

**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 12/15/2016  
NRHP 6/5/2017

**1. Name of Property**

Historic name: Millers Tavern Rural Historic District  
 Other names/site number: VDHR File No. 028-5030  
 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: Roughly bounded by Richmond-Tappahannock Highway (Route 360) and Howerton Road on the south, Dunbrooke Road (Route 620) on the east and Latanes Mill Road (Route 622) and Midway Road (Route 621) on the west  
 City or town: Millers Tavern State: VA County: Essex  
 Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
 I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
 In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide   X   local  
 Applicable National Register Criteria:  
  X   A     B   X   C     D

<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 <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>104</u>	<u>80</u>	buildings
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>123</u>	<u>87</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 10

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, Secondary Structure,

COMMERCIAL/TRADE: General Store

GOVERNMENT: Post Office

RELIGION: Religious Facility

FUNERARY: Cemetery

AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Field, Agricultural Outbuilding, Animal Facility, Storage, Processing

INDUSTRY/ PROCESSING: Manufacturing facility

LANDSCAPE: Forest, Natural Feature , Unoccupied land

TRANSPORTATION: Road-related (vehicular)

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, Secondary Structure

COMMERCIAL/ TRADE: Antiques Store

GOVERNMENT: Post Office

RELIGION: Religious Facility

FUNERARY: Cemetery

AGRICULTURAL /SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Field, Agricultural Outbuilding, Animal Facility, Storage, Processing,

LANDSCAPE: Forest, Natural feature, Unoccupied land

TRANSPORTATION: Road-related (vehicular)

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:

Bungalow/Craftsman

MODERN MOVEMENT

LATE VICTORIAN

OTHER: Tidewater Vernacular, Hall-parlor, I-House

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD: Weatherboard; BRICK; METAL: Tin; ASPHALT; CONCRETE; SYNTHETICS: Vinyl

### 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

The Millers Tavern Rural Historic District covers around 3,900 acres on the western border of Essex County, Virginia, and a small portion of the district's southeastern edge extends into neighboring King and Queen County. The district is ten miles southwest of Tappahannock, the Essex County seat, and forty miles northeast of Richmond, the state capital. The district is bounded by the Richmond Highway (Route 360), Millers Tavern Road (Route 707) and Howertons Road (Route 684) along the south, Midway Road (Route 621) on the southwest, Latanes Mill Road (Route 622) on the west, and Dunbrooke Road (Route 620) on the east.<sup>1</sup> The district's early European settlers and their descendants formed a yeoman farmer to middle-class neighborhood network of families connected by marriage and social economics for over three centuries. There are no large plantation houses in the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District. The houses and churches that were built here were mainly wood buildings of vernacular construction methods, reflecting the social and economic status of their owners. The buildings in the district display a variety of architectural styles and types including examples of Dutch Colonial, hall-parlor, Federal, and several of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century popular styles and types including Queen Anne, Craftsman, I-house, and Bungalow. However, many of the

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buildings, including secondary agricultural buildings, are in the Tidewater Virginia building traditions typical of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The newer houses are also small, mostly ranches and Minimal Traditional or Cape Cods in form, and the majority of the owners still engage in farming and timbering. Very little has changed in either the landscape or in the use of the area. Cropland, pasture, and timber tracts make up the largest part of the district's acreage. There are 220 total resources in the district, including 10 previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Of these 133 are contributing resources and 87 are non-contributing resources. The 133 contributing resources include 113 buildings consisting of dwellings, agricultural buildings, churches, former stores, and a former post office. The 13 contributing structures include manmade ponds, silos and a Colonial road trace. The 6 contributing sites in the district include cemeteries and a mill ruin. The district also has potential for additional archaeological sites, but very limited professional testing has occurred to date; the basis for the supposition that there remains untapped archaeological potential is further discussed in Section 8. Resources that are noncontributing either postdate the district's period of significance or lack integrity to convey an association with one or more of the district's areas of significance. However even these non-contributing resources are similar in scale and their type and use, primarily residential or agricultural, do not greatly impinge the district's historic character. As a result, the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District displays good integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

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## Narrative Description

### Landscape and Setting

The Millers Tavern Rural Historic District's terrain is typical Tidewater terrain and is characterized by flat open pastures, cultivated fields, mature woodlands, and agricultural and domestic buildings that retain a high level of physical integrity. The natural landscape is perhaps the most important aspect of the district. Piscataway Creek starts in King and Queen County and bisects the northernmost tip of the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District before flowing east ultimately to the Rappahannock River. The Western branch of Piscataway runs up the center of the district, flowing north to join with Piscataway. These two creeks were both the reason and the means for this area becoming one of the earliest areas of European settlement in Old Rappahannock County, with land patents that began in the 1650s. Where the creeks intersect at the district's north end, it creates a large swamp, from which the land rises gently to the north and south. The Western branch has numerous smaller branches all heading up at fresh water springs. The branches make gullies that divide the land into long necks of high ground, creating small-scale agricultural fields that have been in use for over 350 years.

Route 360, also known as the Richmond-Tappahannock Highway, is a major regional transportation corridor that bisects the district at the southern end. It is here that the community of Millers Tavern was formed. Now a four-lane divided roadway, Route 360 remains the primary east-west route through Essex County, intersecting with Route 17, the primary north-south route, east of the district near the community of Tappahannock. A portion of the southwestern boundary of the district shares the county line boundary with King and Queen County. The west side of Midway Road and a portion of the south side of Route 360 are part of King and Queen

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County, ending in Millers Tavern. Therefore, 3 contributing dwellings within the hamlet of Millers Tavern are in King and Queen County.

Much of the landscape remains as open cultivated agricultural fields. Where once-larger farms have sold acreage for small-scale development, these small to moderate-sized lots are characterized by grassy yards and young growth forest. Portions of a few of the larger tracts have been allowed to return to forest, some of which have been logged in the recent past. However, with few non-historic intrusions to the landscape, the district retains much of its historic landscape.

### Architectural Analysis

The Millers Tavern Rural Historic District is composed of buildings, structures and sites dating from the late eighteenth century to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The 210 architectural resources include 123 designated as contributing and 87 designated as non-contributing. The latter include buildings and structures that are not yet 50 years of age or lacking historic integrity. Of the contributing buildings, two are churches, and two are former general stores. Most other contributing buildings are houses and farm buildings. Most of the buildings are examples of typical regional examples from their period and are constructed from readily available materials such as wood and red clay brick. Five houses date to ca. 1770-1800 and are small hall-and-parlor, central passage Tidewater dwellings: four are frame and one is brick. Very little was built from the antebellum period to the post-Civil War era. Construction began again in the 1870s through the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, continuing slowly into more recent decades. A small boom after World War II saw subdivision of land for construction of modest Cape Cod and Ranch dwellings along the Tappahannock-Richmond Highway.

The five extant late 18<sup>th</sup> century historic buildings within the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District are Retreat (028-0035; 028-5030-0003), Elton (028-5010; 028-5030-0004), Woodlawn (028-0054; 028-5030-0020), Cherry Walk (028-0008; 028-5030-0019; NRHP 1983), and Shelba (028-0040; 028-5030-0023). All are representative of late colonial/early republic Virginia architecture common to the Tidewater area. These five houses feature similar attributes including raised brick basements, large exterior brick chimneys, and side-gambrel roofs with a steeply pitched lower slope. In Virginia, the use of the gambrel roof in houses was popular from around the mid-1700s to the early 1800s and more common in areas closer to the coast. The style was popularly called Dutch Colonial and may have included a combination of English, Flemish, German, Dutch, and Scandinavian influences. Similar eighteenth-century examples throughout this region include Toddsbury (036-0045; NRHP 1969) in Gloucester County, the Francis Ackiss House (134-0001) in Virginia Beach, and the Travis House (137-0040) in Williamsburg, Virginia.<sup>2</sup>

Retreat, built between 1771 and 1781, was originally a hall-parlor house, the north end being the original end, set over a low English basement laid in Flemish bond with some glazed headers. The framing is pegged, not nailed. The south end was added before 1803, since a Mutual Assurance Policy of that year shows a house 28 X 30 feet, covered with wood, with brick underpinnings. This addition turned the house into a center-passage dwelling, one-and-a-half

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stories high, five-bays-wide, with shed roof dormers, covered in beaded weatherboard. The dormer windows line up with those of the main floor and basement. The front door is narrow, not double, with a four-pane transom light. The south end has an English bond basement up to the ground level, where it changes to Flemish bond. A shed-roof porch was added to the north end, keeping the Flemish bond foundation and the steps under the porch, allowing access to the basement. The two chimneys on the north side, and the one on the south side, were all laid in Flemish bond. Both the south and north ends of the house have only one second floor window, and one attic louver.

In the interior, the plastering is twentieth century. The original turned staircase located at the back of the main passage was removed in the twentieth century, and a straight stair substituted. The straight stair and the second floor mantels are said to have been removed from The Meadow, a Latane home, when it was demolished in the early twentieth century; however the downstairs mantels are original. The fireboxes have been bricked in from their original eighteenth century size. The house does not have wainscoting, but does have a 5" double beaded chair rail.

The roof is a side-gambrel, now covered with modern shingles. In the early-twentieth century, a kitchen addition was built across the back, one story high, later raised to two stories, with a shed roof. A second kitchen addition to the back of the first has been recently removed, as has the side porch and front porch, another mid-twentieth century addition. Of the original outbuildings, only a meat house covered in beaded siding and hand-wrought nails has survived.<sup>3</sup> It is set on a replaced, poured-concrete foundation and has a wood-frame structural system that is clad in weatherboard. The building is covered by a side-gabled roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The building is accessed by a wood door on the northwest elevation. A one-story, one-bay addition is located on the northeast elevation. It also has a poured concrete foundation, a wood frame structural system, and is clad in weatherboard. This addition is covered by a shed roof sheathed in asphalt shingles.

Elton, ca. 1790, formally known as Burnett's, is built slightly differently than the other earlier houses. It is almost as broad as it is tall; two-stories high, three bays wide, frame over a high brick basement laid in Flemish bond, fourteen inches thick. Two large chimneys joined together with a windowed closet between them are at the north end of the house, and have five fireplaces with large fireboxes between them. The mantels are tall, but plain. The west chimney is slightly larger than the east. There is only a small attic window on the north side of the house.

The original house was two rooms over two, with no passage. It is unknown whether there was a staircase to the second floor, or whether it was a loft with a ladder. Later, a passage was built on the south end of the house, with the beaded weatherboarding from the exterior wall now on the interior wall. An enclosed turned staircase was put by the front door at the same time. A 1954 addition was added to the south end of the house with a fireplace. More recently another addition was added, again to the south end of the house. New windows and siding were installed, and new shingles replaced the wood roofing materials.

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Elton has a fairly large complex of agricultural buildings ranging from 1850 to 1960. The barn, ca. 1850, is set on a brick foundation laid in a one-to-three common bond with poured concrete infill. The heavy timber wood-frame structural system is clad in weatherboard and covered by a salt-box roof sheathed in metal. Two wood doors are located on the west elevation. A later addition extends off the south elevation. It is raised on a concrete block foundation and features a frame structural system that is clad in weatherboard. This addition is covered by a moderately pitched, shed roof sheathed in metal. Two open bays are located on the lower level of the south elevation. A single door is located on the west elevation of this addition. Outbuildings that date to ca. 1900 include several sheds, an ice house, a well house and a smokehouse. Mid-twentieth century additions include additional sheds/agricultural buildings, a ca. 1930 well, two silos and two ponds.

Woodlawn, ca. 1770, is a very small frame house, one-and-a-half stories, only three bays wide over a high brick basement. It is a center-passage plan, rather than a hall-parlor, possibly due to its later building date. It has a side-gambrel roof with three shed-roof dormers on each side. These line up with the door, and the two front and two back windows on the main floor, all of which have nine-over-nine double-hung sash. Both the north and south ends of the house have two, upper-story, four-over-four double-hung sash windows. There are no end windows for the first floor, save one in the kitchen addition. The house has exterior end chimneys, originally laid in Flemish bond, as is the foundation. The tops of both chimneys have been rebuilt in running bond, date unknown. The south chimney has a partially framed-over pent, where the exterior access to the basement is located.

The interior is very plain, with wide plank floors and simple mantels, and has a turned staircase to the rear of the passage. The front double doors are over one hundred years old, and have a five-pane transom light above. Modern storm double doors have been added. A mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival porch, with vernacular square Doric columns, set on English bond piers, was added on the front. A shed-roofed kitchen addition was put on the rear, flush with the south end, and approximately eight feet in from the north end. The shed roof was extended behind it, to cover a porch.

The original kitchen was to the back southwest corner of the house. While Woodlawn was being restored, it was found that the kitchen and its great chimney were too damaged to be saved. When examined, the bricks began to crumble. It was taken down, and a new chimney put on the footprint, sized the same as the old one, but laid in running bond with modern brick. A two-story barn and a one-story guesthouse are located southwest of the primary resource and both date to ca. 1930.

Cherry Walk, ca. 1795 (NRHP 1969), is the only one of the early Millers Tavern Historic District houses to be constructed of brick. It is believed to have been built by Carter Croxton, who is buried beyond the rear gardens and is said to have requested no tombstone for his grave as he wanted his brick home, Cherry Walk, to be his monument. If Cherry Walk is his monument, it is a fine one. It differs not only because it is brick, but was built two stories high, one room deep, with an attic and a full English basement. It has a side-gambrel roof, with coursed wooden



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shingles. The house is built in Flemish bond, with a water table extending up to the height of the first floor. The exterior end chimneys are also of Flemish bond with running bond stacks.

The house is not symmetrical. There were two nine-over-nine windows on the north side of the passage which were bricked in after a cannon ball came through one of the windows during a drill by the Essex County Sharpshooters. The south end of the house has a smaller six-over-six first-story window which is over a brick pent with a door that leads to the English basement down four brick steps. A frame chimney closet is extended from the south chimney, and a small entry porch which includes an entrance door into the south chamber runs from it to the front line of the house. The chimney closet is a rare survivor and includes a two-over-two window. There are four small second-story windows, two on each end, and each with a single row of headers at the top. The six dormers, three on each side, do not line up with the first-story windows, nor do the first-story windows line up with the basement windows. On the fourth story there are two round brick openings which include two small two-over-two wood-framed windows, one on each end. On the south, the window is offset so that is not entirely blocked by the chimney. These windows are original and the room beyond on the south end is fully finished and plastered although only 5 feet high.

The off-center front porch is one story, with four square vernacular wooden Doric columns, a shed roof, and plain walnut railings, and has been screened in. The back porch has a hipped roof, with the same columns and railings, but is only half as wide. This porch retains its original benches. Both porches were added in the 1820s when the house was "Greeked," and the entire house was whitewashed. The shadows from the 18<sup>th</sup> century entry coverings are still visible on the exterior entry walls.

The interior is plain, with original board floors, those on the second floor remaining unfinished. All of the original doors have traces of 18<sup>th</sup> century graining under the nineteenth century graining. The mantel in the first-floor north room has a slight over-mantel, but is otherwise plain. The south room mantel is more decorated, in a Greek Revival style. The staircase, which was moved from the chamber in the 1820s to the central passage, has a square newel and plain railings.

There is a notable collection of outbuildings at Cherry Walk including a frame smokehouse, two frame dairies and a frame kitchen from ca. 1820; a mid-nineteenth century log shed with square notching, a late nineteenth century frame blacksmith shop and a privy from the same period; an early twentieth century two-story barn; and from the mid-twentieth century a garage/shed and two farm ponds. There is a fenced-in cemetery to the rear of the house with one tombstone, that of Carter Croxton's daughter, Frances Ellen Croxton Broaddus (1836-1856). The Broaddus family members are buried either at Beaver's Hill, St. Paul's, or Mt. Zion church. The deed from Ferguson to Croxton also reserves a one-half acre Ferguson cemetery, whereabouts unknown. There also was a slave cemetery somewhere in the back of the property, location unknown.

Shelba is a dwelling that was constructed around 1780 as a three-bay building, but expanded around the turn of the nineteenth century with a large five-bay, gambrel-roofed section added to

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the south elevation, creating an L-shape plan. The house is set on a raised basement laid in a brick, Flemish-bond and the wood-frame structural system is clad in beaded weatherboard. The chimney on the original house is an exterior end brick chimney laid in 3:1 and 4:1 bond. The roof is sheathed in wood shingles. The gambrel-roofed block has five shed-roofed dormers on the south (front) elevation and two on the north (rear) elevations. The original house, now the rear ell, has three gable dormers on its east (front) facing elevation and one on the west facing elevation. An interior-end, brick chimney is situated at both the north and south elevation of the gambrel roof block. As visible on the exposed section on the west elevation, the body of the chimney is laid in a one-to-three American bond and the stack above the roof line is laid in a stretcher bond.

The primary entrance, a set of wood, paneled double-doors, is centered on the south elevation. The doors are set below a fixed, five-light transom. A similar secondary entry is centered on the rear (north) elevation. Other fenestrations include wood frame, nine-over-nine, six-over-six, and four-over-four, double-hung sash windows and fixed, four-light windows. A one-story, one-bay porch is centered on the south elevation. It is raised on a brick foundation and accessed by a set of brick steps on the south side. The porch is covered by a front-gabled roof that is supported by round, tapered, fluted columns.

A one-and-a-half story addition extends from the north elevation. It is similar to the main core of the house in form and materials. It is raised on a brick foundation and clad in weatherboard. The addition is covered by a gable roof sheathed in wood shingles and lined with front-gabled dormers. An exterior-end brick chimney laid in a one-to-five, American bond is located on the north elevation of the addition. This part of the house is accessed by an entry on the east elevation. A ca. 1930 well is located northeast of the primary resource. It is square in shape and made of poured concrete. A ca. 1960 one-story, one-bay garage is located southwest of the primary resource.

All that remains from the eighteenth-century plantation known as Midway (028-0408; 028-5030-0002) and its subsequent 1839 Midway Female Academy is the school office. Later used as a post office during the Civil War this ca.1853 building is two small frame buildings joined together, standing on brick piers, clad in weatherboard and covered by two different tin side-gabled roofs. There are two doors and two windows on the west front. One is a six-over-six double-hung sash window, the other a four-over-four sash, which has been covered up. The window on the upper south side has also been covered over. There are no windows on the north or east sides. There is no chimney, nor flue. The floors are wide plank, and there is no plastering on the interior walls.

The thirteen acres of the Midway gardens are gone, but the lawn still has many fine trees, which until 2003 included two pecan trees planted by Union soldiers returning after the war in appreciation for the care they received at Midway when it was a camp and Union hospital. The location of the Jones family cemetery was in the garden, and several generations of the Jones family should be there. The grave stone of John Jones (1760-1842), a short distance away on the north side of the schoolhouse in what was possibly a garden but later a farm field, was moved to

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church in the 1950s, but no other markers have been located. The slave cemetery was on the edge of a field to the north of the house.

Two dwellings survive from the early nineteenth century period: Rescue (049-0017; 028-5030-0038) and Beavers Hill (028-0002; 028-5030-0054). Beaver's Hill was built ca. 1818 by Captain Robert Gaines Haile and is a fine example of Federal period architecture. The main house is Flemish bond brick with tooled joints. It is two-and-a-half stories with exterior end brick chimneys with tiled weatherings, and each chimney has a brick pent closet on its north side. Each pent has access to the basement. The house is three bays wide, on a partially raised brick basement. There are parged jack arches above the windows (which have replacement sash). There are three dormers on each slope of the side gable, standing-seam metal roof. The foundation includes a 3-foot high Flemish bond water table with a molded brick cap. The primary entrance features a double-door with 4-light transom and a Greek Revival door surround that has fluted pilasters and full entablature over the transom. Sash are six-over-six with storm windows. There is a ca. 1950 two-story frame addition on the rear side, which has a one-story addition that consists of a partially enclosed porch and a screened porch.

Rescue began as a more modest-sized dwelling. Constructed ca. 1820, it was originally a one-and-a-half story side-passage, one-room-deep dwelling on a raised brick basement with two shed dormers on each slope of a standing-seam metal gable roof. The exterior end chimney is random course American bond with shallow tiled weatherings. There is a pent closet on the right side of the chimney. The first-story window sash are nine-over-six. The rest of the window sash are six-over-six. Ca. 1840, a two-story Greek Revival addition was added on to the left side of the house, making it a center-passage plan. The addition has an interior end chimney with most of the brick exposed, a fairly common treatment in Tidewater Virginia. The front porch is Greek Revival. There are several additions on the rear: a one-story ell on the ca. 1820 section, with an addition and a porch on it. A screened porch and deck have been added on to the ca. 1840 section.

Very few dwellings were constructed in this area during the mid-nineteenth century. Eight houses were constructed around or just after the turn of the twentieth century, and are relatively unadorned farm houses, built either as I-or T-houses. The houses at 2728 Latanes Mill Road (028-5030-0008) and 763 Dunbrooke Road (028-5030-0022) are two-story, three-bay buildings with a central hall plan. Two other dwellings, Home Lea (028-5030-0001) and the Lane House (028-5030-0021), are two stories and feature a central front-gabled projection on the primary elevation to form a T-plan. Other early-twentieth century dwellings, such as 657 Dunbrooke (028-5030-0024) and 2749 Dunbrooke (028-5030-0018), are much smaller in size, one story, and are located near some of the larger farm houses.

One dwelling that dates to just after the turn of the twentieth century is the house at 2841 Dunbrooke Road (028-5030-0017), a frame two-story, Folk Victorian farmhouse, one-room deep. Built as a hall-and-parlor plan, with a side-gable roof having returned eaves, later additions were put on the north and west back. It is distinguished by Queen Anne spindle work on the porch brackets and railings. The end chimney on the north addition was laid in running bond. It

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was built by James A. Tribble, ca. 1916, on ninety-five acres he bought when the Broaddus family divided Cherry Walk.

Home Lea was built circa 1915-1916 by Martha Ettienne Hoskins Broaddus on her share in the division of Midway. A two-story, frame I-house, it has a cross-gabled, two-story projection on the front, and a center chimney. Some of the windows have nine-over-nine double-hung sash and some six-over-six double-hung sash. There are five double windows. An open, one-story porch with wood Tuscan columns runs along the south and west sides of the gable. The three gable ends all have deep bands of trim forming pediments; each has a two-paned arched sash window. The entry is large enough to be a visitor's parlor, and a turned staircase occupies one corner. Two doors on the west interior wall open into the company parlor and a dining room, which runs into the modern kitchen addition. The upstairs bedrooms have the same large windows, making the house light, even in late winter. The house has recently been renovated, but the large windows, wood flooring, woodwork, plain mantels, and original lightning rods have been retained. Its farm complex consists of a ca. 1930 two-story barn, a ca. 1930 well, a ca. 1940 grain silo and a ca. 1950 shed.

Several properties within the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District are associated with freedmen who remained in the area after the Civil War to establish their own farmsteads. The Lane house was built by James Lane, who had been enslaved by the Haile family. In 1903, he purchased 100 acres from John Haile and his wife, Eliza Wright Haile, land she received from her mother, Lalla Rookh Wright, in the division of Shelba. The house Lane built is very much like Home Lea, a two-story frame I-house, with a two-story front gable. It has a deep wrap-around, one-story porch with wood turned columns, but no spindlework, and a kitchen addition to the rear. It has a center chimney in the main house, and a flue in the addition. All of the windows are six-over-six double-hung sash. Each of the three gable ends have the same wide band of trim forming a triangular pediment, but a later covering of asbestos shingles may have covered up windows within the pediment. Lane left his farm to his sons, John, Richmond, and James. The property is now owned by his grandson, William E. Lane, although the I-house is no longer occupied and a new brick ranch style house has been built on the property.

Mason Ordley, a first generation freedman, built a two-story, three-bay frame house (028-5030-0022) ca. 1895, on twenty-two acres he purchased from the Wright heirs in the division of Shelba. The house is not symmetrical and was probably built in two sections, starting as a hall-parlor, with a later addition on the south, but since asbestos siding installed at a later date, it is not currently possible to tell. There are two interior brick end flues, and a full front porch, with supports set on small brick piers, with no decoration. The windows have four-over-four double-hung sash; the roof is low-pitched and side-gabled. The kitchen addition to the rear has one interior cinderblock flue. Ordley died in 1921, and the house and farm were left to his son Henry, whose heirs sold the property to William E. Lane in 1947.

A freeborn black, Henry Adams, bought thirty-five acres of the Millers Tavern farm in 1901, and built a two-story, frame I-house (028-5030-0026) at 7000 Richmond Highway. The house is small: only three bays wide, and one room deep. The windows have four-over-four double-hung

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sash. There are two porches; an open shed-roof porch across the front, with plain post supports, and another to the east side of a rear addition. This addition is one-and-a-half stories, with a cinderblock flue. The main house roof has returned eaves, while the addition does not. All of the outbuildings are extant and include a well house, two sheds, and tractor shed. This property also has one of the two potato barns left in the county, this one with board-and-batten siding. The land is still in the Adams family, although the ca. 1901 house is no longer occupied and newer houses have been constructed.

Although the majority of the architectural resources in the Millers Tavern Historic District are residences, there are two stores, two churches, an old frame post office, a miller's cottage, and two mill sites, all over a century old.

Meade, the name of the intersection of Latane's Mill and Dunbrooke Roads, had granaries and storehouses used by nearby Latane's Mill. Richard H. Sisson built a general store (028-5030-0011) at Meade in the 1880s, a two-and-a-half-story frame building with one-story porches running the length of the building on both sides, and across the back. Old photos show large windows on the front, and windows down each side. The roof had returned eaves, but the trim does not complete the pediment as in Home Lea and the Lane house. The windows historically had four-over-four double-hung sash, but they have been replaced by vinyl one-over-one sash. The store was run by the Sisson family and others until the 1960s. In recent years it has become a rental property, with the large store windows and the front double doors removed, and the porches framed in, although again, asbestos siding makes it hard to determine what has been changed. This was one of three stores that served the area, the others were at Dunbrooke and Minor. At one time or another each of them hosted the local post office, the one at Meade running from the 1880s until the 1920s.

The second store, at 7518 Richmond Highway (028-5030-0029), is an example of a mid-twentieth century gas station and general store. Built of cinder block, and covered in asbestos shingles, it is one story, with three entries; one to the store, and one each to rooms on either side of the store. Three steps lead up to each entry. The center of the building has two large windows and a door, and each has transom windows above. The side walls have six-over-six double-hung sash windows. The overhang for the gas pumps extends outward ten feet off the center front, although the gas pumps are long gone. In recent years this building has housed a consignment and antique store.

Down the road from Meade is the Miller's Cottage (028-5030-0009, 028-0152). The frame cottage appears to date to the early nineteenth century. It is a small building, only one-and-one-half stories, over a high brick basement laid in Flemish bond, that sits at ground level on the south side. There is one window and one entry at this basement level. The cottage has wood siding covered in asbestos shingles, and is covered with a tin gable roof. A later addition forms an ell to the north side, and is built over an addition to the basement made of concrete block. An entry into the first floor was put in the addition. There are two plastered rooms on each floor, and a loft/attic. A center brick flue for a stove replaced an end chimney, probably in the late-nineteenth century. It was inhabited as late as 1985, but has been vacant since that time.

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The religious needs of the Millers Tavern area were met by six churches: Mt. Zion, a Baptist Church at Dunbrooke, Trinity Methodist Church, Grace Protestant Episcopal Church, Antioch Protestant Episcopal Reformed Church, Beulah Baptist Church, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church; only the last two are within the district boundaries. Beulah Baptist Church (028-0076; 028-5030-00) is located on the west side of the intersection of Latanes Mill Road and Beulah Church Road. The present building was erected in 1893. It is a frame Queen Anne, ell-shaped building with cross gables and a tower located in the ell. The main entrance is through the tower. The church originally had plain glass windows; these have been replaced by lancet stained glass windows on the first story, and in the second story of the tower. The church has also been covered by vinyl siding, done in the 1980s. The congregation is small but steady. The earliest stone in the cemetery is dated 1896. This church is associated with the area's African American community.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church (028-0039; 028-5030-0033) is brick, built in Flemish bond with glazed headers, with a side-gable roof covered with standing-seam metal. It has Federal elements, such as bullseye corner blocks, jack-arches, paneled double-doors, and returned eaves. There is a great deal of repair work that has been done on the brick, often with concrete mortar, which has proven problematic for long-term preservation of the historic bricks. In or about 1920 the entire front wall cracked and almost fell in. During rebuilding, two small square windows over the doors were replaced by a single stained glass window in a Tudor flattened Gothic arch, with three rows of headers across the top.<sup>4</sup> At the same time, the church had six iron cross bars installed, running across the church's width and secured on the outside by S plates or I plates. There are two bars running the length of the church, through holes drilled through the support beams for the balcony and ending in S plates on the front and rear.

There are six lancet windows, three on each side, each having eighteen-over-eighteen square panes, with three small arches contained in a large arch above. The brickwork around the arches is not consistent with the rest of the church's brickwork, and the row of stretchers around the arches are either not original, or have been redone. Each window has two full-length exterior shutters, each with a hook and eye to keep it against the church wall. Lancet windows are characteristic of the Gothic Revival style, popular in the South in the late 1840s and 1850s and persisting through the 19<sup>th</sup> and early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The church was built ca. 1837-1839, and in 1858 funds were raised to construct a handsome brick wall that replaced the original wire fence that surrounded the church cemetery. The wall was not laid out in line with the church, although it faces a more direct eastern orientation.

The church's interior has an unpainted plaster finish and eight-inch-wide plank floor boards. The aisles were originally set in brick, but covered over at the turn of the twentieth century. They were "rediscovered" in the 1950s when the church was renovated. The original pattern was herringbone, but was re-laid in running design with modern brick. The pews are low, and the benches in the balcony are made with jointed construction. Between the double doors there is an eight-foot-square wood section, with two closets, and two steep staircases leading to a balcony that surrounds three sides of the interior. From the southeast door the stair is immediately to the left, and then the closet. From the southwest door the closet is first, then the stair. This stair is

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new, made to replace the one taken out in the late 1940s to make room for a lawnmower. A small vestry room was added across the rear of the church in 1923-1924, giving the minister a place to change and an office. A parish hall was built onto the northwest (rear) corner of the vestry room in 1973. There are two cemeteries: the private burial ground of the Smoot family, which was taken over by the church, and the church cemetery, which dates to 1839.

The highest percentage (44%) of the existing historic buildings and structures are single family buildings constructed during the second quarter of the twentieth century through 1966. Some of the buildings, such as 3129 (028-5030-0015) and 657 Dunbrooke Road (028-5030-0024), were possibly constructed as tenant houses or as small farmhouses. Both are surrounded by outbuildings and agricultural fields. Ranch style houses from the 1950s and early 1960s include 3281 Dunbrooke Road (028-5030-0014) and 6532 Richmond Highway (028-5030-0025). Both these houses are one-story, multiple-bay dwellings clad in a brick stretcher bond veneer and covered by a side-gabled roof covered in asphalt shingles.

A variant is the house at 3333 Dunbrooke Road (028-5030-0013), built in 1964, which is one story and built of painted concrete block. This dwelling is covered by a low-pitched, side-gabled roof and features a picture window and a screened porch. It does not have an attached garage, a common feature on ranch houses; instead there is a separate garage and a detached shed. Also on the property is an agricultural complex consisting of a contributing well, 5 silos, 2 sheds and 1 garage, all from the ca. 1960 period.

There are two Colonial Revival style dwellings with Cape Cod forms located along Route 360. The house at 7696 Richmond Highway (028-5030-0031) was built in 1948-1949, and is representative of the residential construction that occurred after World War II along the entire Richmond Highway. The one-and-a-half story building has asbestos shingle siding, one exterior end chimney, and for stylistic flair it features a Colonial Revival entry with plain vernacular wooden columns. Such architectural embellishments were common throughout Virginia from the 1900s onward as the Colonial Revival has remained very popular among Virginians up to the present day. The first-story windows have double, six-over-one, double-hung sash, as do the two dormers windows. There is a bay to the east side, and a screened porch. The other Cape Cod house (028-5030-030) is just one-story, with no dormers, but is clad the same asbestos shingle siding and features a single exterior end chimney. The windows have single, eight-over-eight double-hung sash. The Colonial Revival entrance is very simple, with the supports part of the arch, not separate columns. It has a screen porch to the east, and an enclosed porch addition to the rear.

## **Inventory of Millers Tavern Historic District**

All resources in the following inventory are classified as either contributing or non-contributing based upon their association with the district's areas of significance under Criterion A in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Agriculture, and Criterion C in the area of Architecture, their physical integrity, and their construction date within the district's period of significance of ca.

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1770-1966. Non-contributing resources either postdate the district's period of significance or lack physical integrity necessary to convey an association with one or more of the district's areas of significance. In most cases, construction dates used below are circa dates.

### Dunbrooke Road

**2459 Dunbrooke Road 028-0008** *Other DHR Id#: 028-5030-0019*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial, Ca 1795*

**Contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource : Barn (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Blacksmith Shop (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Cemetery (Site) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Dairy (Building) Contributing Total: 2*

*Secondary Resource : Kitchen (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Pond (Structure) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Pool House (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Pool/Swimming Pool (Structure) Non-contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Privy (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Shed, Wood (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Smoke/Meat House (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

### Dunbrooke Road

**1799 Dunbrooke Road 028-5030-0052** *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Neo-Eclectic, Ca 2013 Non-contributing Total: 1*

**2009 Dunbrooke Road 028-0054** *Other DHR Id#: 028-5030-0020*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial, Ca 1770*

**Contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource : Barn (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Garage (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Kitchen (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Secondary Dwelling (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

**2749 Dunbrooke Road 028-5030-0018** *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1930*

**Contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource : Garage (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*

**2841 Dunbrooke Road 028-5030-0017** *Other DHR Id#:*



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*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Victorian, Queen Anne, Ca 1900*

**Contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource : Well/Well House (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

**2893 Dunbrooke Road 028-5030-0053 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 2010 Non-*

**contributing Total: 1**

**2895 Dunbrooke Road 028-5030-0016 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No Discernable Style, Ca*

**1945 Contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 2*

**3005 Dunbrooke Road 028-5030-0055 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1980 Non-*

**contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource : Garage (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*

**3025 Dunbrooke Road 028-5030-0056 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1975 Non-*

**contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource : Garage (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*

**3129 Dunbrooke Road 028-5030-0015 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1930*

**Contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource : Barn (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Well/Well House (Building) Contributing Total: 2*

**3239 Dunbrooke Road 028-5030-0058 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1990 Non-*

**contributing Total: 1**

**3281 Dunbrooke Road 028-5030-0014 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, 1952*

**Contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource : Garage (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Well/Well House (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

**3333 Dunbrooke Road 028-5030-0013 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1960*

**Contributing Total: 1**

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*Secondary Resource : Garage (Building) Contributing Total: 1*  
*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 2*  
*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*  
*Secondary Resource : Shed, Vehicle/Equipment (Building) Contributing Total: 1*  
*Secondary Resource : Shed, Vehicle/Equipment (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*  
*Secondary Resource : Silo (Structure) Contributing Total: 5*  
*Secondary Resource : Well/Well House (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

**3421 Dunbrooke Road 028-5030-0012 Other DHR Id#:**

*Secondary Resource : Carport (Structure) Non-contributing Total: 1*  
*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*  
*Secondary Resource : Well/Well House (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*

**3991 Dunbrooke Road 028-5030-0011 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Mixed (Building), Stories 2.5, Style: Greek Revival, Ca 1910*  
**Contributing Total: 1**  
*Secondary Resource : Agricultural Bldg. (Building) Contributing Total: 1*  
*Secondary Resource : Agricultural Bldg. (Building) Contributing Total: 1*  
*Secondary Resource : Shed, Vehicle/Equipment (Building) Contributing Total: 1*  
*Secondary Resource : Well/Well House (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

**657 Dunbrooke Road 028-5030-0024 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1930*  
**Contributing Total: 1**  
*Secondary Resource : Barn (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

**763 Dunbrooke Road 028-5030-0022 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: No Discernable Style, Ca 1910*  
**Contributing Total: 1**  
*Secondary Resource : Privy (Building) Contributing Total: 1*  
*Secondary Resource : Well/Well House (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

**763 Dunbrooke Road 028-0040 Other DHR Id#: 028-5030-0023**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial, Ca 1780*  
**Contributing Total: 1**  
*Secondary Resource : Garage (Building) Contributing Total: 1*  
*Secondary Resource : Well/Well House (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

**Dunbrooke Road 028-5030-0057 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1950*  
**Contributing Total: 1**  
*Secondary Resource : Garage (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*

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## Hailes Bridge Road

**284 Hailes Bridge Road 028-5030-0063** *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 2010 Non-contributing Total: 1*

**Hailes Bridge Road 028-5030-0060** *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 2005 Non-contributing Total: 1*

**Hailes Bridge Road 028-5030-0061** *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 2005 Non-contributing Total: 1*

**Hailes Bridge Road 028-5030-0062** *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 2005 Non-contributing Total: 1*

## Lane Drive

**160 Lane Drive 028-5030-0051** *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1970 Non-contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Garage (Building) Non-contributing Total: 3*

*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 4*

*Secondary Resource : Shed - Vehicle (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*

**395 Lane Drive 028-5030-0021** *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1880 Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Agricultural Outbuildings (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Well/Well House (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

**459 Lane Drive 028-5030-0050** *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1975 Non-contributing Total: 1*

**490 Lane Drive 028-5030-0049** *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 2010 Non-contributing Total: 1*

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**1358 Latanes Mill Road 028-5030-0074 Other DHR Id#:**

**Primary Resource: Mobile Home/Trailer (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1980 Non-contributing Total: 1**

**1380 Latanes Mill Road 028-5030-0073 Other DHR Id#:**

**Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1980 Non-contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1**

**1550 Latanes Mill Road 028-5030-0072 Other DHR Id#:**

**Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1980 Non-contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 2**

**1770 Latanes Mill Road 028-5030-0005 Other DHR Id#:**

**Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1940 Contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 2**

**2000 Latanes Mill Road 028-5030-0007 Other DHR Id#:**

**Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1940 Contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Well/Well House (Building) Contributing Total: 2**

**2007 Latanes Mill Road 028-5030-0071 Other DHR Id#: 028-0076**

**Primary Resource: Church/Chapel (Building), Stories 1, Style: Gothic Revival, 1896 Contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Cemetery (Site) Contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Shelter (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1**

**2130 Latanes Mill Road 028-5030-0070 Other DHR Id#:**

**Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1980 Non-contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Garage (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Outbuilding, Domestic (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Pond (Structure) Non-contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 3**

**Secondary Resource : Shed - Vehicle (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1**

**2202 Latanes Mill Road 028-5030-0069 Other DHR Id#:**

**Primary Resource: Mobile Home/Trailer (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1975 Non-contributing Total: 1**

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**2236 Latanes Mill Road 028-5030-0067 Other DHR Id#:**

**Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1990 Non-contributing Total: 1**

**2236 Latanes Mill Road 028-5030-0068 Other DHR Id#:**

**Primary Resource: Mobile Home/Trailer (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1990 Non-contributing Total: 1**

**2354 Latanes Mill Road 028-5030-0066 Other DHR Id#:**

**Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1930 Contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Shed - Vehicle (Building) Contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Shed - Vehicle (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1**

**2534 Latanes Mill Road 028-5030-0065 Other DHR Id#:**

**Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 2005 Non-contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1**

**2728 Latanes Mill Road 028-5030-0008 Other DHR Id#:**

**Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900 Contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Outbuilding, Domestic (Building) Contributing Total: 2**

**2728 Latanes Mill Road 028-5030-0064 Other DHR Id#:**

**Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1990 Non-contributing Total: 1**

**2998 Latanes Mill Road 028-0303 Other DHR Id#: 028-5030-0010**

**Primary Resource: Mill (Site), Ca 1850 Contributing Total: 1**

**460 Latanes Mill Road 028-5010 Other DHR Id#: 028-5030-0004**

**Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial, Ca 1790 Contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Agricultural Bldg. (Building) Contributing Total: 2**

**Secondary Resource : Barn (Building) Contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Ice House (Building) Contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Pond (Structure) Contributing Total: 2**

**Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1**

**Secondary Resource : Shed, Vehicle/Equipment (Building) Contributing Total: 2**

**Secondary Resource : Silo (Structure) Contributing Total: 2**

**Secondary Resource : Smoke/Meat House (Building) Contributing Total: 1**

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*Secondary Resource : Well/Well House (Building) Contributing Total: 2*

**523 Latanes Mill Road 028-5030-0076 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Road/Road Trace (Structure), Stories , Style: No discernible style, Ca 1780 Contributing Total: 1*

**782 Latanes Mill Road 028-5030-0075 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1980 Non-contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Mobile Home/Trailer (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*

**Latanes Mill Road 028-0152 Other DHR Id#: 028-5030-0009**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No Discernable Style, Post 1800 Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Well/Well House (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

## **Lumber Lane**

**395 Lumber Lane 028-5030-0047 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Office/Office Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 2010 Non-contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Other (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 3*

## **Midway Road**

**250 Midway Road 028-5030-0001 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2.5, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1916 Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Barn (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Silo (Structure) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Well/Well House (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

**996 Midway Road 028-0035 Other DHR Id#: 028-5030-0003**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial, Ca 1771 Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Pond (Structure) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Pool/Swimming Pool (Structure) Non-contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 3*

*Secondary Resource : Shed, Vehicle/Equipment (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*

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*Secondary Resource : Smoke/Meat House (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

**Midway Road 028-0408** *Other DHR Id#: 028-5030-0002*

*Primary Resource: Post Office (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1853*

**Contributing Total: 1**

### **Millers Tavern Road**

**345 Millers Tavern Road 028-5030-0038** *Other DHR Id#: 049-0017*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Federal/Adamesque, Ca 1820 Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 2*

**367 Millers Tavern Road 028-5030-0039** *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1940*

**Contributing Total: 1**

### **Perkins Road**

**113 Perkins Road 028-5030-0054** *Other DHR Id#: 028-0002*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2.5, Style: Federal/Adamesque, Ca 1818 Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Animal Barn (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Animal Shelter/Kennel (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Cemetery (Site) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Garage (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*

### **Richmond Highway**

**6532 Richmond Highway 028-5030-0025** *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1960*

**Contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*

**7000 Richmond Highway 028-5030-0026** *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900*

**Contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource : Agricultural Bldg. (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Barn (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

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*Secondary Resource : Shed, Vehicle/Equipment (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Well/Well House (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

**7352 Richmond Highway 028-5030-0027 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No Discernable Style, Ca 1955 Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Well/Well House (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

**7416 Richmond Highway 028-5030-0028 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1955 Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Well/Well House (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

**7518 Richmond Highway 028-5030-0029 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1950 Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Outbuilding, Domestic (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

**7518 Richmond Highway 028-5030-0030 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1940 Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Garage (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

**7696 Richmond Highway 028-5030-0031 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1940 Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Well/Well House (Building) Contributing Total: 2*

**7924 Richmond Highway 028-0039 Other DHR Id#: 028-5030-0033**

*Primary Resource: Church/Chapel (Building), Stories 1, Style: Gothic Revival, 1838 Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Cemetery (Site) Contributing Total: 2*

*Secondary Resource : Wall (Object) Contributing Total: 1*

### **Richmond-Tappahannock Highway**

**6908 Richmond-Tappahannock Highway 028-5030-0042 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Post Office (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1980 Non-contributing Total: 1*

**6943 Richmond-Tappahannock Highway 028-5030-0040 Other DHR Id#:**



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*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Craftsman, Ca 1930*

**Contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource : Garage (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*

**7066 Richmond-Tappahannock Highway 028-5030-0045 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca*

**1975 Non-contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*

**Richmond-Tappahannock Highway 028-5030-0041 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Craftsman, Ca 1930*

**Contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource : Garage (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 1*

## **Wrights Mill Road**

**148 Wrights Mill Road 028-5030-0046 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 2000*

**Non-contributing Total: 1**

**191 Wrights Mill Road 028-5030-0048 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1970*

**Non-contributing Total: 1**

**248 Wrights Mill Road 028-5030-0043 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Mobile Home/Trailer (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1980 Non-contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1*

**560 Wrights Mill Road 028-5030-0044 Other DHR Id#:**

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 2000 Non-*

**contributing Total: 1**

**Wrights Mill Road 028-5030-0037 Other DHR Id#: 44EX0174**

*Primary Resource: Mill (Site), Ca 1800 Non-contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Dam (Structure) Non-contributing Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource : Pond (Structure) Non-contributing Total: 1*

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Criteria Considerations

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

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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

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

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1770-1966

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

**Significant Dates**

N/A

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

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

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

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

The Millers Tavern Rural Historic District is representative of Essex County's vernacular rural landscape. With an emphasis on late-eighteenth to mid-twentieth century farm properties, the landscape of this 3,619-acre district is largely made of small and medium-sized agricultural fields, broken by tree lines and Piscataway Creek and its many branches. The area is distinctly demarcated by historic roadways bordering a landscape that reflects the phases of development from early European occupation to the present. The Millers Tavern district has a significant collection of buildings, structures, landscape features, and sites that exemplify the evolution of a rural Tidewater community from the late eighteenth through late twentieth century. The district is associated with the area's early settlement patterns and development as a rural and agricultural community. The historic roads and waterways, and most of the landscape patterns, remain intact. For these reasons, the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Agriculture. Additionally, the architectural resources within the historic district reflect the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth century development in the Millers Tavern area. The buildings and structures are associated with the domestic, agricultural, educational, ecclesiastical, and commercial life of the inhabitants of this community since the late eighteenth century. Some of the buildings in the district have experienced common modifications and alterations over time (e.g., replaced windows, replacement siding and roofs, loss of historic detailing material, and newer additions). As a whole, however, the district retains integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, location, and association. Therefore the district is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The district's period of significance spans from ca. 1770, the presumed construction date of the oldest extant building, Woodlawn, through 1966, the traditional 50-year cutoff for properties where significant activities have continued into the more recent past.

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

Criterion A: Exploration/Settlement:

The Millers Tavern Rural Historic District is locally significant as a very good example of rural Tidewater Virginia settlement over an almost 200 year period; one that retains a high degree of integrity, especially in the areas of feeling, association and setting. The original county in this part of Virginia was Northumberland County, established in 1645, which was then subdivided into smaller counties, which in turn, would be further divided over the next several decades. Rappahannock County was formed in 1656, and was made up of land on both sides of the Rappahannock River. When it was divided in 1692, it became the progenitor of both Richmond County on the north side of the river, and Essex County on the south side. The river bounds the eastern side of Essex for over sixty miles, and has a deep water anchorage near Tickner's creek. A trading post was established there in the 1640s, which became known as Hobbs' Hole, or

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Hobbs Hole. As a result of this anchorage, Hobbs Hole, later called New Plymouth, and finally named Tappahannock, became an important port in early Virginia.

Throughout the remainder of the seventeenth century and beginning of the eighteenth century, road systems leading to and from Tappahannock were developed. As late as the mid-eighteenth century a road extended southwestward from the port town across Hoskins Creek and Piscataway Creek to a crossing at the Mattaponi River (Fry 1755). The town of Richmond was laid out during the second quarter of the eighteenth century and eventually became the capital of Virginia in 1780; thus, this southwestwardly road gained increased importance when it became the primary route between Tappahannock and the new state capital (Tyler-McGraw 1994). During the first and second quarters of the eighteenth century small communities developed along this stagecoach route, by then called Richmond Road (Fry 1755). Although not the first, Miller's Tavern, named for the man who established it, John Miller, was constructed as a stop on this road (DHR 2013). The tavern was a one-and-a-half story building set on a raised brick basement. It is likely that the tavern functioned as a place for travelers to rest, eat, and refresh (DHR 2013).

The historic roads that bound the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District began as Native American paths, which would follow the high ground between the many creeks and branches. The English colonists adapted these upon their settlement, giving them English names. Modern Dunbrooke Road follows a path that crossed the Mattaponi River below Walkerton, then ran north past Millers Tavern and Dunbrooke, then headed northeast to Caret, Loretto, and up to the Portobacco Bay settlement. The English first called this path the Rappahannock path, then the King's Highway.<sup>5</sup> It was known as Dunkirk Road after the Revolution until the mid-nineteenth century, when it changed to Dunbrooke Road. Latanes Mill Road, on the west side of the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District, follows a slightly alternate path from Walkerton to Dunbrooke, and takes its name from the old mill located on the road. The path of the colonial-era road that predated the existing road is clearly visible and parallels Latanes Mill Road for approximately a quarter mile across from Elton Farm. The road to the south of the district, the straightest land connection between Tappahannock and Richmond, only gained importance in the 1780s, after Richmond became the capital of Virginia.

Over twenty creeks run through Essex County to the Rappahannock River, four of them deep water. All of the earliest patents in the county were along the four deep water creeks: Occupacia, Gilson's (Mt. Landing), Hoskins and Piscataway. The central portion of Essex County is bounded by two of these creeks, Mount Landing to the north, and Piscataway to the south. The most southern of the four, the Piscataway starts about ten miles west in King and Queen county, and runs eastward across the top of the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District. The Western Branch, one of Piscataway's numerous large branches, runs north, straight up through the district. This part of the county is cut up by many small branches of these creeks, creating a landscape of necks and gullies.

The soil here is called Rumford-Suffolk-Emporia.<sup>6</sup> This band runs from Mussell Swamp up through lower Caroline County. It is excessively drained and well drained, nearly level to steep, loamy and sandy, making it good-to-excellent crop and timber land. Patents along the Western

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Branch of Piscataway Creek started as early as the 1650s, and settlers included Richard Haile, William Ball, John and Richard Burnett, Thomas Goodrich, Richard Jones, Thomas Wood and others. None of their seventeenth-century cabins, barns or tobacco houses survive, although drawings on early patents show small low buildings with end chimneys. These early planters would build near the nearest water source, for the use of their animals and cooking, not for a drinking source. The many spring branches of the Western Branch and Piscataway offered dozens of building sites.

The residents of Essex and the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District were not all English colonists. Africans, brought to Virginia by the Dutch before 1620, were at first indentured servants; soon, however, Europeans began enslaving Africans to provide a cheap labor force for their settlements in the Americas. Indentured servants and, eventually, enslaved people made up a large part of Old Rappahannock and Essex County's population. Since U.S. census records began in 1790, the African American population of Essex County has always been larger than the white. By 1850, there were around 200 free African American people and 6,000 enslaved individuals, compared with 3,000 white people. The founding families of Millers Tavern Rural Historic District were all slave owners, with Carter Croxton, who owned 100 people, and Thomas Wright, who owned 104 people, among the largest in the area (1859).<sup>7</sup>

The Millers Tavern Rural Historic District residents, along with the rest of Essex County, supported the Confederate States during the Civil War. The 1860 census of Essex County gives a population of 10,950 whites and free African Americans. There were around 1,100 white men between the ages of 12 and 50. Over 750 of these served in the Confederate Army, for the most part in either the 55<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry or the 9<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry.<sup>8</sup> Very few of them came home without a wound, or some type of long term injury, whether physical or psychological.

Throughout late nineteenth-century rural Virginia, crossroads gave rise to small hamlets containing stores, granaries, and post offices. With African Americans having been freed from slavery as a result of the Civil War, white landowners, regardless of the size of their landholding, were forced to find other means to continue their agricultural pursuits. In many cases, the tradition of a farm or plantation producing most of its own goods gave way to farmers focusing on producing subsistence and cash crops while purchasing manufactured goods. African Americans who purchased their own land holdings after the war followed the same practices. The neighborhood general store became one of the centers of rural life, offering food, clothing, tools, seed and all the local gossip. It often housed a post office, but since the post masters were appointed by political party, the office could move with every election. In the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District the post office moved between Fawcetts / Minor, Meade, and Dunbrooke. The general store located at Meade, the intersection of the Dunbrooke Road and Latanes Mill Road, served the community from the 1880s until the 1960s, when it became easier to drive to Tappahannock or Richmond to shop.

The other center of community life was the local church. Before the Civil War, there had been three Protestant Episcopal Churches in the County, two Methodist Churches, one Presbyterian Church, one Disciples of Christ Church, and six Baptist Churches. After the war, the African

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American community of Essex County built fifteen Baptist Churches between 1866 and 1898, and one Episcopal Church in 1905.<sup>9</sup> Historically, there have been six churches in or near the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District. In the district are St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1838), and Beulah Baptist Church (1873). All of the others are within one mile: Mt. Zion Baptist Church (1818), Trinity Methodist Church (1889), Antioch Reformed Episcopal Church (1885-1925), and Grace Protestant Episcopal Church (1905). Prior to the Civil War, legal restrictions and social customs severely limited the ability of African Americans to establish their own churches, especially in rural areas; thus the majority of antebellum churches in Virginia had all-white congregations or were dominated by white members; whether enslaved African Americans were permitted to attend a church was left to the discretion of slave owners. Immediately after the Civil War, organizing their own churches was among the top priorities of recently emancipated African Americans as well as those who had been free before the war. Directly associated with this important historic trend is Beulah Baptist Church, which was organized in 1873 by African American freedmen and -women as St. Patrick's Colored Baptist Church. In 1882 the trustees bought one acre from Thomas W. Latane's farm, Hollywood, to build a church. Latane also is said to have given them a parcel of land around the church, fifty yards to its north and south, and sixty yards to its east and west, to be used for a church yard and cemetery. If the property ever ceases to be used as a church and cemetery, the land will revert to the Latane heirs.

The importance of religion in a small rural area cannot be ignored or under estimated. Besides answering a spiritual need, churches provided social interaction for building neighborhood relationships (or repairing them) and giving young people a chance to meet and court. Young men and women living in rural areas often did church "visiting" with relatives to meet someone out of family or area. Churches were especially important to African American freedpeople, offering them a place of their own to repair and rebuild family units that had been separated or destroyed by slavery.

The many creeks and creek branches in Essex County were perfect for building grist mills, going back to the first days of European settlement. Gilson's Mill, Weir's Mill, and Gouldman's Mill all began in the mid- to late seventeenth century. Interestingly, as settlements became more established, the number of mills slowly declined, due in part to technological advances that allowed mills to process increasing capacities of grains as well as changing local agricultural practices. In 1750, there were over thirty grist mills, in 1800 there were over twenty-five, in the 1860s there were fifteen, in 1920 there were twelve, in 1935 there were three. Within the district boundaries, both Latane's Mill and Bohannon's Mill (Wright's Mill) went out of business in the 1930s.

After the Civil War, Essex County relied increasingly on two sources of cash income for residents: oysters and timber. As mentioned above, farmers grew cash crops but also relied on subsistence farming to support their families. A quick source of cash was trees, and during the late nineteenth century, almost the entire county was denuded of hardwood that was sold to railroad companies to build tracks across Virginia. Lacking major industrial development during this time, Essex County settled into an almost moribund existence. It did not enjoy much growth either in economics or population until after World War II. Better roads and the advent of auto

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transportation led to the decline and fall of the steamboat as a principal source of transportation. The building of the first Downing Bridge over the Rappahannock River in 1927 brought traffic to Essex County and opened the Northern Neck. The Richmond Highway was straightened in the 1940s, and later widened to four lanes in the 1960s. Such road projects spurred a growth in service industries, such as gas stations, restaurants, stores, as well as small residences. This development has remained concentrated along the Richmond Highway, and has had only a small impact on the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District.

Throughout 365 years, the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District has had very little change. The land was farmed in 1650 and is still farmed in 2015. Scattered throughout the district are the remains of its crossroads communities and the tangible resources that identify their social connections, such as churches, mills, schools, and stores. Some resources have been lost, or stand in ruin, but the Piscataway and Western Branches still run the same course, the triangle of roads around the district haven't moved more than a few yards, and the fields and forest still dominate the landscape.

#### Criterion A: Agriculture:

The Millers Tavern Rural Historic District represents an agricultural continuum through more than three centuries of changing land ownership and agricultural practices. The associated natural and cultivated landscapes and collections of agricultural and support buildings demonstrated a high degree of integrity for design, materials and workmanship and setting.

When John Rolfe introduced tobacco to England, it became one of the most important commercial crops in the world. In 1614, England's King James I made the importation of tobacco a royal monopoly; in 1624 it became an English monopoly. By 1640 the Virginia colony was exporting one-and-one-half million pounds to England.<sup>10</sup> With this booming crop, land in Virginia was opened, cleared and planted, often to the exclusion of food crops. Land owners turned to using an enslaved African American labor force in order to maximize crop yields and, in turn, their profits. During the eighteenth century, the early European planters had, for the most part, large tracts of undeveloped land, covered in massive trees, which they girdled and left to die, planting tobacco in the spaces between. Tobacco was a native crop, but the English began to modify it into a cultured crop. While tobacco was crop, currency and building block for Virginia, and was grown by everyone, it quickly exhausted the soil. The glut of tobacco on the market sent prices down, forcing some planters into economic ruin.

The land in Essex County was worn out from tobacco by the 1740s, and this, combined with the decline in tobacco prices in the 1750s, began the first exodus, with citizens moving south and west to Dinwiddie, Halifax, Amherst, and Nelson counties. Some who remained behind were able to buy up the land and, with the use of an enslaved African American labor force, began to turn small tobacco farms into plantations, growing corn and wheat as cash crops, rather than just tobacco and a smattering of subsistence crops. When the American Revolution ended Virginia's colony status and the tobacco monopoly with England, farmers in Essex County began to ship



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crops to Norfolk and points north by schooners. The farmers of the Western Branch area could put enough acres under plow to make a profit. Economic success brought expansion opportunities and, by 1820, the entire Millers Tavern area was owned by six families; Jones (931 acres), Semple (770 acres), Croxton (1,185 acres), Burnett (488 acres), Wright (1,051 acres), and Wood (dower 65 acres).<sup>11</sup> These families flourished until the eve of the Civil War, during which almost all resources were diverted to the Confederate cause.

Following the Civil War, those who had joined the Confederate army came home to very little. Many enslaved African Americans had run away to seek freedom and, lacking a workforce, many farms grew up in briars and pine. Most local families had little money to rebuild, as the Confederate money issued during the war years was now useless.

The first generation of African American often purchased small tracts of land, in many cases from their former owners who hoped to induce them to stay as tenant farmers. Among the African American families who remained in the area were the Lane, Holmes, Pollard and Booker families. On some of the farms in the Millers Tavern area, modest new houses were constructed by, or for, these tenants. They were typically two-story frame buildings, two to three bays wide, with flues for stoves rather than chimneys. One house, still standing into the 1960s but no longer, had a mud chimney on its eastern side.

With increased steamboat traffic in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, the next generations of African American s left Essex County and moved to northern states, drawn by better economic conditions and jobs not having to do with farm labor. Among the county residents who stayed, the loss of this population was offset by increased mechanization, with the use of cars, trucks and farm equipment making it possible to farm a large acreage again. Mechanization accelerated through the mid-twentieth century and was accompanied by important innovations with the use of fertilizers and pesticides that permitted substantial increases in crop yields. The harmful environmental effects of such chemicals began to be recognized by the 1960s, which led to a new push to find ways to keep agriculture sustainable and profitable. Similarly, the need for timber has remained constant enough that many land owners now manage their holdings with a system of planting trees, managing growth over years (sometimes decades), then undertaking controlled cutting. As a result, today, the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District has remained very rural and is dominated by cultivated agricultural fields, fields for livestock and forested tracts.

#### Criterion C: Architecture:

Similar to the agricultural significance of the historic district, the architecture of the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District represents a 200-year continuum of domestic and agricultural design and construction for both the upper- to middle-class yeoman farmer and the smaller subsistence farmer. Slightly more modest than its neighboring Rappahannock River plantations, the Millers Tavern area represents the second wave of European settlement as planters pushed out and accumulated lands on smaller tributaries of the major river corridors, such as the Rappahannock. The architecture reflects a socio-economic culture that began as mid-size

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subsistent plantations, all owned by a handful of families, and then transitioned to smaller farms following the Civil War and into the twentieth century.

Few rural Virginia areas have five late eighteenth-century houses so closely situated as to be within a mile or two of one another. Of the extant buildings in the Millers Tavern Historic District, these five are representative of the early residential development that occurred shortly after the establishment of Millers Tavern. The properties, known as Retreat (028-5030-0003/028-0035), Elton Farm (028-5030-0004/028-5010), Cherry Walk (028-5030-0019/028-0008), Woodlawn (028-5030-0020/028-0054), and Shelba (028-5030-0023/028-0040), were constructed in the last few decades of the eighteenth century. These five dwellings features similar attributes including raised, brick basements, large interior- or exterior-end brick chimneys, and side-gambrel roofs with a steeply pitched, lower slope. The plantation houses exhibit a form and style that could be found scattered throughout the Tidewater Region of Virginia at the turn of the nineteenth century. Just two miles northeast of Millers Tavern along Richmond Highway is Woodlawn (028-0047; aka Triple), another gambrel roof house built in the first half of the nineteenth Century. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. The cluster of these early gambrel roof houses in this small area is notable for the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District.

All of the early houses were built without a known architect and reflect the socio-economic conditions around them. Function is foremost, aesthetics last, and materials local and inexpensive. The early builders were most likely a mix of enslaved and free workers who cut the timber, made the bricks, and used mortar made from Rappahannock River oyster shells. No grand, high-style houses were built here, as were built in the north end of Essex County. This was an area of small to mid-sized farms, mostly under 1,000 acres, instead of the 2,000- to 8000-acre tracts in the northern section of the county.

Richard Jones was an early settler here, receiving his first patent in 1672 (1665) for 1,000 acres on branches of the Piscataway adjoining Col. Thomas Goodrich.<sup>12</sup> His descendants held land on the Western Branch, bequeathed, divided, bought, sold, and traded, until the mid-nineteenth century. Benjamin Jones owned 1,220 acres in 1800, his land adjoining Bohannon's (Shelba) and Burnett's (now Elton), stretching along the southwest corner of the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District into King and Queen County. Retreat, Midway, Home Lea and possibly St. Paul's Episcopal Church all came out of this property.

Retreat (028-5030-0003, 028-0035) was most probably built by one of Benjamin's sons; William, Coleman or John, sometime in the late-eighteenth century. Tradition holds that John built it between 1771 and 1781. The farm was sold to Thomas Wright of Poplar Grove in 1833. He bequeathed it in 1842 to his son Charles H.S. Wright, who died two years after his father. The property went to Charles's sister Matilda Wright Haile of Elton, who sold it to Robert Gaines Haile III, who married Emma Hoskins of Midway. It is now owned by Dr. John R. Haile of Elton and his son John Francis Haile, who is working to restore it.

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John Burnett's land, now known as Elton (028-5030-0004, 028-5010), was on the west side of the Western Branch, just across from the mid-eighteenth century Mattaponi settlement. No deed or grant to him is found, but he and his wife, Lucretia, were here in February 1660-1661, and his descendants were still on this land well into the nineteenth century. It is not known which Burnett built the house, but an 1825 plat of the division of Joseph Burnett's estate shows a house with a side-gambrel roof and chimneys only on the north end.<sup>13</sup> Robert Gaines Haile of Beaver's Hill bought the farm in 1844 and gave it to his son John when he married Mary Morgan Semple of Shelba in 1851. They named the house Elton Manor, which has come down as Elton. The farm has passed through four generations of John Hailes, the current owners being Dr. John R. Haile and his son John Francis Haile and their wives. It is a Virginia Century farm, listed with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. No Burnett cemetery has been found, but at least five generations of the family should be buried on the property. The Haile family is buried at nearby St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and at Beaver's Hill. No slave cemeteries have yet been found on the property.

The third oldest of the extant eighteenth century houses is Woodlawn (028-5030-0020, 028-0054), formerly known as Woodlawn-Sandy perhaps to differentiate it from the other Woodlawn in the vicinity (028-0047). It is one of four known dwellings in or around Millers Tavern area built by the Wood family, all of which survive. The others are just outside the district. They are Woodville and Woodlawn (028-0047; aka Trible; NRHP 1980), located between Paul's Crossroads and Millers Tavern, and Woodfarm, which was physically removed from its historic location across from Paul's Cross Roads and placed on nearby property to await a future location and restoration. Captain Thomas Wood received patents for 1,700 acres between 1675 and 1694, most of this land going to his son Thomas Jr., who probably built this house in the 1790s. In 1799, Thomas Jr. gave a gift deed of 202 acres with this house to his son William, who died in 1812, and the land was then divided by chancery suit. The suit plat (1812) shows a small house on the sixty-five acres of dower land of Mrs. William (Sally) Wood.<sup>14</sup> At her death in 1832, the land was sold by her heirs to neighbor Carter Croxton, who left his lands to his wife Fanny. At her death in 1849, Woodville was bought by her daughter Louisa (Mrs. P.A.) Sandy. Thomas Oldham Sandy, known as T. O. Sandy (1857-1919) was born and raised at Woodlawn. The first farm demonstration program in Virginia was started under his leadership in 1907 with a grant from the Virginia General Education Board. He went on to start clubs for boys and girls, now known as 4-H Clubs. His success as the first farm demonstration agent led to Federal legislation in 1914 placing demonstration work under the nation's agricultural colleges and experiment stations. (the Smith-Lever Act of 1914). In the following year the agency was transferred to the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and became the Extension Service.

Woodlawn remained in the Sandy family until the 1940s, when it was sold to the Atkins family. During the 1940s, a small circus would overwinter on the farm, and guests remember eating dinner with the monkeys. Legend has it an elephant that died there was buried somewhere on the property. The last two families that have owned the house have both done renovations.

Cherry Walk (028-5030-0019, 028-0008), formerly Cherry Row, is located on land that was part of 1,800 acres patented by Thomas Goodrich in 1659 (1652).<sup>15</sup> One hundred acres was sold off

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to John Farguson in 1680. Farguson's heirs sold to John Croxton, Sr. in 1739, the land passing by will to John Croxton, Jr., and then to John Jr.'s brother Carter in 1775. It is Carter Croxton who is generally credited as building the house sometime in the 1780s or 1790s. Croxton was a Revolutionary War Captain, a highly successful farmer, a mill owner, and an entrepreneur. His brother, John Croxton, Jr., owned the Scott's Arms Tavern in Tappahannock from 1799 to 1805. He held over 1,600 acres in four separate farms; Cherry Row (528 acres), Woodsville (225.5 acres), Union (455 acres), and Wood Farm (450 acres), which he sold to his son Dr. William S. Croxton in 1824. Carter Croxton was married twice, first to Nancy Ann Dunn, second in 1825 to Frances Cole Faulconer, the widow of John F. Faulconer of Laurel Grove. Frances was twenty and Croxton was sixty-eight when they married, and they had four daughters; Mary Ann, Frances Ellen, Louisa Carter and Cordelia Burt.

At Carter Croxton's death in 1845, Frances managed the estate until her death in 1849. She left Union in trust for daughter Mary Ann (Mrs. Edward) Sandy, and the other two farms were divided by the heirs: Louisa (Mrs. Philip A.) Sandy and her husband bought Woodsville, and Frances Ellen and husband Alexander W. Broaddus acquired Cherry Row in 1855. Frances died post-childbirth in 1856, and Broaddus kept the farm, marrying secondly to Sallie Haile, daughter of Robert Gaines Haile of Beaver's Hill. Their youngest daughter, Woodford Broaddus Acre, kept the house until her death in 1975, leaving the house as it was in her parents' time. In January 1982, Walter Speed Rowland and Beverley Wellford Rowland bought the house and did a gentle restoration. In addition to the high level of historic integrity of the main dwelling, which was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places in 1982 and 1983 respectively, this property retains eight of its eighteenth- and nineteenth-century outbuildings, including a grain barn, corn crib, blacksmith shop, four-holed privy, summer kitchen, smokehouse and two dairies

Ambrose Bohannon settled in the area in 1759, after buying 735 acres from William Booth, a legacy from Booth's great-grandfather Thomas Goodrich. Dying only months after buying this land, Bohannon left all of it to his son Joseph, who is credited with building the house called Shelby. Now known as Shelba (028-5030-0023, 028-0040) the original part of the house was probably built sometime after Joseph came of age in the mid-1770s. The Rev. Robert Baylor Semple (1769-1831), a King and Queen County native and known as the father of Virginia Baptist history and author of "A History of the Rise and Progress of the Baptists in Virginia," bought 770 acres of Bohannon's 919 acres in 1818. Benjamin Erasmus Wright bought 582 acres of the farm in 1848, and the property stayed in his family into the mid-twentieth century. It has passed through several later owners, but has been well restored. No cemetery is reserved in any of the deeds, but three generations of the Bohannon family should have a cemetery, and several Wright children were buried here, according to South Farnham Vestry records.<sup>16</sup>

The no-longer-extant eighteenth-century plantation, Midway, named because of its location halfway between the Rappahannock and Mattaponi rivers, was also known as Jones' Ordinary. It was built before the American Revolution by Benjamin Jones, who ran an ordinary or tavern there from the 1770s to the 1790s. In 1808 Benjamin deeded 410 acres "where I reside" to his son John, the land being bounded by Joseph Bohannon (Shelba), John Hoskins (Mt. Pleasant in

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King and Queen) and William Jones (Retreat). In 1838, John Jones deeded the property “formerly known as Jones Ordinary, now called Midway” to his daughter Virginia, the wife of Dr. Jefferson Minor, who began the Midway Female Academy in 1839 for his daughters’ education. The 1850 census shows Minor, his wife, six daughters, three sons and two teachers living at Midway. The school achieved prominence in its day. Dr. Minor, for whom the Minor Post Office that replaced Fawcetts was named, also served as an antebellum Essex County justice. Dr. Minor lost the property to foreclosure in 1855, and it was bought by Edward Macon Ware and John Thomas Hoskins, who had married Ware’s daughter Hannah.

Midway was used as a camp site and hospital during the Civil War by soldiers of both armies, because of its location. It later continued to serve both Confederate and Union soldiers as a convalescent home. The colonial-era main house burned in 1893 when leaves on the roof caught fire, and the family moved into the former schoolhouse. The schoolhouse and all of the farm’s outbuildings are now gone, save the office, which was used as a post office (028-5030-0002, 028-0408) when Midway was a stage stop before the Civil War. This building, the only surviving building in the district built immediately prior to the Civil War, is the former office of the Midway Female Academy. A simple vernacular building consisting of two single-pen cells joined together, it is illustrative of function dictating form with no need for architectural adornment. It was used as a post office later in the nineteenth century after the Academy ceased to exist.

Beaver’s Hill was built in 1818 by Robert Gaines Haile and was one of the first large Federal period houses built in Essex County. He built his impressive dwelling on a steep bluff very near the confluence of Piscataway Creek and the Western Branch on land that had been patented by his ancestor Captain Richard Haile in 1694. His son, Captain Robert Gaines Haile, Jr. was killed in 1862 at the Civil War Battle at Gaines Mill. Robert G. Haile, Sr. died one year later. Both are buried in the cemetery at Beaver’s Hill. With no will, the ca. 1800 acres was divided by chancery among his surviving children and the widow of Capt. R. G. Haile, Jr., Mollie Burke Haile. Two of Haile, Sr.’s daughters, Virginia and Lucy, became the first and second wives of James Cannon, editor of the local paper, who resided in the house. The property was sold to the Manns in the 1930s and has remained in that family to the present. Beaver’s Hill, along with the Latane Miller’s House and Rescue, are the only surviving Federal period domestic single dwellings in the historic district.

Rescue, also known as the Davis House, was constructed in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. It is located in the hamlet community of Millers Tavern, but sits in King and Queen County, as the county line bisects this community on the south and west sides. Oral tradition holds that it was built by Mr. Miller of Miller’s Tavern, for his daughter upon her marriage to a Mr. Davis. The legendary name of Mt. Rescue is believed to have been coined by Mrs. Davis, who stated her father had “rescued” them with the provision of a home. The Davises added the two-story Greek Revival addition to the house in 1845. Mr. Davis owned and operated a store next to the house at the fork in the road. In 1888 the house and store were sold to C.M. Smoot, who added the one-story ell onto the rear of the house ca. 1910. Smoot’s son, Dr. W.L.L. Smoot, retired to the house from his dental practice in Williamsburg in the 1940s. It was Dr. Smoot who built the small cottage next to Rescue and had a small dental practice on the second floor.

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St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal church was built "in the fork of the two roads, one leading to Hoskins' Mill & so on to Bruington Church, the other leading to the said Dr. Minor's..." with the cornerstone laid August 4, 1838.<sup>17</sup> This explains St. Paul's off-square orientation to the modern Richmond Highway. Joseph Pollard, in his history of Midway, states that the original road passed to the left side of the church and continued past the southwest corner of Midway.<sup>18</sup> It was consecrated by Bishop Meade on June 11, 1840.

The church was built on land donated by either Dr. Jefferson Minor of Midway, or the Hoskins family of King and Queen County, since the portion of land the church is on may have originally been in King and Queen. There is no deed in Essex County, and King and Queen's antebellum records were destroyed so nothing can be found there.

The small, one-story brick church was the first Protestant Episcopal Church to be built in the county after the American Revolution, replacing Upper and Lower Piscataway Churches, the two Anglican Churches of South Farnham Parish. The revival of the Protestant Episcopal denomination was led by the Rev. John Peyton McGuire, (1800-1869), who served from 1838 to 1852 as St. Paul's first rector. St. Paul's Church was among the first to feature the Hobart pulpit, which it has retained. The Hobart pulpit, with its placement in the center at the front of the church instead of on the side, emphasizes preaching. The placement can be traced to the evangelical influences that arose in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. A center pulpit was a trademark of the Rev. McGuire, who adopted some of the evangetic methods of the Baptists and was dedicated to the preaching of the Gospel, as opposed to form and ritual. He started St. John's Episcopal Church in Tappahannock a little over a decade later and it also features a center pulpit. For singlehandedly reviving the Episcopal Church in Essex and much of the Rappahannock Valley, he became known as the "Apostle to the Rappahannock." The communion table at St. Paul's is on a low platform about eight inches off the floor and is hand-made to harmonize with the raised pulpit, which is of paneled black walnut.

Following the Civil War the area, like so many all over Tidewater Virginia, saw the parceling off of large farms into smaller farms. At least three of the six dwellings built between 1880 and 1916 were constructed by African American freedmen or their first generation of descendants who stayed in the area. The dwellings are typical regional variations on the two-story I-house or T-plan and are of frame construction with gable roofs, simple fenestration and porches. The properties included a variety of agricultural buildings indicative of small-scale farming operations.

During the Reconstruction era and beyond, the church became the center of the African-American community. Beulah Baptist Church, built in 1896, houses a congregation formed in 1873. Built in a vernacular Gothic Revival style, it is perhaps the most ornate building built after the Civil War in the district. Prominently located very close to the road at the intersection of Latanes Mill Road and Beulah Church Road, it stands as a statement of the presence of a vibrant African American community in the post-war period in Essex County. Its fairly large cemetery has a very interesting primitive obelisk as its oldest grave, dated 1893, as well as a large number

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of twentieth century in-ground concrete burial vaults. It offers an interesting study of African-American burial practices.

With the early-twentieth-century advent of the automobile and the expansion of Route 360, the residential dwellings that were built within the district between 1920 and 1960, and beyond, are representative of continued small-scale farms as well as homes for residents working outside the community. Of the six dwellings constructed in the 1930s, three of them have secondary agricultural buildings indicating the continued establishment of small-scale farms carved from former larger farms. Like their predecessors, the houses represent a middle-class socio-economic status with all but one of them being one or one-and-a-half stories. Architectural styles and types include Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and Minimal Traditional. Houses built in the 1940s through the 1960s are more representative of residents residing in a rural area, but not necessarily engaged in farming. They are typical of mid-twentieth century areas that saw further subdividing of the land into smaller parcels, with the newly formed parcels usually closer to the road and cultivated tracts still lying behind them or surrounding them. Housing forms are mostly one-story or one-and-a-half-story Cape Code or Minimal Traditional, often with limited Colonial Revival details, and the popular Ranch style that emerged during the 1950s. Secondary resources are typically sheds of various sizes and uses, detached garages, and wells and well houses.

The district's still-intact large farms from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries continued in agricultural uses, many into the present, which is represented by the ongoing addition of agricultural buildings and ponds dating from the late nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century as farming methods evolved. With silos representing grain production and cattle sheds representing the raising of livestock, along with timber tracts for lumber, the area has remained diverse and stable as rural community.

The built environment stands as a testament to the continuum over several centuries of family farms and the resources that develop around them to support those livelihoods. Each period of development is represented with excellent examples of architecture in a variety of styles and vernacular Tidewater traditions. Integrity of design, location, workmanship and materials remain high with only minimally marked changes due to deterioration, or maintenance and expansion to accommodate modern needs.

### **Archaeological Resources**

The Millers Tavern Rural Historic District has high potential for archaeological resources, both prehistoric and historic, but limited professional archaeological testing has taken place within the district boundaries. The Mattaponi Indians are among the various Virginia tribes known to have occupied the vicinity of Essex County prior to European contact in 1607. Among the Mattaponi's settlements was a place known as the Mattaponi Indian Town, or Town Marsh, which the tribe occupied for about forty years alongside the eponymous Mattaponi River.<sup>19</sup> When European explorer John Smith began exploring coastal Virginia in 1607, the Mattaponi are believed to have numbered somewhere between four and five hundred persons, and theirs was one of the many tribes loosely united into a confederacy under Chief Powhatan in the late-sixteenth and early-

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seventeenth centuries. This Powhatan Confederacy, so called by the English, included around thirty tribes living between the James and Potomac rivers, numbering around eight thousand people.<sup>20</sup> Sometime during the second Anglo-Powhatan War (1622-1632), the Mattaponi left the Town Marsh site along the Mattaponi River and established another town located within the boundaries of the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District, just below the intersection of the main Piscataway and Western Branch creeks, in what also became known as the Town Marsh. The location of this site has not been field verified.<sup>21</sup> The Treaty of 1646 established English dominion over the Lower Peninsula and required Indian tribes to pay tribute to the colonial Governor of Virginia. In 1658, the Mattaponi signed a treaty with the English crown that created the Mattaponi Indian Reservation, which is located along the borders of the Mattaponi River in King William County. Much of the tribe's members moved here, and the Town Marsh site was abandoned.<sup>22</sup> The Mattaponi's reservation, and the Pamunkey Indian Reservation along the Pamunkey River, are among the oldest Indian reservations in the United States, predating the establishment of the United States as an independent country by well over a century. Both of these tribes also continue to honor the terms of the 1646 treaty, and now their Annual Tax Tribute is met during a ceremony at the Virginia Governor's Mansion in Richmond on the day before Thanksgiving. Should opportunities for comprehensive archaeological investigations within the historic district ever arise, it is anticipated that the Town Marsh site could yield cultural deposits from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century occupation period.

The sites of a variety of historic buildings are known within the historic district's boundaries, including mills, a tavern, dwellings, and a church. Because their locations are known and the sites have not been redeveloped, there is potential for historic-period archaeological deposits. Essex County, with its many creeks, had upwards of twenty water-powered mills in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Two of these were in the Millers Tavern Rural Historic District: Bohannon's Mill and Latane's Mill (028-5030-0010, 028-0303). Latane's Mill was built in the bowl formed by the intersection of Piscataway Creek and the Western Branch. This is a very old mill site, first known to have been built on by James Boughan in 1739, although there may have been earlier mills there. Boughan sold to William Roane, who left his Essex lands to his son (Judge) Spencer Roane in 1783. Spencer swapped his Essex land for his brother Thomas's King and Queen County land called Goshen. Carter Croxton of Cherry Walk bought the mill from Thomas Roane in 1799. It went through two more owners before Henry Waring Latane of The Meadow bought it in 1844, and his family owned it until the 1860s. When Alexander W. Broaddus of Cherry Walk bought a one-third interest in the 1860s, it was renamed Enterprise Mill, although the Latane name is the one that has stayed with the property. Operations ceased in the 1930s. The ruined building there now, according to local tax records, was built in the 1880s. It was composed of two frame buildings, one side two-storied, the other one-storied, joined together over a brick foundation. Both halves had side-gabled, standing seam metal roofs. Abandoned, it has fallen in, and all that remains is part of the foundation, the poured concrete bases for the milling equipment, and part of the roof. The mill pond is also gone, no one having ever rebuilt the dam.

Joseph Bohannon built a mill near the head of the Western branch, but because no other land owners were involved, there is no writ of *ad quod damnum* to know the date of its



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construction.<sup>23</sup> It is named in deeds starting in the 1790s and after. The mill went with the property, being known as Bohannon's Mill or Wright's Mill (028-5030-0037, #44EX1074). In 1889 Warner Lewis and Lewis Smoot bought interests, and the mill became Lewis and Smoot's Mill. The last mill building was wood frame, two-story, set on top of a high brick foundation. In 1933 it was known as Shelba Mill, but in 1934 was not on the tax list. The mill and the pond were destroyed by Hurricane Camille in 1969; the pond has been rebuilt. The site of the actual mill (44EX1074) has not been field verified.

John Miller located his tavern (028-136) at the junction of the old Richmond Highway and the road to Aylett, on land gifted him in 1796 by his father. The Richmond Highway gained importance only after 1780, when Richmond became the state capital. The other ordinary or tavern on this road, Jones' Ordinary, ceased to function ca. 1800, probably because of Miller's Tavern opening in 1798. As shown on an 1801 Mutual Assurance Policy, the original building was wood frame, one story with a Dutch gambrel roof, measuring 28 feet by 28 feet, with a three-foot-high brick foundation, and a 28-foot by 9-foot porch. A kitchen was 51 feet to the west, and a stable 105 feet to the east. Miller died in 1808, and his sons sold to John B. Burke, who hired Thomas N. Clarke to run the business. Clarke bought the Tavern in 1845, and he and his wife ran it until the 1860s, selling to John L. Boughan. It was during Clark's ownership that the men of the area met at the tavern on February 1, 1861, and composed the Miller's Tavern Declaration, selecting a representative to vote for Virginia's secession from the Union. They adopted a set of resolutions expressing their views on the crisis called the "Millers Resolutions." John T. Ferry bought the property in 1873, and the tavern became a family dwelling. It remained in the Ferry family until the 1970s when it was bought by the Watts family, who had built a small grocery next door. After decades of neglect, the tavern finally was demolished.

George Wright of Gloucester, Virginia, bought land to the north of Burnett's in 1726. Poplar Grove (028-0126) was built by either his son, George, or grandson, Thomas, in the 1770s-1780s. The house was a frame, three-bay, one-and-one-half story, hall-and-parlor plan. It had a large chimney on the west end, and thus looked a great deal like Burnett's. A two-story addition was put on the east end, probably in the late-nineteenth century, and a one-story addition to that, date unknown. Thomas Wright put together 1,021 acres, and his 1844 will desired that Poplar Grove be sold after the death of his wife. The property was bought by Ann Clarke in 1860, but the title was not clear, and the Wright heirs fought over it. After a chancery suit, the land was sold at auction in 1885, and purchased by Arthur J. Derieux, who leased it to his brother Alfred J. Derieux. Alfred's son Justin bought the property in 1920 and his family lived there until the 1930s, when John F. Brooks bought it. The house was destroyed in the 1970s.

Of much more recent vintage, Snugly (028-0388) was a Sears kit house in the Craftsman style, situated north of Richmond Highway, and built by the Rev. John Thomas Hoskins on his share of the division of Midway. He and his wife, Lucy Virginia Broadus, lived there until their deaths in 1948 and 1955 respectively. The property was purchased by the Trustees of St. Paul's Episcopal Church as a buffer lot. Early in a process to raise funds to restore the house, the dwelling was left vacant and was burned by an unknown arsonist in 2009.

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Historic maps of the area show the location of a Piscataway Church (site 44EX0173) at the location of the present-day Beulah Baptist Church. Piscataway Baptist Church, founded by an all-white congregation, was formed in 1774 by Elder John Waller with 11 charter members. Elder James Greenwood was the first pastor. Bruington Church in King and Queen County was formed from Piscataway Church in 1790. When Captain Robert G. Haile, Sr., in 1818, gave land near Piscataway post office, a new meeting house was erected there and it is believed at that time Piscataway Baptist Church moved to the new site, and in 1857, changed its name to Mt. Zion Baptist Church. The extant Beulah Baptist Church was built on the site in 1896. The exact location of the church site (44EX0173) has not been field verified.

While none of these sites have been professional tested for archaeology, during the current architectural survey, it was noted that the soil around Snugly had not been disturbed, and the other sites have only been touched by surface plowing. An archaeological survey and analysis of these resources could someday yield important information about the social, industrial, religious, and economic history and development of the Millers Tavern area.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR No. 028-5030

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** approximately 3,704 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 37.855360 | Longitude: -76.984330 |
| 2. Latitude: 37.878870 | Longitude: -76.963820 |
| 3. Latitude: 37.875150 | Longitude: -76.948710 |
| 4. Latitude: 37.840150 | Longitude: -76.940780 |
| 5. Latitude: 37.827840 | Longitude: -76.952320 |
| 6. Latitude: 37.829330 | Longitude: -76.970260 |
| 7. Latitude: 37.839910 | Longitude: -76.982960 |

**Or**

Millers Tavern Rural Historic District  
Name of Property

Essex County, VA  
County and State

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The true and correct historic boundaries are shown on the attached Location Map and Sketch Map. For the most part, the boundaries conform to perimeter lines of tax parcels along the edges of the historic district of the tax parcels listed below and as recorded by Essex County, Virginia. The exception is along the western edge of the district where only a portion of one tax parcel is included to capture a historic road trace.

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

The boundaries have been drawn to encompass the topographic area created by the confluence of the Piscataway and Western Branch creeks and the drainages within the elevated lands along the converged creeks. This topographic configuration directly influenced the historic settlement patterns and land uses still evident within the district. The district's historic setting and all known associated historic resources also are enclosed within these boundaries.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Suzanne Derieux  
organization: Essex County Countryside Alliance  
street & number: P.O. Box 2181  
city or town: Tappahannock state: VA zip code: 22560  
e-mail: medwde@hotmail.com  
telephone: 804-443-3538  
date: November 2016

name/title: Hylah Boyd  
organization: Essex County Countryside Alliance  
street & number: 6303 Towana Rd.  
city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23226  
e-mail: boyd6303@verizon.net

Millers Tavern Rural Historic District  
Name of Property

Essex County, VA  
County and State

telephone: 804-288-5817

date: November 2016

name/title: Elizabeth Hoge Lipford

organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

street & number: 2801 Kensington Avenue

city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23221

e-mail: elizabeth.lipford@dhr.virginia.gov

telephone: 804-482-6454

date: November 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.

### Photo Log

**The following information is common to photographs 1-20**

**Name of Property:** Millers Tavern Historic District

**Location:** Essex County, Virginia

**DHR File:** Number: 0280-5030

**Date:** March 2013

**Photographer:** Dovetail Cultural Resource Group

**The following information is common to photographs 21-29**



Millers Tavern Rural Historic District  
Name of Property

Essex County, VA  
County and State

**Name of Property:** Millers Tavern Historic District  
**Location:** Essex County, Virginia  
**DHR File:** Number: 0280-5030  
**Date:** September 26, 2016  
**Photographer:** Marc C. Wagner, Department of Historic Resources

Photo 1 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0001  
St. Paul's Church, looking northeast

Photo 2 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0002  
View: St. Paul's Church, rear, looking southwest, showing vestry room, Parish hall, and cemetery

Photo 3 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0003  
View: Home Lea, front, looking east

Photo 4 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0004  
View: Post Office, Midway, looking northeast

Photo 5 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0005  
View: Midway farm, looking east

Photo 6 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0006  
View: Retreat, front, looking east

Photo 7 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0007  
View: Elton, front, looking northeast

Photo 8 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0008  
View: Elton, north end, looking south

Photo 9 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0009  
View: Agricultural field, looking east

Photo 10 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0010  
View: Latane's Mill site, looking east

Photo 11 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0011  
View: Latane's Mill, Miller's Cottage, looking northwest

Photo 12 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Miller' Tavern Historic District\_0012  
View: Sisson's Store, looking southwest

Millers Tavern Rural Historic District  
Name of Property

Essex County, VA  
County and State

Photo 13 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0013  
View: Tribble House, looking southwest

Photo 14 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0014  
View: Cherry Walk, front, looking west

Photo 15 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0015  
View: Woodlawn, looking west

Photo 16 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0016  
View: Lane House, looking southeast

Photo 17 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0017  
View: Ordley House, looking northwest

Photo 18 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0018  
View: Shelba, front, looking north

Photo 19 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0019  
View: Adams house, looking northwest

Photo 20 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0020  
View: Snugley, site, looking north

Photo 21 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0021  
View: Rescue, looing southeast

Photo 22 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0022  
View: Beaver's Hill, looking northwest

Photo 23 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0023  
View: Beaver's Hill Cemetery, looking northwest

Photo 24 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0024  
View: Representative of Non-contributing building

Photo 25 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0025  
View: House in agricultural setting, looking east

Photo 26 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Miller's Tavern Historic District\_0026  
View: Beulah Baptist Church, looking south

Photo 27 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0027  
View: Beulah Baptist Church and Cemetery, looking southeast

Millers Tavern Rural Historic District  
Name of Property

Essex County, VA  
County and State

Photo 28 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0028  
View: Beulah Baptist Church Cemetery detail, looking west

Photo 29 of 29: VA\_EssexCounty\_Millers Tavern Historic District\_0029  
View: Historic Road Trace, looking south

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

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

## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Millers Tavern and Latanes Mill once were possessive names but over the course of many decades, the apostrophe fell out of use for each.
- <sup>2</sup> Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. *Official Guide to Colonial Williamsburg: Third Edition*. Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia, 2007.
- <sup>3</sup> Interview with Hannah Haile Overton Tiffany, summer 2014.
- <sup>4</sup> Haile, Mary Virginia, *Biography of An Old Country Church: St. Paul's 1838-1971*. Self-Published, 1971, p. 8.
- <sup>5</sup> Warner, Thomas Hoskins. *History of Old Rappahannock County, Virginia 1656-1692*. Pauline Pierce Warner, Tappahannock, Virginia, p. 151.
- <sup>6</sup> Soil Survey of Essex County Virginia. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil conservation services, V.P.I.S.U., p. 7.
- <sup>7</sup> Based upon appraisals and accounts for Croxton and Wright, Essex County Will Books.
- <sup>8</sup> O'Sullivan, Richard, *55<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry*, 1989, and Krick, Robert K., *9<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry*, and 1860 census. Due to the inaccuracy of both the census records and the C.S.A. records, figures are approximate.
- <sup>9</sup> *Essex County, Virginia. Cemeteries Vol. I – Church Cemeteries*. Suzanne P. Derieux and Wesley E. Pippenger. Tappahannock, Virginia, 2011.
- <sup>10</sup> Salmon, E.J. & Salmon, John. "Tobacco in Colonial Virginia". *Encyclopedia of Virginia*, 2013.
- <sup>11</sup> Essex County Land Tax Records, 1810-1830. This adds up to 4,520 acres, more than the given total of 3,619.447 acres, but the 1820 farms were not enclosed by the given roads, and in most cases, extended across the roads, which were considered a part of their property.
- <sup>12</sup> Nugent, Nell Marion. *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume II, 1666-1695*. Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 2004, p. 114.
- <sup>13</sup> Essex County Chancery Causes 1831-019. William Burnett et als vs. Administrator of Joseph Burnett.
- <sup>14</sup> Essex County Chancery Causes 1817-001, Henry Boughan et als vs. Administrator of William Wood et als. See also attached plat #1.
- <sup>15</sup> Nugent, Nell Marion. *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume II, 1666-1695*. Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 2004, p. 64.
- <sup>16</sup> South Farnham Parish Register, unpublished. Deaths, p. 68.
- <sup>17</sup> Shepherd, E. Lee. *A History of St. Paul's Episcopal Church*. Dietz Press, Richmond, Virginia. 2001, p. 74.
- <sup>18</sup> Pollard, Joseph. "A History of Midway", *Essex County Historic Society Bulletin*, Vol. 28, May 1986.
- <sup>19</sup> Essex County Land Trials 1750-1741, p. 93.

Millers Tavern Rural Historic District  
Name of Property

Essex County, VA  
County and State

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<sup>20</sup> Slaughter, James. *Settlers, Southerners, Americans: The History of Essex County, Virginia*. Don Mills, Inc., Salem, West Virginia, p. 22.

<sup>21</sup> Nugent, Nell Marion. *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume II, 1666-1695*. Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 2004, p. 116. A local patent has a description, in part as follows “...Nere the N side of the Indian Path from Matapony towne that was att the head of Piscataway creek unto the new town now planted by those Indians on Matapony Riv...”

<sup>22</sup> Hening, William Waller. *Statutes At Large, Vol. II, 1660-1682*, Samuel Pleasants Jr., Richmond, Virginia. 1810, p. 155. Also see Old Rappahannock Deeds and Wills 2, p. 249-250.

<sup>23</sup> Ad quod damnum, “to what damage”, a writ formerly issued out of chancery, to have a Sheriff and jurors access damages for land seized for public use.



LOCATION MAP

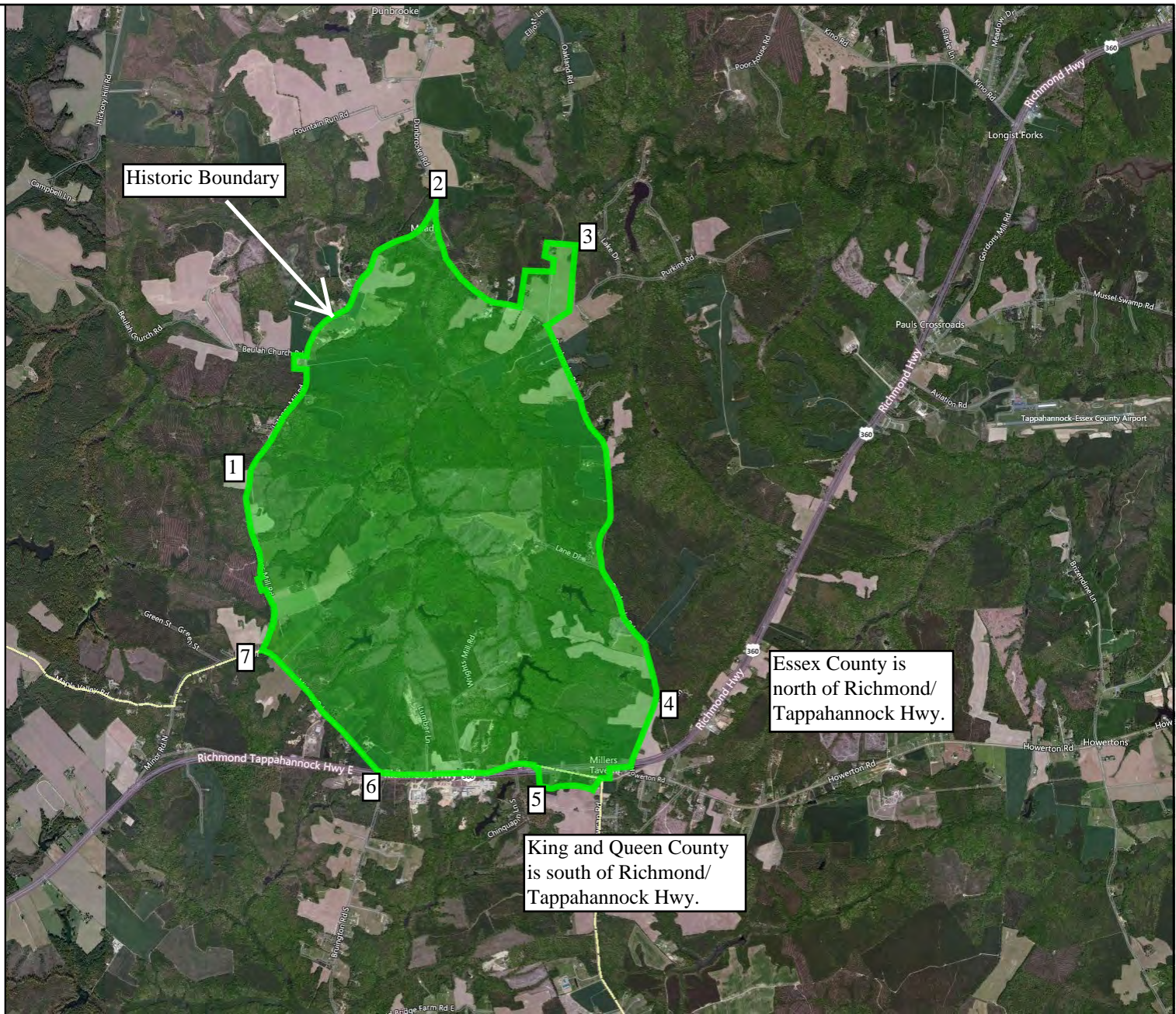
Miller's Tavern Rural Historic District

Essex County, VA

DHR No. 028-5030

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

- 1. Latitude: 37.855360  
Longitude: -76.984330
- 2. Latitude: 37.878870  
Longitude: -76.963820
- 3. Latitude: 37.875150  
Longitude: -76.948710
- 4. Latitude: 37.840150  
Longitude: -76.940780
- 5. Latitude: 37.827840  
Longitude: -76.952320
- 6. Latitude: 37.829330  
Longitude: -76.970260
- 7. Latitude: 37.839910  
Longitude: -76.982960



Feet

0 120 240 360 480

1:72,224 / 1"=6,019 Feet

Title: Millers Tavern Rural Historic District

Date: 12/1/2016

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

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