

VLR - 8/16/83  
NRHP - 9/29/83

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic D.S. TAVERN (Preferred) (VHLC File #02-231)

and or common 1740 House

**2. Location**

street & number U.S. Route 250 West N/A not for publication

city, town Ivy  vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county Albemarle code 003

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Clarence J. & Mary Ann Elder

street & number Route <sup>10</sup> 7, Box ~~50~~ 114

city, town Charlottesville N/A vicinity of state Virginia 22901

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Albemarle County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Charlottesville state Virginia 22901

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys** (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

(1) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

title Survey (File #02-231) has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23210

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>                    </u> N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

## SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The D.S. Tavern is a two-story, single-pile structure with a central-passage plan. Although the building went through several stages of construction, it retains many late 18th- to early 19th-century details. Originally, the building was a one-room-plan log structure which may have served as a claims house along the Three Notched Road. When the two-story frame section was added, the building was converted to a tavern or ordinary. During restoration in 1976, a rare surviving tavern feature, a tap-bar cage inscribed by an owner, Claudius Buster, was uncovered. In the mid- to late 19th century, as alternate transportation routes developed there was no longer a demand for taverns along the road, and the building became a private residence. In recent years it has been returned to commercial use.

## ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The D.S. Tavern is a two-story, single-pile, log and frame building, covered in beaded weatherboards, that rests on a brick and rubblestone foundation. Tall brick chimneys, one on the exterior west end and one on the interior east end, pierce the wood-shingled gable roof. Both chimneys have rebuilt caps. The eaves have simple box cornices.

The front (north) elevation is asymmetrical with five bays on the first floor and three above in the second story. The main entrance is in the center bay through a single door framed by a four-light transom and architrave trim. A two-story porch extended across the facade at an earlier date; traces of its tenons and a second-floor door opening are still visible.

A single-story hyphen connects the tavern on its east elevation to an early 19th-century, one-story kitchen with exterior end fireplace. The south elevation is covered by a single-story lean-to addition. Secondary entrances are located in the kitchen and rear addition. Fenestration throughout the tavern consists of 9/9 double-hung sash in the first story and 6/9 above in the second story. The openings are encased in architrave trim and louvred shutters.

Originally, the building consisted of the present west room which was a one-room-plan log structure expanded into the modified central-passage "I" house. The original entrance was located in the east bay of that room with a later door opening installed in the east room. At present the main entrance opens directly into a tap bar cage strategically located in the passage between the two first-floor rooms. A major portion of the cage, a wooden grill above a paneled bar, was uncovered in the 1976 restoration.

On either side of the passage are the parlor (west) and dining room (east). Both first-floor rooms are finished with a pedestal chair rail and beaded baseboards, while the west room is further enriched with wainscoting. The Federal-style mantel in this room is set into a projecting chimney breast with architrave surround below reeded pilasters that rise up through the tall paneled frieze. A punch-and-dentilwork band lines the ovolo molded shelf. A Federal-style mantel, comprised of recessed paneled pilasters that pierce the frieze and support a wide, molded shelf, decorates the dining room.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates: Mid- to late 18th cent. Builder/Architect: N/A

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The D.S. Tavern is one of the few remaining taverns located in Albemarle County and the only tavern with a rare surviving example of a tap-bar cage. The building stands on the southern edge of Route 250 just east of Ivy, Virginia. The road at that point follows the traces of the Three Notched Road, which was a major thoroughfare from Richmond to the Shenandoah Valley during the 18th and 19th centuries. The tavern marks the site of the well-known D.S. Tree and zero milepost of the Three Notched Road. Traditionally believed to have been constructed as a claims house on the road, the building evolved into an ordinary and functioned as such from the late 18th century until 1850. The most notable owner of the tavern was Chief Justice John Marshall who maintained the property from 1810-1813. Although taverns were plentiful in Albemarle County during the late 18th to early 19th centuries, almost all were converted to residences or in recent years have vanished due to their vulnerable location close to expanding highway right of ways. D.S. Tavern, therefore, is a unique example of early tavern life in Piedmont Virginia.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The D.S. Tavern is situated on its original site on a patent called "D.S." where once stood the famous D.S. Tree and zero milepost at the intersection of the Three Notched Road with the Richard Woods Road to the Blue Ridge. "D.S." is traditionally attributed to David Stockton, who blazed a trail from Williamsburg to Goochland and carved his initials in a tree where he and his partner Michael Woods separated. However, John Hammond Moore in his recent book, Albemarle, associates the initials D.S. with religious dissenters from the Anglican Church who settled in the region.

Local tradition maintains that the original one-room log building with a loft was built as a claims house for the patent in the mid-18th century when the two roads were initially cleared. Discovery during the recent restoration of early clippings concerning small-pox dilemmas glued to the interior walls may suggest an early public use of the structure. The two-story, frame section was added to the structure in the late 18th century, possibly 1795, and the enlarged structure was converted into an ordinary or tavern. Similar to other Virginia taverns, a two-story porch ran the length of the facade. On the lower floor, one door opened into the barroom and the other into the sitting room or more formal parlor. A grated tap-bar cage separated the two rooms.

The expanded structure successfully operated as the D.S. Tavern from 1785 to about 1850, serving the westward movement of settlers along the turnpike running from Richmond to the Valley. The Three Notched Road was the major east-west road in Albemarle during

## 9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #2)

Kimball, Jane E., "D.S. Tavern," *Studies in Vernacular Architecture*, School of Architecture, University of Virginia, Fall Semester 1979.  
Moore, John B. *Albemarle: Jefferson's County 1727-1976*. Charlottesville, VA: The University Press of Virginia, 1976.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres

Quadrangle name Charlottesville West, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	7	7	1	3	4	3	0	4	2	1	4	3	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The D.S. Tavern nomination consists of two acres which constitute all of the land remaining of the original acreage. It is bounded on the north by U.S. 250 and on the east, west, and south by woods. Beginning at a point on south side of U.S. 250 at the intersection of U.S. 250 and the east side of the private drive

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries** (See Continuation Sheet #3)

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Clarence J. Elder & Margaret Pearson Welsh

organization N/A

date August 1983

street & number Route 3, Box 507

telephone (804) 977-1740

city or town Charlottesville

state Virginia 22901

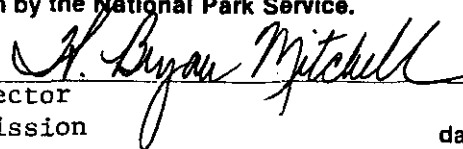
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director  
title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date AUG 1 6 1983

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

D.S. TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA  
Continuation sheet #1

Item number 6. 7, 8

Page 1, 1, 1

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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)  
1979 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, DC

7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis

Access to the second floor was originally reached by a quarter-turn stair located in the parlor. The stair has been removed, and access is now from the rear addition. Two rooms on the second floor are finished with Federal-style mantels. Throughout the building are early six-panel doors with box locks and traces of H-L hinges.

A modern single-story building is located on the property west of the tavern. Small shrubbery lines the front of the tavern, while large shade trees and small flowering trees are scattered near the edges of the property. A broad gravel drive curves across the front yard. U.S. Route 250 passes closely in front of the house.

8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

the late 18th to early 19th centuries. Because taverns are not listed in the Albemarle census during this period, it is impossible to determine how many existed at that time. Thirteen tavern licenses were issued in 1830, but numerous other structures most likely served as taverns during the period along major roads.<sup>2</sup> By the mid-19th century the canal, railroad, and new roads were all competing with the Three Notched as alternate means of transportation in the county. Many taverns ceased operation and were converted to residences. Since that date, many have totally disappeared.

Albemarle historian Edgar Woods who has identified the tavern keepers of the D.S., states that Claudius Buster, "about 1785 purchased the D.S. where he kept tavern until his death in 1807."<sup>3</sup> The discovery of the tap-bar cage was particularly valuable because the cage bears the inscription "C. Buster, 1786, A.D." Woods further identifies the tavern by its trade name as well as citing other proprietors including William "Baptist Billy" Woods, Henry and Susan Williams (1807), Magistrate Micajah Woods (1814), the Honorable Chief Justice John Marshall (1810), and Thomas Gooch.<sup>4</sup> Chief Justice Marshall traded the Williamses' 2,000 acres of Kentucky land for the tavern and its 450 acres in 1810. The deed is located in the archives of the University of Virginia library and is in the handwriting of the Chief Justice.<sup>5</sup>

The tavern operated under the Gooch ownership until 1850 when the Stephens family purchased the property in October of that year and converted the building to a residence. It remained in this family for the next ninety-five years. By the 1860s the property was known as Stephens Crossing due to the large land holdings of that family and because it was the only major structure in the area. In fact, Green Peyton's map of Albemarle County (ca. 1865-77) shows that the only structure along the three-mile stretch of Three Chopt Road between Birdwood Plantation and Ivy Depot was "Dr. Stephens, D.S."<sup>6</sup>

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D.S. TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #2

Item number 8, 9

Page 2, 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

D.S. Tavern is historically significant as it exemplifies the scene of early vernacular tavern life that existed in western Albemarle during the entire period of major migration westward through Virginia along one of its important early roads. Taverns were plentiful along these roads. Elise Lathrop in her book Early American Inns and Taverns quotes an early English traveler by the name of Mrs. Wakefield, "we can scarcely pass ten or twenty miles without seeing an ordinary. They all resemble each other, having a porch in front, the length of the house, almost covered with handbills. They have no sign. These Virginia taverns take their name from the person who keeps the house, who is often a man of consequence."<sup>7</sup>

After passing through a succession of owners and commercial uses in the past twenty years, the tavern has been carefully restored by its present owners.

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<sup>1</sup> John H. Moore, Albemarle: Jefferson's County, 1727-1976 (Charlottesville, VA: The University Press, 1976), p. 78.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Edgar Woods, Albemarle County in Virginia (Charlottesville, VA: Michie Co., 1901 p. 390.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Herbert A. Johnson, ed., "Personal Letter to Elder Verifying Marshall Ownership," Dated August 18, 1976, The Papers of John Marshall, The College of William and Mary and the Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, VA.

<sup>6</sup> Green Peyton, C.E. "A Map of Albemarle County, Virginia, From Original Surveys by G. Peyton, C.E." (Charlottesville, Va.: Albemarle County Historical Society, 1971).

<sup>7</sup> Jane E. Kimball, "D.S. Tavern," Studies in Vernacular Architecture, School of Architecture, University of Virginia, Fall Semester, 1979.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Peyton, Green, C.E. "A Map of Albemarle County, Virginia, From Original Surveys by G. Peyton, C.E." Charlottesville, VA: Albemarle County Historical Society, August 1971. Williamsburg, Va. The College of William and Mary and the Institute of Early American History and Culture. The Papers of John Marshall. Herbert A. Johnson, ed., "Personal Letter to Elder Verifying Marshall Ownership," dated August 18, 1976.
- Woods, Edgar. Albemarle County in Virginia. Charlottesville, VA: Michie Co., 1901.

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Continuation sheet #3

Item number 10

Page 1

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA--Verbal Boundary Description & Boundary Justification

about 1400' ESE of the west intersection of U.S. 250 with VA 677; thence extending about 150' SE along U.S. 250; thence about 400' SW; thence about 200' NW to E side of private drive; thence about 400' NE along said drive to S side of U.S. 250, the point of origin.

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Charlottesville West, Va. 1973(PR1978)

● D. S. TAVERN, Albemarle County, Va.  
UTM References:

17/713430/4214330