

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

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

**LISTED:**  
VLR 3/16/2017  
NRHP 6/5/2017

**1. Name of Property**

Historic name: Fuqua Farm  
 Other names/site number: VDHR File #020-0337  
 Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**2. Location**

Street & number: 8700 Bethia Road  
 City or town: Chesterfield State: VA County: Chesterfield  
 Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
 I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets  
 the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic  
 Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_ statewide      X local  
 Applicable National Register Criteria:  
\_\_\_A      \_\_\_B      XC      \_\_\_D

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

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

**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.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Animal Facility

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

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

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

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

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

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

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

Fuqua Farm, consisting of about 23 acres, is located on the west side of Bethia Road as it curves west of Winterpock Road (Route 621) south of Hull Street Road (Route 360) in the Matoaca District of Chesterfield County, Virginia. Included on the property are the contributing Fuqua house, six contributing secondary resources, and five non-contributing secondary resources. The one-and-one-half story, side-gable dwelling consists of two late eighteenth to early nineteenth century one-room plan wood frame houses that were combined c. 1905 to form a larger dwelling. An existing wrap-around porch on the north and east elevations was enclosed in the 1930s or 1940s for additional living space. Although in a rapidly suburbanizing area of Chesterfield County, the property retains its historic rural location and setting as the property's acreage consists of open fields and woodlots. Fuqua Farm also has good integrity of design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association, as represented by the dwelling, which features vernacular materials and methods of construction and modest Federal style influences, and the collection of historic outbuildings.

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#### Narrative Description

##### *Setting*

Fuqua Farm is located in a fairly rural portion of western Chesterfield County, though the encroachment of residential subdivisions has begun in the areas to the west, north, and east of the property. A long gravel driveway, flanked by woodland and open fields, extends west for approximately a third of a mile from Bethia Road just north of an intersection with Winterpock Road (Route 621). The driveway continues in front of the house before curving around to a grassy parking area to the west; east of the dwelling, a branch of the driveway diverts to the

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

north and leads to a garage and gravel parking area. The dwelling sits at the southern end of a small grouping of secondary resources including a well (c. 1785), chicken house (c. 1940), hen house (c. 1940), carriage house replica (c. 2016), two garages (c. 1940 and c. 2012), and three sheds (c. 1940 and c. 2010). The domestic complex is at the south end of a clearing located roughly at the center of the parcel. The western portion of the parcel is heavily forested, while the eastern portion has a rectangular clearing along its southern half, paralleling the driveway. Located within the woodlot northeast of the dwelling are multiple springs, which are currently used for water access. Associated with the springs are two structures, a spring house (c. 1940) and a pump house (c. 2010).

### *Single Dwelling*

#### Exterior

The single dwelling at Fuqua Farm is a frame one-and-one-half story, five-bay vernacular house with a side-gable roof and one-story porch that wraps around three elevations and is partially enclosed. Brick chimneys are centered at the gable ends and dormers pierce the roof.

The south-facing building consists of two separate one-room plan houses that were joined c.1905. The symmetrical massing and fenestration of each half, simply framed multiple-light sash, and original brickwork on the western half are indicative of Federal style influences. The juncture of the two buildings is defined on the exterior by different foundation materials, a line in the siding, and different roof lines. The eastern, slightly narrower, block of the house was moved from a location approximately 30 yards south to join the western block. For this reason the dwelling is supported by two different types of foundation. The eastern block is supported by stone piers infilled with concrete block. The foundation of the western block consists of brick laid in an English bond which encloses a full English basement with two small windows on the south elevation and a separate entrance and window on the west elevation. A one-story porch wraps around the south, east, and north elevations. The porch on the north elevation and partial east elevation has been enclosed for additional living space and is supported by a continuous concrete block foundation; the open porch on the south facade is supported by brick piers.

The frame house is clad in beaded weatherboards. The cladding on the façade is original to the c.1905 renovation when the two dwellings were connected; that on the other elevations was put into place during an early twenty-first century renovation. A small portion on the south elevation, eastern section has the siding from the one-room house's original construction.

Brick steps, fairly centered on the south façade, lead to the wood floor of the porch. Square wood posts, with decorative wood brackets, support the shed roof which is covered with standing seam metal. From the porch three partially glazed entrances access the house; one in the western block, one in the eastern block, and one in the enclosed porch section. The windows, located on the outer sides of the doors, have nine-over-nine single-hung wood sash original to the two houses. The fenestration on the enclosed porch varies from six-over-six single-hung sash windows on the east elevation dating to 1930s or 1940s, to one-over-one single-hung sash windows on the north elevation which date to the early twenty-first century.

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

On the west elevation are two additional entrances. A partially glazed door, accessed via brick steps, leads to the kitchen in the enclosed porch. A small shed-roof addition, built in the early twenty-first century, with solid double wood doors accesses the basement and replaces a former bulkhead at this location.

A side-gable roof, clad in green standing-seam metal, covers the house. The roof covering the original separate houses had likely been clad in cedar shake shingles. They were replaced when the houses were joined c. 1905 and covered with standing seam metal.<sup>1</sup> The roof was re-clad during a twenty-first century renovation of the house. The roofline is slightly lower on the eastern block of the house, once more indicating the two separate original houses. The roof is pierced at three locations, both on the front and back, for gable roof dormers with six-over-six single-hung sash windows. There are a total of four dormers on the western block of the house and two on the eastern. An exterior end brick chimney is centered on the gable ends. The earlier chimney on the west elevation has a Flemish bond on its lower half and features two sets of shoulders. The c. 1905 brick chimney, laid in a stretcher bond, on the east elevation has one set of shoulders and is enclosed on the first floor within the now enclosed porch. Above the porch roof, small single pane casement windows flank the chimney.

### Interior

The interior of the Fuqua house clearly conveys the presence of two one-room plan dwellings that have been joined together and then slightly expanded to create larger living quarters. The two original dwellings stand as mirror images of each other; the western block now serves as the dining room and the eastern block as the family room. They are connected by a single doorway on the joining wall. The depth of this doorway indicates the combined original depth of the exterior walls of both one-room houses. Each block of the house has an entrance on the south elevation from the front porch.<sup>2</sup> Directly east and west of the entrances is a simple stairway to each half story, also original to the early one-room houses. Four wood steps lead to a landing at which point the stairs turn north and continue up. While nearly identical, the eastern stairs are slightly steeper as they end at a different point on the half story.

A brick fireplace is centered on each gable end; the western fireplace is original to the early house construction and the eastern dates to the c. 1905 combination of the two houses. The western mantelpiece dates to the c. 1905 renovation and is a simple wood element surrounding the segmental arch of the firebox. Small open closets flank this fireplace in which original plasterwork remains. The eastern mantelpiece is a restored late Victorian wood element that was added in the early twenty-first century. It is characterized by the overmantel mirror, mantel shelf, columns, and large brackets. The firebox is now enclosed by a decorative metal cover.

The wrap-around porch on the north (rear) and east elevations was enclosed on the north elevation and screened in on the east elevation during the 1930s or 1940s to provide additional living space. Its original use as a porch is evident in the step down from the combined house. From the eastern block, a doorway beside the fireplace leads into the now enclosed eastern

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

portion of this porch, which now serves as utility closet. This room also has an exterior entrance on its south wall. A doorway on the north (rear) wall of the eastern block leads into the portion of the enclosed porch which now serves as a bedroom and closet. A bathroom is located at the corner of the house between the bedroom and utility closet. In the western block of the combined house, a doorway leads to the enclosed porch which now serves as a kitchen, pantry, and half bath.

The half-story of the house continues to convey the original one-room plan dwellings. A fire during the late twentieth century necessitated the restoration of much of the half-story reusing as many of the original materials as possible. The flooring consists of painted wood boards, the walls are a mix of horizontal wood boards and drywall, and drywall covers the ceiling. The gable roof features three dormers on both the north and south elevations; the dormers were added with the c. 1905 renovation. The window sash were rebuilt in the early twenty-first century reusing the original glass panes when possible.

Stairs on the eastern block lead to an open room with a small fireplace on the gable end. A classical mantelpiece, put into place in the early twenty-first century, surrounds the firebox. Small, modern casement windows flank the fireplace. The slightly larger size of the western block allows for its use as a bedroom and a separate bathroom. Again, there is a small fireplace on the gable end. The firebox has a segmental arch and a simple mantle, installed in the twenty-first century, caps the brick.

Accessible only from the exterior, the western block of the dwelling has a full English basement.<sup>3</sup> Large original beams rest on the brick foundation; the southern wall of this foundation has been rebuilt in-kind. Two small wood peg frame windows with vertical bars are on this wall looking out beneath the porch floor overhead. One of these windows is original to the house and the second was rebuilt in the early twenty-first century. At this basement level, there is a large cooking fireplace at the gable end, adjacent to the stairs. The concrete floor and stairs were poured in 1946.

### Integrity

The house at Fuqua Farm retains a significant amount of historic fabric from the original one-room plan houses, the c.1905 renovation which joined the two houses, and from the 1930s or 1940s renovation which enclosed the porch. The farm began to decline in the later twentieth century, resulting in water damage in the enclosed porch and fire damage in the half story. After the Fuqua family gifted the farm to Sherry Fuqua Seckman and her husband, Mike Seckman, between 2000 and 2011 they undertook extensive repairs to rehabilitate the house. Included in this renovation work were structural repairs as needed, replacement of the metal roofing with a new metal roof, re-plastering of walls on the first floor, replacement of some interior trim as needed, rebuilding the southern basement wall, and constructing a new entrance into the basement. All work was completed in a sensitive manner keeping as much original material intact as possible and using in-kind materials where replacements were necessary wherever possible.

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

The original one-room plan houses retain their early structural frame of 12-by-12-inch, hand-hewn, L-shaped corner posts and quarter sawn and hewn timbers with mortise-and-tenon joints and wood pegs. The plaster walls were re-plastered during the early twenty-first century, with the original plaster still visible in closets in the western block. The ceilings on the first floor have been replaced by pressed tins in the early twenty-first century. The beaded weatherboard siding on the south elevation dates to the combining of the one-room houses c.1905, however it appears that a small portion of the original nineteenth century weatherboard on the eastern one-room house remains visible.

The vast majority of the windows, doors, floors, and wood trim date to the three primary building campaigns. Most of the wood trim is original to the one-room plan dwellings and the early wood peg construction continues to be visible on some elements (particularly an original window in the western half). The original window sash on the first floor of both early houses have been retained, as have the original window sash on the east elevation of the enclosed porch. The window sash at the half story level were rebuilt in the twenty-first century using the original glass. The window sash on the enclosed porch's north elevation are twenty-first century replacements.

The fireplaces and chimney on the west gable end are original to the construction of the one-room house, aside from repair work completed as necessary. The fireplaces and chimney on the eastern block are original to the c. 1905 renovation. The wood flooring in the western block is also original to this early construction as are both stairways; the eastern block's floor received an overlay of wood flooring c.1905 over the original flooring.

### *Secondary Resources*

North, west, and east of the dwelling are a mix of historic and modern outbuildings and structures. Those secondary resources constructed in the first half of the twentieth century, within the period of significance, are considered contributing to Fuqua Farm. Those recently constructed, though largely completed in a complementary manner, are non-contributing as they postdate the property's period of significance.

### Well: Contributing Structure

Located approximately 20 feet east of the dwelling is a brick-lined well original to the farm. It is currently capped by a concrete cap and is surrounded by a concrete slab. The slab, as evidenced by incised writing, was set in 1932. This element is in good condition.

### Chicken House: Contributing Outbuilding

At the end of the northern branch of the driveway at the gravel parking pad is a long, one-story frame chicken house clad in wood boards. The saltbox roof is covered with standing seam metal. This resource was constructed in the first half of the twentieth century and was used in a farming operation that provided chickens, turkeys, and eggs to the Richmond market. Much of the



Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

original building is intact, although structural repairs and siding replacement have been made as necessary. The resource is considered contributing to the Fuqua Farm. It is in good condition.

#### Hen House: Contributing Outbuilding

Located west of the chicken house is a one-story frame hen house. Constructed in the first half of the twentieth century, this is a contributing building to the Fuqua Farm. While still standing, the building is largely obscured by overgrown vegetation, but remains in good condition and will be repaired and restored.

#### Garage 1: Contributing Outbuilding

Located approximately 100 feet northwest of the dwelling is a one-bay, one-story frame garage clad in vertical wood boards. The front-gable roof is covered with standing seam metal. This building was constructed in the first half of the twentieth century and is considered contributing to the Fuqua Farm. It is in fair condition.

#### Shed 1: Contributing Outbuilding

At the edge of the clearing west of the house is a one-story frame shed clad in weatherboard and vertical boards. The front-gable roof, covered with standing seam metal, extends out on either side to cover lean-to type additions. This resource was constructed in the first half of the twentieth century and is considered contributing to the Fuqua Farm. It is in poor condition.

#### Spring House: Contributing Structure

Located at a spring northeast of the dwelling is a low spring house possibly constructed c.1932 when the well was capped off. The water from the spring is pumped to the dwelling. The concrete foundation holds plywood sides, a screened front, and a corrugated metal shed roof. A border of poured concrete is set back from the northeast, southeast, and southwest elevations to protect the foundation from runoff and the buildup of soil. The structure is in good condition.

#### Shed 2: Non-contributing Outbuilding

Located approximately 13 feet from the northeast corner of the house is a one-story frame shed clad in board-and-batten siding. The side-gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal and a small shed-roof addition is located on its east elevation. Though constructed at the location of a previous shed and in a manner using historic building materials and techniques, this structure was constructed c. 2010 and is non-contributing to Fuqua Farm.

#### Shed 3: Non-contributing Outbuilding

Located approximately 27 feet from the northwest corner of the house is a one-story frame shed clad in vertical boards. The front-gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal. Though constructed in a sensitive manner using historic building materials and techniques, this structure was constructed c. 2012 and is non-contributing to Fuqua Farm. Adjacent to the northeast corner of the shed is a free-standing wood deck with a metal frame and netting.

#### Garage 2: Non-contributing Outbuilding

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

Immediately adjacent to the east elevation of the chicken house is a large garage. The gable roof is covered with standing seam metal. This garage was constructed c. 2012 and is non-contributing to the Fuqua Farm.

#### Carriage House Replica: Non-contributing Outbuilding

Located west of the house and the grassy parking area, a one-story frame carriage house replica is under construction. The building is being constructed in a sympathetic manner using post-and-beam wood construction with wood pegs and siding of vertical boards with wrought iron head nails. The salt-box roof is covered with standing seam metal. Though constructed in a sensitive manner using historic building materials and techniques, this structure, is non-contributing to Fuqua Farm.

#### Pump House: Non-contributing Structure

Located at a spring northeast of the dwelling is a low pump house. This structure was used for a short time to pump water to the dwelling and it consists of low concrete block walls with a corrugated shed roof. Constructed c. 2010, it is non-contributing to the Fuqua Farm.

### **ENDNOTES**

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<sup>1</sup> Michael Seckman, interview by the author, Chesterfield County, VA, 13 February 2017.

<sup>2</sup> The front entrance in the house's western half appears to have originally been on the north (rear) elevation. Michael Seckman, interview by the author, Chesterfield County, VA, 20 September 2016.

<sup>3</sup> The basement had been formerly accessible by stairs under the stairway of the dwelling's western half and by a bulkhead at the location of the current entrance.

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Criteria Considerations

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

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

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)  
ARCHITECTURE

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

**Period of Significance**  
c.1785-1946

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

**Significant Dates**  
c. 1785  
c. 1805  
c. 1905  
c. 1940

**Significant Person**  
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)  
N/A

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

**Cultural Affiliation**  
N/A

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

**Architect/Builder**  
N/A

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

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

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

Construction of at least one dwelling at Fuqua Farm in western Chesterfield County is likely to have occurred in the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century and the farm has largely been under ownership by the same family since this time. The extant dwelling original consisted of a simple one-room house with a half-story. At some point, possibly in the first half of the nineteenth century, a second one-room plan house was built. In c. 1905, these two buildings were combined by moving the later house and attaching it to the earlier house, thereby creating a larger living quarters. The dwelling was again slightly enlarged in the 1930s or early 1940s with the partial enclosure of a wraparound porch. Fuqua Farm is locally significant under Criterion C as an example of two early-nineteenth-century, one-room plan vernacular houses and as an example of early-twentieth-century architectural adaptations to vernacular one-room houses. Because the exact construction dates of these first dwellings remains unknown at this time, the period of significance extends from c.1785, around the earliest known reference to the property in historic records, to 1946, after the end of the last significant construction efforts undertaken by the Fuqua family were completed.<sup>4</sup> The property meets Criteria Consideration B because relocation of the eastern portion of the dwelling occurred c. 1905, during the period of significance.

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

### **Historical Background**

Though long known as the Fuqua Farm, it appears that this farm began under the ownership of Chesterfield County's Clayton family before coming into possession of the Fuqua family at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Current research indicates that the earliest known reference to the property appears in 1785. In his will dated that year John Clayton left his land to his three sons. The younger John Clayton received the southern third of the land; Thomas Clayton received the portion of the plantation on which John Clayton (senior) was currently residing; Leonard ("Lenne") Clayton received the eastern third of the parcel.<sup>5</sup> While this will indicates a house stood on some portion of Clayton's land, its location is unclear and it is not known whether it is one of the two one-room plan houses that currently comprise the Fuqua Farm's primary dwelling.

Around 1786, Thomas Clayton and his wife Obedience Sudbury had a daughter they named Lucy Clayton. Lucy married John Fuqua in 1804.<sup>6</sup> Given what appears to be the close relationships of the family, it is possible that they all lived on the farm.

Thomas Clayton passed away on November 6, 1804. His humble estate, which included some furniture and kitchenware, was assessed at £254.<sup>7</sup> His brother John Clayton had passed away shortly before on October 29, 1804. John Clayton owned 14 enslaved people who presumably worked his plantation. Also among the appraised goods were multiple farm animals, crops, and

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

furniture for a total of approximately £2,418.<sup>8</sup> By the time of the Claytons' deaths, it appears that both Henry Turpin and John Fuqua were administrators of their estates.<sup>9</sup>

The earliest known record of the Fuqua family in relation to the farm dates to an 1805 land tax record assigning John Fuqua of "John Claton's [sic]" estate with 400 acres assessed at \$516.00.<sup>10</sup> The land continued to be assessed at \$516.00 at least into the mid-1810s. By the 1806 land tax record, it is no longer identified as John Clayton's estate but as under the ownership of John Fuqua.<sup>11</sup>

By 1820, the total assessment of the Fuqua land was \$3,200.00 with \$800.00 attributed towards buildings, indicating that one or both of the one-room dwellings had been constructed by this point as well as probable agricultural outbuildings.<sup>12</sup> The following year, a note was added to the Fuqua entry stating that \$195.00 was added to the assessment for a new building.<sup>13</sup> This may have been the second one-room house or a new agricultural outbuilding.

John Fuqua passed away in 1843 though his wife and their children continued to live on the land. In land tax records, Fuqua Farm would for some years be referred to as the John Fuqua Estate while in later deeds it was referenced as Lucy Fuqua Land. The 1860 federal census lists 11 people living on the farm. Included among the residents of the farm were Lucy Fuqua, her son William G., and grandson Cornelius W.<sup>14</sup> At this time the farm was valued at \$1,560.00; its total assessed value had dropped by half by 1861.<sup>15</sup>

In 1872, Lucy Fuqua passed away. The farm was auctioned in 1874, at which time it was purchased by Franklin Stearns.<sup>16</sup> The estate was auctioned again in 1880 and L.L. Lester was the highest bidder with \$1,269.00.<sup>17</sup> In 1897, Fuqua Farm was put up for auction one more time and was purchased by W.C. Andrews for \$951.75.<sup>18</sup> During this time, it is possible that the remaining Fuqua family rented the farm from the new owners and continued to live on the land. Ownership came back to the Fuqua family in 1902 with its purchase by Cornelius W. Fuqua, grandson of John and Lucy Fuqua.<sup>19</sup>

The farm declined as the nineteenth century progressed. In 1870, its total assessed value was \$1,950.00 and by 1902 it was \$1,590.00.<sup>20</sup> The building value alone fell by approximately 62-percent and in the 1902 assessment it was even noted that \$100.00 was removed due to "decay of buildings".<sup>21</sup> Cornelius Fuqua paid \$525.00 for the farm in that year, which may be indicative of its decline or a reflection that the family had a relationship with the owner.<sup>22</sup> Under his ownership, Cornelius renovated the living quarters and modernized it into a more acceptable twentieth century house by combining the two one-room dwellings. He had the smaller one-room plan house jacked up to logs and moved by a steam tractor approximately 30 yards north to connect to the larger one-room plan house.<sup>23</sup> In 1906, the building value nearly doubled to \$300.00.<sup>24</sup> It is also likely at this time that a front and rear porch were added across the now-connected dwellings.

After the death of Cornelius W. Fuqua in 1924, it appears that the farm was left to his children.<sup>25</sup> Under their joint ownership, additional upgrades were made to the house, including enclosing a

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

portion of the rear porch for additional living space, and to the farm with the construction of multiple outbuildings and structures.<sup>26</sup> In 1942, the children subdivided the property and Harry Fuqua received approximately 221 acres, including the dwelling and outbuildings. The Fuqua Farm remained in the same family and in the early twenty-first century members of the family gifted it to Sherry Fuqua Seckman and her husband Michael Seckman.<sup>27</sup> Under their ownership, the dwelling was completely, and sensitively, renovated in a manner which highlighted its historical features.

***Criterion C: Significance as a fine example of early one-room plan vernacular dwellings***

Fuqua Farm is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its fine, and relatively rare, examples of one-room plan houses. The Fuqua house is unusual in that it provides examples of, what may be considered, a lower-class one-room plan house (the eastern block of the existing house) as well as a middle-class one-room plan house (the western block of the existing house). Though the building has been altered in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, it clearly conveys these early house forms as well as typical changes taken to adapt this house type to the southern climate and to accommodate shifts in socio-economic standing and vernacular architecture as a whole.

While early emigrants to Virginia initially built a variety of traditional house plans, by the eighteenth century, one vernacular house form had become dominant on the landscape. The small, simple, one-and-one-half story frame dwellings with one or two rooms on each floor became the preferred dwelling form and would come to serve all segments of society.<sup>28</sup> The prevalence of these simple houses is evident in contemporary descriptions of the mid-Atlantic and southern countryside. While Marquis de Chastellux was traveling across America in the 1780s, he wrote of the “miserable huts inhabited by whites” in Virginia.<sup>29</sup> Likewise, in 1791 while traveling from Mt. Vernon to Savannah, George Washington noted that “Excepting for the towns there is not within view of the whole road I traveled from Petersburg to this place, a single house that has anything of an elegant appearance.”<sup>30</sup> This type of vernacular dwelling would remain common up to the mid-nineteenth century.

In his survey of early Chesterfield County architecture, Jeffrey O’Dell wrote of the one-room plan dwelling like the original houses at Fuqua Farm. Comparison of mid-nineteenth-century county documentation indicated that approximately one-third of the free, white population lived in this type of vernacular home, a percentage that would have been even higher during the eighteenth and earlier nineteenth centuries.<sup>31</sup>

These buildings were rectangular in form with dimensions ranging from 16 by 16 square feet, 18 by 16 square feet, 20 by 16 square feet, 20 by 18 square feet, and 20 by 20 square feet. A steep gable roof would provide extra space for an additional room in the half-story. Therefore the average small one-room plan house had approximately 400 to 450 adjusted square feet.<sup>32</sup> The smaller, eastern block of the Fuqua Farm’s existing house clearly conveys these characteristics as, what may be considered, a lower-class one-room plan house with its measurements of approximately 18 by 18 square feet.<sup>33</sup>

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

In addition to this smaller one-room plan, the Fuqua house also clearly exhibits the design of a slightly larger, middle-class, one-room house. The western block of the existing house measures approximately 22 by 18 square feet. Not only does it have a slightly larger size but its full English basement created a total size of approximately 814 adjusted square feet.<sup>34</sup> This would then be considered a medium-size rural farmhouse despite it being a one-room plan. In 1860, the middle-class farmer lived in a medium-size farmhouse that averaged between 700 and 900 adjusted square feet.<sup>35</sup> Of the Fuqua House's larger block, O'Dell noted that it was "one of the earliest and most substantial one-room-plan dwellings recorded in Chesterfield".<sup>36</sup>

These early one-room dwelling would be typically enlarged, as needed, by adding a one-story shed extension to the rear elevation. Additionally, by the late-eighteenth century, full-width, shed-roofed porches were widespread in Virginia, providing "a cool shelter in summer from the scorching sun and frequent sudden thunderstorms".<sup>37</sup> While it cannot be known at this time if each of the Fuqua Farm's one-room plan dwellings once had additions or porches, the presence of these features today are examples of this southern adaptation. A full-width (now wrap-around) porch spans the south facade. What had been a wrap-around porch on the north (rear) and east elevations was later converted into additional interior living space.

By the mid-nineteenth century, these one-room plan houses were less popular and were "more associated with the lifestyle of the poor."<sup>38</sup> When Cornelius W. Fuqua purchased it in 1902, the Fuqua Farm had two one-room plan houses within approximately 30 yards of each other. Possibly acknowledging the changes in attitude towards these smaller homes or possibly simply in an effort to gain more living space, during his ownership the smaller of the dwellings was moved north to join its larger counterpart; the smaller of the two now comprises the eastern block of the existing house.

Fuqua Farm is locally significant under Criterion C as a well-built and unusual dwelling featuring a lower-class one-room plan house (represented by the eastern block of the existing house) and a middle-class one-room plan house (represented by the western block of the existing house). Though the building was altered during the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, it clearly conveys these early house forms as well as typical changes taken to adapt this house type to the southern climate and to accommodate shifts in socio-economic standing and vernacular architecture as a whole. Further, the dwelling retains numerous characteristics of vernacular construction materials and methods, notably in the original structural framing with 12-by-12-inch, hand-hewn, L-shaped corner posts and quarter sawn and hewn timbers with mortise-and-tenon joints and wood pegs, the original brickwork on the dwelling's western half, and interior trim and finishes that date to the c. 1905 renovation and earlier. Although once ubiquitous, such dwellings are a rapidly vanishing resource type, especially in rapidly suburbanizing counties such as Chesterfield. The recent, sensitive repairs to the dwelling and outbuildings have assured that Fuqua Farm will continue as a representative example of middling farms from Chesterfield County's earlier days.



Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

## ENDNOTES

<sup>4</sup> This year is carved in the concrete of the basement steps. The concrete would have been poured that year.

<sup>5</sup> Thomas Blair Clayton was the son of John Clayton and Sarah. Chesterfield County Will Book 4, page 213. On file at the Library of Virginia.

<sup>6</sup> "John Fuqua," Available online at <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fuqua/Main%20Database/mdb2383.htm>.

<sup>7</sup> Chesterfield County Will Book 6, page 233. On file at the Library of Virginia.

<sup>8</sup> Chesterfield County Will Book 6, page 231. On file at the Library of Virginia.

<sup>9</sup> Chesterfield County Will Book 6, page 271 and Will Book 8, page 262. On file at the Library of Virginia.

<sup>10</sup> While no deed, will, or chancery case has been found indicating a transfer of land from John Clayton to John Fuqua, their relation to each other, property location as described in Land Tax records with proximity to the courthouse and neighbors indicates that this is the land that would become Fuqua Farm. Early land tax records do not appear to separate the assessment of land and assessment of buildings on the land. Chesterfield County Land Tax Book, 1805. On file at the Library of Virginia.

<sup>11</sup> Chesterfield County Land Tax Book, 1806. On file at the Library of Virginia.

<sup>12</sup> Chesterfield County Land Tax Book, 1820. On file at the Library of Virginia.

<sup>13</sup> Chesterfield County Land Tax Book, 1821. On file at the Library of Virginia.

<sup>14</sup> All of the residents are: William G. Mary T. William F., Eliza T, Laura Ann, John W., Samuel W. Cornelius W. Lucy, Sarah E., and Susan H. United States Census Bureau, Annual Census, 1860.

<sup>15</sup> United States Census Bureau, Annual Census, 1860; Chesterfield County Land Tax Book, 1851. On file at the Library of Virginia.

<sup>16</sup> This reference occurred in a later deed. Chesterfield County Deed Book 63, page 462, 13 November 1880. On file at Chesterfield County Courthouse.

<sup>17</sup> Chesterfield County Deed Book 63, page 462. 13 November 1880. On file at Chesterfield County Courthouse.

<sup>18</sup> Chesterfield County Deed Book 94, page 388. 13 July 1897. On file at Chesterfield County Courthouse.

<sup>19</sup> Chesterfield County Deed Book 102, page 594, 12 February 1902. On file at Chesterfield County Courthouse.

<sup>20</sup> Chesterfield County Land Tax Books 1870 and 1902. On file at the Library of Virginia.

<sup>21</sup> Chesterfield County Land Tax Books 1902. On file at the Library of Virginia.

<sup>22</sup> Chesterfield County Deed Book 102, page 594, 12 February 1902. On file at Chesterfield County Courthouse.

<sup>23</sup> Michael Seckman, interview by the author, Chesterfield County, VA, 20 September 2016.

<sup>24</sup> Chesterfield County Land Tax Book, 1906. On file at the Library of Virginia.

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

<sup>25</sup> Those that Cornelius left behind included his wife and children Mrs. C.M. Butts, Vernon M., Harry T., John W., and Thomas H. Fuqua. "Deaths in Virginia," *Richmond Times Dispatch*, 1 May 1924, Page 12.

<sup>26</sup> Michael Seckman.

<sup>27</sup> Chesterfield County Deed Book 7914, Page 993, 10 May 2007 and Deed Book 9585, Page 875, 11 November 2011. On file at the Chesterfield County Courthouse.

<sup>28</sup> Dell Upton, "Vernacular Domestic Architecture in Eighteenth Century Virginia," *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, eds. Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, (Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1986), 317.

<sup>29</sup> Jeffrey M. O'Dell, *Chesterfield County: Early Architecture and Historic Sites*, (Chesterfield County, VA), 98.

<sup>30</sup> Quoted in *ibid*.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid*, 100.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid*, 99.

<sup>33</sup> Because the slightly smaller eastern half has been moved it unknown if it too originally had a basement.

<sup>34</sup> Jeffrey M. O'Dell, 99.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid*, 132 and 134. As described by Jeffrey O'Dell, a typical hall-parlor house without a basement averages between 700 and 800 adjusted square feet. The hall-parlor house is the smallest standard Virginia plan-type larger than the one-room-plan dwelling.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid*, 109.

<sup>37</sup> Virginia & Lee McAlester, "A Field Guide to American Houses" (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997), 82

<sup>38</sup> Gabrielle M Lanier & Bernard L. Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes* (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), 15.

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Chesterfield County Deed Books. On file at Chesterfield County Courthouse.

Chesterfield County Land Tax Books. On file at the Library of Virginia.

Chesterfield County Will Books. On file at the Library of Virginia.

“John Fuqua.”

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fuqua/Main%20Database/mdb2383.htm>. (23 September 2016).

Lanier, Gabrielle M. & Bernard L. Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997.

O’Dell, Jeffrey M. *Chesterfield County: Early Architecture and Historic Sites*. Chesterfield County, VA.

*Richmond Times Dispatch*, 1924.

Seckman, Michael. Interview by the author, Chesterfield County, VA, 20 September 2016.

United States Census Bureau, Annual Census.

Upton, Dell. “Vernacular Domestic Architecture in Eighteenth Century Virginia,” *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, eds. Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach. Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1986.

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### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

\_\_\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

\_\_\_\_\_ Other State agency

\_\_\_\_\_ Federal agency

\_\_\_\_\_ Local government

\_\_\_\_\_ University

\_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** VDHR File #020-0337

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 23.3 Acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

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

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 37.387710 | Longitude: -77.685840 |
| 2. Latitude: 37.387810 | Longitude: -77.679450 |
| 3. Latitude: 37.386790 | Longitude: -77.679360 |
| 4. Latitude: 37.386910 | Longitude: -77.676570 |
| 5. Latitude: 37.387380 | Longitude: -77.676620 |
| 6. Latitude: 37.387450 | Longitude: -77.675930 |
| 7. Latitude: 37.386720 | Longitude: -77.675970 |
| 8. Latitude: 37.386160 | Longitude: -77.683050 |
| 9. Latitude: 37.387040 | Longitude: -77.685540 |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

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

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

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

The Fuqua Farm is located at 8700 Bethia Road in the Matoaca District of western Chesterfield County. The historic boundaries are drawn to coincide with the current tax parcel, recorded by Chesterfield County as #7206655154. The true and correct historic boundaries are shown on the attached Location Map and Tax Parcel Map.

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

The boundary includes the approximately 23.3 acres gifted to Sherry Fuqua Seckman and Michael Seckman by the remaining family members and owners of the Fuqua Farm as it has been passed down. It includes all known historic resources – the Fuqua house and several contributing and non-contributing outbuildings and structures as well as springs – as well as the property historic setting with open fields and woodlands.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Dara A. Friedberg  
organization: Dutton + Associates, LLC  
street & number: 1115 Crowder Drive  
city or town: Midlothian state: Virginia zip code: 23112  
telephone: 804-897-1960  
date: October 2016

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Fuqua Farm

City or Vicinity: Chesterfield

County: Chesterfield

State: Virginia

Photographer: Dara Friedberg

Date Photographed: September 2016

Photo 1 of 22: Dwelling, south (front) elevation, view northeast

Photo 2 of 22: Dwelling, north elevation, view southwest

Photo 3 of 22: Dwelling and landscape, north and west elevations, view southeast

Photo 4 of 22: Dwelling and landscape, north elevation, view south

Photo 5 of 22: Dwelling, basement view southwest

Photo 6 of 22: Dwelling, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, eastern block, view east

Photo 7 of 22: Dwelling, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, eastern block, view south

Photo 8 of 22: Dwelling, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, western block, view east

Photo 9 of 22: Dwelling, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, western block, view west

Photo 10 of 22: Dwelling, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, enclosed porch, view east

Photo 11 of 22: Dwelling, half-story, eastern block, view east

Photo 12 of 22: Dwelling, half-story, western block, view west

Photo 13 of 22: Well, view southeast

Photo 14 of 22: Chicken house and Garage 2, view northeast

Photo 15 of 22: Hen house, view northwest

Photo 16 of 22: Garage 1, view northwest

Photo 17 of 22: Shed 1, view southwest

Photo 18 of 22: Spring house, view east

Fuqua Farm  
Name of Property

Chesterfield County, VA  
County and State

Photo 19 of 22: Shed 2, view northeast

Photo 20 of 22: Shed 3, view northeast

Photo 21 of 22: Modern carriage house, view southwest

Photo 22 of 22: Modern pump house, view northwest

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



LOCATION COORDINATES

Fuqua Farm

Chesterfield County, VA

DHR No. 020-0337

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

- 1. Latitude: 37.387710  
Longitude: -77.685840
- 2. Latitude: 37.387810  
Longitude: -77.679450
- 3. Latitude: 37.386790  
Longitude: -77.679360
- 4. Latitude: 37.386910  
Longitude: -77.676570
- 5. Latitude: 37.387380  
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- 6. Latitude: 37.387450  
Longitude: -77.675930
- 7. Latitude: 37.386720  
Longitude: -77.675970
- 8. Latitude: 37.38616  
Longitude: -77.683050
- 9. Latitude: 37.387040  
Longitude: -77.685540



Historic Boundary



Feet



1:9,028 / 1"=752 Feet

Title:

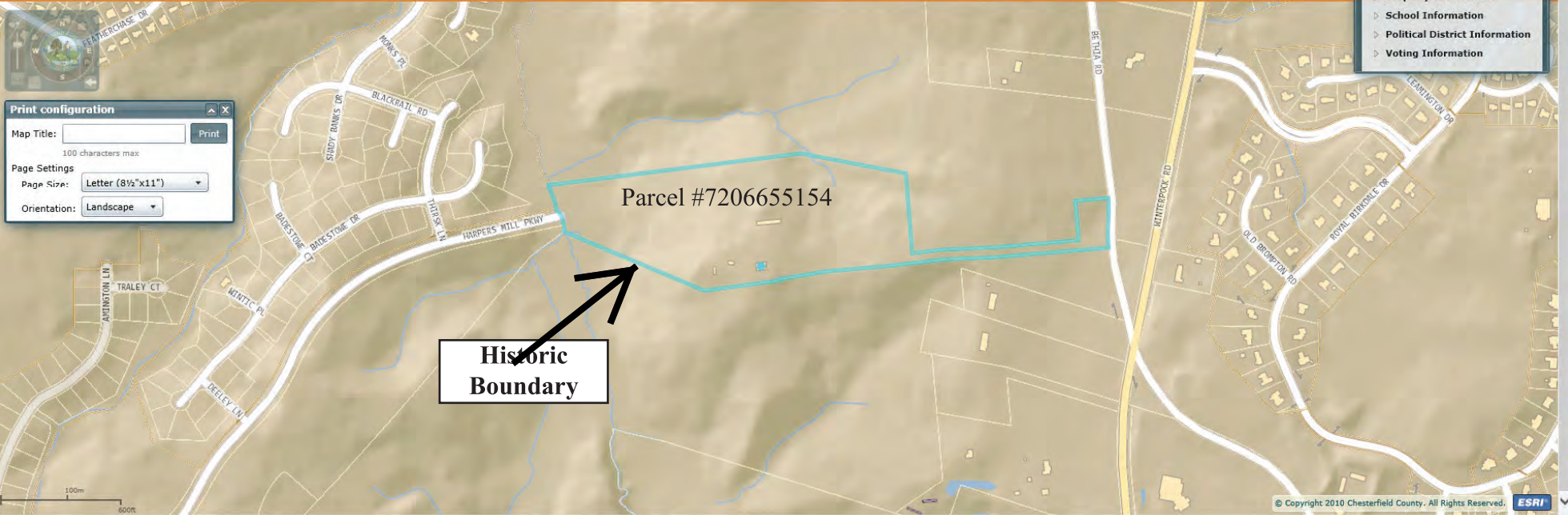
Date: 4/3/2017

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

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



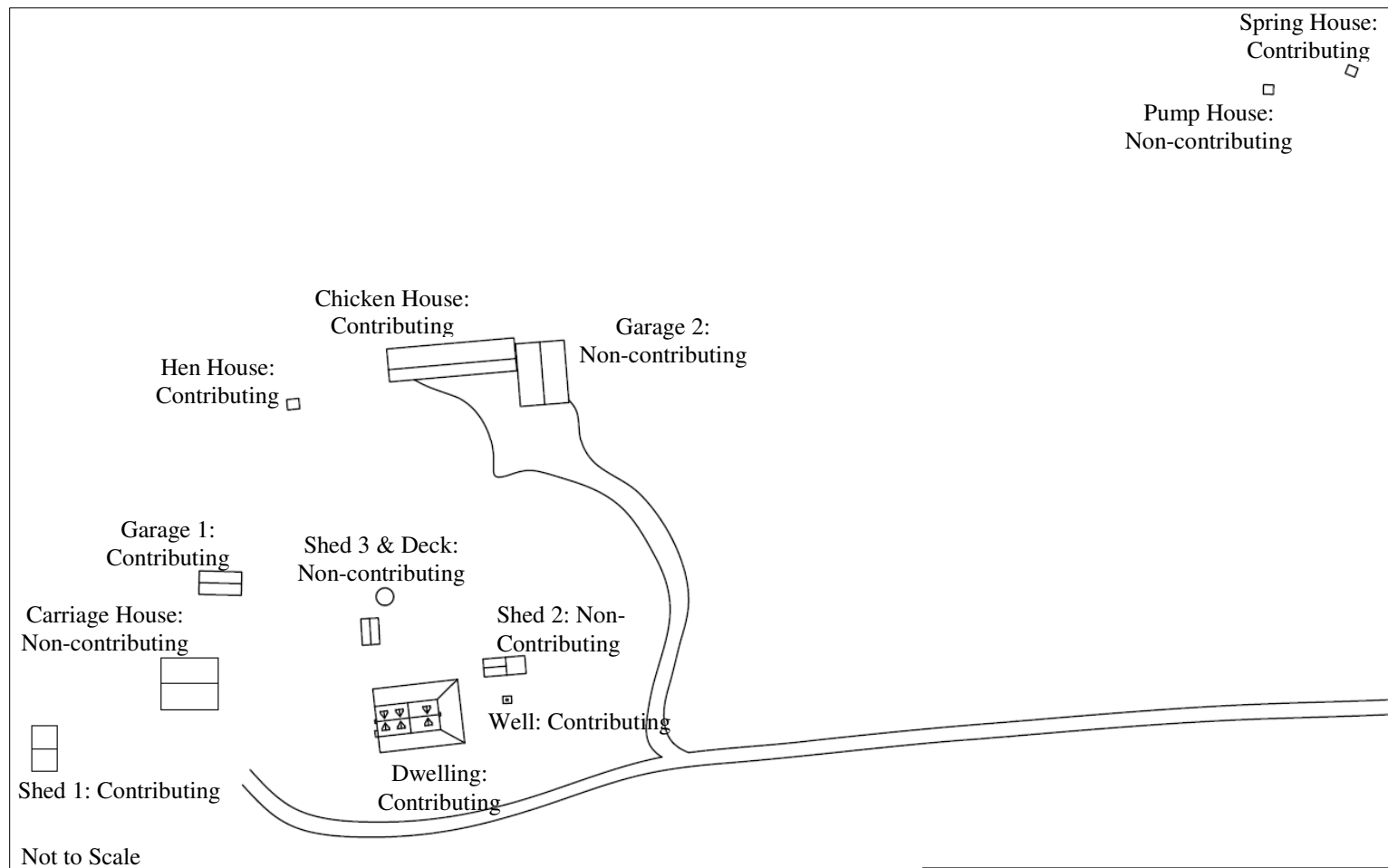
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Parcel #7206655154

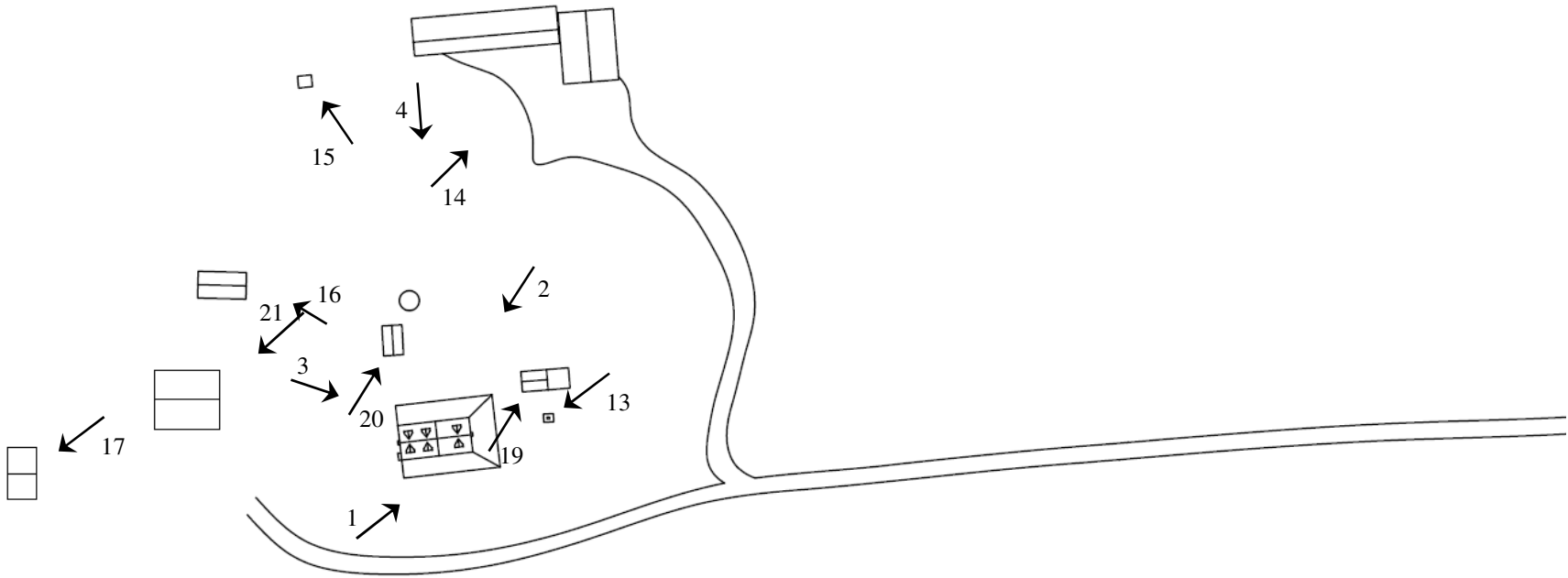
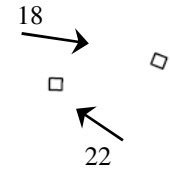
**Historic  
Boundary**

**TAX PARCEL MAP**  
**Fuqua Farm**  
**Chesterfield County, VA**  
**DHR No. 020-0337**



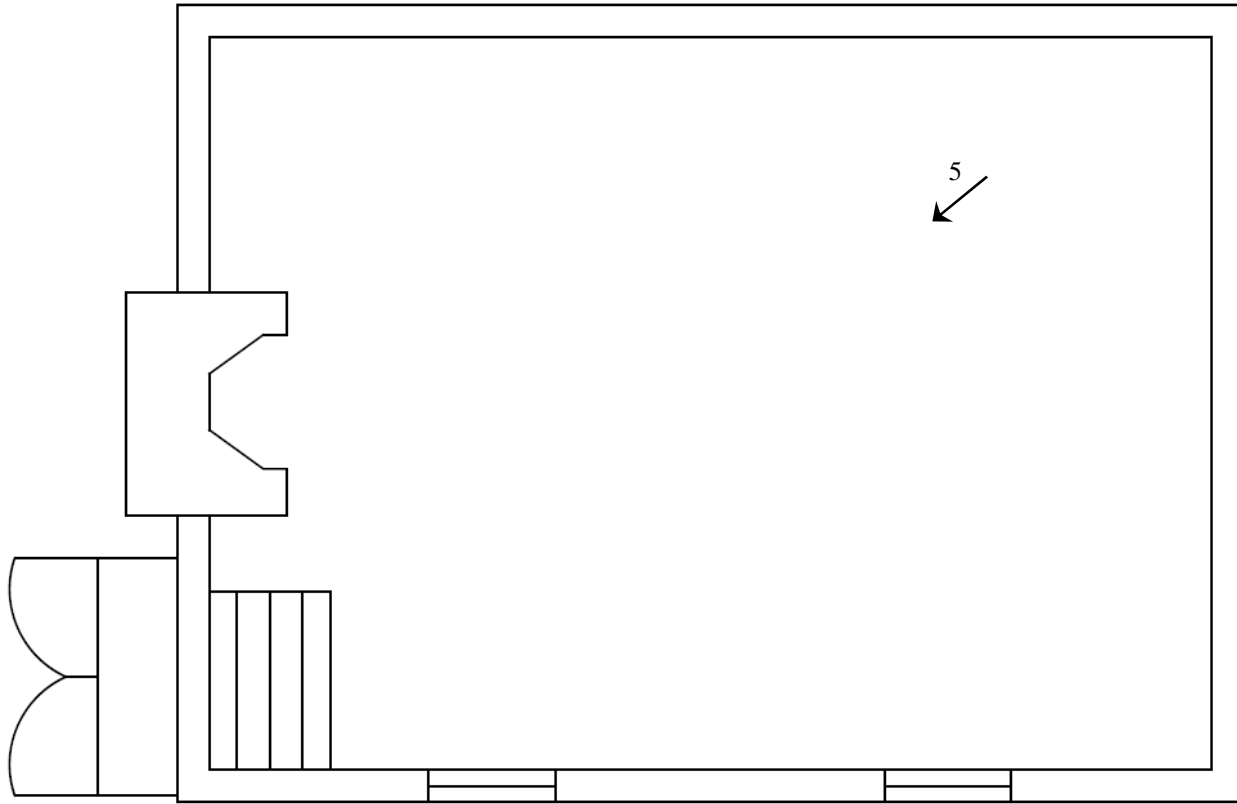
**SKETCH MAP**  
**Fuqua Farm, Chesterfield County, VDHR #020-0337**





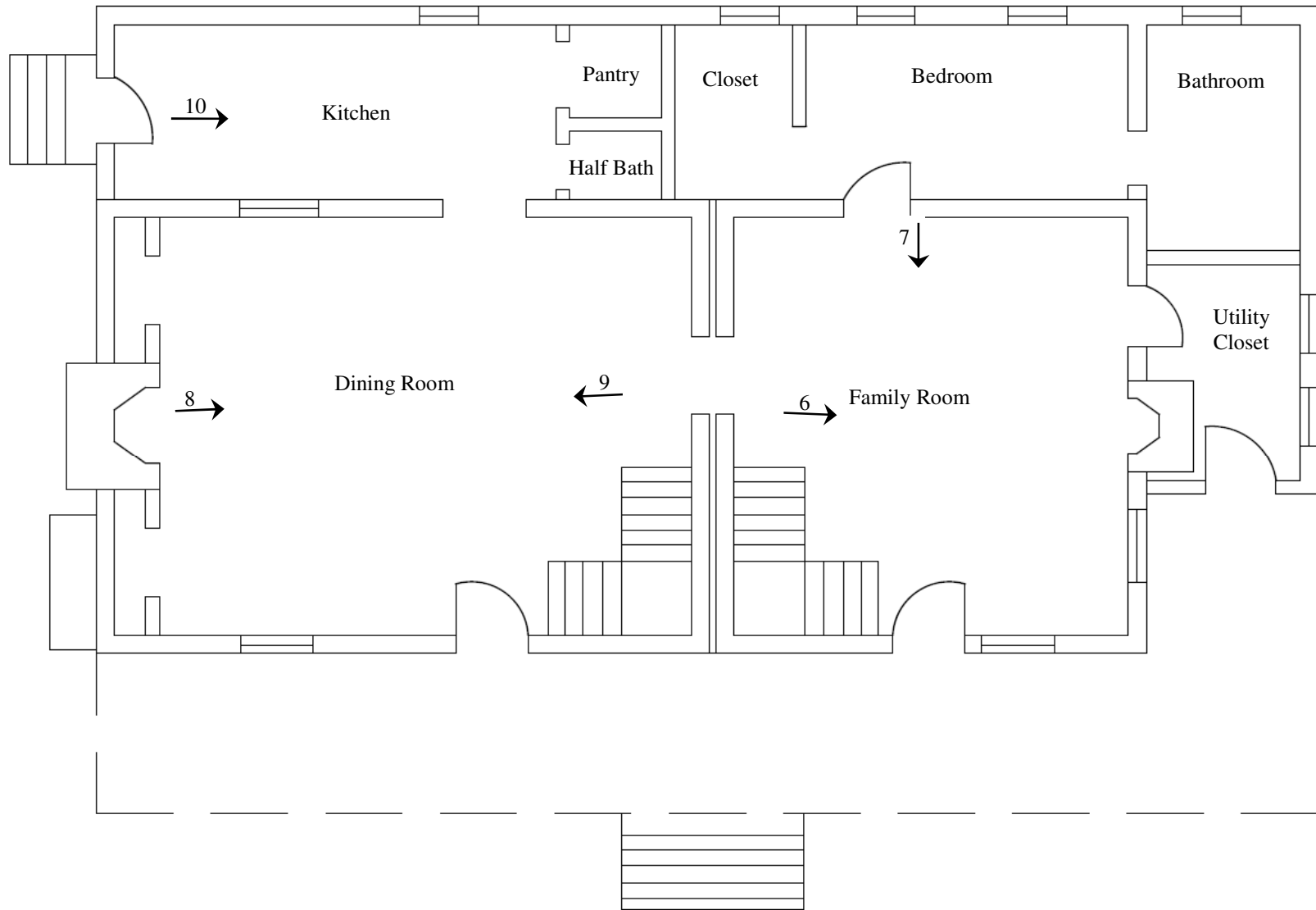
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**Fuqua Farm, Chesterfield County, VDHR #020-0337**

Photo Locations  
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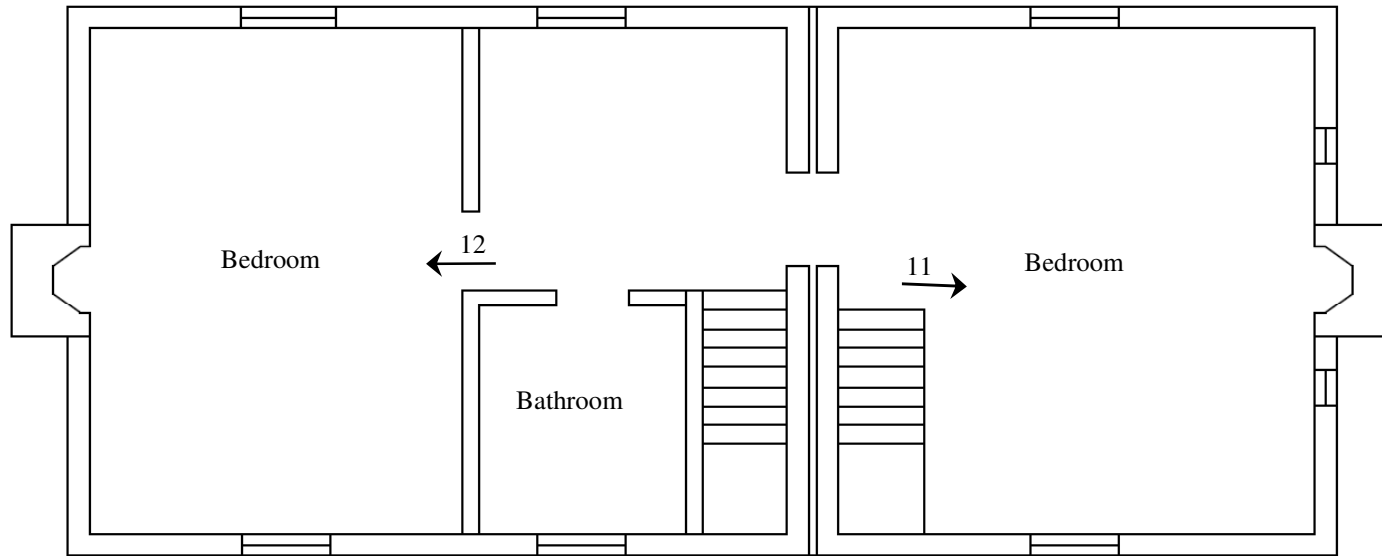
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Basement

Not to Scale **N** 



**PHOTO KEY Fuqua Farm, Chesterfield County, VDHR #020-0337**  
1<sup>st</sup> floor

Not to Scale **N** ↑



**PHOTO KEY**  
**Fuqua Farm, Chesterfield County, VDHR #020-0337**  
Half story

Not to Scale N 