VLR-6/18/74 NRHP-6/28/74

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Virginia	
COUNTY:	
Nottoway	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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DESCRIPTION							
				(Check One)			
CONDITION	☐ Excellen	t Good	x Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed	
CONDITION		(Check C	One)		(Ch	eck One)	
	A	Itered	☐ Unaltered	1	☐ Moved	■ Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE PE	RESENT AND	ORIGINAL (if kr	nown) PHYSICA	L APPEARANCE			

Schwartz Tavern is a ninety-nine-foot long structure set on a stone foundation and sheltered by a gable roof with dormers. The three sections of this structure run in a line roughly north-south; the north and middle blocks are attached while the south block is connected by a hyphen. The linear complex appears to have consisted originally of only the middle block, a three-bay, compact unit with exterior end stone and brick chimneys. This structure, only twenty-eight feet long by sixteen feet deep was first enlarged by extending the building to the north and at the same time deepening the chimney on that end so as to serve the addition as well. At some time no later than the 1840's the block to the south, with its central chimney, was constructed and perhaps was connected immediately to the existing buildings by an enclosed hyphen or breezeway. The date of the porch and wings on the east front of the structure is not known but the demioctagonal room filling in the remaining gap between the middle and south blocks and the main doorway treatment on the west front date from around 1900.

The window treatment is relatively consistent over the entire length of the tavern using six-over-nine sash, narrow Federal-period muntins and simple framing. Earlier muntins of the robust colonial type can be found in the dormer and gable end windows of the original block. Early beaded weatherboarding survives on most exterior walls as does the beaded corner-boards and the box cornice with bed-and-crown moldings.

The interior trim may be characterized as Federal in style based primarily on the form of the four downstairs mantles. The most ornate of the four is on the north wall of the original middle block. It has symmetrically molded pilasters supporting a projecting block with an elliptica sunburst; this sunburst is repeated in the projecting central block on a larger scale. A molded cornice shelf tops the design. A raised panel overmantle from an earlier mantle design is exposed over the newer cornice shelf. All wall surfaces in this room are sheathed in approximately one-foot-wide horizontal beaded siding. A narrow enclosed stair leads to the attic at the southwest corner and a partially enclosed stair in the northeast corner leads to the room above the northern block. The attic over the original block retains a rail around the stair well with heavily turned balusters. The mantle in the northern room of the tavern has reeded pilasters and projecting end blocks with a three-paneled frieze and dentiled cornice. To the west of the fireplace are a small cupboard and a now-blocked entrance to the attic above, both with paneled doors and H-and-L hinges. A simple beaded board chair rail is used here.

The southern block of the tavern has two mantles on either side of the central chimney and the molding profiles indicate a later construction date for this section even though the basic design of the woodwork is similar to that in earlier rooms. The northern room in this block has a cupboard with glazed upper door at the west of the chimney. Simple beaded board chair rails are used here. Two frame outbuildings to the south of the tavern share a single stone chimney with brick stack; both are in a deteriorated condition.

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	ole and Known) 1798		
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropria	te)	
Abor iginal	☐ Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	☐ Theater	
Conservation	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	

TATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Schwartz Tavern is Blackstone's oldest building, and has important associations with the town's early history. With most of its original fabric intact the rambling ninety-nine-foot long structure is also an interesting example of an early southside ordinary. The exact construction date of the building's oldest section is unknown but stylistic evidence indicates the late-eighteenth-century period. Local tradition has it that just prior to the Revolution two tavern keepers, a Mr. White and a Mr. Schwartz, operated rival tavern's at the intersection of Cooke's, Hungary-towne and Old Church Roads. Evidence of early activity in this area is confirmed by a deed transfering 140 acres from Peter Randolph to John A. Schwartz in 1790, with a location given as "cross road of Cock's, Jordans and Gryers near Francis White's Tavern . . ." An ordinary license granted to John Schwartz was recorded in 1798.

Because Schwartz is the German word for black, the crossroads at the tavern became known as Black's and White's Taverns, and later simply Black and Whites. The town that grew up there after the Civil War was named Blackstone in honor of the noted English jurist, although it is widely held that the name is a partial allusion to Blacks or Schwartz.

Although the building has fallen into deteriorated condition in recent years, the fact that it is Blackstone's chief historic landmark has recently prompted a movement for its preservation.

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

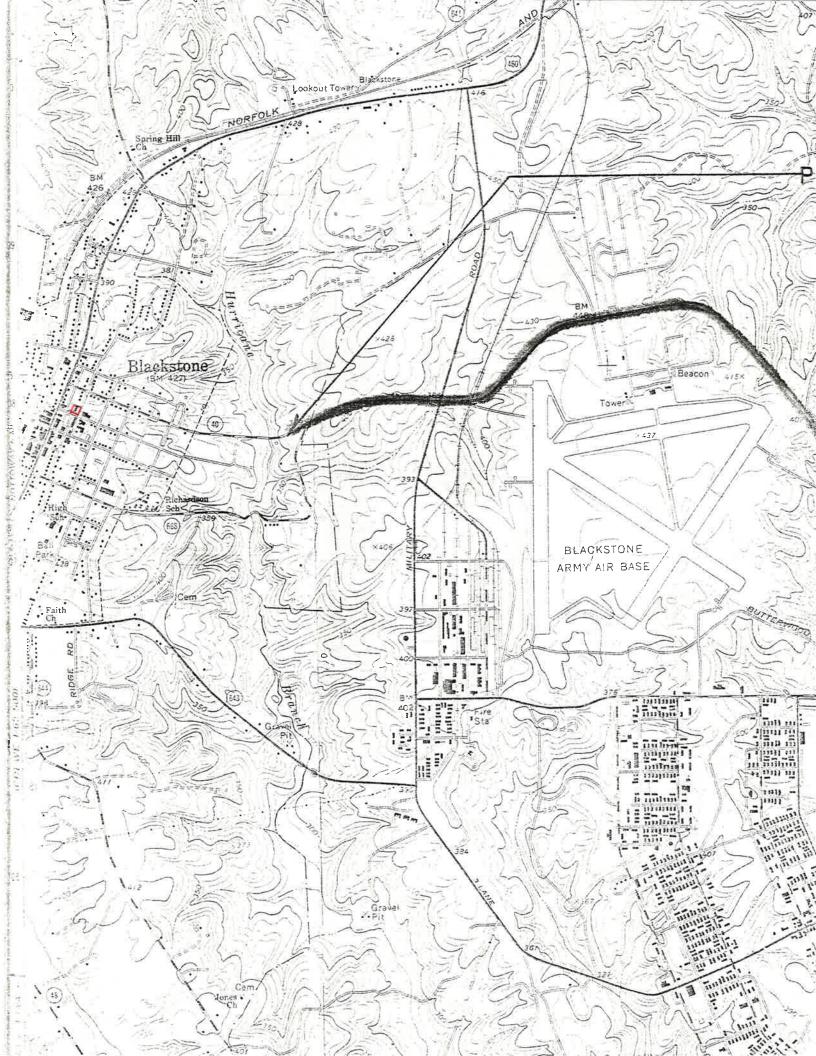
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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	Elizabeth Anderson Barefoot Murray Barefoot	•	Wilmington,	N.C.
	Mary Silver Anderson, Washi	ngto	n, D. C.	

Mary Claiborne Anderson, Washington, D. C.



Form No. 10-301 Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Nottoway	
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(Type all entries - attach t	o or enclose with map)	ENTRI NOMBER	DATE
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AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
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TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
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