

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

LISTED ON:	
VLR	09/30/2010
NRHP	08/27/2013

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Sebrell Rural Historic District
other names/site number VDHR ID# 087-5552

2. Location

street & number Bordered roughly by Nottoway River, Assamoosick Swamp, and Old Hickory Road not for publication
city or town Sebrell vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Southampton code 175 zip code 23837

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

[Signature] Date 7/2/13
Signature of certifying official
S. H. AD Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Title 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

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
112	193	buildings
3	1	sites
0	66	structures
0	0	objects
115	260	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

7

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling, secondary structure

COMMERCE/department store, restaurant

GOVERNMENT/post office

EDUCATION/school

RELIGION/religious facility

AGRICULTURE/processing, storage, field, outbuilding, animal facility

LANDSCAPE/forest, natural feature

TRANSPORTATION/rail-related, road-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling, secondary structure

COMMERCE/specialty store

SOCIAL/meeting hall

RELIGION/religious facility

FUNERARY/cemetery

AGRICULTURE/processing, storage, field, outbuilding, animal facility

LANDSCAPE/forest, natural feature

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Georgian

MID-19th CENTURY/Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate, Queen Anne

LATE 19TH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Craftsman, Cape Cod

OTHER/I-house, Hall and Parlor, Folk Victorian, Bungalow, Minimal Traditional, Ranch

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: BRICK; CONCRETE

walls: WOOD/weatherboard; METAL/aluminum; SYNTHETICS/vinyl

roof: METAL/tin, steel; ASPHALT

other: N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Sebrell Rural Historic District
Name of Property

Southampton VA
County and State

Summary Paragraph

See Continuation Sheets.

Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheets.

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)

Property is:

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Agriculture
- Commerce
- Heritage: African American
- Architecture

Period of Significance

1761-1931

Significant Dates

1908

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the district extends from 1761 to 1931, beginning with the construction of Barn Tavern, and ending with the rerouting of Plank Road around the village of Sebrell. Although this bypass was not the only cause for the demise of the village as a recognizable entity, it marked a major blow to Sebrell, as travelers were no longer routed through town, and it was the first of several factors that led to the eventual demise of the village.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

See Continuation Sheets.

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

See Continuation Sheets.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See Continuation Sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

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 # _____

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, Virginia**

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia (Charlottesville, Virginia); Library of Virginia (Richmond, Virginia); Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Archives (Richmond, Virginia); Southampton County Court House, Land Records, Deeds and Wills (Courtland, Virginia); Walter Cecil Rawls Library (Courtland, Virginia)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____ DHR File Number 087-5552 _____

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Sebrell Rural Historic District

City or Vicinity: Sebrell

County: Southampton

State: VA

Photographer: Robert J. Taylor, Jr.

Date Photographed: October 2009-January 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

See Continuation Sheets.

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 18 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.

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Sebrell Rural Historic District

Southampton County, Virginia

DESCRIPTION

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Sebrell Rural Historic District is an agricultural area located in north-central Southampton County, encompassing approximately 16.5 square miles of Virginia's Southern Coastal Plain Region. The boundaries of the rural district are created by natural waterways on three sides, which form a peninsula between the Nottoway River on the west and south and the Assamoosick Swamp on the east. The northern boundary is an arbitrary line that represents the limit of properties associated with the historical development of the Sebrell area. The district is environmentally characterized by its coastal plain setting; including pinewood forests, open fields, and low-lying wetlands. The landscape of the district consists of a mixture of large farms and small lots, with expansive agricultural fields interspersed with non-developed wooded areas and wetlands that testify to the rural character of the district.

The focal point of the district is the village of Sebrell. Sebrell was officially designated in 1880 when the local post office was renamed in honor of the Sebrells, a prominent family in the area at the time. Sebrell evolved from the earlier village of Barn Tavern, which was a thriving community as early as the mid-eighteenth century. The Barn Tavern/Sebrell community is located near the intersection of Virginia Route 35 and the former Virginian Railroad Corridor. Route 35 was historically known as the Jerusalem Plank Road, and served as the major north-south thoroughfare for the region, connecting Jerusalem, the county seat of Southampton, as well as points further south, with Petersburg.

Landscape Overview

Geography and landscape have played an influential role in the development of the Sebrell District. Native Americans, early settlers, and the modern inhabitants have all been attracted to the area because of the wealth of flat, fertile soils and abundant water sources. The topography of Southampton County is divided into three terraces that were created by the recession of ancient seas. The north central portion of the county in which the Sebrell district lies, is on the Wicomico Terrace, which is mostly flat with occasional gentle undulations. Prior to clearing and cultivating by Anglo-Americans, the coastal flatwoods environment that characterizes the area consisted of thick strands of Southern pine forest covering roughly 40% of the landscape with broad leaf deciduous forest occupying another 25%. The remaining area was composed of biotic communities of fresh water marsh, hydrophytic deciduous forest, and Black Gum-Juniper swamp.¹

Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, much of the wooded land was cleared for farming which remains the primary land use in the Sebrell District. Soybeans and cotton are the two most common crops in the district, although peanuts, corn, and other field crops are also grown.² In recent years, timbering has become a major industry in the area, and much of the formerly cleared land has been reforested, predominantly with a mix of loblolly pine and assorted hardwoods. The loblolly is a fast-growing pine tree that flourishes from the Gulf States up the Atlantic coastal plain and into the middle of eastern Virginia. Loblollies are generally aggressive

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and tend to invade abandoned crop fields, and thus do well in previously cultivated areas such as in the Sebrell district.³ As such, there are large expanses of planted loblolly groves in various states of maturity throughout the district.

The prevalence of agriculture and forestry means that much of the landscape throughout the district remains undeveloped. Of the roughly 10,550 acres encompassed in the Sebrell Rural Historic District, there are a total of 215 property parcels. 106 of these are small residential lots located in the heart of the Sebrell Village occupying a total of only 55 acres.⁴ The majority of the land remains divided into large parcels making much of the built environment isolated and distanced from one another, reflecting the historic landownership patterns. The rareness of small residential type parcels signifies that suburban development have only minimally impacted the rural character of the district.

Most parcels have been platted using surveyor-designated lanes, although roads, waterways, and other geographical features also provide parcel boundaries. In most cases, property lines can be discerned from a noticeable change in land-use, or from the presence of a created barrier such as a fence or tree line. The interior of the district also includes a nearly intact network of early roads that create patterns in land ownership such as the previously mentioned Jerusalem Plank Road (or simply Plank Road), Cary's Bridge Road, River Road, and Barn Tavern Road. The corridor of the former Virginian Railroad divides the district nearly in half, from east to west.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The architecture of the Sebrell Rural Historic District is representative of three centuries of growth and development from the early settlement of the community through the modern era. Agriculture has historically been the primary land-use in Sebrell and is well represented through the numerous plantations, smaller farmsteads, barns, and other assorted outbuildings. Several small churches and schools are present in the district, indicative of the community development of the village. Several commercial buildings remain in heart of Sebrell, a product of the boom and bust that the railroad brought for a short period from the turn of the century through the mid-twentieth century. The still ongoing agricultural way of life is represented by numerous modern homes set on large properties with abundant outbuildings. Some homes set on smaller lots, mostly in the immediate Sebrell area also exist.

As is typical of rural areas, the majority of the architecture is vernacular and only mildly influenced by popular styles. I-houses and hall-parlor plan house are by far the most common domestic forms present in the district, with various stylistic influences spanning from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. By the early to mid-twentieth century Bungalows, Minimal Traditional, and other revivals became more popular. These styles were eventually replaced in popularity by the minimalist architecture of the 1960s and 1970s. Recent domestic architecture consists of a mix of modular and trailer homes, along with some newer neo-eclectic homes.

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The earliest architecture in the district is representative of the planter-class society that dominated land-ownership in the district during the eighteenth century. Buildings that were constructed during this time period include large plantation homes with specialized outbuildings set on large tracts of land. The I-house form and Georgian style are commonly found during this time period, often with minimal classical influences. While it is likely that there were smaller dwellings owned by the lower and yeoman class present during that time period as well, the majority of those buildings have been lost over time. Buildings dating from the early- to mid-nineteenth century and into the Antebellum period, continue to reflect the wealthier economic status of their inhabitants with the majority of homes being larger and embellished with the popular styling elements of the time. The I-house continues to dominate this time period along with an increasing number of hall-and-parlor houses.

During Reconstruction and into the twentieth century, there was much less of a divide between economic status of landowners in the area, which is reflected in the architecture present from that period. The era of wealthy plantation owners dominating the landscape waned, and ownership patterns shifted to a more diverse base. During this time, earlier vernacular forms continue with the I-house and hall-parlor plan still dominating, though many exhibit Victorian influence. The houses from this time period are smaller in scale and typically set on smaller parcels with less specialized outbuildings, indicative of the shift to a more middle-class society. Progressing into the twentieth century, the early vernacular forms are replaced with the more modern forms. The bungalow and Minimal Traditional forms became prominent, followed by minimalist ranch forms of the 1950s and 1960s. Following the 1960s, trailers, pre-fabricated, and other modular homes were commonplace until the recent rise in popularity of assorted neo-eclectic homes.

Styled Residences

Georgian

The most prevalent and recognizable style of the mid to late-eighteenth century is the Georgian. The Georgian house dominated the high-style architecture of the period and became the influence for many later styles. Georgians are characterized by their symmetrical front facades, divided into a tripartite pattern with a centrally located entrance. They are almost always two-stories tall set on a raised water table foundation. They are covered by side-gable or hipped-roofs that feature large chimney stacks placed either externally or internally, but are always symmetrical. The buildings incorporate classical influences at the main entrance and cornice.⁵

The only truly high-style Georgian residence in the Sebrell District is the Jesse Little Plantation House, located on River Road. The property has four massive shouldered chimneys, classically-inspired porticos on both the front and rear facades, and its raised English basement. There are several simplified versions that exhibit the Georgian style but without the high-style ornamentation, such as the Nicholas Williams House located across Cary's Bridge Road from Barn Tavern. The typical method of construction for Georgian style dwellings in the

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southern parts of the United States, including Virginia, is brick. In contrast, all of the Georgian style dwellings in the Sebrell district are wood-frame covered with clapboard, reflecting their rural vernacular simplicity.

Greek Revival

The Greek Revival style evolved from the Early Classical Revival style and was popular from the period of about 1820-1860. The style built on the Georgian and Federal styles that incorporated a symmetrical front façade with a central doorway. A porch or portico adorned with classical columns and pediment is the defining feature of the style, although other stylistic elements such as elliptical fanlights, classical entablature, and a low-pitched roof are defining features as well. Windows and doors are aligned vertically and horizontally in symmetrical rows and often feature elaborate surrounds.⁶ The Greek Revival style became a popular design to use on public buildings which often incorporate a large, full-height colonnaded portico resembling a temple form. This form was also utilized on many of the large homes of the wealthy, although the style is also often found on smaller one and two-story homes with single-bay simplified porticos.

There is only one Greek Revival home in the Sebrell Historic District; the W.B. Simmons Farm located on Cary's Bridge Road. This example is a one-story hipped-roof home set on a raised foundation and features a centrally located, one-bay entry portico with classical detailing. The building is flanked by two sets of end chimneys.

Italianate

The Italianate style dominated commercial architecture from the mid-nineteenth well into the early twentieth century, but was also relatively common on residential buildings. The defining features of the style include a low-pitched roof with wide-overhanging eaves supported by brackets and tall-narrow-paired windows, often arched and topped by elaborate window crowns or hoods.⁷ High-style examples feature ornate doorways, towers or cupolas, projecting bay windows, and porches. The style is also readily and commonly adapted to more informal or vernacular examples far simpler in ornamentation.

In the Sebrell District, there are two homes exhibiting Italianate influences, both located in the vicinity of the Barn Tavern. Both examples are two-story, L-shaped wood-frame homes covered with gabled-roofs that exhibit character defining elements such as the tall-narrow-paired windows with curved tops, window hoods, bracketed cornices, scrollwork, and elaborate doorways.

Folk Victorian

Folk Victorian can refer to either a type in and of itself or a style of embellishment as applied to another vernacular type popular from about 1870 to 1910. As a standalone type, Folk Victorians exhibit the irregular forms typical to high-style Victorians such as the Queen Anne, East Lake, or Stick style, but with only mild to moderate embellishment. Elements such as projecting bays with clipped corners, wrap-around porches, and shingled facades are common to Folk Victorian buildings. As a stylistic influence, similar features are applied to

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other architectural types such as the I-house or hall-parlor plan. In these cases, the majority of features are applied to the roofline and porch and consist of central cross-gables, gable returns, frieze boards, and ornamental vents. The home located at 17341 River Road is an example of the Folk-Victorian style applied to an I-house. In this case, the home features a central cross-gable with a diamond-shaped vent and fish-scale shingles, gable returns, and turned posts on the porch. An example of a house exhibiting a Folk Victorian form is located at 17553 Plank Road. This home has a massed plan with several wings and projecting bays. On top of the building is a compound roof reminiscent of higher style Queen Anne architecture.

Craftsman

The Craftsman style became popular in the early twentieth century as a rejection of what became considered the overly ornate and pretentious style of Victorian architecture. Craftsman architecture features simple, well built homes with an abundance of wood and nature inspired elements. Character defining features of the Craftsman style include front porches, low-pitched roofs, exposed rafter tails, and paired windows.⁸ The Craftsman style is often applied to the bungalow form, however, it was also a popular influence on the American Foursquare. In the Sebrell Rural Historic District, an example of an American Foursquare may be found at the northeast corner of River Road and Plank Road in the village of Sebrell.

Cape Cod

The Cape Cod style is one of several types that fall under the general category of Colonial Revival. Cape Cods are generally the smallest and simplest form and were popular from approximately 1930 to 1950. They are almost always one-and-a-half-stories tall with a side-gabled roof over a rectangular form. They have a symmetrical front façade with a centrally located entrance, often embellished with a classically inspired surround. More elaborate examples feature gabled-dormers on the front slope, and sometimes have similar gabled porticos. Cape Cod homes typically have multi-light-sash windows with shutters.⁹ All of the examples of the Cape Cod style in the Sebrell Rural Historic District are simple with only minor embellishment. An example is located at 17735 River Road, in the village of Sebrell.

Minimal Traditional

The Minimal Traditional was a popular architectural style from the 1930s into the 1960s. It incorporated aspects of the earlier Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival styles with a more simplistic form and layout. Minimal Traditionals can be two-story, although are far more frequently one-story. They typically have a side-gabled or hipped main mass with a slightly projecting front-gabled wing, or sometimes only a front-cross-gable. Small front porches or porticos are common and later examples often feature a large picture window on the front facade. Minimal Traditional homes are usually simple and have only minor embellishment or ornamentation. There are several Minimal Traditional styled homes in the village of Sebrell, especially along Farmers Grove Road.

Contemporary

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Contemporary architecture was a minimalist style popular from the 1950s through the 1960s. These buildings are typically concrete block construction that is often left exposed or covered with stucco. They are covered with low-pitch-hipped-roofs or sometimes flat-roofs. Ornamentation is simple and usually consists of scored stucco, banding, or decorative cast concrete elements. Integral screened porches are common as are metal window awnings. Only one example of Contemporary architecture is found in the Sebrell Rural Historic District; located at 22409 Farmers Grove Road in the village of Sebrell.

Vernacular Residences

The majority of buildings present in the Sebrell Rural Historic District do not fit within any of the “high styles” of architecture but represent vernacular forms. These buildings are built by local craftsman or the owners and draw upon a mixture of influences to adorn their functional forms. Many of these buildings do not have any ornamentation whatsoever. Vernacular buildings typically fall into several common types that are categorized by their form. The most common historic residential forms, particularly in the Sebrell district are the I-house and hall-parlor-plan. These forms were prevalent from the eighteenth well into the early twentieth century when they were replaced with the bungalow, Minimal Traditional, and Ranch styles. Non-historically, the pre-fabricated or trailer home has become the common Vernacular style.

I-House

The most common farmhouse in Southampton County from the late-eighteenth century into the early-twentieth century was the two-story, single-bay, side-gabled three or five-bay wide building with a central hallway, commonly referred to as an I-house. Most often these buildings have gable-end chimneys, a full or nearly full-width one-story-front porch, and a rear ell of some type. These residences were readily adapted with minor embellishments from popular styles such as classically-inspired cornices on earlier examples to central front cross-gables on Victorian-era examples. Examples with various influences are found throughout the Sebrell Rural Historic District. The John Ivy Turner House on Cary’s Bridge Road is an example of an early I-house with a saltbox addition to the rear. The building at 17363 River Road is an example of a Victorian influenced I-house with its central-cross-gable, gable returns, and diamond-shaped vent.

Hall-Parlor-Plan

A more modest vernacular form, the hall-parlor-plan, is found throughout the Sebrell District. Hall-parlor-plan homes are one-story tall with a side-gabled-roof and are characterized by a front door slightly offset from center, indicative of the two-room interior plan. In most cases, the buildings have a chimney at each end and full or nearly full-width front porch. Many times these homes have a rear ell for additional space as well. The majority of hall-parlor-plan homes in the Sebrell District were constructed during the mid to late-nineteenth century and thus have mild to moderate Victorian influences. The earliest hall-parlor-plan house in the district is the Quarter Farm, built circa 1749, although likely enlarged and remodeled during the nineteenth century. This is also the only example with roof dormers indicating a half-story above the main level. An example of a Victorian

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influenced hall-parlor-plan dwelling is located at 19674 River Road. This home features a molded cornice with gable-returns, frieze board, chamfered square posts, and tall two-over-two double-hung sash windows, which are all characteristic features of the Folk Victorian style.

Bungalow

The bungalow form is a modest house type that was popular throughout the first half of the twentieth century. Bungalows are typically aligned lengthwise and topped by a front-gabled roof. They almost always feature a front porch and typically have a rear porch or enclosed rear ell as well. On the interior they have an open floor plan, often times with the kitchen, living room, and dining room flowing together on one side of the building with a row of bedrooms off of a hall on the other. Bungalows are often adorned with the Craftsman style, however, other styles and influences are common as well. In the Sebrell Rural Historic District all of the bungalow style dwellings are simple and unadorned and characterized only by their rectangular form and front-gabled-roofs. An example of the bungalow form in the district may be found at 16331 Plank Road, just north of the village of Sebrell.

Non-Residential

Indicative of its rural character, the Sebrell Rural Historic District contains numerous buildings and structures that are non-residential in character. This includes anything from domestic outbuildings such as kitchens, smokehouses, dairies, outhouses, and sheds to agricultural resources like barns, garages, animal shelters, and silos. Commercial buildings, churches, schools, and community buildings fall under this category as do transpiration related resources and any other resource type not intended for human habitation.

Domestic Outbuildings

Until the late nineteenth century, it was common, especially at the homes of the wealthier planters, to house many of their service rooms in buildings detached from the main house. While separate outhouses and springhouses were almost always a part of farmsteads, kitchens, dairies, smokehouses, and brew houses were also often located in detached buildings. Practical reasons for placing these functions in separate buildings were safety, comfort, and movement of servants and commotion away from the main house. Some larger plantations incorporated blacksmith shops, tanneries, schoolhouses, and any number of other buildings to create what sometimes resembled self-sufficient villages.

By the turn of the twentieth century, with the advent of the cooktop stove, icebox, and running water, many of these functions began to be incorporated into the main house. Often times, the detached kitchens were close enough to the main house that additions were constructed to connect the two separate buildings. New homes incorporated kitchens and bathrooms into their design, however, were often still placed in a rear ell away from the main living areas.

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In the Sebrell Rural Historic District, the most common remaining detached domestic outbuildings are smokehouses and well houses. A home with a full array of remaining domestic outbuildings is the Simmons-Sebrell- Bishop-Reese-Kitchen House on Cary's Bridge Road just north of Barn Tavern. There are also several houses where it is apparent that a formerly detached kitchen building has been connected to the main house with a later hyphen addition. One such example of this practice is at the Whitehead Farm on River Road.

Commercial

The villages of Barn Tavern and later Sebrell both developed around intersections of major transportation routes; Jerusalem Plank Road and Belfied-Emporia Road, and Plank Road and the Virginian Railroad respectively. These locations made the two villages a prime stop for travelers along these major thoroughfares. During the early nineteenth century, Barn Tavern had the tavern, mercantile stores, a hotel, blacksmith, schools, and other assorted businesses. Sebrell had an even larger commercial core with several mercantile and general stores, a pharmacy, hotel, stave mill, bank, and service stations.¹⁰

Despite the commercial boom of the early twentieth-century, only four commercial buildings remain in the district and of those, only two date to the period of significance. The majority, if not all, of the commercial buildings located in Barn Tavern near the intersection of Cary's Bridge Road and Barn Tavern Road were likely demolished or removed when the community shifted a half-mile east to the village of Sebrell. The railroad brought a quick boom to Sebrell in the first two decades of the twentieth century so the majority of commercial buildings (and dwellings) were constructed with wood-frames to allow more rapid construction. Only a few buildings were masonry construction in the village, including a bank (not extant), the Unity Rowes General Store, and the Davis and Clark Store. Unfortunately, the downfall of the railroad brought the demise of Sebrell and many of the businesses closed or were abandoned in the 1930s through 1960s. The hastily built wood buildings all fell into disrepair and have been demolished.¹¹

Churches

Two churches are located in the Sebrell Rural Historic District, the Sebrell United Methodist Church and the St. Mary's AME Mount Zion Church. The Sebrell United Methodist Church is located on River Road just on the south side of Plank Road in the village of Sebrell, while St. Mary's is further south on River Road. Both churches were constructed circa 1910 and exhibit Gothic Revival influences. As is typical in rural areas, the churches were and still are important places for the community, serving as meeting places for people to gather. These buildings are utilized nearly every night of the week.¹²

Cemeteries

Four cemeteries were observed in the Sebrell Rural Historic District, including two stand-alone community cemeteries, one associated with the St. Mary's AME Mount Zion Church and one family plot at the Rowe-Wells Farm. The Simmons-Sebrell Cemetery located adjacent to Barn Tavern is the largest and best maintained cemetery. This cemetery is landscaped and marked with a brick gate and plaque with a short history. It contains

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many of the earliest settlers and their descendants. The Butts Cemetery on Old Hickory Road is smaller and while still used only minimally maintained, with many of the graves being overgrown in the woods. The St. Mary's Church cemetery is maintained and appears to still be in use. The Rowe-Wells cemetery is a typical family burial plot on a farm property. It contains only a few marked graves and is enclosed with a picket fence.

Agricultural Buildings

Many of the resources within the Sebrell Rural Historic District have at least one barn or general-use agricultural outbuilding on the property. Generally these buildings are small and simple, exhibiting a wood-frame structural system clad with weatherboard siding and topped by a gable-roof, generally covered with standing seam metal. For the most part, these buildings function as equipment and supply storage rather than animal shelter. Therefore, many barns have large open bays, as well as open-sided shed-roof additions for equipment or hay storage. Pole barns are also common in the district, especially on those farms with livestock. These buildings typically have no walls but four corner posts supporting a simple gable roof. Few specialized agricultural outbuildings remain in the district. However, two log-construction gable-roof corn cribs and a pyramidal-roof chicken coop were observed.

Archaeological Sites

A number of known archaeological resources are located throughout the district, including both Native American and Anglo-American sites. They range from late-archaic sites with mostly lithic material to colonial sites with assorted ceramics, glass, and metals. The majority of sites, however, are Native American, dating to the Woodland Period and are likely associated with the Nottoway/Cheroenhaka habitation of the area. These are primarily located along the edges of the Nottoway River and Assamoosick Swamp. Most sites were initially identified by property owners during field plowing. Little investigation beyond identification of the sites within the district boundaries has occurred, therefore their potential significance cannot be determined.

Railroads

The corridor of the former Virginian Railroad traverses across the district from east to west, nearly dividing the area in half. The Virginian Railroad was completed in 1908 and brought a period of rapid growth and expansion to the village of Sebrell which grew around the intersection of the line and Jerusalem Plank Road in the following years. Constructed as a freight line to transport coal from West Virginia to Norfolk, the line began offering passenger service in 1909, with Sebrell operating as a whistle stop. In 1959, the Virginian Railroad merged with longtime rival Norfolk and Western Railroad. The line through Sebrell was discontinued that same year.¹³ The tracks and ties were removed soon after and the depot building was relocated to a farm north of Sebrell. Recently, the right-of-way was purchased by the Virginia Beach Pipeline.

Bridges

Because of its location on a peninsula between the Nottoway River on the west and south and the Assamoosick Swamp on the east, three of the four major access points into the district cross bridges. All three bridge

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crossings, the Cary's Bridge Road over the Nottoway River, Plank Road Bridge, and the River Road Bridge over the Assamoosick Swamp, are non-historic. Several bents from the original Cary's Bridge, constructed circa 1920, remain in the district just a little upstream of the current Cary's Bridge. All of the bridges are simple concrete girder design.

Roads

The community at Barn Tavern developed initially because of its location at the intersection of two colonial roads, what would eventually be known as the Jerusalem Plank Road and the Belfield-Emporia Road. In 1853 the Jerusalem Plank Toll Road was laid with wood planks as part of an internal improvement project to connect Sebrell to the town of Jerusalem, the county seat of Southampton, and on to Petersburg. By 1859, the company ran out of their initial state-funded budget. Tolls proved insufficient to cover continual maintenance and the road reverted to county ownership that year.¹⁴ Plank Road remained a major north-south route throughout the nineteenth and early-twentieth century and aided in the growth and development of the village. In 1923, the road was designated Virginia Route 35 and in 1931, a bypass was constructed around Sebrell with a bridge over the Virginian Railroad. The "overhead bridge" as it was locally known, became an icon of Sebrell for much of the twentieth century. The bridge was removed and the road realigned around the old berm in the 1990s.¹⁵

Non-Historic Resources

Pre-Fabricated House

The pre-fabricated or trailer house has become a common rural housing style in the Sebrell Rural Historic District and across the country. These buildings are brought to their property either fully or mostly assembled. They are typically then set on a permanent foundation or sometimes left on a trailer with the foundation wrapped in a vinyl or metal veneer to give the appearance of permanence. In general, these buildings are clad with vinyl siding and topped by a low-pitch gable-roof. In the Sebrell District, there are both single and double-wide examples.

SEBRELL RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY REPORT

In the following inventory, which is listed numerically by street address, all resources, both primary and secondary, have been considered either contributing or non-contributing based upon the areas of significance as listed in Section 8. The period of significance reflects the historic district's full development period. All non-contributing resources have been determined as such because they were constructed outside the period of significance and/or lack the sufficient integrity to represent the period and/or areas of significance.

Barn Tavern Road

22244 Barn Tavern Road 087-5552-0037

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Other, Stories 0.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1995

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Individual Resource Status: **Other** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

22319 Barn Tavern Road 087-5552-0038

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1910**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Outbuilding, Domestic** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Pump House** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

22327 Barn Tavern Road 087-5552-0039

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1910**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

22335 Barn Tavern Road 087-5357
0040

Other DHR Id #: **087-5552-**

Primary Resource Information: **Store, Stories 2.00, Style: Vernacular, 1915**

Individual Resource Status: **Store** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Shed** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

22349 Barn Tavern Road 087-5552-0041

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1980**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

22357 Barn Tavern Road 087-5552-0042

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1950**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

22365 Barn Tavern Road 087-5552-0043

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1950**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

22396 Barn Tavern Road 087-5552-0045

Other DHR Id #:

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Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1920**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling Non-Contributing Total: 1**

Individual Resource Status: **Outbuilding, Domestic Non-Contributing Total: 1**

22397 Barn Tavern Road 087-5552-0044

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1950**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling Non-Contributing Total: 1**

Individual Resource Status: **Shed Non-Contributing Total: 1**

22402 Barn Tavern Road 087-5552-0046

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: Vernacular, 1915**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling Non-Contributing Total: 1**

22451 Barn Tavern Road 087-5552-0047

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: Ranch, 1960**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling Non-Contributing Total: 1**

22457 Barn Tavern Road 087-5552-0048

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: Vernacular, 1915**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling Non-Contributing Total: 1**

Cary's Bridge Road

Cary's Bridge Road 087-0012 *Other DHR Id #: 087-5552-0018*

Primary Resource Information: **Tavern/Ordinary, Stories 1.50, Style: Vernacular, 1761**

Individual Resource Status: **Tavern/Ordinary Contributing Total: 1**

1 Cary's Bridge Road 087-5376

Other DHR Id #: 087-5552-

0019

Primary Resource Information: **Cemetery, Stories 0.00, Style: Other, 1726**

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Individual Resource Status: **Cemetery** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

16486 Cary's Bridge Road 087-5385 *Other DHR Id #:* **087-5552-0016**

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Italianate, 1880**

<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Single Dwelling	Contributing	<i>Total:</i> 1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Smoke/Meat House	Contributing	<i>Total:</i> 1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Barn	Contributing	<i>Total:</i> 3
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> School	Contributing	<i>Total:</i> 1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Kitchen	Contributing	<i>Total:</i> 1

17019 Cary's Bridge Road 087-0058 *Other DHR Id #:* **087-5552-0017**

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Vernacular, 1779**

<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Garage	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i> 1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Single Dwelling	Contributing	<i>Total:</i> 1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Shed	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i> 1

17104 Cary's Bridge Road 087-5552-0020 *Other DHR Id #:*

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1995**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

17123 Cary's Bridge Road 087-5377 *Other DHR Id #:* **087-5552-0021**

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Italianate, 1770**

<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Single Dwelling	Contributing	<i>Total:</i> 1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Ice House	Contributing	<i>Total:</i> 1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Barn	Contributing	<i>Total:</i> 3
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Field	Contributing	<i>Total:</i> 2

17253 Cary's Bridge Road 087-5552-0022 *Other DHR Id #:*

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1930**

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Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

17292 Cary's Bridge Road 087-5552-0023 *Other DHR Id #:*

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Other, 2005**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Outbuilding, Domestic** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

17310 Cary's Bridge Road 087-5552-0024 *Other DHR Id #:*

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: Other, 2000**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

17320 Cary's Bridge Road 087-5552-0025 *Other DHR Id #:*

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 2000**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Secondary Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Garage** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

17410 Cary's Bridge Road 087-5552-0027 *Other DHR Id #:*

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Other, 2000**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

17413 Cary's Bridge Road 087-5193 *Other DHR Id #: 087-5552-0028*

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Colonial, 1808**

Individual Resource Status: **Secondary Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Smoke/Meat House** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Spring/Spring House** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Agricultural Bldg.** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 5

Individual Resource Status: **Silo** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 3

17550 Cary's Bridge Road 087-5552-0029 *Other DHR Id #:*

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Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: Other, 1960

<i>Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Shed</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1

17640 Cary's Bridge Road 087-5552-0030

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1950

<i>Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Agricultural Outbuildings</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	10
<i>Individual Resource Status: Silo</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	12

18034 Cary's Bridge Road 087-5379

Other DHR Id #: 087-5552-

0031

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Vernacular, 1792

<i>Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Pump House</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Smoke/Meat House</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Barn</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Garage</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1

18037 Cary's Bridge Road 087-5378

Other DHR Id #: 087-5552-

0033

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: Greek Revival, 1869

<i>Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Smoke/Meat House</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Shed</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Barn</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	4
<i>Individual Resource Status: Barn</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	3
<i>Individual Resource Status: Silo</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	4

18075 Cary's Bridge Road 087-5380

Other DHR Id #: 087-5552-

0034

Primary Resource Information: Secondary Dwelling, Stories 1.50, Style: Vernacular, 1890

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Individual Resource Status: **Secondary Dwelling** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

18080 Cary's Bridge Road 087-5552-0032

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1990**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Garage** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Shed** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

Cary's Bridge Road at Nottoway River

Cary's Bridge Road at Nottoway River 087-5384 *Other DHR Id #:* **087-5552-0035**

Primary Resource Information: **Bridge, Stories 0.00, Style: Other, 1920**

Individual Resource Status: **Bridge** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

Cary's Bridge Road over Nottoway River

Cary's Bridge Road over Nottoway River 087-5552-0036 *Other DHR Id #:*

Primary Resource Information: **Bridge, Stories 0.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1954**

Individual Resource Status: **Bridge** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

Farmers Grove Road

22326 Farmers Grove Road 087-5552-0052 *Other DHR Id #:*

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1906**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Garage** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Shelter** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

22338 Farmers Grove Road 087-5552-0053

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 0.00, Style: Vernacular, 1880**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

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22359 Farmers Grove Road 087-5552-0054 *Other DHR Id #:*
Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 2000

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Workshop Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Shed Non-Contributing Total: 1

22385 Farmers Grove Road 087-5552-0055 *Other DHR Id #:*
Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: Minimal Traditional, 1945

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Garage Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Shed Non-Contributing Total: 3

Individual Resource Status: Pump House Non-Contributing Total: 1

22409 Farmers Grove Road 087-5552-0056 *Other DHR Id #:*
Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1950

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Carport Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Shed Non-Contributing Total: 2

22417 Farmers Grove Road 087-5552-0057 *Other DHR Id #:*
Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: Minimal Traditional, 1950

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling Non-Contributing Total: 1

22427 Farmers Grove Road 087-5552-0058 *Other DHR Id #:*
Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1960

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling Non-Contributing Total: 1

Mussock Drive

Mussock Drive 087-0031 *Other DHR Id #: 087-5552-0106*

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Vernacular, 1801

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Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

20280 Mussock Drive 087-5552-0107

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Craftsman, 1915**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Secondary Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Barn** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 4

Individual Resource Status: **Carport** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

Old Hickory Road

Old Hickory Road 087-5552-0006 *Other DHR Id #:*

Primary Resource Information: **Cemetery, Stories 0.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1894**

Individual Resource Status: **Cemetery** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

20317 Old Hickory Road 087-0089
0001

Other DHR Id #: **087-5552-**

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.50, Style: Vernacular, 1740**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Mobile Home/Trailer** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 5

Individual Resource Status: **Shed** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 2

Individual Resource Status: **Animal Shelter/Kennel** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

21228 Old Hickory Road 087-5552-0002

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: Vernacular, 1860**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Outbuilding, Domestic** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Barn** **Contributing** *Total:* 3

Individual Resource Status: **Shed** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

21240 Old Hickory Road 087-5552-0003

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1990**

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Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Shed** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 2

21290 Old Hickory Road 087-5552-0004

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1995**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Garage** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Shed** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

21298 Old Hickory Road 087-5552-0005

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1995**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Garage** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Shelter** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 2
Individual Resource Status: **Shed** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 3

Plank Road

Plank Road 087-5552-0112 *Other DHR Id #:*

Primary Resource Information: **Slave/Servant Quarters, Stories 2.00, Style: Vernacular, 1870**

Individual Resource Status: **Slave/Servant Quarters** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Outbuilding,Domestic** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Slave/Servant Quarters** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Outbuilding,Domestic** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

14495 Plank Road 087-0087
0007

Other DHR Id #: **087-5552-**

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Victorian, Folk, 1900**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Barn** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Barn** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Garage** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

15277 Plank Road 087-5552-0008

Other DHR Id #:

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Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: Ranch, 1965

<i>Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Barn</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	4

16283 Plank Road 087-5552-0010

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Minimal Traditional, 1960

<i>Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Barn</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	2
<i>Individual Resource Status: Outbuilding,Domestic</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Shelter</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Silo</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	4

16305 Plank Road 087-5552-0011

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Depot, Stories 1.00, Style: Vernacular, 1906

<i>Individual Resource Status: Depot</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
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16331 Plank Road 087-5552-0014

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Secondary Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1950

<i>Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Secondary Dwelling</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Garage</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Shed</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Market</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1

16359 Plank Road 087-5552-0015

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1980

<i>Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Barn</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Shed</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	2

17326 Plank Road 087-5552-0066

Other DHR Id #:

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Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1915

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling Non-Contributing Total: 1

17334 Plank Road 087-5552-0065

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1915

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling Non-Contributing Total: 1

17347 Plank Road 087-5552-0063

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Commercial Building, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1960

Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building Non-Contributing Total: 1

17415 Plank Road 087-5552-0062

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Automobile Showroom, Stories 1.00, Style: Other, 1980

Individual Resource Status: Automobile Showroom Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Garage Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Shed Non-Contributing Total: 1

17537 Plank Road 087-5552-0059

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Victorian, Folk, 1900

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Smoke/Meat House Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Stable Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Garage Non-Contributing Total: 1

17553 Plank Road 087-5552-0060

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.50, Style: Victorian, Folk, 1900

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Outbuilding, Domestic Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Shed Non-Contributing Total: 1

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17568 Plank Road 087-5552-0061

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Vernacular, 1900

<i>Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Shed</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1

17656 Plank Road 087-5552-0109

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.50, Style: Victorian, Folk, 1910

<i>Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
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17718 Plank Road 087-5552-0110

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Victorian, Folk, 1820

<i>Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Outbuilding, Domestic</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	3
<i>Individual Resource Status: Slave/Servant Quarters</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Shed</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	3
<i>Individual Resource Status: Barn</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Garage</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Silo</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	5

River Road

River Road 087-5373 *Other DHR Id #: 087-5552-0091*

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Vernacular, 1850

<i>Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Animal Shelter/Kennel</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Carport</i>	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Slave/Servant Quarters</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1

17256 River Road 087-5358

Other DHR Id #: 087-5552-

0049

Primary Resource Information: Commercial Building, Stories 1.00, Style: Vernacular, 1915

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Individual Resource Status: **Commercial Building** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

17262 River Road 087-5552-0050

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Mill, Stories 3.00, Style: Other, 1935**

Individual Resource Status: **Mill** **Contributing** *Total:* 2

Individual Resource Status: **Barn** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Shelter** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Shed** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Silo** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

17275 River Road 087-5552-0064

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Craftsman, 1935**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

17297 River Road 087-5356
0067

Other DHR Id #: **087-5552-**

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: Gothic Revival, 1915**

Individual Resource Status: **Church/Chapel** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

17319 River Road 087-5355
0068

Other DHR Id #: **087-5552-**

1915
Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Victorian, Queen Anne,**

Individual Resource Status: **Outbuilding, Domestic** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

17324 River Road 087-5552-0078

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **School, Stories 1.00, Style: Vernacular, 1923**

Individual Resource Status: **School** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Individual Resource Status: **Shed, Vehicle/Equipment** **Non-Contributing** *Total:*

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17335 River Road 087-5552-0073

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.50, Style: Colonial Revival, Cape Cod, 1945**

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling	Non-Contributing	Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Garage	Non-Contributing	Total: 1

17340 River Road 087-5552-0079

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Victorian, Queen Anne, 1900**

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling	Contributing	Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Barn	Non-Contributing	Total: 2
Individual Resource Status: Outbuilding, Domestic	Non-Contributing	Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Chicken House/Poultry House	Non-Contributing	Total: 1

17341 River Road 087-5552-0074

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Victorian, Folk, 1900**

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling	Contributing	Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Garage	Non-Contributing	Total: 1

17360 River Road 087-5552-0080

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1930**

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling	Non-Contributing	Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Shed	Non-Contributing	Total: 2

17363 River Road 087-5552-0075

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Victorian, Folk, 1900**

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling	Contributing	Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Shed	Non-Contributing	Total: 2

17378 River Road 087-5552-0081

Other DHR Id #:

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Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.50, Style: Colonial Revival, Cape Cod, 1945**

<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Single Dwelling	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Garage	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Shed	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	2

17379 River Road 087-5552-0076

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1965**

<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Single Dwelling	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Shed	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1

17396 River Road 087-5552-0082

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1960**

<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Single Dwelling	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Garage	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1

17524 River Road 087-5375
0083

Other DHR Id #: **087-5552-**

Primary Resource Information: **Church/Chapel, Stories 1.00, Style: Gothic Revival, 1910**

<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Church/Chapel	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Cemetery	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Shed	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1

17540 River Road 087-5552-0084

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Vernacular, 1880**

<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Single Dwelling	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
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17550 River Road 087-5552-0085

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1980**

<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Single Dwelling	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
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17554 River Road 087-5552-0086

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1915**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling Non-Contributing Total: 1**

Individual Resource Status: **Slave/Servant Quarters Contributing Total: 1**

Individual Resource Status: **Shed Non-Contributing Total: 1**

Individual Resource Status: **Pump House Non-Contributing Total: 1**

18006 River Road 087-5381
0087

Other DHR Id #: **087-5552-**

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.50, Style: Vernacular, 1790**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling Contributing Total: 1**

Individual Resource Status: **Garage Contributing Total: 1**

18018 River Road 087-5552-0088

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: Vernacular, 1900**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling Contributing Total: 1**

Individual Resource Status: **Garage Contributing Total: 1**

18056 River Road 087-5374
0089

Other DHR Id #: **087-5552-**

Primary Resource Information: **School, Stories 1.00, Style: Vernacular, 1934**

Individual Resource Status: **School Contributing Total: 1**

Individual Resource Status: **Shed Non-Contributing Total: 2**

18480 River Road 087-0048
0090

Other DHR Id #: **087-5552-**

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Georgian, 1790**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling Contributing Total: 1**

Individual Resource Status: **Barn Contributing Total: 1**

Individual Resource Status: **Outbuilding, Domestic Contributing Total: 2**

Individual Resource Status: **Secondary Dwelling Contributing Total: 1**

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18604 River Road 087-5552-0093

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: Vernacular, 1925

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling Contributing Total: 1

19137 River Road 087-5552-0094

Other DHR Id #:

1995

Primary Resource Information: Mobile Home/Trailer, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style,

Individual Resource Status: Mobile Home/Trailer Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Barn Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Shed Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Silo Non-Contributing Total: 4

19167 River Road 087-5552-0095

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1990

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Garage Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Shed Non-Contributing Total: 1

19183 River Road 087-5552-0096

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1990

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Secondary Dwelling Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Shed Non-Contributing Total: 1

19219 River Road 087-5552-0097

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1940

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Barn Non-Contributing Total: 2

Individual Resource Status: Shed Non-Contributing Total: 4

19276 River Road 087-5552-0099

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: Vernacular, 1880

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Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Corncrib** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

19674 River Road 087-5552-0100

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: Vernacular, 1870**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Barn** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

19778 River Road 087-5552-0101

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 2000**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Shed** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Carport** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Shed,Vehicle/Equipment** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

19810 River Road 087-5552-0102

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.50, Style: No Discernable Style, 2009**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Carport** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

19816 River Road 087-5552-0103

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.50, Style: No Discernable Style, 2009**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1

19940 River Road 087-5372
0104

Other DHR Id #: **087-5552-**

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Vernacular, 1870**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Spring/Spring House** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 1
Individual Resource Status: **Silo** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 2

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<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Barn	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	3
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Corncrib	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1

19947 River Road 087-0062 *Other DHR Id #:* **087-5552-0105**

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Vernacular, 1790**

<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Single Dwelling	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Garage	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Barn	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Silo	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	2
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Shed	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Slave/Servant Quarters	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Carport	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Cemetery	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1

Rosedale Drive

22357 Rosedale Drive 087-5552-0012 *Other DHR Id #:*

Primary Resource Information: **Clubhouse, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1995**

<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Clubhouse	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Shelter	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	2
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Garage	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Shed	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1

Individual Resource Status: **Animal Shelter/Kennel** **Non-Contributing** *Total:* 3

Sebrell Avenue

17337 Sebrell Avenue 087-5552-0069 *Other DHR Id #:*

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1995**

<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Single Dwelling	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
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17348 Sebrell Avenue 087-5552-0072 *Other DHR Id #:*

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1915**

<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Single Dwelling	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Shed	Non-Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	2

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17349 Sebrell Avenue 087-5552-0070

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: No Discernable Style, 1915**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling Contributing Total: 1**

17363 Sebrell Avenue 087-5552-0071

Other DHR Id #:

Primary Resource Information: **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.00, Style: Ranch, 1959**

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling Non-Contributing Total: 1**

Individual Resource Status: **Shed Non-Contributing Total: 1**

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SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sebrell Rural Historic District is an agricultural area within north-central Southampton County that contains the remnants of Barn Tavern, an eighteenth and nineteenth century community that grew around a tavern by the same name; and Sebrell, a twentieth century rail road town that evolved from Barn Tavern. The remnants of these two villages are seated roughly a half-mile apart and contain the largest concentrations of historic buildings in the district. The surrounding area is composed of historic and non-historic farms with a mix of large and small agricultural fields, timber farms, and pasture. The period of significance for the district extends from 1761 to 1931, beginning with the construction of Barn Tavern and ending with the rerouting of Plank Road around the village of Sebrell. Although this bypass was not the only cause for the demise of the village as a recognizable entity, it marked a major blow to Sebrell as travelers were no longer routed through town. This was the first of several factors that led to the eventual demise of the village.

The district and its architecture represent the gradual shift from a cash crop planter society dominance to a more diversified agribusiness and commercial economy brought about by the establishment of the railroad. The rural agrarian district reflects the historical land use patterns including fields, gardens, pastures, fence lines, and wooded forests that have evolved over time. The accompanying architecture incorporates a wealth of building types, forms, and styles. The diversity of these resources reflects the evolving cultural patterns of the district's three centuries of non-aboriginal settlement.

The Sebrell Rural Historic District is therefore considered significant at the local level and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** in the areas of Agriculture, Commerce, and African American Ethnic Heritage; and under **Criterion C** in the area of Architecture.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Native American Period

Prior to the formation of Southampton County and Anglo-settlement of the region, the Sebrell District and surrounding areas were home to Native Americans who hunted and fished in the bountiful forests and rivers that characterized the area. Several tribes inhabited the area including predominantly the Nottoway but also the Meherrin and Tuscarora, all of which belong to the Iroquoian group. The name Nottoway is derived from "Nodoway," the term the Algonquin speakers gave to the Colonists describing the tribe as early as 1608. Often times, Colonists gave names to Indian Tribes based on what other tribes they had contact with first called them.¹ It was recorded by Thomas Jefferson in 1820 that members of the Nottoway Tribe described themselves in their own language as Cheroenhaka or "People at the Fork of the Stream," in reference to their inhabitation of the area where the Nottoway River forks with The Blackwater River to form the Chowan River.

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Colonial expansion pushed westward throughout the early seventeenth century, and in an effort to protect Indian lands and limit potential conflicts the Virginia House of Burgesses established the Blackwater River as the limit for Anglo- settlement in 1634.² In 1650, an expedition was lead by Edward Bland, a merchant interested in expanding trade with the Indians, through the lands west of the Blackwater. They encountered several villages near the upper reaches of the Nottoway River which the Algonquin scouts traveling with them referred to as the Nodoways.

By that time the lands west of the Blackwater River had become attractive to settlers seeking new property. The Virginia House of Burgesses took another step to reinforce the demarcation line and protect the Indian lands, for trade by signing the Treaty of Middle Plantation in 1677. This treaty formalized the relationship between the tribes and the colony, and officially assigned them the tracts of land they were already living on. This protection did not last long though, as westward expansion became inevitable for the growing colony. Petitions came before the government complaining about the restrictions against settling land west of the Blackwater River and in 1705 the House of Burgesses lifted the restriction on settlement beyond the Blackwater River.³ As part of the revision however, they granted the Nottoway two tracts of land near where the Assamoosick Swamp meets the Nottoway River.⁴

The first was a three-mile radius forming a circle around the already present Nottoway village on the Assamoosick Swamp. The second was on the south side of the Nottoway River, approximately one-and-a-half miles southwest of present-day Sebrell. The circular tract became known as the Nottoway "Great Town," complete with a fort and village. In 1713, a third stand alone treaty was signed between the Virginia Colony and the Nottoway Tribe, and later that year, what was left of the Meherrin Tribe was incorporated with them.

By the 1720s the number of Nottoway and Meherrin was in decline due to colonial expansion, disease and isolation from traditional cultural means of survival. In 1734, the first transfer of reservation land to Anglo settlers involved property in the circle tract. It was permitted by an Act of the Virginia General Assembly reading, "Whereas the nation is of late reduced by wars sickness and other casualties, to a small number and among those that remain many are old and unable to labor or hunt, so that one of the said tracts will be sufficient for them and more than they are able in their present circumstances to cultivate, or make use of."⁵

The majority of the circle tract land was sold to settlers within a few years. The majority of the Nottoway population relocated to the tract of land on the south-side of the Nottoway River.⁶ In 1748, another act was passed permitting the tribe to sell 5,000 acres from that tract.⁷

While the reservation lands granted to the Nottoway were no longer cohesive by the late-eighteenth century tribe members remained in the area throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, living and farming on the land formerly granted to them. Many tribe members remain in the region. The Nottoway and Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Tribes were officially recognized by a General Assembly Joint Resolution in 2010.

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Southampton County

While Anglo-settlement of the territory that would become Southampton County did not start in earnest until after the 1634 demarcation line was removed in 1705 it is likely that settlers had already been moving into the area for several years. This land was initially part of Warrosquyoake one of the original eight shires or counties that made up the Virginia Colony. It was renamed Isle of Wight County in 1637. Ecclesiastically the area was known as Newport Parrish which more or less contained the same area as that designated by Isle of Wight County. By the 1730s, settlers had become so far flung that the journey to the Isle of Wight courthouse near modern Smithfield could take upwards of five days. To resolve this problem the General Assembly split the territory into two parishes in 1734, with the land to the east of the Blackwater River remaining as Newport Parrish and land to the west becoming Nottoway Parrish.⁸ In 1749, Isle of Wight County was split at the Blackwater River as well, with the new Southampton County being formed from the land to the west of the river.⁹

The first court held for Southampton County took place on June 8, 1749 at the private home of Elizabeth Ricks, Bloomfield. In 1750, a new county seat for Southampton was created approximately two miles to the west near the Flower's Bridge over the Nottoway River. An Act of the General Assembly of Virginia, dated April 13, 1752, allowed the county to purchase two acres of land from Elizabeth Exum. On these two acres a courthouse, prison, pillory, whipping post, and stocks were built.¹⁰

A small town grew around the courthouse that was not officially recognized until 1791 when the General Assembly passed an act that established the town of Jerusalem on 10 acres of land adjoining the courthouse.¹¹ The town of Jerusalem grew slowly throughout the early-nineteenth century. Jerusalem remained a relatively small town with the exception of court days when citizens from all over the county would descend on the town to attend court, socialize, and watch the horse races.

Growth and development in Southampton County occurred rapidly, with most of the best lands in the county being occupied within a decade of its formation. Unlike much of eastern and northern Virginia which was dominated by a few large and wealthy landowners, the land in Southampton County and southern Virginia in general was split into smaller tracts owned by middle-class farmers.¹²

Farming remained the principal occupation cattle and pigs being the major livestock and tobacco and cotton being the primary crops in the county during this time. Lumbering and forestry also began to grow as an industry in the area during the first several decades of the nineteenth century but remained a minor source of income compared to tobacco and cotton.¹³

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Following the War of 1812, cotton replaced tobacco as the primary cash crop in Southampton County. The counties west of the Blackwater River became known as the Virginia cotton belt during this time. The cotton from this region of Virginia and the neighboring counties of North Carolina was considered of the highest quality was classed in a separate market by the English buyers and given a generally higher price than cotton from the lower South.¹⁴ Like tobacco, cotton was a very labor-intensive crop that required constant care and hand harvesting. This was reflected in the 1830 Census that shows a dramatic increase in the number of slaves in Southampton County when compared to the 1820 Census.

The need for extensive slave labor resulted in one of the bloodiest events in the history of the county and the nation occurring in 1831. On August 21, a Southampton County slave and preacher named Nat Turner initiated a slave revolt, believing that the only method for achieving liberation was through open rebellion. Turner along with as many as 60 followers began at the Travis plantation where Turner lived and travelled across the county, killing all white families they came across at as many as seventeen different farms and plantations. Most of the slaves involved in the revolt were captured by the Southampton County militia. Turner himself eluded capture for several months but was eventually caught when he was found in a pit under a fallen tree near the Travis plantation. Turner and all of his followers were sent to trial at the Southampton County Court House. Turner and those directly involved in the uprising were executed, while others were sold out of the county.¹⁵

The citizens and officials of Southampton County were determined to move forward after the Nat Turner Rebellion. In the following decades numerous improvements were made to the public buildings and infrastructure of the county. In 1834, the courthouse where Turner and his followers were tried was razed and replaced with a larger and more modern building.¹⁶ One year later, the county was able to attract one of the earliest railroads in the nation with the establishment of the Portsmouth and Roanoke line that led to the formation of the town of Franklin by the early 1840s.

In 1853, the Virginia Assembly granted the Nottoway Steam Navigation Company the exclusive right to navigate the Nottoway River for a period of 25 years keeping it navigable during that time. The Jerusalem-to-Petersburg plank toll road was completed that same year, creating a major north-south thoroughfare in the county. This route soon suffered maintenance problems with rotting boards and insufficient tolls.¹⁷

The Civil War brought some troop movement and disruption to Southampton County. However, there was very little actual fighting that took place there. Southampton County was not a prime target for the Union Army but there were occasions when Union gunboats broke through the Blackwater River to approach the Franklin area. Southampton County did supply many soldiers to the Confederate armies, however cattle and crops were the large contribution.¹⁸ The numerous waterways, roads, and railroads made Southampton an integral part of the Confederate lifeline. Food and materials were brought by small boats up the Chowan, Blackwater and Nottoway Rivers then to the roads and railroads leading to Southampton for shipment to Petersburg and Richmond.

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Recovery from the Civil War came slowly. The most marked difference in post-war Southampton County was the loss of free agricultural labor. Many former slaves continued to work on farms, some as tenants, others landowners. Southampton's agricultural based economy recovered more quickly when compared to the commercial and industrial based economies of other counties. Peanuts appear to have been introduced into the area in the 1870s and played a pivotal role in the reestablishment of profitable agriculture. Peanuts were not added as an agricultural commodity in the census until 1890, but became an important cash crop as early as 1870.¹⁹ A second crop responsible for assisting in the recovery of the county was lumber.²⁰ The post-war period saw a rise in demand for lumber and the Southampton region was rich in this resource. The Camp Manufacturing Company was one of the first to purchase land as well as timber rights, enabling them to practice reforestation. This resulted in a sustained yield of timber and the company eventually became one of the largest lumber manufacturing companies on the East Coast.

Railroad construction resumed in Southampton County during Reconstruction with the Surry, Sussex, and Southampton logging railroad completed in 1886, and the Atlantic and Danville Railway in 1888. The last railroad to be built in the county was the Tidewater Railway, later known as the Virginian Railway. Completed in 1908, this railroad was responsible for establishing small towns or "whistle stops" in Sedley, Sebrell, Joyner, and Burdette.²¹

Agriculture continued to grow throughout the twentieth century with assistance from the four railroads that now crossed the county. Industrial peanut cleaning and storage facilities were established in several parts of the county when a charter was granted to the Farmers Alliance Peanut Cleaning and Storage Company in 1889. Timber and paper production became major industries during this time and contributed greatly to the growth of the county economy. Much of the paper industry was in the vicinity of Franklin. This is where the Camp Manufacturing Company opened its mill in the 1930s. St. Regis Paper Company came to Franklin in 1954 and Hercules Chemical Company in 1955. In 1956, Union Bag and Paper merged with Camp Manufacturing Company to form Union Camp. They then merged with International Paper in 1999. International Paper, located just across the Blackwater River in Isle of Wight County, is currently the largest industry in the region.²²

Barn Tavern Period

At the time Southampton County developed and the county seat was established at Jerusalem a small village was developing around a tavern at the intersection of what would become the Jerusalem Plank Road, then simply a trail from Petersburg to points south, and the Belfield-Emporia Road. Barn Tavern was owned and operated by William Simmons, a descendant of John Simmons, one of the earliest settlers to the region John Simmons had purchased his property directly from the Nottoways, like many of the initial settlers to this area, as part of the 1734 or 1752 acts permitting the Indians to sell lands previously granted to them. William Simmons built the tavern around 1761, roughly seven miles north of the Southampton County Court House in what would

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become Jerusalem and later Courtland to serve as a stopping point for travelers between the courthouse and Petersburg.²³

The Barn Tavern Hotel was a large building that had 26 rooms to accommodate guests. It was a popular stop along Jerusalem Road and according to local history was much like other contemporary taverns, with gambling, cock fighting and “gander pulling” being popular activities.²⁴ Accounts have been related about the ownership of entire farms changing hands during nights of drinking and gambling. The “rowdiness and wickidness” was likely increased by the large amounts of brandy and distilled spirits which the area was famous.²⁵ Contemporary reports claim that apple and peach brandy were more profitable than field crops and the principal source of income for many Southampton farmers. Almost every farm in the county had an orchard and still.²⁶

In 1775, the tavern was passed down to Daniel Simmons and over the next 75 years to other members of the Simmons family who were primarily responsible for the development of Barn Tavern into a thriving village throughout the nineteenth century.²⁷ By 1810 the village featured all of the conveniences of a small town with the tavern, post office, livery stable, and blacksmith shop. In 1834, the original Barn Tavern building was destroyed in a windstorm. It has not been determined if a new tavern building was constructed (and later demolished) or if the tavern operation moved into the tavern keepers house, which is still extant. The tavern keepers house may have also functioned as a school in the early days of Barn Tavern.

By 1831, post office records show that Daniel W. Simmons was postmaster in the Village of *Farm (or Barn) Tavern*. The name Farm Tavern appears again in the 1835 edition of Martin's Gazetteer. It is listed as one of the main towns, villages or post offices in Southampton County. That same year, the Barn Tavern Hotel was destroyed by a storm that reportedly blew it into the field across the Belfield Road. It was replaced with a much smaller building. In 1836, a new reference to the area appears, with the name *Farmers Grove*. Farmers Grove appears in the 1836 edition of Martin's Gazetteer and in the early post office records with a location identical to that of Farm Tavern. These maps show Farmers Grove located near the intersection of Belfield and Plank Roads just north of Barn Tavern.²⁸

Barn Tavern continued to flourish through the mid-nineteenth century although the Simmons were replaced by the Sebrells as the dominant family in the village bureaucracy. Some members of the Sebrell family had been in the area as early as 1750 when Joseph Sebrell purchased land from Nottoways but did not arrive in large numbers until the 1850s. W.J. Sebrell purchased the tavern from Daniel Simmons. Three years later, James E. Sebrell took over the responsibility of headmaster of Barn Tavern Academy from Daniel Cobb, well known for his diary entries that were later transcribed into Cobb's Ordeal. In 1858, James E. Sebrell married into the Simmons family and assumed the house across from the tavern. He also became the postmaster of Barn Tavern.²⁹

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By the time of the Civil War, Barn Tavern had grown into one of the larger communities in Southampton County. In 1874, James E. Sebrell was elected to the office of Treasurer of Southampton County, and in 1887, was elected to the House of Delegates, serving one term. In 1880, Tim Sebrell took over as postmaster and the Post Office was renamed "Sebrell" in honor of the family whose prominence now spanned the decades.³⁰ Though the post office was renamed there are still references to Barn Tavern in documents from this period, indicating that the village probably wasn't commonly referred to as Sebrell until the arrival of the Virginian Railroad.

Village of Sebrell and the Virginian Railroad Period

In 1908, the Virginian Railroad purchased a right-of-way near the village, approximately ½ -mile southeast of Barn Tavern. The railroad crossed both the Belfield and Jerusalem Plank Roads, where the Sebrell rail stop and depot were established. The Virginian Railroad was established by a tycoon of the Standard Oil Company, H. H. Rogers, as means to ship coal from mines in western Virginia and West Virginia to Sewalls Point, Norfolk. It was formed from a merger of two earlier railroads in the region, the Tidewater Railroad and the Deepwater Railroad, in 1907.³¹

Passenger service on the Virginia began July 12, 1909 with the Sebrell Station being a daily stop on the line.³² The railroad was instrumental in the rapid growth of Sebrell by providing area merchants and farmers the ability to transport goods to markets in the larger towns and cities. At this time, the center of the village shifted from the intersection of Plank Road and Belfield Road to River and Plank Roads, near the intersection of the railway. The majority of construction in the village took place between 1908 and 1920. Residential lots were laid out and numerous residences were built on them. A new stave mill, cotton gin, peanut sheller, livery, two hotels, several mercantile stores, churches, and a bank were also built in the immediate vicinity.³³ The post office was relocated to the new village center during this time and placed within one of the general stores. The new Sebrell Elementary School opened in 1925. The length of Plank Road running through the town became one of the first streets paved with concrete in the county.³⁴

By the 1930s, the newfound growth and development brought by the Virginia Railroad declined almost as rapidly as it begun. The demise of the village of Sebrell can be attributed to several factors during this time period. The beginning of the Great Depression in 1929 was a blow to the community, just as it was to small and rural towns throughout the country, with farmers unable to sell their crops at market. The second factor in the decline of Sebrell was the rise of the automobile. The advent of the automobile gave farmers in outlying areas another means of transporting their crops to market so the trip to Sebrell and the railroad was no longer necessary.³⁵ Plank Road became VA 35 in 1923. As part of a public works effort in 1931, it was rerouted around the village with a bridge constructed over the railroad line.³⁶ Unfortunately for Sebrell this hastened its demise by making it possible for vehicles to bypass the commercial strip of the town.

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In 1937, the Sebrell Elementary School closed. By 1939, there were only seven businesses including several general stores, the service station, and post office still operating. Most of the other businesses such as the bank, hotels, cotton gin, stave mill, livery stable, and doctor's office had gone out of business. Movement of people out of Sebrell peaked following World War II as small towns across the nation were abandoned for the bigger cities. By 1949, only two stores were still operating, Whitehead's General Store and R.R. Reese's Service Station.³⁷

Several of the wood frame buildings were lost to fire in the 1950s. The last major hit to Sebrell occurred in 1959 when the Virginian Railroad merged with the Norfolk and Western Railroad. Soon after acquiring the Virginian Railroad Norfolk and Western closed the line that went through Sebrell. The post office finally closed in 1968, marking the end of Sebrell as a recognized village.³⁸

Although Sebrell no longer has a post office, school or commercial presence of any kind the people in and around the former village still consider themselves as being from Sebrell. Many of the residents have lived there their entire lives or are descendants of some of the original families of the area. The community Civic Club is still active. Pride in the community and its heritage remain strong.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Criterion A

Agriculture

Agriculture historically has been, and remains the predominant land use and source of income in the Sebrell Rural Historic District. The early settlers were attracted to the region because of the plentiful forests, abundant water and fertile soils. The agricultural soils of the lower coastal plain are sandy, light textured, well-drained and easily worked with only a small amount of natural organic content. These conditions cause the soils to "warm up" quickly in the spring, making early production possible and hardiness against damaging early frosts.³⁹

Wheat and other grains were the primary crops grown by farmers in Southampton County during much of the Colonial-era. These were replaced by cotton, corn and tobacco as the nineteenth century progressed. Apples and peaches were historically an important crop for Southampton farmers as well, it was said that nearly every farm had an orchard and distillery. Many contemporaries claim that the brandy produced from these orchards was actually a larger source of profit than traditional crops during Prohibition.⁴⁰

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By 1860, Southampton County produced one fifth of Virginia's cotton, rice, peas, and beans. By 1880, Southampton County led Virginia in the production of cotton, having raised 5,200 bales.⁴¹ Peanuts however became the primary crop grown throughout the county by 1890. By 1900, the number of acres devoted to peanut production had nearly doubled.⁴² Industrial peanut cleaning and storage facilities were established in several locations across the county when a charter was granted to the Farmers Alliance Peanut Cleaning and Storage Company in 1889. Many of these historic peanut shellers remain, including one in Sebrell. Throughout the twentieth century peanuts, cotton, and soybean have been the primary crop in Southampton County.⁴³

Compared to previous censuses, recent U.S. Agricultural Census has found significantly fewer farms in Southampton County. The decrease in the number of farms is in part due to many present-day farmers consolidating landholdings. Many of the smaller private farms are being purchased by larger farms or corporations. This is especially true of the several timber farms in the Sebrell area which hold a large percentage of the total acreage in the district. Despite the drop off in the total number of farms agriculture remains the primary economic activity in the county. Southampton County currently ranks number one in the state in peanut and cotton production. Corn, soybeans and hog production also rank high.

Many of the resources located within the Sebrell Rural Historic District are agriculture related. There are eighteenth century plantations, nineteenth century yeoman farms and twentieth century homesteads representing the time periods and trends of agricultural production in the region. Tenant houses as well as a mix of secondary resources like barns, sheds, stables, silos, and other farm-related structures remain as well. In addition to the well represented built-environment the district also contains an intact patchwork of fields, pastures, timber strands landscape features reflecting the historic and modern land-use patterns.

Commerce

Although a commercial based economy is not as long and enduring in the Sebrell Rural Historic District when compared to agriculture, it has played an important role in the history and development of the area. The community of Barn Tavern evolved from a few plantations into a village because of the commerce brought by the tavern and other businesses supported by the location. In the early twentieth century commerce brought by the Virginian Railroad played a pivotal role in the rapid development and eventual demise of the village of Sebrell.

The village at Barn Tavern was one of the earliest commercial areas in Southampton County, dating to the 1760s. The village grew to contain a tavern, blacksmith, school, post office, and other assorted stores throughout the nineteenth century. Many of these businesses were abandoned by the turn of the twentieth century when the core of development shifted about a half-mile to the east. The Virginian Railroad was completed through the village of Sebrell. The railroad brought rapid commercial growth to the village and numerous general stores, hotels, service station, banks, and cotton gin.

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In general, much of the commercial activity in the Sebrell district was related to agriculture. Barn Tavern initially grew due to its location at the intersection of two major transportation routes. The tavern then became known for its offering of cider and brandy supplied by the local orchards. Sebrell also developed because of its location at the intersection of the railroad and Plank Road. The railroad was inextricably linked with agriculture in the area as it allowed farmers a method of shipping their produce to larger cities quickly and affordably. There were numerous businesses directly related to agriculture in the district. The former Camp Stave Mill, cotton gin, and J.J. Peanut Sheller Mill are all indicative of the types of agribusiness that developed out of rural life in the Sebrell region.

When the railroad left, so too did most of the commercial development in the Sebrell District. There are currently no commercial businesses or resources still operating that date to the historic period. Only two historic commercial buildings remain in the heart of Sebrell, the R.A. and W.N. Whitehead Store and the Davis and Clark General Store. Both have been abandoned. The J.J. Peanut Sheller Mill is extant as well, ceasing operations in 2000. There are three other commercial buildings in the district, a roadside convenience store from the 1960s, used-car dealership dating from the 1980s, and the Barn Tavern. The tavern structure that remains served as the tavern keeper's house and likely functioned as the tavern, village post office, and school when then original building was destroyed.

While few commercial resources remain extant in the Sebrell Rural Historic District, commerce played a pivotal role in the growth and development of the area and is a significant part of the district's history.

Ethnic Heritage: African American

African Americans have contributed a significant amount of history to the Sebrell Rural Historic District since the early-nineteenth century. The earliest Anglo-settlement in the area was focused on small-scale farming and commerce, not requiring a significant amount of additional labor. Following the War of 1812, cotton replaced tobacco as the primary cash crop in Southampton County. Cotton was an extremely labor-intensive crop that required constant care and hand harvesting. It could not be harvested solely by the property owners. Outside labor became necessary and while there may have been some hired tenants helping in the area, the majority of the workforce was supplied by enslaved Africans.

There is little physical evidence left of the rich African-American heritage in the Sebrell Rural Historic District. Those resources that do remain are an integral part of the history of the area. There are several small buildings, mostly abandoned now that likely served as slave's quarters prior to Emancipation and the Civil War. Following freedom, many of the formerly enslaved people likely became tenant farmers, working the same farms they had then they were enslaved. Tenant farming, another significant aspect of the agricultural heritage of Sebrell, likely consisted of former slaves and therefore contributes to the African-American heritage in the district. By the

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early to mid-twentieth century, a few more opportunities existed for the African-Americans in the district including working on and for the new railroad and other businesses brought about by the improved transportation in the area. Education also became available to African-Americans, through segregated schools. The Sebrell Training Academy, which was constructed as a Rosenwald School, provided education to the Sebrell area African-American children. This building still stands just south of the village and is a testament to the presence of and heritage of the African-American citizens of the district.

Criterion C:

Architecture

The Sebrell Rural Historic District is architecturally significant for containing a large number of intact buildings dating from its earliest period of development through the modern time representing the growth and development of the area. The architectural evolution of the district is well represented through early vernacular houses, large high-style homes, agricultural outbuildings, slave and worker housing, transportation networks, land-use patterns, commercial buildings, industrial sites, modern-day dwellings, and barns. Most of the buildings in the district retain a relatively high level of physical integrity. In addition to representing the evolution of architecture in the district as a whole, many buildings are excellent examples of their particular architectural types and styles.

The earliest remaining architecture in the district is reflective of the planter-class society that first settled in the area on large plantations. Although no buildings remain from the initial period of settlement in the early-eighteenth century, several buildings dating from the end of the century do remain and represent one of the largest groups of eighteenth century buildings in the county. The most significant building in the district may be the Barn Tavern keeper's house, which is a one-and-a-half story building with a massive two-stack chimney on one end. It is an excellent example of eighteenth century rural vernacular architecture. There are also numerous eighteenth century homes of varying sizes and forms. The two-story I-house and Georgian forms are the most prevalent. The Jesse Little Plantation house is the only high-style Georgian mansion in the district and is a rare example of the style as applied to a rural dwelling. Other homes in the area built in the eighteenth century, and still residences today include the Simmons-Sebrell-Camp House, the Turner-Westbrook-Phillips House, and the Nicholas Williams House. Several of these houses have contemporary outbuildings. Are located on documented Century Farms. This means they have been in the possession of one family and its descendents for a century and in continuous agricultural production.⁴⁴

Throughout the nineteenth century, a more diversified farm based economy evolved from the cash crop plantation based tradition. As such, smaller farms with modest homes became more prevalent in the region. This trend is well represented in the Sebrell Rural Historic District through the numerous I-houses, hall-parlor-plan houses, and Folk Victorians spread throughout the boundaries on small to medium sized parcels. Despite the

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increase in the amount of modest housing built during this period, there are still several larger homes reflecting the continued wealth and prosperity of some of the land-owning class. The plantation most indicative of this is Charlie's Hope, located on Plank Road. The home, constructed circa 1820, was owned by Alsam Urquardt, a noted horse breeder of the day. Until the Civil War, Charlie's Hope consisted of nearly 6000 acres and was one of the largest and most profitable plantations in the region. Unfortunately the house, which was considered one of the finest and most elaborate mansions of its time, burned to the ground in 1955.⁴⁵ The W.B. Simmons Farm is an excellent example of high-style Greek Revival architecture and two homes, the Simmons-Sebrell-Camp House and the Simmons-Sebrell-Bishop-Reese-Kitchen House, are excellent examples of high-style Italianate Architecture. The Simmons-Sebrell-Camp House is actually an earlier vernacular building that was significantly enlarged and remodeled during the nineteenth century to give it this appearance. This may be the case with the Simmons-Sebrell-Bishop-Reese-Kitchen House as it is known that a house has been in the same location since at least the late-eighteenth century. Both homes reflect the continued wealth and affluence of a select few land-owners throughout the nineteenth century. Numerous outbuildings and tenant houses date to this time period, most of which are agricultural related, however there are some domestic dependencies. The majority of these buildings were cheaply built and have fallen into disrepair since being abandoned or have collapsed altogether. The few former slave and tenant houses that do remain are an important part of the agricultural heritage of the district.

The coming of the Virginian Railroad in the early-twentieth century brought rapid growth and development to the area, centered predominantly around the intersection of the rail line and Plank Road in the village of Sebrell. The influx of commerce and agribusiness spurred by the railroad, as well as the increased housing demand in the area are well represented through the architecture in the district. In the immediate Sebrell vicinity, there are numerous houses, commercial, civic, and industrial buildings dating from the early to mid-twentieth century when the village was burgeoning. Many of these buildings are reflective of the rapid development and construction that took place at this time. Most homes are small to medium sized and set on small residential lots. The styles and types represented include Folk Victorian, Craftsman, Cape Cod, Minimal Traditional, Bungalow, and others popular during this time. There are several larger and more elaborate homes that were owned by more affluent residents, such as the Ed Davis House, a Folk Victorian generously ornamented with woodwork. Davis owned a timber company and therefore had access to plentiful and cheap wood. Construction outside of the village continued during this time with several good examples of Folk Victorian farmhouses located along Plank Road to both the east and north of Sebrell.

Because of the rapid expansion and construction, the majority of commercial buildings were wood frame and have since been lost. Two commercial masonry buildings dating to this period still remain. The R.A. and W.N. Whitehead Store and the Davis and Clark General Store are both similar in construction and have minor Italianate influences, the dominant commercial architecture style at the time. Both are minimally ornamented, reflective of their small village, rural setting. There are two former schools in the district, both good examples of rural architecture. The former Sebrell School is a typical four-classroom schoolhouse with wide bands of

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windows allowing for adequate light in the interior. The second school is the Sebrell Training School, or African-American, school which was built as part of the Rosenwald School funding program.⁴⁶ It remains an excellent example of Rosenwald School architecture as well as an important part of the social history of the district. Two churches are also located within the district and are both good examples of Gothic Revival architecture as applied to small rural churches in the early-twentieth century.

By the 1950s, after Plank Road was rerouted around the village, the area was in a severe state of decline. Many residents had moved to larger cities following World War II and the railroad had ceased operation. The district had no growth during this economic downturn. There are very few buildings in the district that were constructed between the 1960s and 1980s. A resurgence has begun in recent decades which can be seen in the increased number of buildings dating from the 1990s to the present. Most of these houses are typical rural residences with a mixture of architectural influences common to the neo-eclectic styles of modern times.

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5.	18	4070883	312552
6.	18	4070626	313030
7.	18	4069604	313166
8.	18	4067739	312269
9.	18	4068249	310369
10.	18	4069349	310516
11.	18	4070349	307339
12.	18	4071135	306684
13.	18	4072596	306879
14.	18	4074290	307151
15.	18	4074729	306443

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the rural district are created by natural waterways on three sides, which form a peninsula between the Nottoway River on the west and south and the Assamoosick Swamp on the east. The northern boundary is an arbitrary line that represents the limit of properties associated with the historical development of the Sebrell area.

The western and southern boundary of the district follows the far bank of the Nottoway River to include the river and its role in the historic development and transportation within the boundaries of the district. The eastern boundary of the district follows the Assamoosick Swamp from its convergence with the Nottoway River northwards more or less along the centerline of the swamp which follows the typical property lines. The northern boundary is slightly more complicated to define as it is an arbitrary line that represents the limits of development historically associated with the Sebrell area. For ease of definition, this boundary follows modern property lines.

More specifically, the boundaries include the following Southampton County tax parcels:

30 6A, 30 7A, 30 10, 30 11, 30 11A, 30 11B, 30 12, 30 13, 30 14, 30 15, 30 15A, 30 15B, 30 15C, 30 16, 30 17, 30 18, 30 19, 30 19A, 31 5, 31 5A, 31 5B, 31 5C, 31 6, 31 7, 31 8, 43 1, 43 1A, 43 2, 43 2A, 43 2B, 43 3, 43 3A, 43 3B, 43 3C, 43 3D, 43 3E, 43 4, 43 6, 43 7, 43 8, 43 9, 43 10, 43 11, 43 12, 43 12A, 43 12B, 43 13, 43 14, 43 14A, 43 14B, 43 15, 43 15A, 43 15B, 43 16, 43 17, 43 17A, 43 18, 43 19, 43 19A, 44 3, 44 4A, 44 5, 44 7, 44 7, 44 8, 44 9, 44 10, 44 11, 44 12, 44 13, 44 14, 44 14A, 44 15,

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Sebrell Rural Historic District

Southampton County, Virginia

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44 16, 44 16A, 44 16AA, 44 16B, 44 16C, 44 16D, 44 16E, 44 16F, 44 16G, 44 16H, 44 16J, 44 16K, 44 16M, 44 16N, 44 16P, 44 16R, 44 17, 44 17A, 44 18, 44 19, 44 19A, 44 19B, 44 19C, 44 19D, 44 19D-1, 44 19D-2, 44 19E, 44 19F, 44 20, 44 20A, 44 21, 44 22, 44 23, 44 24, 44A 1 1, 44A 1 2, 44A 1 3, 44A 1 4, 44A 1 5, 44A 1 6, 44A 1 7, 44A 1 8, 44A 1 9, 44A 1 10, 44A 1 11, 44A 1 12, 44A 1 13, 44A 1 14, 44A 1 15, 44A 1 16, 44A 1 17, 44A 1 18, 44A 1 19, 44A 1 19A, 44A 1 20, 44A 1 21, 44A 1 22, 44A 1 23, 44A 1 24, 44A 1 25, 44A 1 26, 44A 1 26A, 44A 1 27, 44A 1 28, 44A 1 29, 44A 1 29A, 44A 1 30, 44A 1 31, 44A 1 32, 44A 1 33, 44A 1 34, 44A 1 35, 44A 1 36, 44A 1 38, 44A 1 40, 44A 1 41, 44A 1 42, 44A 1 42A, 44A 1 42B, 44A 1 42C, 44A 1 43, 44A 1 44, 44A 1 45, 44A 1 46, 44A 1 47, 44A 1 48, 44A 1 48A, 44A 1 48B, 44A 1 48C, 44A 1 49, 44A 1 49A, 44A 1 50, 44A 1 51, 44A 1 52, 44A 1 52A, 44A 1 52B, 44A 1 53A, 44A 1 54, 44A 1 55, 44A 1 56, 44A 1 57, 44A 1 58, 44A 1 59, 44A 1 60, 44A 1 61, 44A 1 62, 44A 1 63, 44A 1 64, 44A 1 64A, 44A 1 65, 44A 1 66, 44A 1 67, 44A 1 68, 44A 1 69, 44A 1 70, 44A 1 71, 44A 1 72, 44A 1 72A, 44A 1 73, 44A 1 74, 44A 1 74A, 44A 1 75A, 44A 1 76, 44A 1 77, 44A 1 77A, 44A 1 78, 44A 1 79, 44A 1 79A, 44A 1 80, 44A 1 81, 44A 1 82, 44A 1 82B, 44A 1 83, 44A 1 84, 44A 1 85, 44A 1 86, 44A 1 87, 44A 1 88, 44A 1 95, 44A 1 96, 59 1, 59 2, 59 2A, 59 2B

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Sebrell Rural Historic District in Southampton County are drawn to encapsulate the settlement patterns and historic development of the area. Generally, the boundaries are the Nottoway River on the west and south sides, the Assamoosick Swamp on the east, and Old Hickory Road to the north. The Nottoway River and Assamoosick Swamp are natural barriers that historically and currently represent obstacles in the transportation into and out of the Sebrell area. Prior to the construction of bridges over these waterways in the twentieth-century, ferries at select locations were the only method of crossing and therefore the Sebrell region on a peninsula between these features naturally became distinct community.

The Nottoway River itself is included in the boundaries of the district because of its historic association with transportation and development of the area. The Assamoosick Swamp however, is not included in the boundaries, but rather the eastern edges of property parcels adjacent to the swamp form the boundary. The northern boundary is slightly more complex as it is an arbitrary line that represents the limit of properties associated with the historical development of the Sebrell area, while taking into account non-historic development and loss. West of Plank Road (Route 35), the northern boundary is the south side of Old Hickory Road. The north side of the road was excluded because of the large amount of non-historic development present. At the western terminus of Old Hickory Road, the boundary follows the property line of Parcel 30 19 until it meets up with Nottoway River. At the intersection of Old Hickory and Plank Road, the boundary extends north along the east side of Plank Road for roughly one-third of a mile before heading east along the northern property line of Parcel 31 5C until it meets with the Assamoosick Swamp.

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Sebrell Rural Historic District

Southampton County, Virginia

PHOTOGRAPHS

Section Photographs Page 49

INVENTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is common to all photographs:

Property: Sebrell Rural Historic District (087-5552)

Location: Southampton County, Virginia

Photograph taken: December 2009 (except where noted otherwise)

Photograph taken by: Robert J. Taylor Jr. Dutton + Associates, LLC

View of Barn Tavern (Daniel Simmons Tavern) (087-0012/087-5552-0018), Facing North

Photograph 1 of 30

View of Simmons-Sebrell-Camp House, 17123 Cary's Bridge Road (087-5377/087-5552-0021), Facing Southeast

Photograph 2 of 30

View of Representative Contributing One-story Vernacular House, 21228 Old Hickory Road (087-5552-0002), Facing Southwest

Photograph 3 of 30

View of Representative Contributing Two-story Vernacular House, 17540 River Road (087-5552-0084), Facing Northwest

Photograph 4 of 30

Photo taken: January 2010

View of Representative Contributing I- House, 17540 River Road (087-5552-0084), Facing East

Photograph 5 of 30

Photo taken: January 2010

View of Sebrell Community Center (Sebrell School), 17324 River Road (087-5552-0078), Facing Southwest

Photograph 6 of 30

Photo taken January 2010

View of Representative Contributing Folk-Victorian House, 17553 Plank Road (087-5552-0060), Facing North

Photograph 7 of 30

Photo taken January 2010

View of J.J. Company Peanut Sheller, 17262 River Road (087-5552-0050), Facing West

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National Park Service

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Sebrell Rural Historic District

Southampton County, Virginia

PHOTOGRAPHS

Section Photographs Page 50

Photograph 8 of 30

Photo taken January 2010

View of Corn Crib and Silos at the Whitehead Farm, 19940 River Road (087-5372/087-5552-0104), Facing Southwest

Photograph 9 of 30

Photo taken January 2010

View of Historic Outbuildings at the W.B. Simmons Farm, 18037 Cary's Bridge Road (087-5378/087-5552-0033), Facing Southeast

Photograph 10 of 30

Photo taken January 2010

View of Representative Historic but later than the Period of Significance House, 22417 Farmers Grove Road (087-5552-0057), Facing North

Photograph 11 of 30

Photo taken January 2010

View of Representative Historic Non-contributing House, 17253 Cary's Bridge Road (087-5552-0022), Facing Southeast

Photograph 12 of 30

View of Representative Non-historic House, 17320 Cary's Bridge Road (087-5552-0025), Facing Northwest

Photograph 13 of 30

View of Barn Tavern Village Site, Intersection of Barn Tavern Road and Cary's Bridge Road, Facing Northwest

Photograph 14 of 30

Photo taken: January 2010

View of Barn Tavern Village Site, Streetscape of Cary's Bridge Road, Facing Northeast

Photograph 15 of 30

Photo taken January 2010

View of Sebrell Village, Intersection of River Road and Barn Tavern Road, Facing Northwest

Photograph 16 of 30

Photo taken January 2010

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sebrell Rural Historic District

Southampton County, Virginia

PHOTOGRAPHS

Section Photographs Page 51

View of Sebrell Village, Streetscape of River Road, Facing North

Photograph 17 of 30

Photo taken November 2009

View of River Road Streetscape, South of Plank Road, Facing South

Photograph 18 of 30

Photo taken January 2010

View of Former "Overhead Bridge" Berm, Facing South

Photograph 19 of 30

Photo taken January 2010

View of Former Virginian Railroad Corridor through Sebrell Village, Facing West

Photograph 20 of 30

Photo taken January 2010

View of Intersection of Plank Road and Cary's Bridge Road, Facing South

Photograph 21 of 30

Photo taken January 2010

View of Representative Plantation (Simmons-Sebrell-Bishop-Reese-Kitchen House), 16486 Cary's Bridge Road (087-5385/087-5552-0016), Facing Northwest

Photograph 22 of 30

Photo taken November 2009

View of Representative Farm (Whitehead Farm), 19940 River Road (087-5372/087-5552-0104), Facing Southeast

Photograph 23 of 30

Photo taken January 2010

View of Abandoned House and Field, 19276 River Road (087-5552-0099), Facing South

Photograph 24 of 30

Photo taken January 2010

View of Outbuilding and Field (Turner-Westbrook-Phillips House), 17413 Cary's Bridge Road (087-5193/087-5552-0028), Facing Southwest

Photograph 25 of 30

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National Park Service

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Sebrell Rural Historic District

Southampton County, Virginia

PHOTOGRAPHS

Section Photographs Page 52

View of Plank Road at Southern Boundary, Facing Northwest

Photograph 26 of 30

Photo taken January 2010

View of Streetscape of Plank Road, just East of Sebrell Village, Facing Southeast

Photograph 27 of 30

Photo taken January 2010

View of Representative Cotton Field, off Cary's Bridge Road, Facing North

Photograph 28 of 30

Photo taken October 2009

View of Representative Soybean Field, off Barn Tavern Road, Facing West

Photograph 29 of 30

Photo taken October 2009

View of Representative Timber Farm, off Plank Road, Facing North

Photograph 30 of 30

Photo taken January 2010

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National Park Service

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Sebrell Rural Historic District

Southampton County, Virginia

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Section Endnotes Page 53

ENDNOTES SECTION 7:

¹ Binford, Lewis R. "An Ethnohistory of the Nottoway, Meherrin and Weanock Indians of Southeastern Virginia." *Ethnohistory*, Vol. 14, No. 3/4 (Summer - Autumn, 1967), Duke University Press. p. 113

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⁵ McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 2004. p. 140.

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¹⁰ Simmons, Paul W. *Sebrell Rural Historic District*. Preliminary Evaluation Form. ID# 087-5552. Virginia Department of Historic Resources. 2008.

¹¹ Simmons, Paul W. Interview with the author. Conducted January 2010.

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⁸ Drake, Bill. *Vernacular Domestic Architecture in Early Southampton County, Virginia: A Study of Two Houses of the Davis Bryant Family*. University of Virginia Press: Charlottesville. 1983.

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National Park Service

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Sebrell Rural Historic District

Southampton County, Virginia

PHOTOGRAPHS

Section Endnotes Page 54

ENDNOTES SECTION 8 (continued):

- ⁹ Parramore, Thomas C. Southampton County. Published for the Southampton County Historical Society by the University of Virginia Press: Charlottesville. 1978. p. 28.
- ¹⁰ McKnight, Floyd. The County of Southampton. In *The History of Lower Tidewater Virginia, Volume II*. Edited by Roger Dey Whichard. Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc. New York. 1959.
- ¹¹ Parramore, Thomas C. Southampton County. Published for the Southampton County Historical Society by the University of Virginia Press: Charlottesville. 1978.
- ¹² Kanak, Richard Tyler. "Antebellum Southampton County, Virginia 1840-1860." A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate Faculty at the University of Richmond in Candidacy for the Degree of Master of Arts in History. 1991.
- ¹³ Kirby, Jack Temple. "Virginia's Environmental History." *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 99, No. 4 (Oct., 1991). Virginia Historical Society. p. 460.
- ¹⁴ Ottery Group Inc. "Historic Structures Survey of Southampton County, Virginia." Draft by Stephen Del Sordo, MAAR Associates with Final Edits by Rebecca Crew, Ottery Group, Inc. Submitted to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, May 2008. p. 14.
- ¹⁵ Parramore, Thomas C. Southampton County. Published for the Southampton County Historical Society by the University of Virginia Press: Charlottesville. 1978.
- ¹⁶ Southampton County. *Court Order Book 1830-1835*. On File at the Southampton County Court House, Courtland. P. 280-281.
- ¹⁷ Kanak, Richard Tyler. "Antebellum Southampton County, Virginia 1840-1860." A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate Faculty at the University of Richmond in Candidacy for the Degree of Master of Arts in History. 1991.
- ¹⁸ Southampton County. *County History*. Available on the Southampton County Website at: <http://www.southamptoncounty.org/history.asp>. No Date.
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- ²⁸ Simmons, Paul W. *Sebrell Rural Historic District*. Preliminary Evaluation Form. ID# 087-5552. Virginia Department of Historic Resources. 2008.
- ²⁹ David, Kimble A. "Simmons-Sebrell-Camp House." *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Package*. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond. 2003. p. 8

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National Park Service

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Southampton County, Virginia

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ENDNOTES SECTION 8 (continued):

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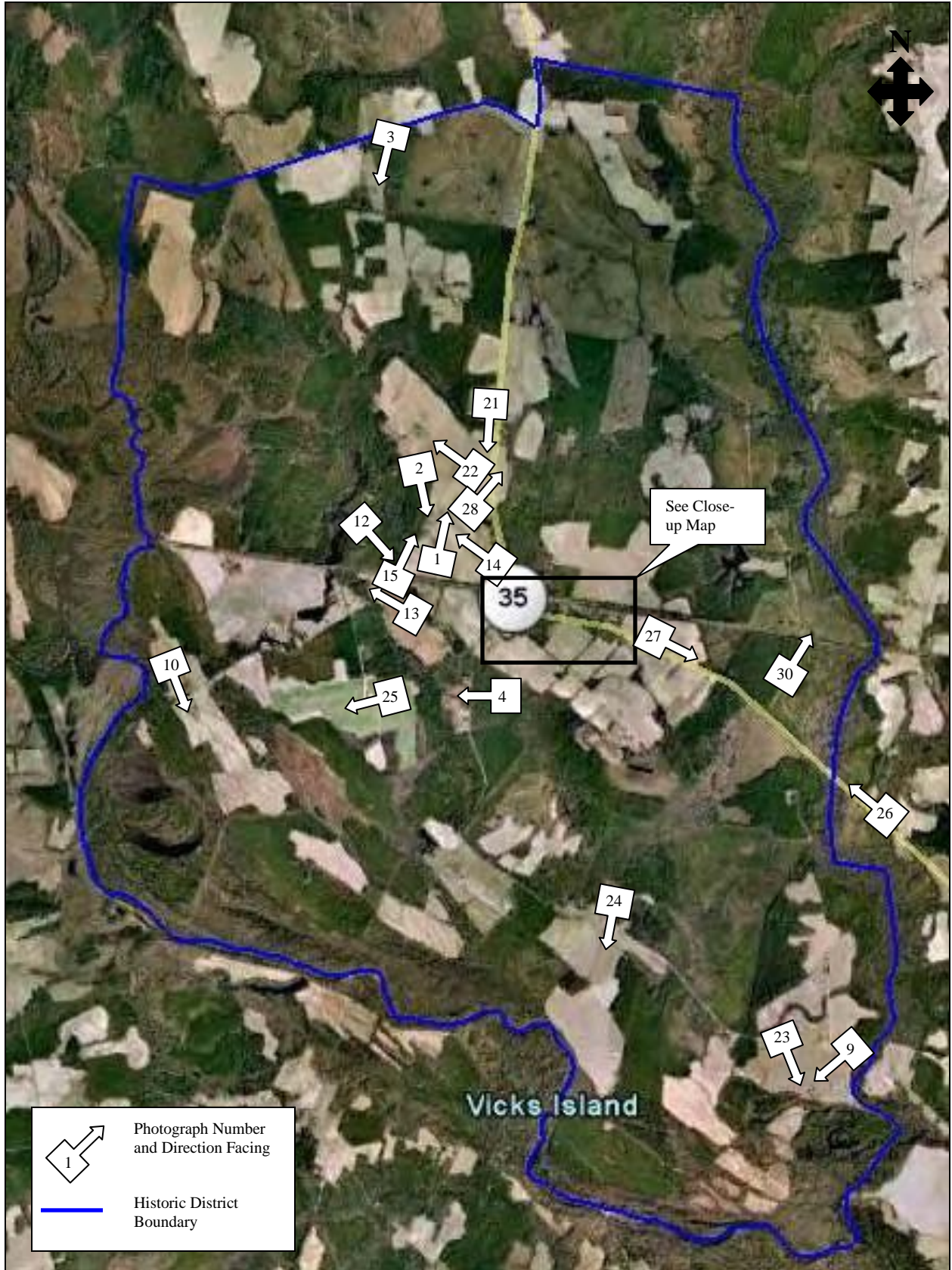
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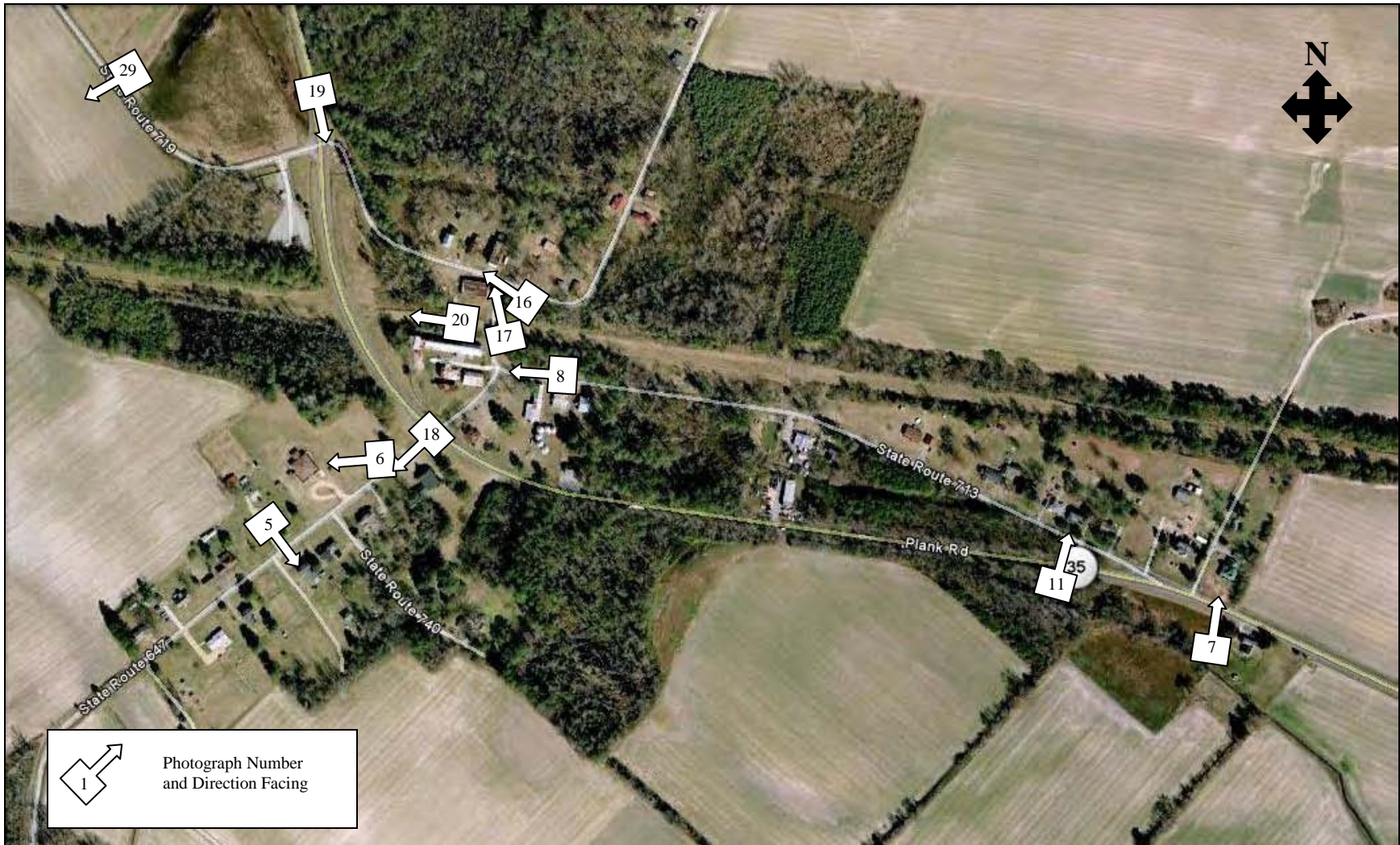
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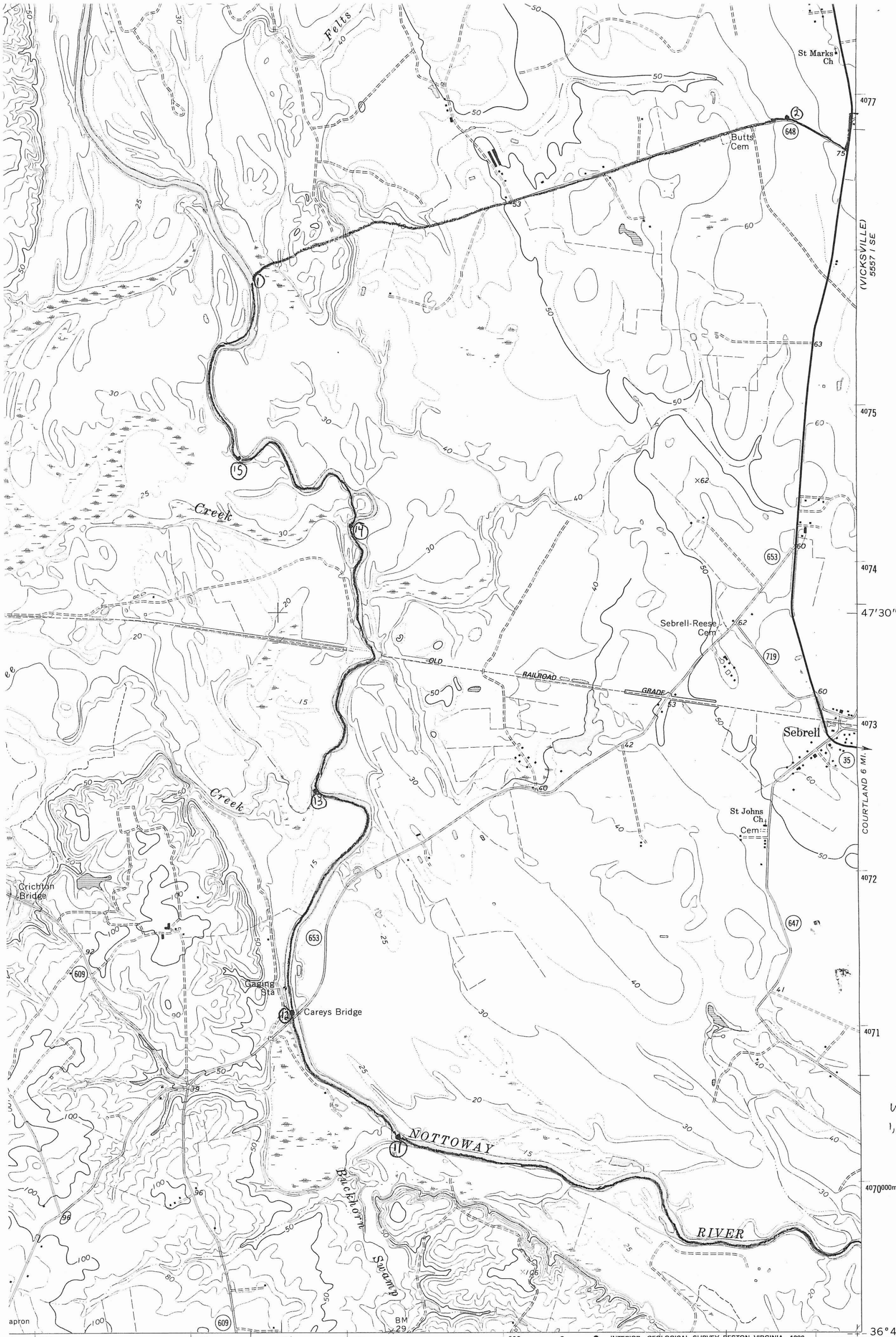
⁴⁶ Simmons, Paul W. Interview with the author. Conducted January 2010.



Photograph Location Key



Photograph Location Key Close-up

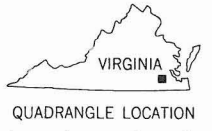


Sebrell Rural
Historic District
(087-5552)
UTM Points
1, 3, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
Zone 18
1. 4075824
306575
2. 4076886
310094
11. 4070349
307339
12. 4071135
306684
13. 4072596
306879
14. 4074290
307151
15. 4074729
306443

(COURTLAND)
5557 1 NE

Map 1/3

305 306 10' 307 308
36° 45'
77° 07' 30"
4070000m.N.
1:50,000
1 MILE
4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER
SCALE 10 FEET
5-FOOT CONTOURS
AL DATUM OF 1929

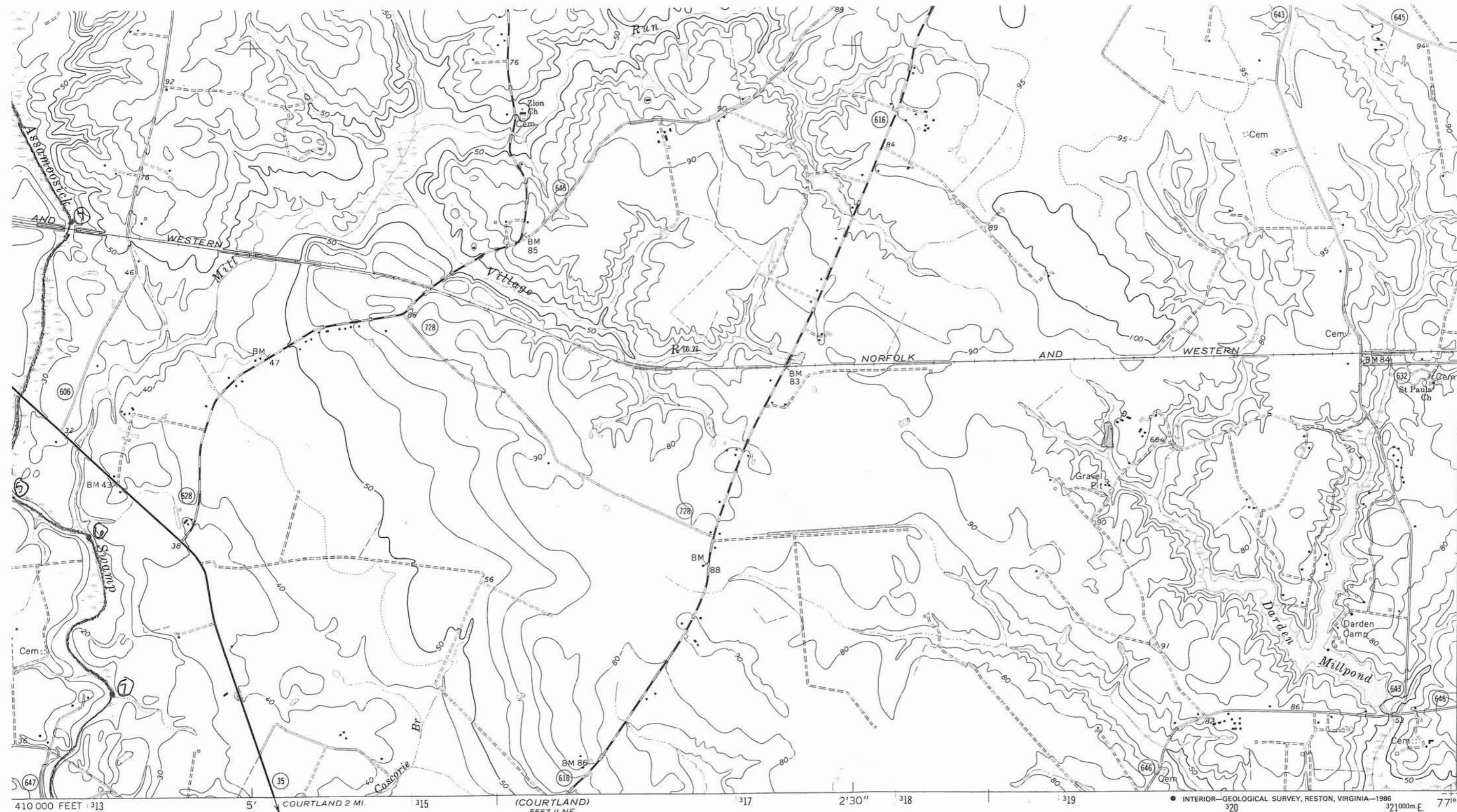


ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
State Route

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092,
DES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION
Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1987 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1990

SEBRELL, VA.
36077-G2-TF-024
1968
PHOTOREVISED 1990
DMA 5557 1 SW-SERIES V834



← (see opposite)

Sebrell Rural
Historic District
(087-5552)

UTM Points
3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10

Zone 18
3. 4070845
311922
4. 4072522
312980
5. 4070883
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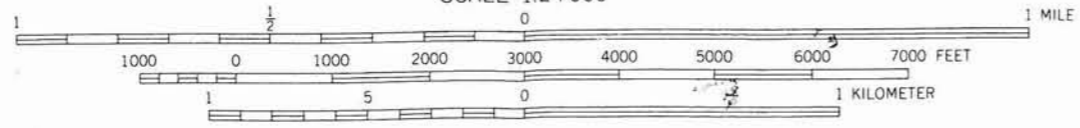
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313030
7. 4069604
313104
10. 4069349
310516

(FRANKLIN)
5557 11 NW

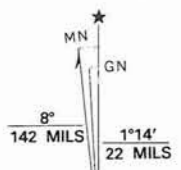
Map 2/3

410 000 FEET 1313 5' COURTLAND 2 MI. 315 (COURTLAND) 5557 11 NE 317 2'30" 318 319 4069000m.N. 36°45' 77°00'

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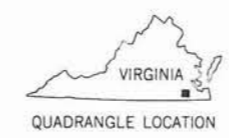


CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



UTM GRID AND 1986 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



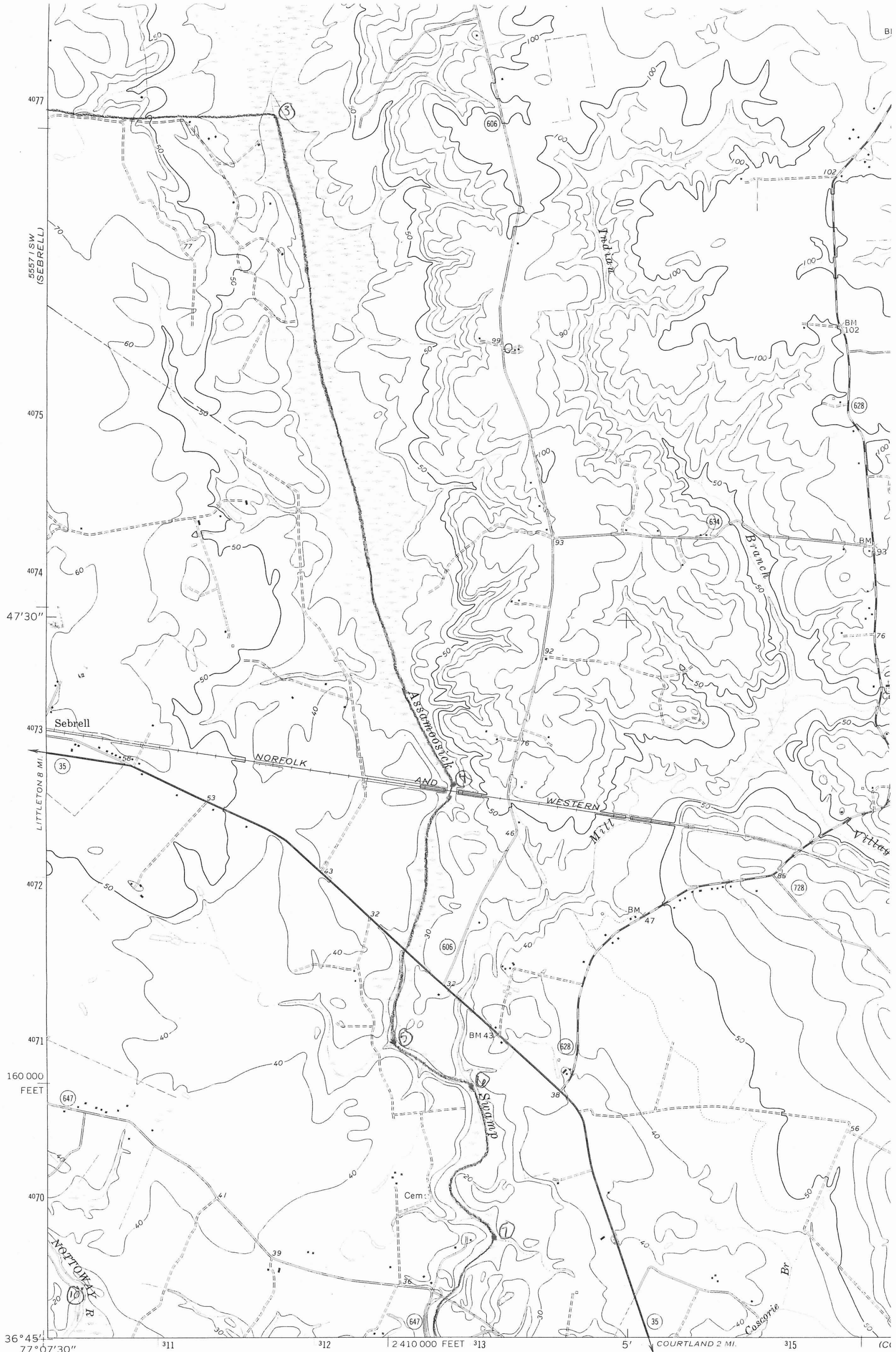
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1982 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1986

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
 Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
 Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
 Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
 ○ State Route

VICKSVILLE, VA.
36077-G1-TF-024

1969
PHOTOREVISED 1986
DMA 5557 1 SE—SERIES V834

10f2



(CAPRON)
5557 II NW

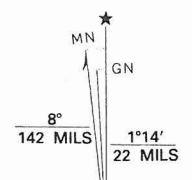
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1969
Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1957

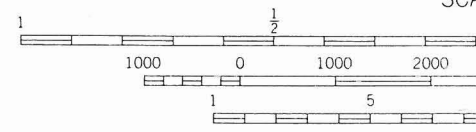
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 12 meters south and
29 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks



UTM GRID AND 1986 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR
DOTTED LINES RE
NATIONAL GEODE

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC

Vicksville, VA
Quad
2 of 2

5557 I SW
(SEBRELL)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



087-5552
Sebrell bound
H. H. D. P. H.
Map 3/3
UTM 8, 9
8. 4067739 N
312269 E
9. 4068249 N
310369 E

EMPORIA 23 MI.
CAPRON 4.5 MI.
5557 II NW
(CAPRON)

5557
(VICKS)