons unknown (these are name spellings as they were written in Henry Cox's will, however it is most commonly and later spelled Aiken). It is clear from Cox's will that he still owned a great deal of land, including Dutch Gap, Farrar's Island, the area encompassing the "Overseer's House," and large plots in Chesterfield County, which he later divided among multiple relatives, servants and friends.<sup>17</sup> In 1896, Seddon Aiken died and the Farmer's Rest property was transferred to "his wife Martha Giles Aiken, a son and two children under the age of 21."<sup>18</sup> Later that year, the property was sold to R.M. Stennett, who formed the Boulevard Grove Corporation.<sup>19</sup>

Various members of the Stennett family, through the corporation, owned the property from 1896 until 1957. Subsequent owners were Robert and Margaret Rose, who acquired the property in 1959 and undertook extensive renovations and updates during the 1960s, while respecting the dwelling's historic character.<sup>20</sup> The Roses owned the property until 2003. The current owner acquired Farmer's Rest in 2011 and has meticulously cared for and rehabilitated the dwelling by utilizing the Virginia Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program. While the property serves primarily as a residence, the owner has recently planted a vineyard at the eastern end of the property.



Farmer's Rest  
Name of Property

Henrico County, VA  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Farmer's Rest  
Name of Property

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County and State

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15, 1937. Print. File #43-41.

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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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Farmer's Rest  
Name of Property

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**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;  
Henrico County Courthouse, Henrico, VA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR #043-0041; #043-5073; #043-0307  
#44HE0560

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 26.69 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 37.409020 | Longitude: -77.340560 |
| 2. Latitude: 37.408850 | Longitude: -77.339680 |
| 3. Latitude: 37.40520  | Longitude: -77-34586  |
| 4. Latitude: 37.40739  | Longitude: -77.34773  |

**HISTORIC BOUNDARY**

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927    or     NAD 1983

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

Farmer's Rest  
Name of Property

Henrico County, VA  
County and State

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

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

The historic boundaries for Farmer's Rest coincide with the current legal boundaries of Tax Parcels #816-674-2857 and #816-674-7335 and as recorded in Henrico County Deed Book 3653, page 689. The historic boundaries are shown on the attached maps entitled "Location Map – Street Map View, Farmer's Rest, Henrico County, Virginia, DHR #043-0041" and "Location Map – Aerial View, Farmer's Rest, Henrico County, Virginia, DHR #043-0041."

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

The boundary includes 26 acres of land historically associated with Farmer's Rest and its owners, the Cox family, who built the current house. The boundaries encompass all known contributing resources, including the house, outbuildings, cemetery, barn, and archaeological site of the slave quarters, as well as the historic rural setting.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Patricia Eichenberger  
organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources (contractor)  
street & number: 9304 University Boulevard  
city or town: Henrico state: VA zip code: 23229  
e-mail: trishike@live.com  
telephone: 804-288-3790  
date: July 1, 2014

name/title: Rhea Hale  
organization: Owner  
street & number: 9341 Varina Road  
city or town: Henrico state: VA zip code: 23231  
e-mail: rhea\_hale@yahoo.com  
telephone: 202-321-7382  
date: December 2, 2013

---

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Farmer's Rest  
Name of Property

Henrico County, VA  
County and State

- **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: Farmer's Rest

City or Vicinity: Henrico vicinity

County: Henrico County State: Virginia

Photographer: Marc Wagner

Date Photographed: October 2014

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

1 of 17. Approach to primary dwelling from entry drive, camera facing east.  
VA\_HenricoCounty\_FarmersRest\_0001

2 of 17. Primary dwelling, west façade, camera facing east.  
VA\_HenricoCounty\_FarmersRest\_0002

3 of 17. Primary dwelling, west façade and south elevation, camera facing north.  
VA\_HenricoCounty\_FarmersRest\_0003

4 of 17. Primary dwelling, west façade and north elevation, camera facing southeast.  
VA\_HenricoCounty\_FarmersRest\_0004

5 of 17. Primary dwelling, south elevation and enclosed porch, camera facing northwest.

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VA\_HenricoCounty\_FarmersRest\_0005

6 of 17. Primary dwelling, interior, transverse hall, camera facing south.

VA\_HenricoCounty\_FarmersRest\_0006

7 of 17. Primary dwelling, interior, north parlor looking toward south parlor and transverse hall, camera facing south/southwest.

VA\_HenricoCounty\_FarmersRest\_0007

8 of 17. Primary dwelling, interior, south parlor, camera facing south.

VA\_HenricoCounty\_FarmersRest\_0008

9 of 17. Primary dwelling, interior, fireplace in north parlor, camera facing west/northwest.

VA\_HenricoCounty\_FarmersRest\_0009

10 of 17. Primary dwelling, interior, first floor, bathroom side of door with original tiger maple grain.

VA\_HenricoCounty\_FarmersRest\_0010

11 of 17. Primary dwelling, interior, stair landing, view of first and second floors, camera facing south.

VA\_HenricoCounty\_FarmersRest\_0011

12 of 17. Primary dwelling, interior, second floor, north bedroom closet door, Civil War-era writing.

VA\_HenricoCounty\_FarmersRest\_0012

13 of 17. General setting of primary dwelling (rear) and outbuildings (smokehouse/workshop to left and chicken coop to right), camera facing northwest.

VA\_HenricoCounty\_FarmersRest\_0013

14 of 17. Smokehouse/workshop, rear elevation, camera facing west/southwest.

VA\_HenricoCounty\_FarmersRest\_0014

15 of 17. Chicken coop, camera facing northeast.

VA\_HenricoCounty\_FarmersRest\_0015

16 of 17. Cemetery, camera facing southeast.

VA\_HenricoCounty\_FarmersRest\_0016

17 of 17. Hay barn, camera facing northeast.

VA\_HenricoCounty\_FarmersRest\_0017

Farmer's Rest

Name of Property

Henrico County, VA

County and State

**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.

## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> "Nicholas Bullington I (B. 1600, D. 1691)." Family Tree Maker. Web. <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/t/h/o/Elizabeth-A-Thomas/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0664.html>.
- <sup>2</sup> Henrico County Will Book 6: 98-100; Josiah Bullington II.
- <sup>3</sup> Henrico County Deed Book 37: 454-458; Cox and Keese (commissioners).
- <sup>4</sup> Henrico County Will Book 14,1852: 188-189; William D. Jennings.
- <sup>5</sup> Henrico County Map of Land Survey 1849 - Map F232 45 184912; Henrico County Personal Property Tax Records - 1850 – reel 174.
- <sup>6</sup> Henrico County Deeds, Book 64: 68-69; Bullington et al. to Henry Cox.
- <sup>7</sup> National Archives, War Department of Confederate Records, Record Group 109, *Confederate Papers Related to Citizens and Business Firms*, M346.
- <sup>8</sup> Richmond Dispatch *Death Notice* Aug.16, 1861, p2; Richmond Dispatch. *Henry Cox Advertisement* May 25, 1864, p2.
- <sup>9</sup> Richmond Dispatch. *Henry Cox Advertisement*. Feb.12, 1863, p2.
- <sup>10</sup> Virginia Department of Historic Resources. *WPA Survey*. By B. G. Garner. Richmond, Nov. 15, 1937. Print. File #043-0041.
- <sup>11</sup> Circa, *2013 Addendum to A Cultural Resources Survey of the Varina Phase of the Virginia Capital Trail, Henrico and Charles City Counties, Virginia* (On file at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond), April 2013.
- <sup>12</sup> Ann Holiday. "Bringing New Life to Antique Ceiling Paper." *Richmond News Leader* [Richmond, VA] 2 Aug. 1991: Pg. 20. Print.
- <sup>13</sup> Robert Krick, personal communication to Marc Wagner.
- <sup>14</sup> "Edwin A. Landell." Web. [http://www.shilohrelics.com/cgi-bin/Display\\_Item.asp?96729](http://www.shilohrelics.com/cgi-bin/Display_Item.asp?96729).
- <sup>15</sup> Robert Krick, personal communication to Marc Wagner.
- <sup>16</sup> Henrico County Personal Property Tax Records 1879 – reel 1149; Henry Cox.
- <sup>17</sup> Henrico County Will Book 2: 491-494, Henry Cox.
- <sup>18</sup> Henrico County Chancery Orders 15: October 13, 1896 pp 3-4; October 29 1896, pp 16-17.
- <sup>19</sup> Henrico County Deed Book 152-B:410-411 John C. Easley, Special Commissioner to Stinnett.
- <sup>20</sup> Henrico County Deed Book 947: 472-478 and Henrico County Deed Book 1127: 407-415; Boulevard Grove Corp. (Stennett family) to Rose.



**LOCATION MAP - AERIAL VIEW**

**Farmer's Rest**

**Henrico County, Virginia**

**DHR #043-0041**

**Coordinates:**

- 1. Latitude: 37.409020  
Longitude: -77.340560
- 2. Latitude: 37.408850  
Longitude: -77.339680
- 3. Latitude: 37.40520  
Longitude: -77.34586
- 4. Latitude: 37.40739  
Longitude: -77.34773



**HISTORIC BOUNDARY**

**Archaeological Site Boundary**



Feet



1:9,028 / 1"=752 Feet

**Title: Farmers Rest, Henrico County, VA**

**Date: 8/12/2014**

*DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.*

*Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.*





LOCATION MAP - STREET  
MAP VIEW

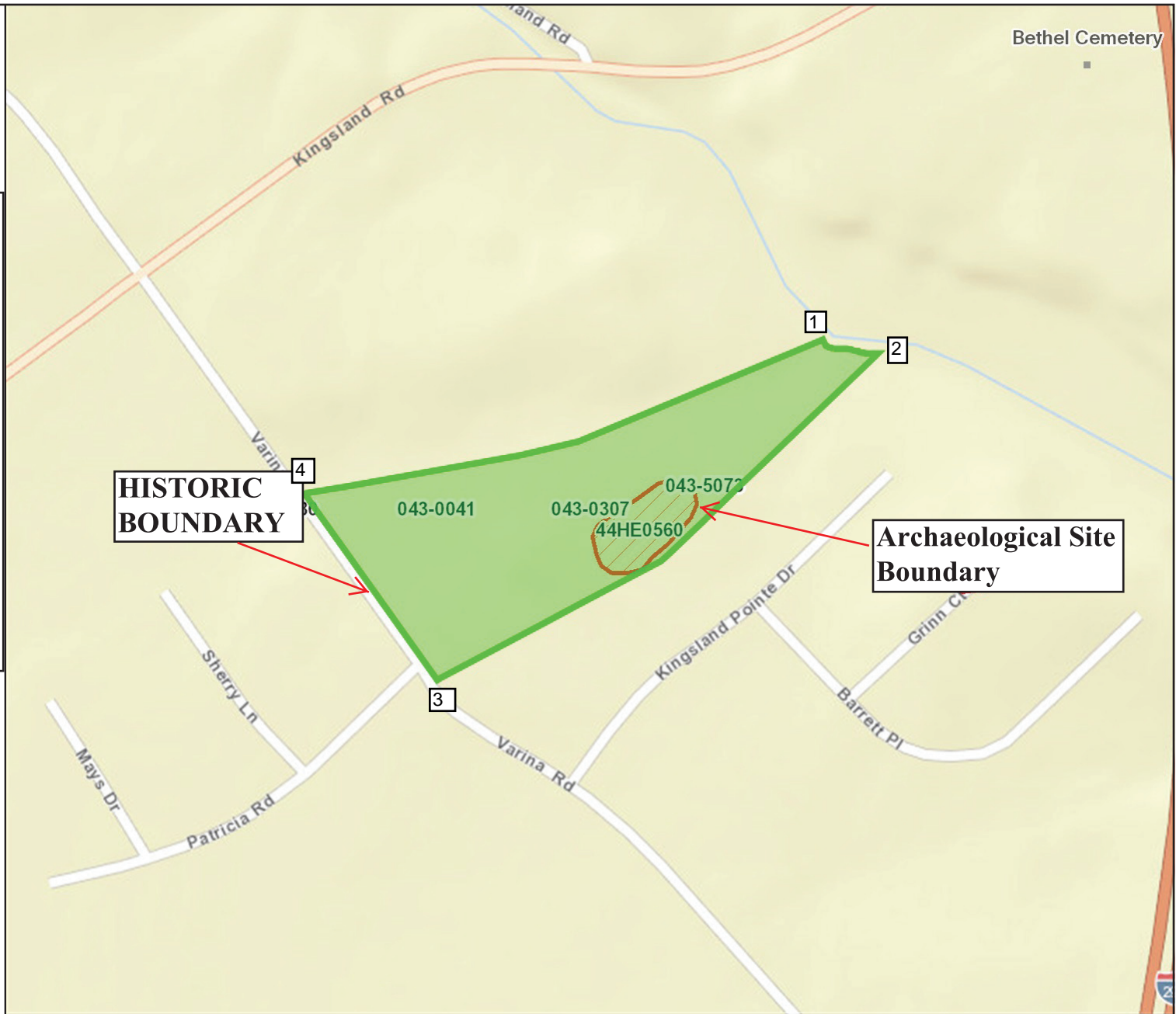
Farmer's Rest

Henrico County, Virginia

DHR #043-0041

Coordinates:

- 1. Latitude: 37.409020  
Longitude: -77.340560
- 2. Latitude: 37.408850  
Longitude: -77.339680
- 3. Latitude: 37.40520  
Longitude: -77.34586
- 4. Latitude: 37.40739  
Longitude: -77.34773



Title: Farmers Rest, Henrico County, VA

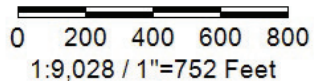
Date: 8/12/2014

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

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Feet



Sketch Map and  
Photo Key

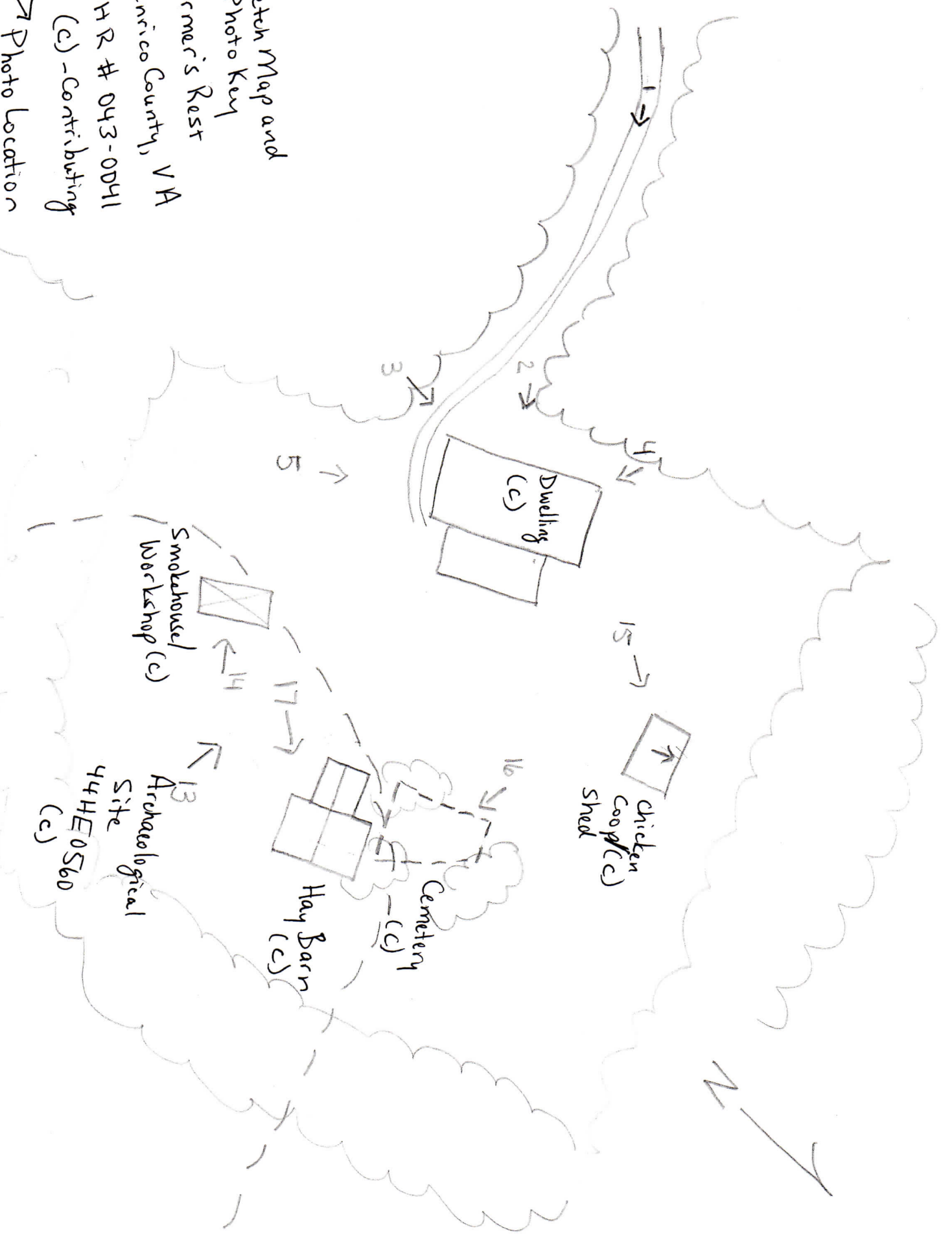
Farmer's Rest  
Henrico County, VA

DHR # 043-0041

(c) - Contributing

1 → Photo Location

Photos 6-12, interior views, dwelling



13  
Archaeological  
Site  
44HE0560  
(c)

Not to Scale

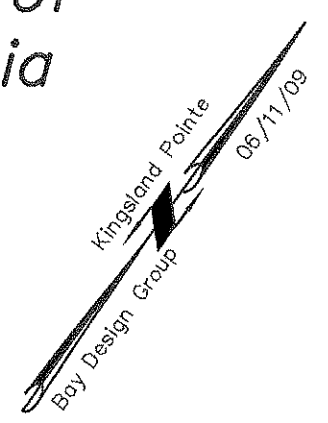
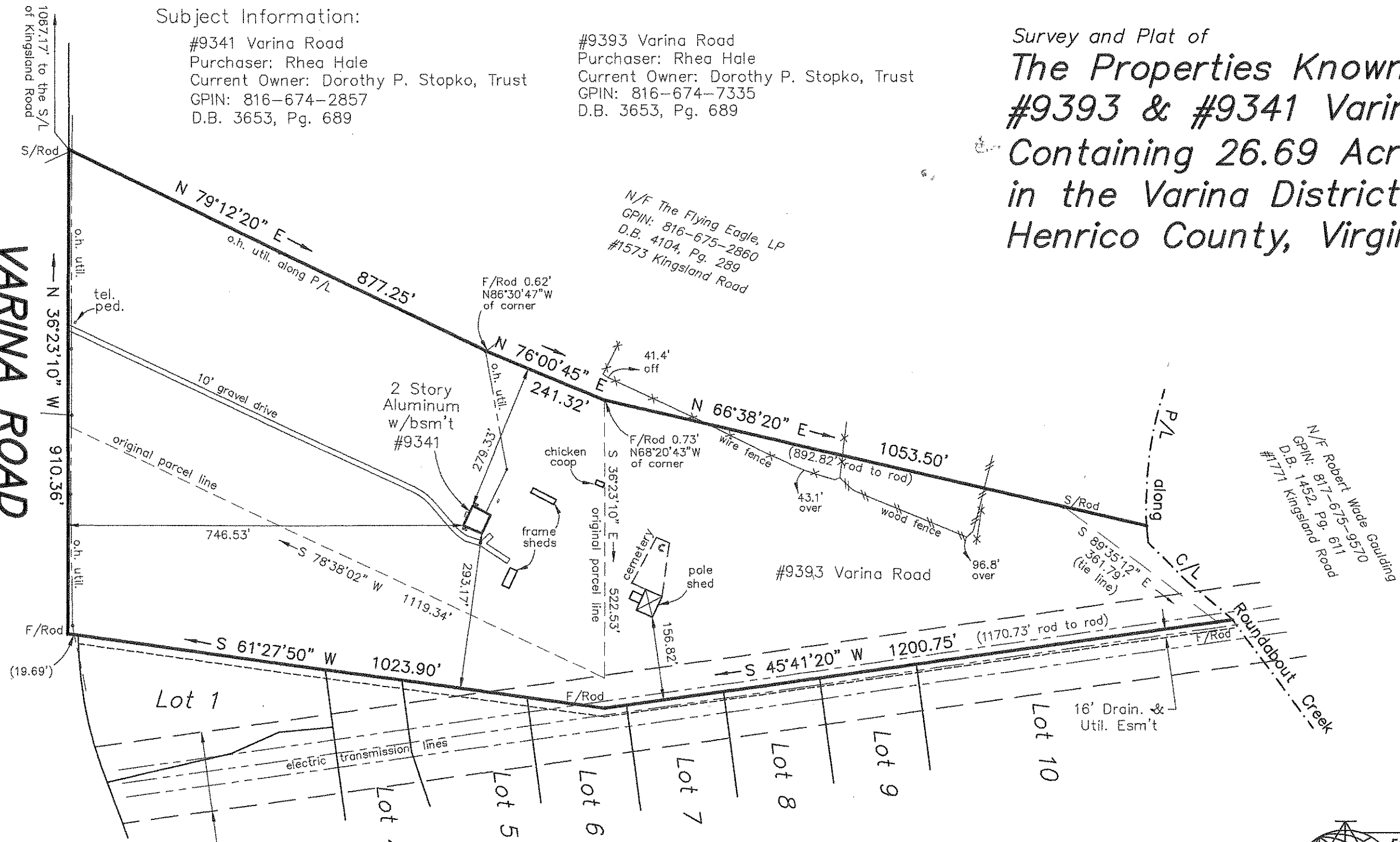
Subject Information:

#9341 Varina Road  
 Purchaser: Rhea Hale  
 Current Owner: Dorothy P. Stopko, Trust  
 GPIN: 816-674-2857  
 D.B. 3653, Pg. 689

#9393 Varina Road  
 Purchaser: Rhea Hale  
 Current Owner: Dorothy P. Stopko, Trust  
 GPIN: 816-674-7335  
 D.B. 3653, Pg. 689

Survey and Plat of  
**The Properties Known as  
 #9393 & #9341 Varina Road,  
 Containing 26.69 Acres of Land  
 in the Varina District of  
 Henrico County, Virginia**

**VARINA ROAD**



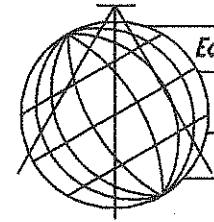
Plat Map  
 Farmer's Rest  
 Henrico County, VA  
 DHR # 043-0041

150' VEPCO  
 Transmission R/W  
 DB 571, Pg 536  
 (per Kingsland Pointe subd. plat)

Kingsland Pointe Subdivision

This is to certify that on 10/21/11 I made an accurate field survey of the premises shown hereon that all improvements and easements known or visible are shown hereon, that there are no encroachments by improvements either from adjoining premises or from subject premises upon adjoining premises other than shown hereon. THIS PLAT WAS MADE WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF A TITLE SURVEY OR REPORT.

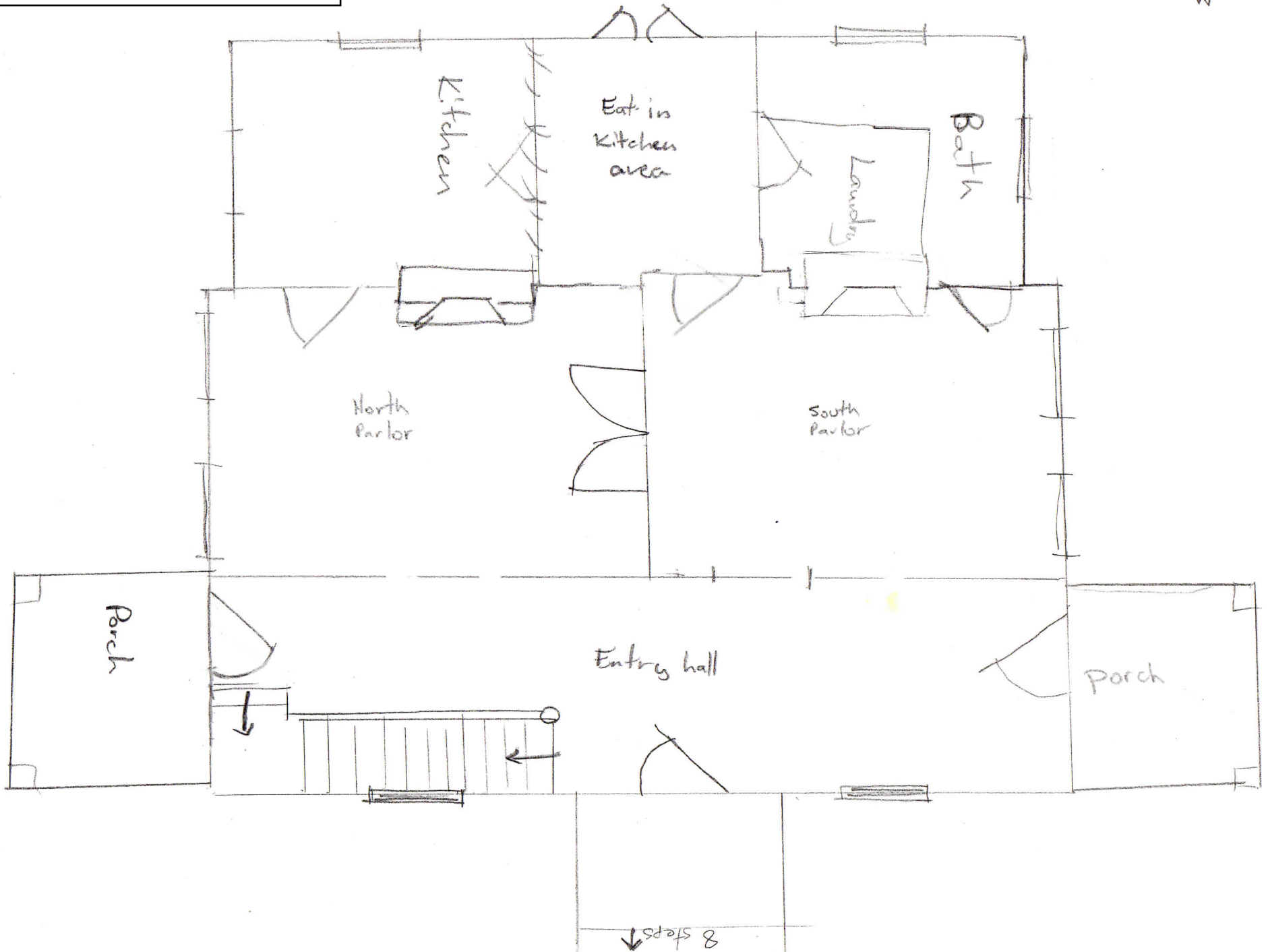
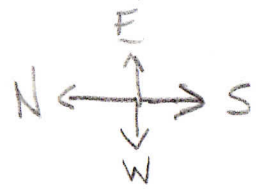
FLOOD INSURANCE NOTE: By graphics plotting only, this property is in ZONE X of the Flood Insurance Rate Map, Community Panel No. 51087C0240C effective date of 12/18/07. Exact designations can only be determined by an Elevation Certificate. Based on the above information, this property IS NOT in a Special Flood Hazard Area.



Edwards, Kretz, Lohr & Associates, Inc.  
 Land Surveyors-Planners  
 Virginia-North Carolina  
 1900 Byrd Avenue, Suite 203  
 Richmond, Virginia, 23230  
 Phone (804) 673-9666  
 Fax (804) 673-9990

Scale: 1"=200'  
 Drawn: TCJ  
 Job: 1339-11  
 Date: 10/27/11  
 Revised: 10/31/11  
 Checked: JAL

Farmer's Rest  
Henrico County, Virginia  
DHR #043-0041  
Interior Floor Plan - First Floor



Trish Fisher  
10-14