

# 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.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Flat Creek Rural Historic District

Other names/site number: VDHR 015-5181

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: Colonial Highway (Route 24), Dearborn Road, Leesville Road

City or town: Evington State: VA County: Campbell

Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  X

### 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

 Signature of certifying official/Title:	<u>9-29-2020</u> Date
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title : <span style="float: right;">State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</span>	

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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>21</u>	<u>12</u>	buildings
<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>38</u>	<u>13</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)**

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, Secondary Structure

RELIGION: Religious Facility: Church-related residence

FUNERARY: Cemetery

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural building

TRANSPORTATION: Road-related

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: Manufacturing facility: Sawmill, Sawmill-related; Extractive facility: Mines, Mining-related resources or sites

**Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)**

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, Secondary Structure, ruin or site

RELIGION: Religious Facility

FUNERARY: Cemetery

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural building, ruin or site

TRANSPORTATION: Road-related

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic Revival; Queen Anne

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

Craftsman

OTHER: Hewn Log

NO STYLE

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD, STONE, BRICK, METAL

### Narrative Description

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

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### Summary Paragraph

The nominated Flat Creek Rural Historic District is located in western Campbell County near the Evington community, on both the north and south sides of Route 24 (Colonial Highway) just east of its intersection with Leesville Road. Containing 1,201 acres, the district is bounded by Lawyers Road to the north, Leesville and Dearborn roads to the west, and the waters of Flat Creek to the east. The district contains four primary resources: Flat Creek Farm, established in 1796 and currently comprising 1,191 acres including the house site, outbuildings, and other resources south of Route 24; the ca. 1926 East Hills Farm north of Route 24; the Saunders Sawmill complex on Leesville Road (the latter two split off from Flat Creek Farm in the twentieth century); and the adjacent 9.8-acre ensemble of Good Shepherd Church on Dearborn Road, with its associated cemetery and the former church rectory. Flat Creek Farm's numerous resources are spread over a wide area and represent five generations of development. Most of these are outbuildings, accessory dwellings, and structures that relate to agriculture, sawmilling, and mining. Architectural standouts include Flat Creek Farm's five hewn-log buildings dating from ca. 1828-1847 and the exceptionally well-preserved Good Shepherd Church, built in 1871 in the Gothic Revival style. Building materials are mostly locally sourced. Wood, both log and lumber grown and processed on the farm, is the primary material. Fieldstone and slate predominate in foundations and chimneys. Red brick, likely also made on the farm, occurred only in the foundations of the major buildings. Greenstone was used in the main house fireboxes. Concrete was used in many of the twentieth-century building foundations.

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The district's 51 resources (38 contributing, 13 noncontributing) include architecturally distinctive buildings and an extensive collection of simple utilitarian buildings and structures, as well as historic-period mining/extraction sites in a largely unaltered setting. Together these varied resources represent the locations and context for the daily activities of different types of households, farming practices, and mining operations in the rural Piedmont from 1797 through 1965.

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## **Narrative Description**

### Location and Setting

The Flat Creek Rural Historic District is located in rural Campbell County, on the east side of the Colonial Highway (Rt. 24) /Leesville Road (Rt. 682) crossroads at Evington, Virginia, roughly two miles east of the Bedford County line and 15 miles southwest of the City of Lynchburg. Colonial Highway travels east–west, bisecting the district. North of Colonial Highway, a length of Leesville Road serves as the western boundary of the district, while south of Colonial Highway, Dearborn Road (Rt. 696) serves as the western boundary. Flat Creek, a small tributary of the Otter River, which feeds the Roanoke River, meanders from the northeast to the southwest, crossing Colonial Highway, and defines the eastern border of the historic district. Of the primary resources within the district, Flat Creek Farm, in the southeast part of the district, covers the largest area. A cleared portion of the farm, on the south side of Colonial Highway, surrounds the 1796 farmhouse site and numerous secondary resources dating to the nineteenth century. One-half mile west of the farmhouse site, the former Good Shepherd Episcopal Church stands on the east side of Dearborn Road, set back about 100 feet from the road, one-quarter mile south of the junction with Colonial Highway (Rt. 24); and some 1,700 feet southeast of the Colonial Highway and Leesville Road junction at Evington. The former Good Shepherd Church rectory, now a private dwelling, stands across Dearborn Road, 380 feet west-northwest of the church. Behind and beside the church is the well-kept cemetery. The church and cemetery occupy a delineated 1/2-acre portion of the larger 2.3-acre parcel. The old Marysville Road trace runs along the eastern margin of the cemetery. Approximately 1,800 feet (0.34 miles) north-northwest of the church, on the north side of Colonial Highway, stands the house/farm known as East Hills, which is another primary resource in the district. Finally, about 765 feet (0.15 miles) north-northwest of East Hills, on the immediate east side of Leesville Road, is the central locus of the Saunders Sawmill complex, covering about 5.5 acres.

Most of the district is hilly and mostly forested in a patchwork of hardwood and pine stands, with occasional clearings creating pastoral vistas. Few historic resources are visible from the main road, Route 24 (Colonial Highway) as it makes the steep descent to Flat Creek. This section of Route 24 is a designated Virginia Byway. The district contains ten tax parcels, one each for the church and the rectory and the remaining eight parcels managed jointly as two family-owned certified tree farms. Open land, about 10 percent of the total acreage, consists of scattered pasture and hay fields. Outside of the Flat Creek Farm property, the former Good Shepherd Church rectory is now the hub of an active farm with outbuildings, vegetable fields, and a greenhouse.

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### Primary Resources /Site ID Numbers

015-5181-0001 - Flat Creek Farm [Other ID 015-0117]  
015-5181-0002 - East Hills Farm  
015-5181-0003 - Saunders Sawmill  
015-5181-0004 - Good Shepherd Church and Cemetery [Other ID 015-0261]  
015-5181-0005 - Former Good Shepherd Church Rectory

#### Flat Creek Farm

Flat Creek Farm includes many resources spread across a wide area, but generally comprises four clusters: a) The Watts House site and nearby associated resources containing remnants of the original ca. 1797 house and a variety of domestic outbuildings and sites; b) to the rear of the house is a distinctive barnyard complex along with a highly significant slave quarters building and two barns on an adjoining lane; c) across House Branch to the south are accessory dwellings and agricultural sites; and d) mining relics and traces of the old Courthouse Road stretching from near Good Shepherd Church to the crossing of Flat Creek.

Flat Creek Farm retains the land area, setting, and features of a large plantation farmed continuously from 1796 through 1965. The farm today consists of eight jointly managed parcels totaling 1,195 acres (1,191 of which are in the district), held by members of the Saunders family. Resources ranging from houses and outbuildings to mining and industrial sites are widely distributed across the farm. Route 24 bisects the farm, yet very few resources are visible from the road. The house site is located about three-quarters of a mile east of the Evington Post Office and about one-half mile from Good Shepherd Church.

The Federal-style (ca.1797) house with c. 1840 and late-Victorian-era additions was destroyed by fire in 1981, but two of the three chimneys and the outline of the house foundation remain. The front porch faced southeast with a view beyond Flat Creek about 1,200 feet distant. The setting is intact, including vistas and the context of an extensive array of outbuildings.

A 1975 historic architecture survey described the property, labeled the Dr. Irvine Farm for its mid-twentieth-century owners, as one of the most impressive and extensive collections of farm buildings in Campbell County. The line of farm ownership runs from William Watts (died 1797), to his son-in-law Judge Fleming Saunders (died 1858), to his son Captain Fleming Saunders (died 1907), and to divided farms: Flat Creek farm held by his son-in-law Dr. James Irvine (died 1948) and East Hills farm split off by his son Fleming Saunders (III) (died 1955). By 1965, these farms had passed to their sons William Irvine and Fleming Saunders, Jr. (IV); in 1983 Fleming Saunders, Jr. (IV) purchased the Flat Creek house parcel from his cousin's heirs, partially reuniting the historic area of the farm.

Despite the loss of the house, an extensive, relatively intact farmstead remains, including an early-nineteenth-century log slave quarter with a central stone chimney, two tenant houses (one of log construction dating to the second quarter of the nineteenth century and the other of frame construction dating to the a mid-twentieth century), a log granary, a log smokehouse, several

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barns including a log crib, a chicken house, remnants of two detached kitchens and a root cellar, vestiges of a planned landscape (including an ornamental fish pond surrounded by boxwoods and a terraced lawn), the early Watts/Saunders family cemetery, and other miscellaneous sites and remains of mostly agricultural operations. Five of the extant buildings are log, with construction dates ranging from 1827 to 1848.

About 600 feet south of the main house site, along the route of an old road leading toward Good Shepherd Church, is a small assemblage of dwellings. Extant are a substantial ca. 1840 two-story log house and a mid-twentieth-century two-room frame house. Additional resources on the farm, but distant from the main house, include many traces of agricultural and mining activities.

Currently 118 acres of Flat Creek Farm are open land, in ten fields scattered across the flatter areas. Hay is grown on 98 acres and 20 acres are in pasture, which together support about 15 cow/calf pairs. In the past, more acres were cultivated and a wide variety of crops and livestock were grown.

#### Flat Creek House Site and Associated Resources

Parts of the house and one of the two detached kitchens that burned in 1981 dated to the establishment of the farm in 1796-1797. The outline of the house remains as well as two of the three house chimneys and both kitchen chimneys. Surrounding the house site is an extensive grouping of early- to mid-nineteenth-century and late-Victorian-era outbuildings. These are described in the inventory, below, in order of location from the house.

Remnants of the brick foundation define the T-shaped outline of the house and the front porch, with its striking view to the east. The frame house was approximately 75 feet wide. The 1975 survey includes photographs of the house, which was vacant and deteriorating at the time, and described it as a two-story frame Federal period farmhouse built on a side-hall plan. It suggests that shortly after the original house was erected, a second side-hall-plan, two-story Federal-style wing was constructed at a right angle to the first and connected by an open breezeway on the ground floor and an enclosed passage on the second floor level. In the late nineteenth century, two-story wings were added to the gable ends of the existing building. The earliest interior spaces were finished with wainscoting, period mantels and a closed-string stair with turned balusters. The Federal addition was finished in a similar manner except the stair was a corner winder type.

Four of the five chimneys still stand. The fully intact rear house chimney of three-to-four-course American bond brick rises more than two stories with a sloping shoulder narrowing above the roofline and complete fireboxes on both the first and second floors. The interior northeast chimney, also intact, is similar in construction. Its lower firebox is of distinctive local greenstone; the second-floor firebox is brick. Both were repointed ca. 2010 and are in good condition. The matching interior house chimney to the southwest has collapsed. The mid-late nineteenth century "new kitchen" chimney was close to the house and is one-story, of stone topped with a brick stack, only several courses of which remain. Its fireplace is on the upper side. The older "Watts kitchen" chimney (ca. 1797) stands farther west downslope. This one-and-a

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half-story chimney is all stone. A large fireplace on grade on the lower side has a massive lintel (now cracked and supported by treated wood posts) and an iron loop for cookware on the left side. To prevent further deterioration, wooden bracing and roof caps were placed on both kitchen chimneys in 2016. The two kitchen chimneys are in fair condition.

### Flat Creek Farm Slave Quarters

Located about 200 feet downslope from the main house, facing House Branch and backing onto what was Old Courthouse Road, the quarters building is the largest and best-preserved resource on the farm. Dr. James S. Irvine used the east room as his doctor's office at some points during the 1920s–1940s (he had other offices in Evington and/or Lynchburg); however, mainly because of its use by enslaved African-Americans during the late antebellum era, and the rarity of surviving slave quarters, the building is a highly significant historic resource. Furthermore, it is both unusual and remarkable in its construction. Though similar to the once-common “saddlebag” log-house, technically it cannot be categorized as such. Saddlebag houses are comprised of two separate pens served by a single chimney between them, whereas the Flat Creek example is a single-pen log structure surrounding a central chimney that serves rooms on both sides. The individual logs that are not interrupted by window or door openings extend the full 40-foot length of the building. The north (rear elevation) had no windows or doors, thus eight full-length, uninterrupted logs, until a small aperture was later cut into one of them. An interior partition across the midsection of the building, built of logs V-notched into the front-and-rear wall logs, divides the interior into two roughly equal-sized rooms with no communication between them. Each room has its own south entrance. The west room also has a side entrance, possibly added later.

The 1½-story log dwelling rests on stone piers and has a massive central stone chimney and a sheet-metal-clad side-gable roof. The walls are composed of eight courses of V-notched hewn hardwood logs. The chinking between the logs is composed mostly of angular stones set in a mud and lime daubing. Wood, likely the original chinking material, also appears within the daubing intermittently. The gables, at the east and west ends of the building, are clad with weatherboards. The nearly full-width porch facing south toward House Branch is a reconstruction and a small porch on the north side is a twentieth-century addition. The east end of the building has a single, relatively small window with six-light hung sash. The only other possibly original window opening, in the front (south) wall of the west room, has a fixed six-light sash. The dearth of window openings for lighting and ventilation is consistent with the majority of slave quarters in Virginia and elsewhere.

The building interior is little altered, with exposed log walls and vertically sawn four-by-six-inch overhead floor joists, finished only with the chalky remains of whitewash, and vertically sawn, wide, pine floor boards. Each first-floor room has a stone fireplace with massive stone lintel, and a loft. The west room has a small closet next to the chimney, enclosed with plain boards and batten door hung on wrought-iron hinges, and an enclosed stair on the opposite (north) side of the chimney. The roof rafters, which are exposed in the lofts, are likely original. The rafter pairs are comprised of stout four-by-six-inch vertically sawn hardwood timbers lapped and pegged



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together. The sheathing laid across the tops of the rafters consists of hardwood boards, up to 18 inches wide and only one inch thick. Collar ties are lapped and nailed into some of the rafter pairs.

#### East Hills Farm

East Hills was the last farm split off from Flat Creek Farm by a member of the Saunders family. It consists of a simple home built in the late 1920s, north of Route 24, closer to the village of Evington, and includes several tracts from the 1908 division of Flat Creek Farm landholdings.

East Hills farmhouse is a rustic one-story frame or log building, the core of which dates to ca.1926. Located at the end of a long driveway beginning near the intersection of Leesville Road and Colonial Highway, the house is located about 0.6 miles west-northwest of the Flat Creek house site. It has a fieldstone exterior side chimney, fieldstone foundation, and unpainted, naturally darkened wood weatherboards and board-and batten siding. A full-width front porch with a shed-roof supported by rustic fieldstone pillars was enlarged in 1951 with a side patio. Two one-room additions were built in the back of the house in the 1930s and 1950s. In 1963 the east wing was added, consisting of a large room and bathroom over a full basement with side entrance. The back porch has been filled in and the steps rebuilt.

The house has an expansive front lawn and view to the east (hence the name East Hills). The flat area to the east of the house was used as a grass tennis court in the 1930s and 1940s. Because East Hills was operated as a separate farm in much of the twentieth century, the farming and mining resources on the north side of Route 24 are described as secondary resources under the East Hills Farm heading.

East Hills connects by a lane to the Saunders Sawmill and served as an extension of the sawmill operations, especially to secure equipment. A gravel parking area outside the yard fence was where sawmill trucks were parked.

Saunders Sawmill, situated on Leesville Road near East Hills, comprises a collection of buildings, each serving a specific purpose in the operation. Many of the district's noncontributing buildings are later additions to that operation of similar construction. By the nature of the operation, structures were erected as needed using easily available materials. Most are frame with vertical board siding and tin roofs, often with telephone poles as posts and occasionally concrete block piers. Only the office and a few storage bins have floors.

#### Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

Built in 1871 and deconsecrated as an Episcopal church in 1975 due to decreased membership, the former Good Shepherd Church is a well-preserved two-story frame edifice constructed during the post-Civil War Reconstruction period. Except for some removable vinyl siding, the church possesses unusually high craftsmanship values for a small, rural church, as well as outstanding integrity, easily sufficient to convey significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

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Good Shepherd Episcopal Church (015-0261) is an exceptionally well-preserved frame Gothic Revival edifice measuring 25 feet by 50 feet in plan, built by members of the Saunders Family in 1871. The church foundation is of hand-made brick laid in 5:1 American bond. The exterior walls are clad with flush-board siding (now covered with vinyl siding) with unusual wooden quoins at the corners. The Gothic character is largely embodied in the lancet-arched windows and the steeple, which is a nearly flat, almost two-dimensional false-parapet-like structure with lancet-arched niche at the center, braced by an iron rod extending from the peak of the roof. The steeple is quite unusual and possibly unique. The three lancet-arched front “windows” and niche in the steeple appear to have always been wooden-paneled frames. There is no indication of the frames on the flat-plastered front interior wall. The original diamond-paned side-elevation windows (four windows per side) remain intact. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

A 1974 newspaper photo in the Virginia Department of Historic Resources archives demonstrates that there have been no exterior modifications to the building since 1974, except for the vinyl siding. The siding, however, does not obscure the corners of the building, which project slightly beyond the exterior walls and are cleverly decorated with boards, beveled on the top and bottom, which simulate quoins. The front entry consists of paneled folding doors and paneled lancet-arched transom, all part of the original construction.

The church nave-plan interior has near-perfect integrity, with oak-faux-grained wainscoting that matches the exceptionally realistic and well-preserved faux-graining of the pews. The ceiling, painted blue, is divided by a grid of wooden beams that are reinforced by curved brackets extending from the side walls. Within the center squares of the grid are three or more varieties of round, three-dimensional medallions painted in combinations of red, gold, and blue. The floors and the raised altar/pulpit area, divided into three lancet arched alcoves, also appear to be totally unmodified. An altar railing is supported by bracketed posts featuring Gothic trefoil motifs, and is hinged in the middle to enable access to the altar. The altar furniture also features trefoil designs. In the rear wall above the altar is a colorful stained-glass quatrefoil window within a round aperture. The building was heated with two iron wood-burning stoves that remain in place, one near each side wall, near the middle of the nave. The stove on the north wall is much more ornate than the other, with embossed folk-art harvest/cornucopia motifs and stamped with the name “Wood Land” Baltimore, MD, and the patent date of 1865. The only sources of lighting consisted of altar candles and wall sconces. The sconces are gone, but their locations are indicated by paint ghosts. The church has never had plumbing installed or been wired for electricity. In 2015 an electric panel was added to the back room with an outlet near the font. The building is in good condition.

#### Good Shepherd Cemetery

A large, well-maintained graveyard enclosed by a wrought iron fence occupies approximately one half of the churchyard. Located chiefly behind the church and also wrapping around to the south side, it is laid out in an orderly, grid-like fashion, with about 70 graves. Interred within are members of several local prominent families, the first laid to rest in 1894 and the latest in 2020. The grave markers are mostly, if not exclusively granite, of the headstone/tablet and monument

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varieties, several in the shape of Christian crosses. Small corner stones engraved with “B” and “S” delineate the Brown and Saunders family plots.

Some of the significant burials include early church leaders and vestrymen Scottish Captain James Beveridge Begg (d.1909), Major Robert Chancellor Saunders (d. 1902), Captain Fleming Saunders (d. 1907), and long-time Virginia Tech Rector John Thompson Brown (d. 1921). Other headstones mark family members who lived far away and had notable careers in other states but came back to be buried in Good Shepherd, such as St. Louis doctor Edward Watts Saunders (d.1927) and Louisiana judge Eugene Davis Saunders (d. 1914).

### Good Shepherd Rectory

The Rectory, now a private residence, is a substantial, well-preserved two-story frame building constructed in 1899. It is a contributing resource in the Flat Creek Rural Historic District. The former rectory stands on the west side of Dearborn Road, set back about 115 feet from the road, about 975 feet south of the junction with Colonial Highway (Rt. 24); and 1,350 feet southeast of the junction of Colonial Hwy and Leesville Road at the small rural community of Evington. The Good Shepherd Church stands across Dearborn Road, 380 feet east-southeast of the rectory. The 7.49-acre property is actively farmed.

The former rectory is a large two-story gable-ell-plan frame house with Carpenter Gothic-style decorative exterior details. It was constructed in 1899 by O.C. Richardson under contract with Good Shepherd Church. It has an overall T-plan, but an additional two-story wing was later built off the back of the side-gabled section. The building exterior is well preserved, with a presumably original standing-seam metal roof and wooden shingles cladding the gable ends, but vinyl siding on the walls below. The identical front and side gable ornamentation, with bargeboards and truss configuration, refers to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Gothic designs of A. J. Downing, which were highly influential. The one-story three-bay hip-roofed front porch is attractive, if more standard with Queen-Anne style motifs including chamfered, bracketed posts and a spindle frieze. On the south gable end is a one-story polygonal bay with three windows, on a brick foundation. Two brick interior chimneys, which differ in appearance, are located at the center of the two main wings. The northern chimney is more massive and is built of redder bricks, with more extensive corbeling.

Situated behind the rectory is a board-and-batten-clad front-gabled frame stable with shed extensions that now serves as equipment storage. It was built under the same 1899 contract as the house. The extra acreage was intended for forage, in recognition of the need for the minister to have a horse to travel to the many far-flung churches in the parish. A frame shed (ca. 1950s) on the north side of the rectory is narrow with the gable facing forward, a shed lean-to on the west side, and a similar size addition to the rear. Noncontributing buildings are a large, impermanent, light-frame greenhouse, and large workshop (ca.1990s) behind the house, and a guinea hen house next to the side shed. All of the buildings are in good condition.

### Road Traces

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Traces of the late 1800s "Old Courthouse Road" can be picked out in various places. The current section of Colonial Highway (Route 24), constructed about 1928, made a new straight route east from the intersection with Leesville Road to the crossing of Flat Creek. The previous route lay to the south, on the lower side of the Flat Creek Farm main house. It came from near Good Shepherd Church (where there is a trace off Dearborn road), crossed House Branch where a bridge abutment remains, went up the slope and ran immediately beside the quarters building (existing lane), curved in front of Flat Creek house beyond the current fence (marked by cedars and a depression), headed across the field passing behind the equipment shed (marked by a depression) and down the hill to cross Flat Creek and go up the other side toward Caryswood.

## INVENTORY

The district resources are enumerated below in a complete inventory listing. Basic information includes name, date of construction, condition (buildings only), and contributing status. Locations of resources are keyed numerically to the attached Sketch Maps.

### Flat Creek Farm Buildings and Sites

#### 1) Watts-Saunders House site, 1797, Contributing Site

Site of burned manor house with remaining foundation and chimneys. See description above for further details.

#### 2) Well house site, late 1800s, Contributing Site

A raised mound next to the house on the south side marks the site of the well and well house. After destructive fires by vandals in 1981 and 1985, the owner filled in the well with flagstones to reduce a safety hazard. Photos show a well house with a hipped roof and open sides.

#### 3) Landscaped Gardens, late 1800s-1920s, Contributing Site

To the rear and north of the house are vestiges of landscaped gardens. The fish pond is evident although overgrown; towering boxwoods extend toward the drive, and traces of large flagstones remain. The terrain between the house and the driveway spreads into distinct terraces, the purpose of which is not known.

#### 4) Dairy/Wool House Site, late 1800s, Contributing Site

Stone basement walls are intact to grade, as are the concrete floor and stone steps to the dairy or root cellar. Vestiges of the sill and steps of the frame upper story remain. The building had a hip roof, vertical board-and-batten siding, and side windows including a small window on the east sill. The floor was several feet high and was reached by three wooden steps on the upper side facing the house. The below-ground room was entered from the existing steps on the opposite lower side.

#### 5) Watts Kitchen Row Site, 1796 /mid to late 1800s, Contributing Site

The Watts kitchen chimney, about 70 feet southwest of the main house, dates to the original construction (1796-1797). It stands alone now, but before the 1985 fire was flanked by simple

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frame buildings on either side. These were in a straight line with the smokehouse, perpendicular to the rear ell of the house. The lower building, placed against the large kitchen fireplace, was 1½ stories and had front and back porches. The upper-side one-story structure was smaller. These buildings served as houses and as an office according to oral history and survey notes.

6) Smokehouse, ca. 1840s, Contributing Building, Condition: good

This 16-foot-square log structure about 100 feet southwest of the house has half-dovetail corner notching. The interior has been renovated into a cabin, and a screen porch added across the front. The logs are exposed inside and out with the exception of the north side, which has wood siding. Chinking was replaced throughout. The roof rafters are retained. A loft and steps have been added. A metal roof replaced the original wood shingle roof. The lean-to addition, used as a milking shed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, has been rebuilt retaining as much old wood as possible.

7) Slave Quarters, ca. 1839, Contributing Building, Condition: fair

One-story single-pen hewn-log side-gabled building with two interior rooms. See description above for further details.

8) Shed/Garage, ca. 1928, Contributing Building, Condition: good

This frame building 235 feet northeast of the house in the curve of the driveway was built ca. 1920. The gable front has large double doors. The floor is dirt. The rear has a continuous concrete foundation. All sides have windows. It was built by Carter T. "Uncle Carter" Saunders, who lived at Flat Creek off and on in the early 1900s. It held his sister Eva Irvine's buggy until that was removed and an automobile was parked inside. The doors and windows were repaired in 2017 and the rafters buttressed in 2019.

9) Ice House site, late 1800s, Contributing Site

A visibly sunken area in the field near Uncle Carter's Shed was the location of an ice house (according to Fleming Saunders, Jr. oral history). An ice house was listed on Mary Watts's 1815 tax bill.

10) Watts/Saunders Cemetery, 1797 to 1871, Contributing Site

The early family graveyard is in a grove of trees about 700 feet east-southeast from the main house and visible from its front porch. The gravestones are fallen or buried and have no legible markings. A stone memorial erected in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century lists the names of seven family members buried here: William Watts (d.1797) and his wife Mary Scott Watts (d. 1836); their children Martha (d. 1857) and Alice W. Saunders (d. 1867); and Alice's husband Fleming Saunders (d. 1858) and their infant (d. 1821) and young daughter Sarah (d. 1832), It is unknown whether others were also buried here.

Noncontributing buildings

11) Large pole barn picnic shelter built in 1985 about 120 feet south of the house.

12) Multi-bay pole farm equipment shed about 150 feet beyond the driveway, built ca. 2000 and now also serving as a cattle shelter.

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### Flat Creek Farm Barnyard and Barns

About 200 feet to the rear of the main house is a geometrically aligned barnyard. It contains three standing buildings numbered 13-15 below.

#### 13) Chicken House, ca.1900, Contributing Building, Condition: fair

This long frame building forms the upper side of the barnyard. Set on a continuous concrete foundation with a shed roof and board-and-batten siding, it has three rooms. The right section has a panel of screening across the front and side. The middle section has a front door and an interior opening to the right section. The narrow left room is tightly enclosed and may have been for grain storage. The back wall is missing.

#### 14) Granary, ca.1840, Contributing Building, Condition: fair

This tall log building on stone piers has dovetail notched logs so tightly fitted that no chinking is needed. The added cupola on the roof and the sawtooth vergeboards date to the ownership of Dr. Irvine (ca. 1920s-1940s). The building is oriented perpendicular to the chicken run and forms a corner to the barnyard. A shed roof overhang on the uphill side is open on the west end and can be accessed by a small passageway from the barnyard side.

#### 15) Goose Coop, ca. 1900, Contributing Building, Condition: poor

This small frame building has a small door, perches, and slatted upper portion and may have housed geese, known to have been kept until 1955. It is in poor condition.

#### 16) Stable/barn site, late 1800s, Contributing Site

The lower side of the barnyard contains the foundations of a bank barn or stable that faced the chicken run on the upper side and Old Courthouse Road on the lower side. Remains of the rock retaining wall are fairly intact. Stone piers and traces of the eastern wall are extant, as well as some stones marking the front wall. Approximate dimensions: top bay 28 feet wide by 18 feet deep and lower bay 28 feet wide by 16 feet deep. Family members confirm it was a stable that burned.

#### 17) Double Crib Barn, ca. 1840, Contributing Building, Condition: fair

Across the lane from the bank foundation is a barn with a shared tin gable roof over two distinct sections. The front section facing the lane is 1½-story frame construction. The rear section is a log crib composed of small round logs. Cut nails are noted in both sections.

#### 18) Cow Barn, ca.1900, Contributing Building, Condition: Good

A larger 1½-story frame barn lies up the lane closer to its intersection with Route 24. It has a cupola in the center of the tin roof, windows in each gable end, a shed roof lean-to on the lane end, and a door on the other gable end. The side closest to Rt.24 opens into a fenced area. It is used as a barn for the cow/calf operation.

#### 19) Log Cabin in the Fen, ca. 1840, Contributing Building, Condition: restoration in progress

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This one-story single-pen log cabin built of nine courses of V-notched logs has a large reconstructed stone chimney on the south side. The sill logs lie on a series of original stone piers, supplemented along the front with new continuous concrete block. Floors are of random width pine boards (the first-story floor is being rebuilt on a strengthened foundation). The front door is far to the right of center and opens to a large room with a straight ladder stair along the north wall. Previous to the renovation this stair wall was enclosed and had a door. The other openings are a window behind the stair, a crude square window in the center of the rear wall, and a door on the south side that opens to the outside (it formerly opened to a late-nineteenth-century log addition that was removed ca. 2015). In the gable ends, the board-and-batten siding has been replaced in-kind and pairs of modern windows have been added. The roof is standing-seam metal.

20) Frame Tenant House in Fen, 1945-50, Contributing Building, Condition: Good to fair  
Just 20 feet south of the log cabin is a one-story weatherboarded frame house on a series of stacked stone piers. Built as two one-room (north and south) sections, each section has a low-pitched gable roof. The front door is in the north gable end under a shed roof porch, the floor of which has nearly disintegrated. The front and back doors are fashioned of vertical boards held together with three horizontal wood battens. Floors, walls, and ceilings are of butt-joined boards. Two brick chimneys once served wood-burning stove flues.

21) Farming headquarters site, late 1800s – 1930s, Contributing Site  
The primary farming area for crops lay southeast of the main house along Flat Creek near Kildee Field. Fleming Saunders, Jr., born 1922, remembered that as a boy much more of the land was in fields and crops. A former lane beside Kildee Field is now grown up in cedars and until a few years ago a silo foundation and hoops could be seen there (since removed or disintegrated). The areas flanking the creek are likewise grown up in cedars. Near the lower part of Kildee Field are the stone foundation outlines of two agricultural buildings and the remains of tin roofs of several large buildings. These were likely the barns and livestock buildings mentioned in oral history.

22) Hall/Logwood House site, late 1800s/1929, Contributing Site  
A clearing near the top of Kildee Field has the remains of a well, house site, garden spot, and corn crib. A substantial two-story house, no longer extant, was the original tenant dwelling here. Last occupied by the Hall family, it burned down about 1927. In 1929, a smaller one-story frame replacement house was built on the site and was last occupied by Son Logwood. It became vacant and was demolished in the late 1970s.

23) Kidd House site, ca. 1900, Contributing Site  
The five-foot-high coursed stonework of a truncated chimney and the outline of foundation stones mark the site of a tenant house that stood across House Branch below the main house. The area is grown up in forest. The last known occupants were the Kidd family. There were additional tenant houses on the property in past generations, including on the north side of Route 24, but specific locations are no longer known.

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## **Mining and Road Traces**

The Saunders family developed manganese mines intermittently from ca. 1880 through the 1950s. The two primary mines were the Saunders Mine and the Russell Den Hollow Mine. Evidence of mining can be found along the manganese belt that runs northeast-southwest nearly the length of the farm. The most visible traces are near the ponds and creeks. Extant features include pits (at the lower pond and Russell Den Hollow) of the two major mines, disturbed ground surfaces, and the remains of the washing station and equipment on a bluff above Flat Creek.

### **24) Saunders Mine, 1880s to 1965, Contributing Site**

The largest mine on the property was across House Branch from the barns. The spring-fed lower pond is a former manganese mine and has a distinctive blue-green color. The area is reforested, but the surrounding acres are a jumble of steep slopes and mounds from the digging and prospecting. The landscape is pocked with disturbed areas farther south on the same line to beyond Lime Kiln Road. Individual pieces of iron rails from the track can be found in the creek and along the road.

### **25) Ore Washing Station site, late 1930-1950s, Contributing Site**

The concrete foundation of the ore washing station and some equipment remain in place near Flat Creek on a bluff above the terraced lower field about 1200 feet southeast of the house. The washer was powered by the rear tires of a military truck, the front grill of which is half buried in the ground nearby. Additional equipment nearby was hauled away in the 1990s.

### **26) Bridge Abutment, late 1800s, Contributing Structure, Condition: fair**

Near the log cabin in the fen, the old Courthouse Road crossed House Branch and went toward Good Shepherd Church. On the north side, a stone retaining wall remains that was part of the abutment of the bridge that crossed the creek. The opposite side has been so altered by mining and pond construction that it is no longer of corresponding height.

## **East Hills Farm Buildings and Sites**

### **27) East Hills Farmhouse, ca.1926, Contributing Building, Condition: Fair**

East Hills connects by a lane to the sawmill and served as an extension of the operations, especially to secure equipment. A gravel parking area outside the yard fence was where sawmill trucks were parked. Because East Hills was operated as a separate farm in much of the twentieth century, the farming and mining resources on the north side of Route 24 are described as secondary resources under East Hills.

### **28) Sawmill Workshop, ca.1966, Noncontributing Building, Condition: Good**

A large frame workshop is located behind the house. Used now for general storage, it contained welding and other equipment and storage for the sawyer's work truck and tools for maintaining



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the sawmill. It has a gable tin roof, dirt floor, and unpainted vertical pine board siding. A slatted section high in the upper left of the front wall provided light and ventilation.

29) Small farm shed, ca.1955, Contributing Building, Condition: fair

Thirty feet east of the workshop shed is a small shed-roofed garden or farm shed. It is now used for general storage.

30-31) Small storage sheds (2), 1970s, Noncontributing Buildings, Condition: Good

Thirty feet west of the big shed are two side-by side gable-end tin-roofed frame sheds used for general storage.

32) Corn Crib in Red Field, 1963, Contributing Building, Condition: Good

A corn crib built in 1963 stands beside Red Field between East Hills and Flat Creek. It is large and well made, with slatted sides, five bays, concrete block pier foundation, and tin shed roof. It is currently unused.

33) Corn Crib in Cowpasture Field, 1963, Contributing Building, Condition: Good

Similar to the corn crib in Red Field, the corn crib on Cowpasture Hill, the most interior of the pastures, is also vacant.

34) Russell Den Hollow Mine, late 1800s to 1940s, Contributing Site, Condition: fair

This second of the two most productive mines in the district is in a remote, reforested portion of the property north of Colonial Highway. It appears as a deep, partially filled pond with steep sides.

35) Building site near Big Branch, late 1800s, Contributing Site

Remnants of a stone foundation mark a building that stood along an internal path between the main house and "shop flats," the large floodplain field of Flat Creek north of Route 24. Its use is unknown but it is presumed to be an agricultural building.

### **Saunders Sawmill**

A collection of buildings on several acres of cleared land, the sawmill has two entrances on Leesville Road and also connects to East Hills by a private lane. All buildings served specific purposes in the sawmill operation and the later buildings are constructed similarly to the older buildings. Buildings that are known to have existed but no longer remain include a planer mill shed, a vehicle repair rack, a privy, a sawdust bin, and various storage buildings.

36) Main sawmill building, 1946, Contributing Building, Condition: fair

Housing the mill itself is a long frame tin-roofed building set perpendicular to the road and open on the front and sides. The first permanent mill was placed on this site in 1946. It grew to a rambling long structure, but much of it collapsed in the heavy snow of 2009. The central section was rebuilt ca. 2015 but not the lower 40 feet or so that contained the rollers. The industrial mill

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had already been dismantled and sold earlier. The upper section now houses a modern portable mill, an equipment shed, and a saw-sharpening area.

37) Office, ca. 1950, Contributing Building, Condition: fair-good

One of the two additional contributing buildings built during the sawmill's high-activity years in the 1950s and 1960s (the other being the shavings shed), "The office," as it was known, is a very small one-story one-room frame building centrally located on the sawmill site. It has a side-gable roof and both wood-shingle and vertical-board cladding.

38) Shavings Shed, ca. 1960, Contributing Building, Condition: fair-good

Located behind the office is the small, one-story frame shavings shed. It has a front-gable roof and board-and-batten cladding.

#### Noncontributing buildings at Sawmill

39) Large lumber barn (1970s)

40) Smaller lumber storage shed (1980s)

41) Small solar dry kiln (1983)

42) Large vehicle storage shed (1970s).

### **Good Shepherd Church and Cemetery**

43) Good Shepherd Church, 1871, Contributing Building, Condition: Good

The Gothic Revival style frame church with unusual faux-parapet-like steeple is discussed in detail above.

44) Good Shepherd Church Cemetery, ca. 1871, Contributing Site

The cemetery surrounding the church is delineated by family plots and contains the marked graves of prominent local residents and other noteworthy individuals. It is discussed in detail above.

#### Former Good Shepherd Church Rectory

45) Rectory, 1899, Contributing Building, Condition: Good

The original contract for construction of the rectory confirms the 1899 construction date of this two-story frame Queen Anne style dwelling. It is discussed in detail above.

46) Stable, 1899, Contributing Building, Condition: Good

Situated behind the rectory is a board-and-batten-clad front-gabled frame stable with shed extensions that now serves as equipment storage. It was built under the same 1899 contract as the house.

47) Shed, 1950s, Contributing Building, Condition: Good

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A frame shed on the north side of the rectory is narrow with the gable facing forward, a shed lean-to on the west side, and a similar size addition to the rear.

Non-contributing buildings behind Rectory (ca.1990s) Condition: Good

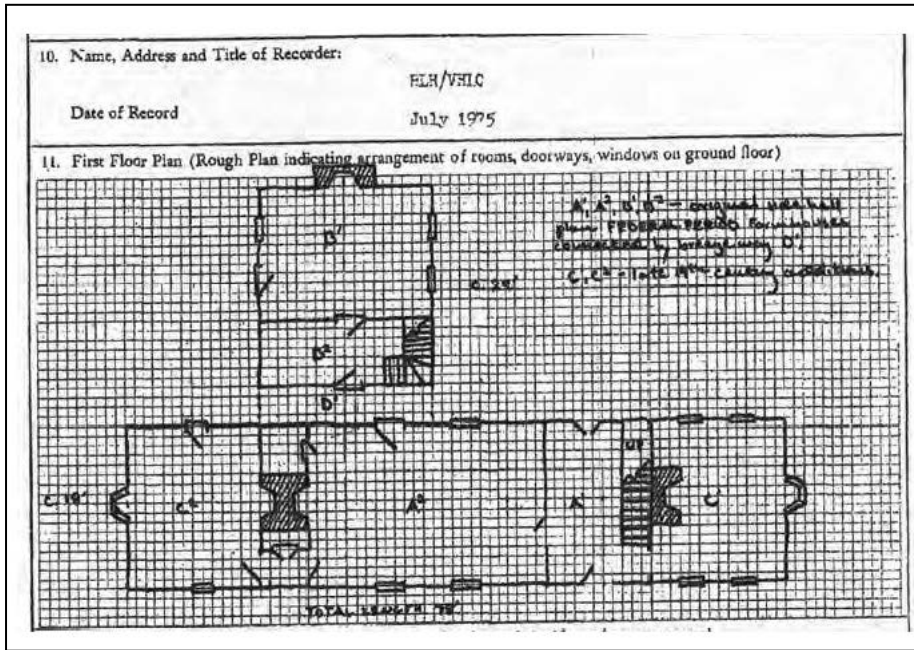
- 48) Large, impermanent, light-frame greenhouse.
- 49) Large workshop behind the house
- 50) Guinea hen house next to the side shed.

51) Bridge #1003, Route 24, 1976, Non-contributing Structure  
Concrete beam bridge with a concrete deck. The VDOT Bridge Inspection report states that the bridge was constructed in 1976, replacing a bridge built in 1932.

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Flat Creek House Floor Plan (1975 VDHL Survey)



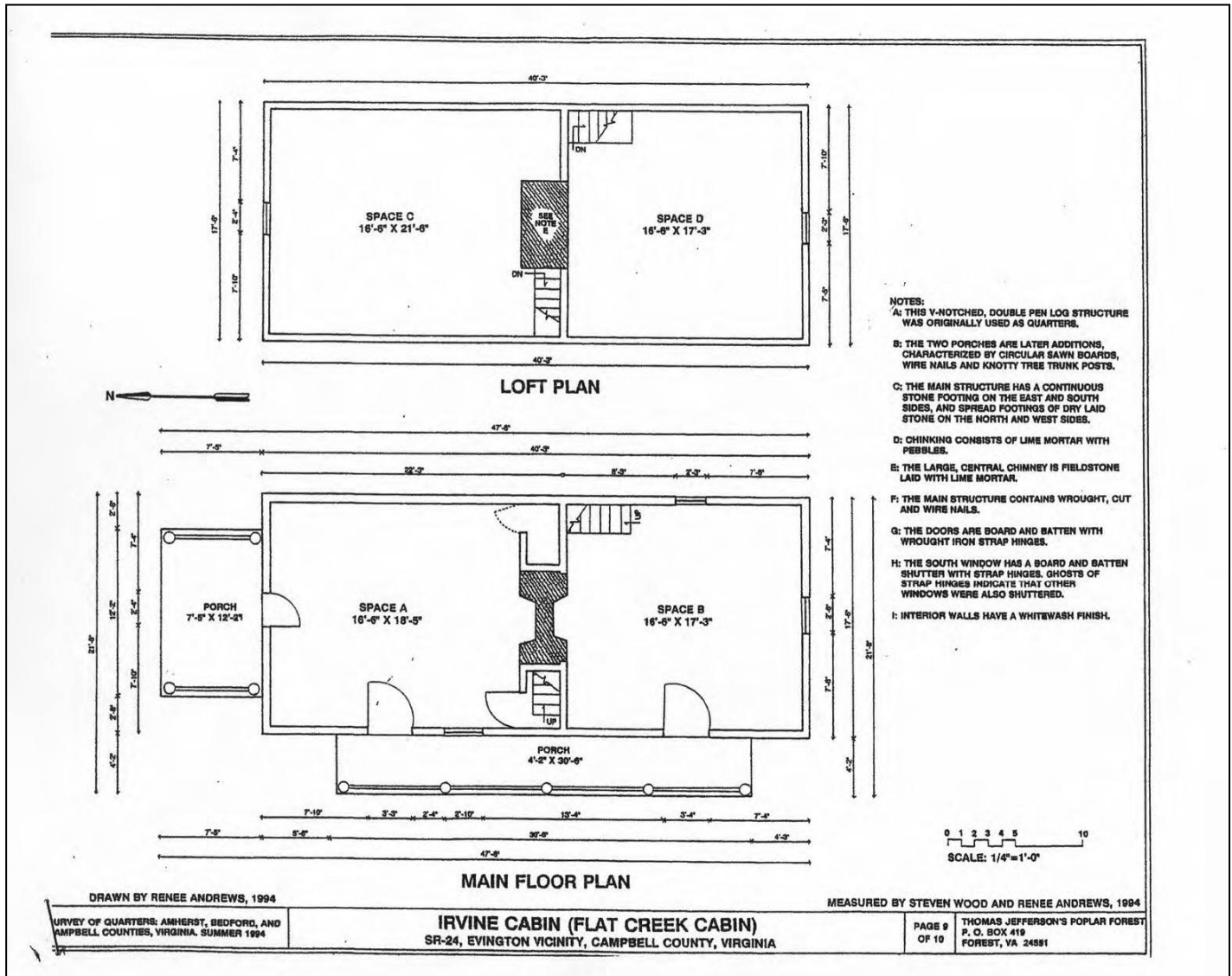
Flat Creek House Photograph, 1946



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Flat Creek Farm Slave Quarters Measured Drawing, 1994



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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.)

AGRICULTURE  
INDUSTRY  
ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1797 – 1965  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1797  
1871  
1926  
1946

**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 1,201-acre Flat Creek Rural Historic District in western Campbell County is nominated under Criterion A in the areas of Agriculture and Industry. The district's intact agrarian landscape contains the breadth of resources, including main and accessory dwellings, outbuildings, and sites and structures to help illustrate west-central Piedmont agriculture over time, beginning in the late eighteenth century, and the rise of sawmilling and ore extraction as locally important industries in the late nineteenth century. Resources are extant from each generation in the period of significance from the first known construction on the farm—the Watts House in 1797—through 1965, the last year that owners resided on and made a living full-time on the land. The East Hills house and the sawmill, established on a permanent site on Leesville Road, were built in ca. 1926 and 1946, respectively; therefore these two dates are identified as significant dates in the district's history. The Flat Creek farm's history is closely intertwined with that of the neighboring Good Shepherd Church, therefore both are included in the district. The district is also nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its wide array of vernacular domestic, agricultural, and industrial buildings, structures, and sites; particularly a collection of five distinct log buildings constructed ca. 1828–1847 that includes a log slave quarters building and the exceptionally well-preserved Good Shepherd Church built in 1871 in the Gothic Revival style, with its Queen Anne style rectory built in 1899. In addition to the many architecturally and structurally distinctive buildings, the district's 51 resources (38 contributing, 13 noncontributing) include an extensive collection of simple utilitarian buildings and structures, as well as notable historic-period mining/extraction sites in a largely unaltered setting. Together these varied resources represent the locations and context for the daily activities of different types of households, farming practices, and mining operations in the rural Piedmont from 1797 through 1965. The district is nominated at the local level of significance.

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

## **Historical Background**

### Flat Creek Farm

The parcels and buildings in the rural historic district are linked by a rural landscape that has seen little change over the past two centuries. Flat Creek farm, established in 1796 with a house built by 1797, presents resources from five generations of building. Many of the 50 buildings and sites in the district, most of which are on Flat Creek farm, relate to agriculture and industry, as multiple households made their living off the land through farming and also sawmilling and the mining of manganese ore. Major building phases correspond to the first three owners: William Watts (1740–1797) built the original plantation house (now a ruin); Judge Fleming Saunders (1778–1858) made major improvements to the house in 1839 and 1840, constructed extensive farm buildings and accessory dwellings, and increased the landholdings; and Captain Fleming Saunders (1829–1907) expanded agricultural and industrial enterprises in the 1870s through



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1907 and oversaw the building of Good Shepherd Church and its rectory. The lives and connections of the early property owners provide insight into regional history, particularly eighteenth- and nineteenth-century links among the early seats of New London, Big Lick (now Roanoke), and Rocky Mount and the development of Evington with the coming of the railroad in the 1870s. The final building period in the early twentieth century resulted in additional houses and enterprises as multiple family members (and other households) made their homes and living on the farm. By 1965, however, the main Flat Creek farm was unoccupied and the church was closed, reflecting the national decline of rural areas and movement to the cities.

The acreage comprising Flat Creek farm has varied somewhat over the generations. The core around the Flat Creek house has always been part of the farm, but the outer borders have changed over time through purchases, divisions within the family, and sales. The current property, although about the same acreage as in 1796, extends farther north and west (above Colonial Highway and along Leesville Road) than it would have before 1839 and does not include any land on the eastern side of Flat Creek. Historically much of the property lay east of the creek in parcels owned by various branches of the family during the full period of significance.

#### Early Plantation and Long Widowhood (1796–1836)

In February 1796, regional lawyer William Watts, then of Botetourt County, purchased two tracts “on both sides of Flatt Creek” totaling 1,240 acres. For 750 pounds he bought 1,140 acres from Christopher Irvine Clendenning and his wife Mary<sup>1</sup> and for 100 pounds he bought 100 acres from Conrad Speece.<sup>2</sup> The oldest part of the house and the “Watts kitchen” can be attributed to Watts, who died December 20, 1797, leaving a wife and six children. His will bequeathed to his “loving wife Mary during her natural life the House and Plantation whereon I now live.”<sup>3</sup> This house was Flat Creek, as he named himself a citizen of Campbell County, had no other property in the county, was buried on site, and family history describes only this house location. Mary Scott Watts outlived William by nearly 40 years, living at Flat Creek and managing the farm. It is likely that only limited new construction occurred on the farm in these decades. Tax bills in her name show approximately the same acreage throughout and no notable difference in taxable items.

Flat Creek served as the gathering spot in the regional network of family during Mary Watts’s long widowhood from 1797 to 1836. She had the involvement and support of many children and relatives. Flat Creek was a hub of visitation and correspondence. Edward, the oldest and only son, lived there until at least 1818, even after his marriage in 1811, and despite his inherited land being in Botetourt County. Daughter Alice’s 1814 marriage to Judge Fleming Saunders took her to his home in nearby Franklin County, but the couple visited often and coordinated closely with Edward. In an 1834 letter to his brother-in-law “Gen. Edward Watts, Botetourt County,” Judge

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<sup>1</sup> Campbell County Deed Book 3, p. 621. Bedford County records show Irvine such an active speculator of land on Flat Creek that it is difficult to trace parcels. He received two patents in 1759 and purchased and surveyed additional tracts.

<sup>2</sup> Campbell County Deed Book 3, p 618. The Speece tract is noted as part of a patent to William Wasley.

<sup>3</sup> Campbell County Will Book 1, pp. 344-347.

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Saunders writes the “two oldest boys and I have been keeping house about two weeks, of which we are becoming very tired and I do hope we shall be able to return to Flatcreek in a few days.”<sup>4</sup> Their children are listed as being born in Campbell County, therefore Alice must have come home to her mother for their births. Mary Scott Watts’s nephew Christopher Scott wrote a nostalgic memory of annual summer gatherings at Flat Creek with all the many cousins and family members. He described the house as “frame and most of it but one story” but with numerous additions.<sup>5</sup>

This distinctive pattern of regional connections held for generations. The children married spouses from other counties with two results. First, Flat Creek remained intact, passing to a single child rather than being divided. Second, a network of relationships tied farms and families in a regional rather than community scale. The Watts/Saunders landholdings and professional lives (Judge Saunders traveled a court circuit) reinforced links among Campbell County, Franklin County, and what is now Roanoke. Letters were posted from New London as the postal address for Flat Creek, Rocky Mount for Judge Saunders’s farm in Franklin County, and Big Lick for Edward Watts’s farm in Botetourt County. These Federal era routes were evident in the roads formerly known as the Rocky Mount Turnpike and the New London Road that linked to Flat Creek. In 1814 Judge Saunders was driving his hogs from Franklin County to market in Lynchburg.<sup>6</sup> Even after Judge and Alice moved to Flat Creek, ties were strong with the Franklin County branch. Their oldest son Peter took over the Franklin County farm and rebuilt the house ca. 1855–1858 [*Bleak Hill, DHR 033-0002, National Register listing 2002*] while sons Robert and Fleming settled in Campbell County. The sons of all branches attended New London Academy, which was also a boarding school, into the twentieth century. An old, partly internal road on Flat Creek farm was referred to as the New London Road.

#### Major Building Period – 1837–1858

Judge Saunders’s move to Flat Creek ushered in an era of major improvements across the farm. This shift may have been gradual as Fleming and Alice probably spent more time in Flat Creek after their own house in Franklin County burned in 1830 and as Mary Watts needed more care in the years before she died in 1836. As a measure of his becoming fully invested in the area, Judge Saunders bought an additional adjoining 2,481 acres in January 1838 from David Thompson.<sup>7</sup>

Judge Fleming Saunders made major improvements to the Flat Creek house in 1839–1840. Two bills from carpenter Benjamin Witte detail tasks and materials totaling \$457.12 and \$520.00 in 1839 and 1840.<sup>8</sup> Interestingly, one task was “moving and placing Log House in proper place” for a charge of \$50. Among the long list of items, the work included “rivering and drawing 6,000

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<sup>4</sup>Watts family papers, private collection (potentially online at Historical Society of Western Virginia), December 31, 1834 letter from Fleming Saunders to Edward Watts (2007.32.34).

<sup>5</sup> Watts family papers, private collection; Family notes made by Christopher C. Scott, 25 Dec 1848-2 Sep 1854, typed by “N.I.H.B.” in 1939 and accessed through rootsweb ancestry.com.

<sup>6</sup> Irvine-Saunders Family Papers, Special Collections, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4110, December 25, 1814, letter from newlywed Alice Watts Saunders in Franklin County to Mary Scott Watts at Flat Creek.

<sup>7</sup> Campbell County Deed Book 22, p. 14.

<sup>8</sup> Irvine-Saunders Family Papers, Special Collections, University of Virginia Library.

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shingles, 54 feet of box and cornice, 52 feet of verge boards, 6 door shutters, 10 pairs of Venecian blinds, 156 window lights, running stair case, 8 feet of hand rail and banister, boxing two hearths, 3 mantle pieces.” The most expensive item was dadowing (more than 330 feet total, for \$62.50 in one bill and \$57.75 in the other). In a February 1840 letter to her brother Edward, Alice Saunders wrote “We progress so slowly with our building, that I am getting very tired of workmen, and often wish there was no necessity for repairing.”<sup>9</sup>

A similar level and quality of development no doubt occurred across the plantation. Five extant, well-constructed, but very different log buildings date to this period: a two-room central-chimney single-pen quarters building, a smokehouse, a granary, a crib barn, and a one-and-a-half-story dwelling. Building details support construction dates within the 1837–1858 period. During this period the farm had extensive outbuildings and accessory buildings both near the main house and in other locations. The smokehouse was quite near the main house, the granary and the barn were in a tidy barnyard behind the house, the quarters was 90 feet down the slope, and the second log cabin was about 1,000 feet away across the branch.

The 1840 Census listed 66 people at Flat Creek. Judge Fleming Saunders, his wife Alice, and six of their children account for eight of the eleven white people in the household. An additional 55 enslaved persons lived on the farm. Employment categories were filled in as 16 persons employed in agriculture, one in manufacturing and trade, and one in learned professional engineer. Perhaps the latter reflected the scale of building going on. By 1850, the household was reduced to Fleming and Alice and their three youngest children, all approaching adulthood and in school.<sup>10</sup>

Judge Saunders became infirm in the early 1850s. His son Fleming Saunders came back to the farm about 1853, giving up his law course at the University of Virginia and “from a sense of duty and in deference to the wishes of his father, took up the management of the estate, which was to become his life-work.”<sup>11</sup>

Fleming’s older brother Robert Chancellor Saunders had married Caryetta Davis, a University of Virginia law professor’s daughter, in 1851 and they lived nearby at Caryswood (DHR 015-5147, NRHP 2010) built ca.1854 on about 600 acres, his share of land split off from the Flat Creek farm. Fleming appears to be the designated land manager. When Judge Saunders died in 1858, his will left the Flat Creek farm to his wife Alice and after her death to son Fleming. In the 1860 census, the Flat Creek household consisted of Alice Watts Saunders, 65, son Fleming, 30, and daughter Ann M. Preston, 35, and her husband Thomas Preston.<sup>12</sup>

Both Robert and Fleming served in the Civil War. Fleming served as quartermaster and ultimately as a captain. A military map of the area marked “Saunders” at the Flat Creek house and at Caryswood and also farther south “SAUNDER’S” (all capitals might denote mills) and

<sup>9</sup> Watts family papers, private collection, #2007.32.42.

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Census.

<sup>11</sup> Tyler, Lyon G., *Men of Mark in Virginia: Ideals of American Life*, pp. 354-355.

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Census.

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“Horse Infirmary” (about which nothing is known).<sup>13</sup> Alice Saunders died in 1867. In the 1870 census, 40-year old Fleming, the only person in the household, was listed as a farmer with real estate valued at \$50,000.<sup>14</sup>

The 1860s map showed a very different road system. There was no clear east-west road (today’s Route 24), instead a more winding path. The routes of current-day Dearborn (formerly Marysville) and Blackwater roads were the same and showed the mill where Dearborn crosses Flat Creek. In addition to the main route to Lynchburg (Leesville Road today) a former north-south route lay to the east, closer to and parallel to Flat Creek. Called “the road to New London”<sup>15</sup> this route ran from the mill on Flat Creek north through the Saunders farm to Town Fork, the split to go to either New London or Lynchburg.

#### Mid-Late Victorian Era and Industrial Growth (1870s – 1907)

Many changes occurred during the next decade for Captain Saunders and the farm. He was the primary driver in building Good Shepherd Church on a neighboring parcel and actively pursued industrial enterprises on the farm. He also expanded land holdings. In 1874 he married Mary Gwathmey and they went on to have four children.

The local area experienced an economic boom in the late 1800s with the coming of the railroad. Captain Saunders donated land to the railroad, as did his neighbors. In 1867, he conveyed to the Lynchburg and Danville Railroad Company “so much ... land as may be entered upon and laid out for the construction of said Railroad.”<sup>16</sup> Not long after the railroad was built, the tracks were moved north of the original alignment and the old roadbed became the location of present-day Lawyers Road. This road is now the northern boundary of the farm and the historic district.

About a half mile west of the historic district, a railroad depot was established in the early 1870s where the railroad crosses Route 24. The community was named Evington in honor of Eva Smith, who had donated the land for the station.<sup>17</sup> She and others sold off lots to accommodate businesses who wanted to move in and the community grew. Eva was the aunt of Mary Gwathmey Saunders and had bought 565 acres that bordered Saunders land in 1871 from Abner T. Early.<sup>18</sup> Eva was very active in the Good Shepherd Church and donated part of the land for the church and two acres for the rectory.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Civil War Map, viewed in Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA.

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Census.

<sup>15</sup> Described by Fleming Saunders 4, this route to New London was used by generations of families who did business in New London or attended the New London Academy.

<sup>16</sup> Campbell County Deed Book 34, p. 598.

<sup>17</sup> Campbell County Deed Book 73, p. 113. Her donation of 1.19 acres for the station was not officially recorded until 1903, ten years after her death.

<sup>18</sup> Campbell County Deed Book 35, p. 587.

<sup>19</sup> Campbell County Deed Book 130, p. 190. The conveyance of the donated church lot (“one half acre more or less”) and the rectory lot “8 acres more or less” to trustees of Good Shepherd church was not officially recorded until 1913, requiring the signatures of Mary Gwathmey Saunders and all of the four children and in-laws.

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Captain Fleming Saunders was prominent in the community as a land owner and businessman, responsible citizen, and stalwart in the church. His obituary notes how he devoted his attention to the cultivation of his large estate and the development of manganese mines there.<sup>20</sup> A profile in *Men of Mark* described him as a “soldier and farmer who... never aspired to a public career, but such offices as magistrate, supervisor, road commissioner, and school trustee, have been held by him as a part of the duty of a good citizen. He is a lay reader in the Protestant Episcopal Church.”<sup>21</sup>

Many of the existing barns and barnyard buildings at Flat Creek farm date to about 1900. They were most likely built under Captain Saunders’s management as they are well built and part of a cohesive farm operation; and he remained healthy until his death in 1907.

#### Farm Tenure 1907 to 1965

Captain Saunders died not only unexpectedly, but also intestate. His son Fleming Saunders 3, an engineer working in upstate New York, was called back home to prepare the survey to divide the land. He completed the land survey in 1909, stayed on with his mother (she lived until 1917), and never left the area again. In the next two generations, parallel farms were operated on the place. Farming outbuildings, storage buildings, and accessory dwellings were constructed by different members of the family, but there never again was as large or as centralized a farm operation as had previously existed. (Note: To distinguish between the generations, Fleming Saunders 3 and Fleming Saunders 4 will be used hereafter. The latter was the only one who went by Fleming Saunders, Jr.)

The tract including Flat Creek farm passed to Fleming’s older sister Evie and her husband Dr. James S. Irvine. They came to live in the main house in the spring of 1918 after the house they had built near Evington burned down. They lived at Flat Creek until Evie’s death in 1944 and his in 1948. Dr. Irvine added the characteristic sawtooth trim on many of the farm buildings. For part of this time he located his doctor’s office in the eastern half of the Flat Creek farm quarters building, which was on the old Courthouse Road just down from the house. His son William Irvine, a delegate in the Virginia Assembly and active farmer, appears to have used it as an office too. At various times, three of the siblings (Fleming Saunders 3, Evie Saunders Irvine, Carter Saunders) lived at Flat Creek. In 1922 all three were married and had households there at the same time.

In 1921, Fleming Saunders 3 married Frances Bland Brown, a fellow parishioner at Good Shepherd Church and daughter of vestryman and frequent Diocesan representative John Thompson Brown. The couple lived at Flat Creek for the first years of their marriage. Fleming’s brother Carter Saunders and his wife and son also lived at Flat Creek sporadically during this period. Carter built a rear addition to the main house and several other buildings. About 1925, Fleming 3 built a frame house on his inherited land nearer to the village of Evington and moved the family there (later named East Hills). He later built the sawmill nearby on a permanent site on Leesville Road. Both East Hills and the sawmill are included in the northwestern area of the

<sup>20</sup> The Alumni Bulletin of the University of Virginia, Volume 7, No.1, January 1907, p. 315.

<sup>21</sup> Tyler, *Men of Mark*, pp. 354-5.

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Flat Creek Rural Historic District, close to the central crossroads in Evington. Evington was an active place at that time with stores, depot, post office, hotel, and other businesses. Captain Saunders's heirs continued and expanded on the industries that he had started.

#### Decline of Farm and Reunification

The buildings have been little changed since the mid-1900s and in many cases the late 1800s. The last operator of Flat Creek farm was William H. Irvine, a son of Evie Saunders and Dr. James Irvine. However, William Irvine chose to live not at Flat Creek, but at Rickohock, another Saunders house across Flat Creek near Caryswood, outside of the district. An active businessman, he controlled most of the land amassed by Captain Saunders and continued the manganese mining and various enterprises. He built the frame tenant house across House Branch (1940s–1950s) and the ore washing station, both included in the Flat Creek Rural Historic District. William died in 1965 and Flat Creek was never in full operation as a farm again. This resulted in-part from the structure of Dr. Irvine's will. He left the Flat Creek house to his daughter Anna for 10 years, then to his son William Irvine and to Williams's wife for her lifetime (they had no children), and then to his two granddaughters, one of whom lived out of state. The house became vacant after Anna's ten-year tenure ended in 1958 and was neglected after William died. The house was destroyed by a suspicious fire during the summer of 1981. Another fire destroyed the adjacent Watts kitchen building a few years later. Only the foundations and chimneys of the two buildings remain extant.

In 1983, Fleming Saunders, Jr. (4), son of Fleming Saunders 3 and cousin of William Irvine, purchased the Flat Creek tract from the Irvine heirs. Fleming had retained the land his father inherited from the 1907 division. This purchase from his cousins reunited the central portion of the farm – the Flat Creek house site – with surrounding family lands on the west side of the creek.

Today 1,195-acres of the historic Flat Creek farm are actively and jointly managed as forest (through two certified tree farms) and all but 4 acres are included in the district. Flat Creek is designated a Century Farm by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and a Century Forest by the Virginia Department of Forestry. A conservation easement held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation covers 415 acres including the Flat Creek house site and a riparian easement held by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation protects 9.2 acres along Flat Creek and House Branch. The section of Colonial Highway (Route 24) that passes through the farm is a designated Scenic Byway.

#### Good Shepherd Church

Good Shepherd Church, built in 1871 near the village of Evington, in the southwestern part of the district, is a distinctive and well-preserved example of the Gothic Revival style, and with its cemetery and rectory built in 1899 presents an intact ensemble of a rural church established to serve a scattered congregation of Episcopalians. Early records are lost, leaving no information on the architect or craftsmen of the church, but full records exist for the rectory.

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The church was part of the community growth that came with the railway in the 1870s. Its trajectory reflects rural life of the late-nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century in central Virginia. Good Shepherd served families from a wide radius. The congregation included Captain Fleming Saunders of nearby Flat Creek, his brother Robert C. Saunders, and members of the Langhorne, Hewitt, Wood, and Early families. From farther away came the families of John Thompson Brown and Captain James B. Begg, traveling six and nine miles, respectively, from Bedford County. Previously the Saunders family probably attended St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Forest [DHR 009-0029] nearly 15 miles away, as Judge Saunders was on the vestry there.<sup>22</sup>

The church was built through the efforts of Captain Fleming Saunders of Flat Creek<sup>23</sup> in 1871 on an acre of land he donated near the road from the Evington depot to Smoot's Mill.<sup>24</sup> The church first appears in the Episcopal diocesan annual reports in 1871 as "New Church" and by the name Good Shepherd in 1872, with A. S. Berkeley as rector and 30 communicants.<sup>25</sup> The same Alexander Berkeley wrote to Saunders in September 1872, from Annapolis, about "keeping the doors of your little church open." He suggests Saunders make arrangements with another parish until Moore Parish is able to employ a minister on its own, and encourages "Miss Alice not to let the Choir go down. She will find it a useful auxiliary in keeping up the interest in the services, and my successor will thank her heartily."<sup>26</sup>

The church survived this early challenge. Captain Saunders and Mary Gwathmey were married in Good Shepherd on July 30, 1874. The church was consecrated on September 1, 1875, by Bishop Francis W. Whittle.<sup>27</sup>

In the 1870s and 1880s, the households of the families in the congregation were burgeoning and the church can be assumed to have been very active. Prominent members of the community served on the vestry in the 1890s. Most had military titles – Captain Saunders, Captain James Begg, Major Hardwick Adams, and Major Robert C. Saunders – while John Thompson Brown later served in the state legislature and was rector and acting president of Virginia Tech (VPI&SU).

From the outset and throughout its existence, the greatest struggle for the church was finding and financing a minister. A list of ministers runs to at least 21 names, with most serving only a short tenure. Good Shepherd shared the minister's time with other rural churches and missions, which required constant cooperation among them to locate candidates and afford the salary. Technically part of Moore Parish, Good Shepherd in its first years allied with the Pittsylvania Parish to survive and later with St. Stephens of Hamner Parish.

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<sup>22</sup> Records of Good Shepherd Church and St. Stephens Church, Forest, VA.

<sup>23</sup> Early, p.112.

<sup>24</sup> Deed Book 38, pp. 120-1 (recorded in 1875); The lot adjoined Evie Smith's land and she also donated an acre. Her land donation was not recorded officially until ten years after her death.

<sup>25</sup> Virginia Episcopal Convention (vol. 2 1866-1872), Campbell County Parochial Report.

<sup>26</sup> Irvine-Saunders Papers, Special Collections, UVA. September 1872 letter from Alexander Berkeley to F. Saunders.

<sup>27</sup> Records of Good Shepherd Church.

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Paying for Good Shepherd's share of the parish minister required individual commitment from members of the congregation. The 1894–1895 Good Shepherd record books lists the individual contributions to support the salary.

Transportation was part of the consideration, as the minister's position required a great deal of travel to the various churches. Vestry minutes in 1896 show Good Shepherd combining with St. Stephens Church of the Hamner Parish to share the costs. The agreement states, "Each church is to have the disposition of one half of the rector's time and will pay one half of the salary agreed upon. Viz. \$600.00. It is further agreed that St. Stephen's furnishes a horse and cart for the use of the rector and that Good Shepherd will furnish a saddle and a set of harness and a place for the minister to reside including pastorage for his horse."<sup>28</sup> Vestrymen Fleming Saunders and John Thompson Brown signed for Good Shepherd. This agreement enabled the hiring of the Rev. Frederick LeMosy. In a sad footnote, LeMosy had to resign in March 1899 because of poor health, which a note in *Campbell County Chronicles* suggests came from an accident involving a horse. In the same 1899 vestry meeting, Good Shepherd voted to go in with St. Peters of Moore Parish and the diocese to raise \$600 to hire a minister to rotate among the Moore Parish churches. They set a schedule calling for the minister to serve Good Shepherd on the first Sunday afternoon and third and fourth Sunday mornings. Lay readers, including Captain Saunders, would have filled in other times.<sup>29</sup>

The oldest grave at Good Shepherd Cemetery, that of Caryetta Davis Saunders, dates to 1894. Also interred in the cemetery is Captain James Begg, a Scottish immigrant and great nephew of poet Robert Burns, and John Monk Saunders, grandson of Robert C. Saunders who became an Academy-award-winning writer and first husband of screen star Fay Wray. At the couple's suggestion, their friend Archibald Leach took his stage name Cary Grant from a character he had played in a play written by Saunders.<sup>30</sup> "Cary" hearkens back to John M. Saunders's Caryswood heritage. Other Robert C. Saunders descendants had notable careers in other states and yet chose to be buried back at Good Shepherd. The cemetery remains in use currently.

Several women made particularly important contributions to the church. Eva S. Smith was a loyal supporter of the church from its early years until her death in 1893. Caryetta Davis was treasurer for many years at Good Shepherd and became very involved in the Episcopalian mission in Franklin County. She is on the church's list of communicants in 1920 but with the note "St Peters in the mountains."<sup>31</sup> Bessie Randolph, president of Salem College from 1933 to 1950, was the daughter of minister Charles Randolph and was about 14 years old when the family moved into the Good Shepherd Rectory. She retired to the area and helped write the Moore Parish history in 1959.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Records of Good Shepherd Church.

<sup>29</sup> Vestry records.

<sup>30</sup> Archibald Leach autobiography: <https://www.archieleach.com/auto13.html>.

<sup>31</sup> Good Shepherd Register, p. 34; personal communication with Rev. John Heck by Sara Hollberg. St. Peters is identified as DHR 033-0198.

<sup>32</sup> Hollins College, <https://www.hollins.edu/magazine/?p=7136>.



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Recognizing the need for a rectory, the congregation of Good Shepherd organized a Ladies Rectory Aid Society. Miss Eva S. Smith gave two acres of land for the rectory. Six additional acres were purchased by the Ladies Rectory Aid Society to provide pastorage for the horse.<sup>33</sup> An undated Lynchburg News article notes their success: “by their persistent efforts [the Society and the congregation] were enabled to build in 1899, near the church, a handsome and commodious rectory. It is centrally located and thereby saves the rector of the parish many miles of riding in the course of a year.”<sup>34</sup>

The rectory construction is well documented. A July 20, 1899, contract between a committee of the Ladies Rectory Society, represented by F. Saunders, and O. C. Richardson calls for the latter to “build a Rectory as per ground plan specifications furnished.” Saunders was to furnish all lumber, brick, rock and also doors, blinds, sashes. A July 6, 1899, quote printed on letterhead of Pierce & Allers Co. in Lynchburg describes “18 windows 4 lights 15 x 32 with boxed frames, 3 plain windows, 1 front door 3 feet by 7 feet complete with glazed transoms and also inner door; 15 doors 2 feet x 10 feet x 6’10 with no transom, and 7 mantels.” A “bill of extra work on rectory” from Mr. Richardson dated December 23, 1899, details a full page of additional tasks totaling \$250.80. At the top was \$32.00 for building the stable and shed. He also worked on the cellar, a soapstone fireplace and hearth, the kitchen porch, various interior doors and walls, painting, guttering, a “concerto ridge pole” on roof, and ventilators in the gable ends. The project went over budget. Saunders and Richardson agreed in an April 13, 1900, memo that in the case of a difference of opinion over charges for work above the contract price, they would abide by the decision of the vestry.<sup>35</sup>

In July 1899, the Reverend Charles Carter Randolph took charge of Moore Parish. He lived in the rectory and served until 1916, the longest tenure of any Good Shepherd ministers. His 1910 report to the diocese eloquently describes the challenges of a minister single-handedly serving six points (four churches and two missions) in a geographically large parish. That meant covering long riding distances and holding morning and afternoon services the same day in different places. This was true for congregants as well. Randolph described the membership of Good Shepherd as “small, though very faithful, many members coming long distances and enduring hardships to keep up their attendance.”<sup>36</sup>

A generation after the joint horse and buggy agreement, transportation had changed. A 1920 letter from the diocese noted the appropriation of “\$200.00 to cover the Repair bill already incurred and upkeep of the automobile of Rev T.C. Page for the remainder of the calendar year” and postponed consideration of an appropriation for the rectory at AltaVista (where Page lived).<sup>37</sup> In 1923 the rectory was sold by the Good Shepherd vestry to Earl Hughes for \$3,700.<sup>38</sup> Thereafter the minister lived in Altavista.

<sup>33</sup> Moore Parish History, p. 1.

<sup>34</sup> *The News* (Lynchburg) date unknown, clipping in Good Shepherd records.

<sup>35</sup> Irvine-Saunders Family papers, UVA Library. 1899 and 1900 contracts and memos.

<sup>36</sup> Good Shepherd records.

<sup>37</sup> Good Shepherd records.

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The Good Shepherd Church register contains a full record from 1919 of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, and members of the congregation. The 1920s were a particularly active and thriving time. Nearly 30 parishioners were confirmed from 1919 through the 1920s, a number of them by Bishop Robert C. Jett. In 1923 a new altar was ordered for the church. The April 14, 1922, vestry minutes passed a resolution “that the church of the Good Shepherd present to St. Johns Church the present Table, Retable and Cross, same to be turned over to St. Johns when Dr. Gilham installs another altar in the Church of the Good Shepherd.” In the 1940s the number of parishioners numbered in the twenties. The minister was based in Altavista. One of the last ministers, Dudley Colhoun, Jr., served from 1953 to 1956 and married into the Hewitt family in the congregation.<sup>39</sup>

Good Shepherd contended with the twentieth-century outmigration from rural areas. Mirroring the widespread exodus from the southern countryside, the congregation dwindled as the younger generation of member families scattered far and wide. The rectory, sold in 1923, is now a farmhouse. The last family transferred out in 1963 and the church was deconsecrated in 1975 by Bishop William Marmion. The Good Shepherd Society, incorporated in June 1975 with directors representing families associated with the church, took over ownership to maintain the property including the cemetery. It continues to fulfill that role today. Many descendants of the families have returned from afar to be buried in the cemetery.

The iron fence around the cemetery was acquired for \$300 in 1952 from the Lynchburg Female Orphans Home (Miller Home) when it was torn down for the construction of Pittman Plaza. It was installed in 1958 by Fleming Saunders. Additional land was donated to the cemetery by Irvine and Saunders family members in 1999 and the parcels were consolidated so that the church and cemetery are contained in a single 2.3- acre parcel.<sup>40</sup>

Recent changes to the building and site include painting the exterior in 1990, accomplished with volunteers and paint donated by local paint company James T. Davis [The News & Daily Advance, May 1, 1990]. Vinyl siding was placed over the sides in 1998. The brick foundation was repointed in 2015 and minimal electricity was added to the edifice that same year. Window panes were repaired in 2018.

## **Justification of Criteria**

### Criterion A: Agriculture

Flat Creek was one of the larger farms in the area throughout its long period of significance and the agriculture practiced there was representative of the region. The numerous extant historic resources on the farm effectively convey significance under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture through the period of significance, spanning 168 years, beginning in 1797. A large

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<sup>38</sup> Campbell County Deed Book 132, p. 555.

<sup>39</sup> Good Shepherd Register and other records.

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variety of outbuildings and structures were built for the raising of crops and livestock, not just for sale but also for sustaining the multiple households living on the land. Such simple and often ephemeral structures usually do not survive long, but because Flat Creek farm was left mostly undisturbed for the past fifty years, a large number of these far-flung resources still stand or can be identified, providing information on the location and character of even minor buildings.

The farm is hilly, riven with streams, and has a high proportion of woodland (“unimproved”) land to open or tilled (“improved”) land. The flatter areas are widely scattered. The open acres, 600 in 1850, had doubled to 1,200 in the 1880 Census. Historically the low point of forested land in the state was around the turn of the twentieth century and Flat Creek farm was no exception. Fleming Saunders, Jr., (4) who grew up on the farm in the 1920s and 1930s, noted a number of areas that are forested now, but were fields during his childhood.<sup>41</sup>

The farm produced diverse crops. Tobacco was the primary cash crop. A wide variety of crops and livestock were also grown to keep the farm largely self-sufficient. Agricultural Censuses from 1850, 1870, and 1880 (the farm was missing from the 1860 Census) show the variety. Tobacco production was fairly steady. In 1836 the estate reported its tobacco crop to be 7,000 lbs. The quantity was 6,700 lbs. in 1850, 7,000 lbs. in 1870, and 5,000 lbs. in 1880. While Flat Creek’s crop was often one of the larger volumes grown in the immediate area, it was not the largest (judging by other census listings). Tobacco continued to be grown into the twentieth century including on the Flat Creek farm tract north of Route 24. One tobacco barn burned down, a major financial loss, at a date unknown, but before 1922. The site was likely in a clearing north of the Route 24 bridge above “shop flats,” an area along the western bank of Flat Creek.”<sup>42</sup>

The type and volume of grain grown on the farm varied over time. Corn was the highest volume grain in the 1850 Census (3,000 bushels) but this dropped to 1,500 bushels in 1870 and to 500 in 1880. The crop of oats doubled from 2,500 bushels in 1850 to 5,000 in 1870 and then dropped to 250 bushels in 1880. In the mid-twentieth century corn again became the main crop. An abandoned mechanical corn planter sits idle near Kildee Field in scrub forest that once was open. Three substantial corn cribs in the district were built in 1963<sup>43</sup> near large but scattered fields. Two remain in good condition. Wheat volume ranged from 600, 900, and 300 bushels, respectively in the three censuses.

Whenever the Census included other questions, Flat Creek often registered those products. The 1850 Census noted small quantities of peas and beans, Indian potatoes, sweet potatoes, flax and flaxseed, as well as 500 pounds of butter. In 1880, the farm reported four acres of apple orchard and one acre of peach orchard as well as 50 honey bee hives.<sup>44</sup>

Livestock also varied widely over time. Work animals were more prevalent in the earlier years. The 1850 census showed 13 horses, 1 mule, and 6 oxen. In 1880 those numbers were 5, 4, and 2.

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<sup>41</sup> Fleming Saunders, Jr. personal communication with Mark Hollberg.

<sup>42</sup> Fleming Saunders, Jr. personal communication with Mark Hollberg.

<sup>43</sup> Farm ledger, Fleming Saunders, Jr., 1963.

<sup>44</sup> U.S. Census, Agricultural Schedule.

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Milk cows were always important. The farm had 18 in 1850 and 1870 and 10 in 1880. Cattle numbers stayed fairly consistent, ranging from 35 to 40. Sheep volume went up and down, from 100 in 1850 and 0 in 1870 to 30 in 1880. A family member noted that into the twentieth century sheep were employed to keep the grass low in the area around the house. The top floor above the dairy, called the “wool house,” was used for the storage of wool.<sup>45</sup>

Swine production stayed between 20 and 50 in the 1850–1880 censuses, but a much higher volume was produced in the 1900s. A worker on the farm remembered that 300 hogs were slaughtered at Flat Creek in 1917 or 1918 and sent by rail to Lynchburg.<sup>46</sup> An area in the northeast section of the farm is called ‘Owens Ridge’ after the African American man whose job was to slaughter the hogs.<sup>47</sup>

Many of the specialized buildings to support these types of agriculture remain extant or their sites are known. The barnyard behind the main house contained a long chicken house, at least two other small structures for fowl, a granary, and what was called the corn house. A stable and two barns line the lane nearby. The higher-volume “agricultural headquarters” for livestock production was farther away, south of the main house across House Branch near its confluence with Flat Creek and Kildee Field. Remains of tin roofs, stone foundations, a house site, and a silo site are found in this area.

Many households lived and worked on the farm. Flat Creek farm supported other households in addition to the owners. Scattered independent accessory dwellings can be found on the place, with many more reduced to ruins or lost to time. These houses were simply built and were not sited along roads or on separate lots, or served by electricity. They tended to be near a creek or spring and have an area for a garden.

The oldest and most noteworthy of these dwellings is the extant quarters building. This two-room, single-pen log building is situated down the slope from the main house, with doors and a porch facing House Branch, and a side porch facing what was Old Courthouse Road. Its two separate living units were served by a shared central chimney and shared front porch. The units, on each side of a center partition wall, had a single room and a loft above.

Another collection of dwellings is located across House Branch in a flat clearing known as the fen, which included a garden spot. The older pen of a double-pen log cabin (built ca. 1840) is large with a nearly full height loft and a fieldstone side chimney. A smaller, more roughly built crib that had been added on the other side of the chimney in the late-nineteenth century was removed in 2012. Close by the cabin is a one-story, two-room frame house built in the 1940s or 1950s by William Irvine. The original occupants of these three dwellings units are not known, but they are known to have been occupied until the mid-twentieth century.<sup>48</sup> A story is told that

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<sup>45</sup> Personal communications with Anna Irvine Keller and Fleming Saunders, Jr.; photograph with sheep in yard.

<sup>46</sup> Fleming Saunders 4 personal communication with Mark Hollberg quoting farm worker Budge Hall.

<sup>47</sup> These and other location names were used by Fleming Saunders 4 and /or appear on maps.

<sup>48</sup> Fleming Saunders 4 personal communication with Mark Hollberg; also Sara W.H. Saunders.

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the log cabin held a still during Prohibition and the operator once had to flee just ahead of the revenuers.<sup>49</sup>

Two other houses near Kildee Field are gone but their sites are evident. They were occupied by families who worked on the farm in farming, mining, or at the sawmill. A large two-story house and well was located at the top of Kildee Field near the farm lane that connects Route 24 to Lime Kiln Road. It was occupied by the Hall family, who helped on the farm and also with the mines. After the house burned in 1927, a smaller frame house was built on the site. Son Logwood, who worked at the sawmill, lived there. It became unoccupied and was demolished in the 1970s. The well and house site remain undisturbed. Another simple house was situated closer to House Branch and parts of its stone chimneys remain. There were other houses as well on both sides of Route 24. The exact number and locations are not known.

#### Criterion A: Industry/Processing/Extraction (Sawmilling and Mining)

The owners of Flat Creek pursued other resource-based industries as well. Multiple generations engaged in both mining and sawmilling. These two major industries expanded with the arrival of the railroad in the 1870s<sup>50</sup> and Flat Creek farm was one of the best local examples. The Saunders mines produced the highest volume of manganese ore locally and Saunders Lumber Co. was one of the few industries in the small Evington community and the longest running. As a 1977 news article noted, “Until the depression of the thirties, Evington owed its commercial success to the saw mills, the mine and the railroad.”<sup>51</sup>

#### Sawmilling

Throughout its history Flat Creek farm has had a high proportion of forest land (unimproved acres in the Agricultural Census) and felling and using trees would have been part of the farm’s operation from the start as a building material. The five extant log buildings demonstrate the size and quality of logs. The quarters building is constructed with hewn (not sawn) logs up to 40 feet in length. Most of the buildings on the farm are of frame construction and the lumber would have been sawn on the place. Good Shepherd Church and Rectory were likely also built from wood that was milled on the place.

In the late nineteenth century through the twentieth century, the Saunders family also operated commercial sawmills. A sawmill was listed in the 1880 Industrial Census for Captain Fleming Saunders. This lumber mill operated four months of the year, processed 500 logs, and had \$1,500 in capital, five employees, and one circular saw. The total value of all materials including logs was \$60,000. For context, there was only one other lumber mill in the Otter River district in that census: the Haden and Bragg Mill was larger and ran all year.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> Fleming Saunders 4 personal communication with family members.

<sup>50</sup>Early, Ruth Hairston, *Campbell Chronicles and Family Sketches, 1782-1926*, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1978, p.147.

<sup>51</sup> Dowdy, Marion, “Evington’s Birth Was Due to the Coming of the Railroad,” *Altavista Journal*, October 5, 1977.

<sup>52</sup> U.S. Census Nonpopulation Schedules.

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The Saunders sawmill was portable and powered by a steam engine. The mill was pulled to a site by mules or horses and had to be operated near a source of water. Fleming Saunders 4 described logging with his father using horses in his youth. A long iron sawmill carriage possibly from this era (used by Captain Saunders or his son Fleming 3) remains on site.<sup>53</sup>

In 1946, Fleming Saunders 3 established a permanent sawmill on a site on Leesville Road near the village of Evington and his East Hills house in the western part of the district. The power unit was a Packard automobile engine. In addition to producing and selling lumber, he built modest houses and barns in the area including the former Evington Post Office building near the depot. After 1948 his son Fleming Saunders, Jr., back from World War II service and earning an engineering degree, joined his father on the farm and took over the sawmill. The sawmill grew to a large complex of buildings and was an important source of local employment.

Fleming Saunders 3 died in 1955. Fleming Saunders, Jr. (4) and his wife and four children and widowed mother lived at East Hills until 1965 when they moved to Lynchburg. Thereafter he commuted to Evington to run the sawmill, known as Fleming Saunders Lumber, until his death in 2006. He was the last owner to make his living full time from the farm. He served for many years as a Forest Warden, a volunteer position to respond to forest fires, and undertook many tree planting projects with the Virginia Department of Forestry.

His older cousin William Irvine (b. 1899), whose parents Evie Saunders and Dr. Irvine lived at Flat Creek, was also in the sawmilling business. In the 1940s, William ran a large planing mill on the east side of Flat Creek just south of the Route 24 bridge that prepared white oak timbers used in the construction of PT boats in World War II. The materials were stored in the flat area diagonally across from the current post office before being shipped by rail out of Evington.<sup>54</sup> These processing and storage sites are just outside the proposed historic district boundary, but some of the source trees would have come from the current boundaries of Flat Creek farm.

### Mining

During the local mining boom of the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Saunders family was the largest producer of manganese ore in the area. The Evington area is known for its distinctive geology. A narrow belt of manganese deposits that runs northeast-southwest from Nelson County to Pittsylvania County crosses the western length of Flat Creek farm. The farm also contains barite, which was extracted in small quantities.

Captain Saunders and later his son and nephew developed manganese mines on this deposit from the 1880s to the 1960s. The two primary manganese mines on the property were the Saunders mine (also known as the Spring Hill, Evington, or Flat Creek mine) about a mile east of the Evington post office on the south side of Route 24 and the Russell Den Hollow mine deep in the tract north of Route 24, both within the Flat Creek Rural Historic District.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> Fleming Saunders 4 personal communication with Mark Hollberg.

<sup>54</sup> Fleming Saunders 4 personal communication with Mark Hollberg.

<sup>55</sup> Espenshade, Gilbert H. *Geology and Mineral Deposits of the James River-Roanoke River Manganese District Virginia, Geological Survey Bulletin 1008*, Department of the Interior, US Government Printing Office, US Dept. of

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A 1954 report by the U.S. Geological Survey confirms that the Saunders mines produced the highest volume (estimated at between 8,000 and 9,000 tons) of the manganese ore mined in the area,<sup>56</sup> although production was intermittent. The Saunders Mine was first prospected in the 1880s by Robert Wood, worked by the Saunders family from about 1900 to 1904, leased to the National Paint and Manganese Co. until 1907, worked again by the Saunders family for a year or so, and then “worked [presumably mostly by hand] fairly continuously since then in a small way by a number of local lessees” who were members of local families. In 1942 the Bureau of Mines explored the Flat Creek property with bulldozers, trenches, and drill holes, but did not find significant workable ore.<sup>57</sup> During William Irvine’s tenure at Flat Creek he continued to work the mines at least in a minimal way up until his death in 1965.<sup>58</sup>

The end use for manganese ore was for pigmentation and in the production of steel. The 1954 report notes that the National Paint and Manganese Co. shipped the washed ore to its mill in Lynchburg to be ground for use in paint and ceramics and that ore was also shipped to the Lavino furnaces at Reusens on the James River at Lynchburg.<sup>59</sup> The Lavino blast furnace manufactured ferromanganese, an ingredient used in the production of steel.<sup>60</sup>

Evington is also known for barite deposits, and barite was prospected on Flat Creek farm. The 1938 Virginia Geologic Survey Bulletin “Barite Deposits in Virginia” lists a Saunders mine and notes many shafts and open cuts on the site but concluded from their shallow and scattered nature that large concentrations were not likely.<sup>61</sup> Nearby, the Hewitt mine, operated from 1874 to 1933, was the largest producer of barite in Virginia and the Haden mine also briefly produced exceptionally high grade barite.<sup>62</sup>

Mining activity has left its mark on the landscape within the district. The two main manganese mine pits remain undisturbed and a swath of the excavation area is pockmarked with caved, steeply sloped vertical shafts. An ore-washing site with concrete foundation and partial equipment stands above the bank of Flat Creek north of its confluence with House Branch. Steel rails and dragline buckets have also been found. As part of an orphaned mine project, the Virginia Department of Mines Minerals and Energy (VDMME) made a visit to the property in 2009. The resulting report provides detailed maps of historic mines and photos and descriptions of the current conditions of the mined areas.

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Engineer, 1954. “A description of the geology and mineral deposits, particularly manganese, of the James River-Roanoke River district. (primarily pp. 124-130.)

<sup>56</sup> Espenshade, p. 124 and p. 126.

<sup>57</sup> Espenshade, p. 126.

<sup>58</sup> Conversations with Sara W.H. Saunders, Robert B. Phillips, and Richard Rhodemyre by Sara Hollberg, 1917-19.

<sup>59</sup> Espenshade, p. 126.

<sup>60</sup> General Tariff Revision, 1921 describes the importance of domestic manganese ore in steel production in World War I, p. 3736, and notes Reusens as one of the Lavino furnaces.

<sup>61</sup> Edmundson, Raymond. *Barite Deposits of Virginia, Bulletin 53*, Virginia Geological Survey, Virginia Conservation Commission, University of Virginia, 1938, pp.31-2.

<sup>62</sup> Edmundson, Raymond, pp. 33-4.

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Name of Property

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Criterion C: Architecture/Craftsmanship

The buildings in the district are vernacular in design and almost entirely constructed using traditional methods and local materials. Thus, they effectively convey significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture/Craftsmanship. The dominant building material for all of the buildings in the district is wood, which in most cases was harvested from parcels and processed at the sawmill within the district. The bricks for the main house chimneys and foundations of the house, church and rectory would have been made locally, if not on the property. Stone used includes locally sourced fieldstones, slate piers, large flagstones, and neatly dressed greenstone, quarried nearby, for fireplaces. The district's most intact and important examples of historic local building traditions are the hewn-log buildings built in the 1830s and 1840s, such as the slave quarters building, the cabin in the fen, the double-crib barn, and the smokehouse, all sited near the Flat Creek (Watts) farmhouse; as well as the Good Shepherd Church (1871), built of frame rather than logs, in an unusual post-Civil War variation of the then-popular Gothic Revival style. The carefully planned layout of the church complex, comprised of the nave-plan church edifice, the surrounding cemetery with its rectilinear family plot demarcations and professionally carved headstones, and the well-appointed Queen Anne-style rectory (1899) with outbuildings that functioned as a small farm, is highly intact and virtually undisturbed by modern intrusions. Collectively, the design, construction, craftsmanship, and diversity of the historic resources within the district—domestic, religious, funerary, agricultural, and industrial, all within an intact landscape—substantially inform our understanding of the ever-changing domestic conditions, culture, and economy of rural central Virginia from the late eighteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. Such complete portraits are today quite rare, and increasingly so with the passage of time.



Flat Creek Rural Historic District  
Name of Property

Campbell County, Virginia  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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1. Good Shepherd Church VESTRY MINUTES Book (1894 to 1921) (hardbound)
2. Good Shepherd Church PARISH REGISTER (1919 to current) (hardbound)
3. Good Shepherd Church PARISH CASH BOOK (1936 – 1952 treasurer’s record of receipts and disbursements, (hardbound, 11 x 17)
4. Miscellaneous reports and reports (loose papers)
5. Good Shepherd Society records (loose papers)

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Unpublished paper compiled by Bessie C. Randolph, Susan R. Saunders, and Mrs. Fleming  
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Personal Communications, interviews, notes of past conversations, recordings:

Fleming Saunders, Jr.  
Anna Irvine Keller  
Anne Irvine Rhodemyre  
Sara W. H. Saunders  
Mark Hollberg  
Nelson Miles  
Richard Rhodemyre  
Robert Bass Phillips

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Charlottesville, Va. pp. 314-315 (Obituary for Fleming Saunders, Class of 1850. Accessed online  
8/20/19 Bulletins of the University of Virginia, New Series  
[https://books.google.com/books?id=F7UgAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA315&lpg=PA315&dq=fleming+saunders&source=bl&ots=l0DH\\_R6wMZ&sig=NFyXFD38I64sp\\_RAViXxiZhj3FQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUK EwiK4rqnd3XAhWjYt8KHQkUCfM4HhDoAQg-MAU#v=onepage&q=fleming%20saunders&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=F7UgAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA315&lpg=PA315&dq=fleming+saunders&source=bl&ots=l0DH_R6wMZ&sig=NFyXFD38I64sp_RAViXxiZhj3FQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUK EwiK4rqnd3XAhWjYt8KHQkUCfM4HhDoAQg-MAU#v=onepage&q=fleming%20saunders&f=false))).

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Flat Creek Rural Historic District  
Name of Property

Campbell County, Virginia  
County and State

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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: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** 015-5181

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 1,201

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

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

1. 37.248831 -79.271590

Flat Creek Rural Historic District  
Name of Property

Campbell County, Virginia  
County and State

- 2. 37.237592 -79.280933
- 3. 37.234364 -79.280236
- 4. 37.228157 -79.278029
- 5. 37.223924 -79.275641
- 6. 37.223176 -79.269007
- 7. 37.218607 -79.257417
- 8. 37.231711 -79.264474
- 9. 37.235718 -79.259313
- 10. 37.245617 -79.253016
- 11. 37.251405 -79.265739
- 12. 37.246662 -79.268571

**Or**  
**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 district boundaries, which include multiple tax parcels, are shown on the accompanying maps.

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

The district boundaries were selected to include all of the contiguous, extant historic resources associated with Good Shepherd Church, Flat Creek Farm, and environs including the sawmill which were connected through related family members. The historic setting and all known associated historic resources are within the boundary.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Sara Hollberg, principal author; Michael Pulice, co-author  
organization: n/a  
street & number: 24 Church Street  
city or town: Staunton state: VA zip code: 24401  
e-mail hollberg@ntelos.net  
telephone: 540.290.1520

Flat Creek Rural Historic District  
Name of Property

Campbell County, Virginia  
County and State

date : July 2020

### 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

Name of Property: Flat Creek Rural Historic District

City or Vicinity: Evington vicinity

County: Campbell

State: Virginia

Photographer: Sara Hollberg and Michael Pulice

Date Photographed: 2017-present

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0001

View: Overview of front of primary house site (camera facing northwest)

Photographer: Michael Pulice Date Photographed: November 2017

Photo 2 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0002

Flat Creek Rural Historic District  
Name of Property

Campbell County, Virginia  
County and State

View: Firebox northeast house chimney; two kitchen chimneys and smokehouse beyond  
(camera facing west)

Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: April 2019

Photo 3 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0003

View: Full height two house chimneys (camera facing west)

Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: January 2020

Photo 4 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0004

View: Dairy/woolhouse cellar walls and steps (camera facing southeast)

Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: June 2020

Photo 5 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0005

View: Smokehouse, southeast corner (camera facing north)

Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: February 2019

Photo 6 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0006

View: Granary, south and west sides (camera facing east)

Photographer: Michael Pulice Date Photographed: November 2017

Photo 7 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0007

View: Stables foundation, with granary and chickenhouse beyond (camera facing north)

Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: March 2019

Photo 8 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0008

View: Slave quarters east and north sides (camera facing west)

Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: April 2019

Photo 9 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0009

View: Slave quarters, northeast (rear) wall (camera facing southwest)

Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: April 2019

Photo 10 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0010

View: Slave quarters side and front with porches (camera facing east)

Photographer: Michael Pulice Date Photographed: November 2017

Photo 11 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0011

View: Slave quarters interior, fireplace and door to stairs in north side (camera facing south)

Photographer: Michael Pulice Date Photographed: November 2017

Photo 12 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0012

View: South facing wall of log cabin in fen with rebuilt chimney (camera facing north)

Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: June 2020 (New)

Flat Creek Rural Historic District  
Name of Property

Campbell County, Virginia  
County and State

Photo 13 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0013  
View: Log cabin in fen, northeast corner notching and pier, house in background (camera facing south)

Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: June 2020

Photo 14 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0014  
View: Frame house in fen, southeast side (camera facing northwest)

Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: June 2020

Photo 15 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0015  
View: Family cemetery at Flat Creek farm (camera facing south)

Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: September 2018

Photo 16 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0016  
View: Ore washing station on bluff above Flat Creek (camera facing south)

Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: April 2018

Photo 17 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0017  
View: Foundation stones of agricultural buildings, Kildee Field (camera facing southwest)

Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: March 2019

Photo 18 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0018  
View: East Hills house, view of front (south) side (camera facing north)

Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: November 2019

Photo 19 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0019  
View: Stone foundation of agricultural building, Shop Flats in background (camera facing southeast)

Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: January 2020

Photo 20 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0020  
View: Sawmill, office building with shavings shed beyond (camera facing northeast)

Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: February 2020

Photo 21 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0021  
View: Good Shepherd Church front and north sides (camera facing southeast)

Photographer: Michael Pulice Date Photographed: November 2017

Photo 22 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0022  
View: Interior of Good Shepherd Church toward altar (camera facing east)

Photographer: Michael Pulice Date Photographed: November 2017

Photo 23 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0023  
View: Graveyard and rear of Good Shepherd Church (camera facing west)

Flat Creek Rural Historic District  
Name of Property

Campbell County, Virginia  
County and State

Photographer: Michael Pulice Date Photographed: November 2017

Photo 24 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0024  
View: Rectory and farm, viewed from Good Shepherd (camera facing west)  
Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: February 2019

Photo 25 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0025  
View: Good Shepherd Rectory, front and south sides (camera facing north)  
Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: February 2019

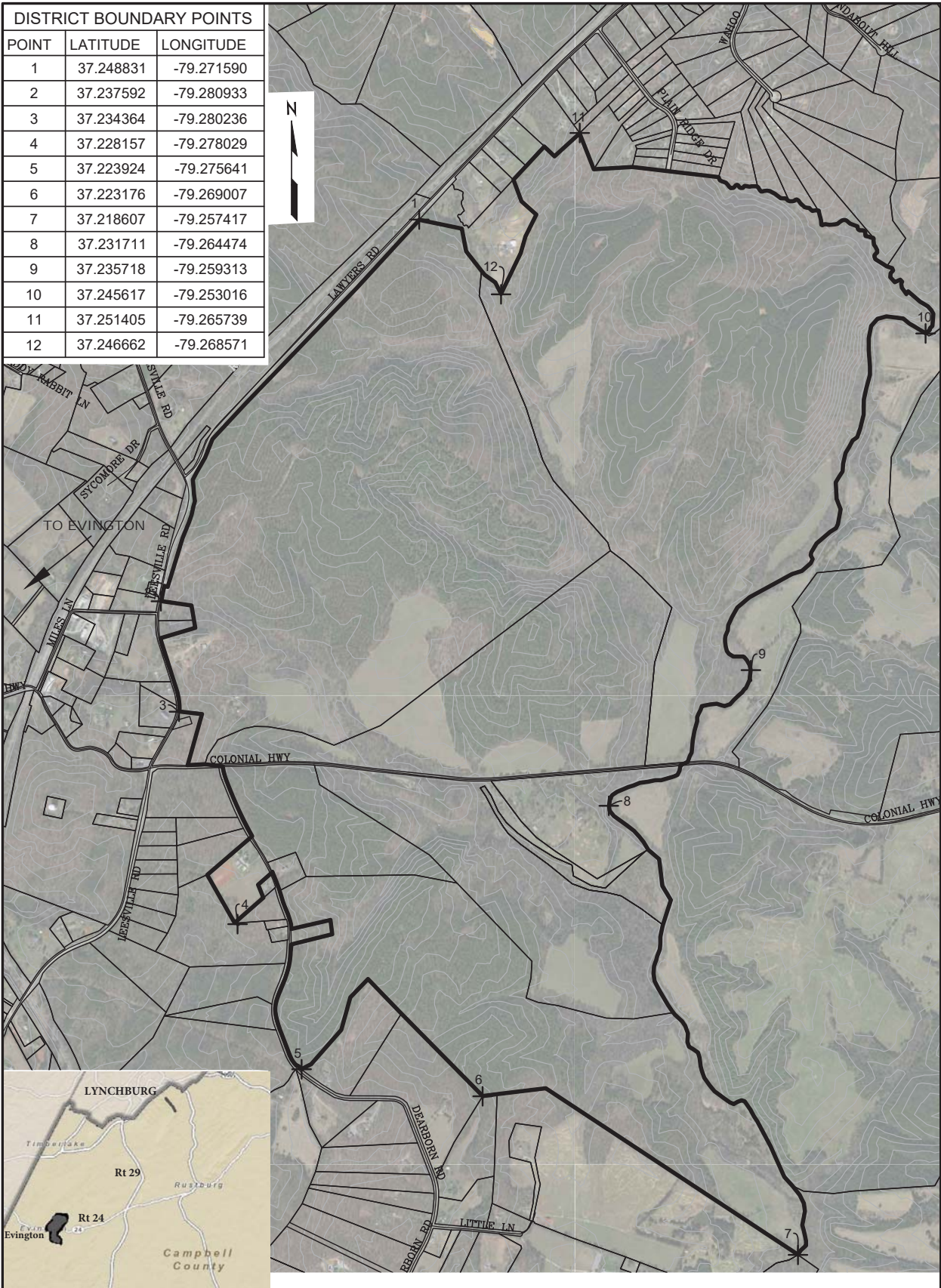
Photo 26 of 26: VA\_CampbellCounty\_FlatCreekRuralHistoricDistrict\_0026  
View: Rectory stable, front and north sides (camera facing south)  
Photographer: Sara Hollberg Date Photographed: April 2019

**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.).

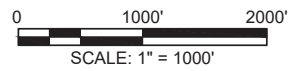
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form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



DISTRICT BOUNDARY POINTS		
POINT	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
1	37.248831	-79.271590
2	37.237592	-79.280933
3	37.234364	-79.280236
4	37.228157	-79.278029
5	37.223924	-79.275641
6	37.223176	-79.269007
7	37.218607	-79.257417
8	37.231711	-79.264474
9	37.235718	-79.259313
10	37.245617	-79.253016
11	37.251405	-79.265739
12	37.246662	-79.268571



IF THIS DRAWING IS REDUCED,  
GRAPHIC SCALE MUST BE USED.



PROJECT COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 VIRGINIA STATEPLANE SOUTH FIPS 4502 (US FEET)

**LEGEND:**

- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- PARCEL BOUNDARY



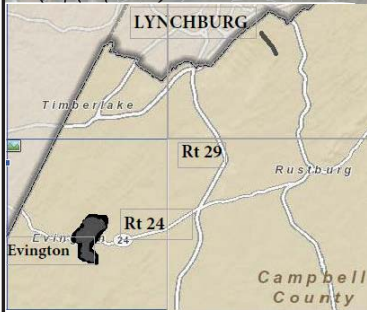
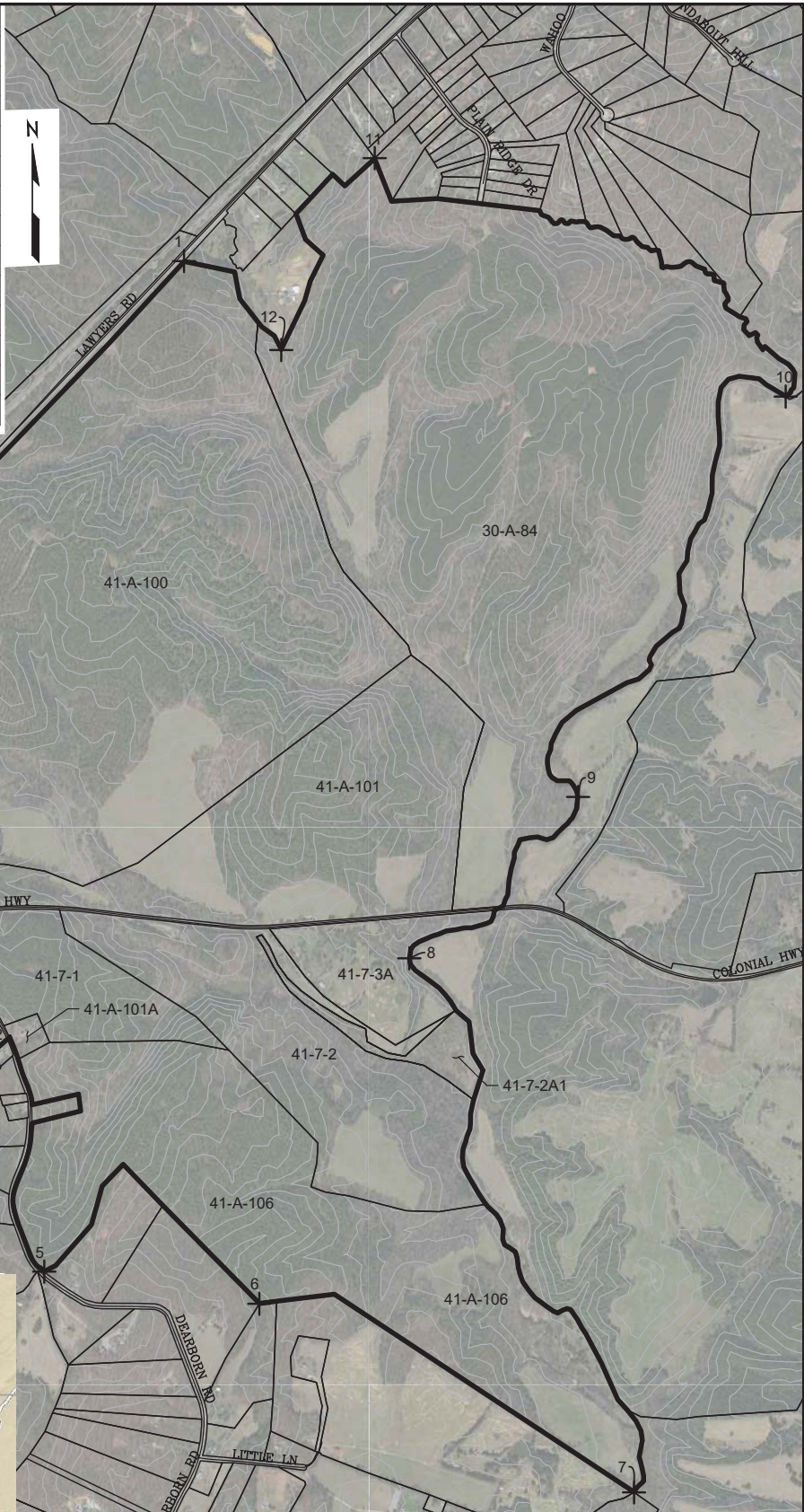
PROJECT  
FLAT CREEK RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CAMPBELL COUNTY, VA

TITLE  
LOCATION/ BOUNDARY MAP

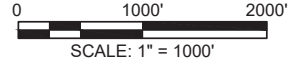
VDHR FILE NO.  
015-5181

DATE:  
07/16/2020

DISTRICT BOUNDARY POINTS		
POINT	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
1	37.248831	-79.271590
2	37.237592	-79.280933
3	37.234364	-79.280236
4	37.228157	-79.278029
5	37.223924	-79.275641
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10	37.245617	-79.253016
11	37.251405	-79.265739
12	37.246662	-79.268571



IF THIS DRAWING IS REDUCED,  
GRAPHIC SCALE MUST BE USED.



PROJECT COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 VIRGINIA STATEPLANE SOUTH FIPS 4502 (US FEET)

**LEGEND:**

- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- PARCEL BOUNDARY



PROJECT  
**FLAT CREEK RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
 CAMPBELL COUNTY, VA  
 TITLE  
**PARCEL MAP**

VDHR FILE NO.  
**015-5181**

DATE:  
**07/16/2020**

# SKETCH MAP

Flat Creek Rural Historic District  
Campbell County, VA  
DHR No. 015-5181



# SKETCH MAP

Flat Creek Rural Historic District, Campbell County, VA, DHR No. 015-5181



125 ft

Decimal Degrees ^ Lon (X): -79.26876 Lat (Y): 37.22989

**Flat Creek Farm INSET**  
**Campbell County VA**  
DHR 015-0017



N

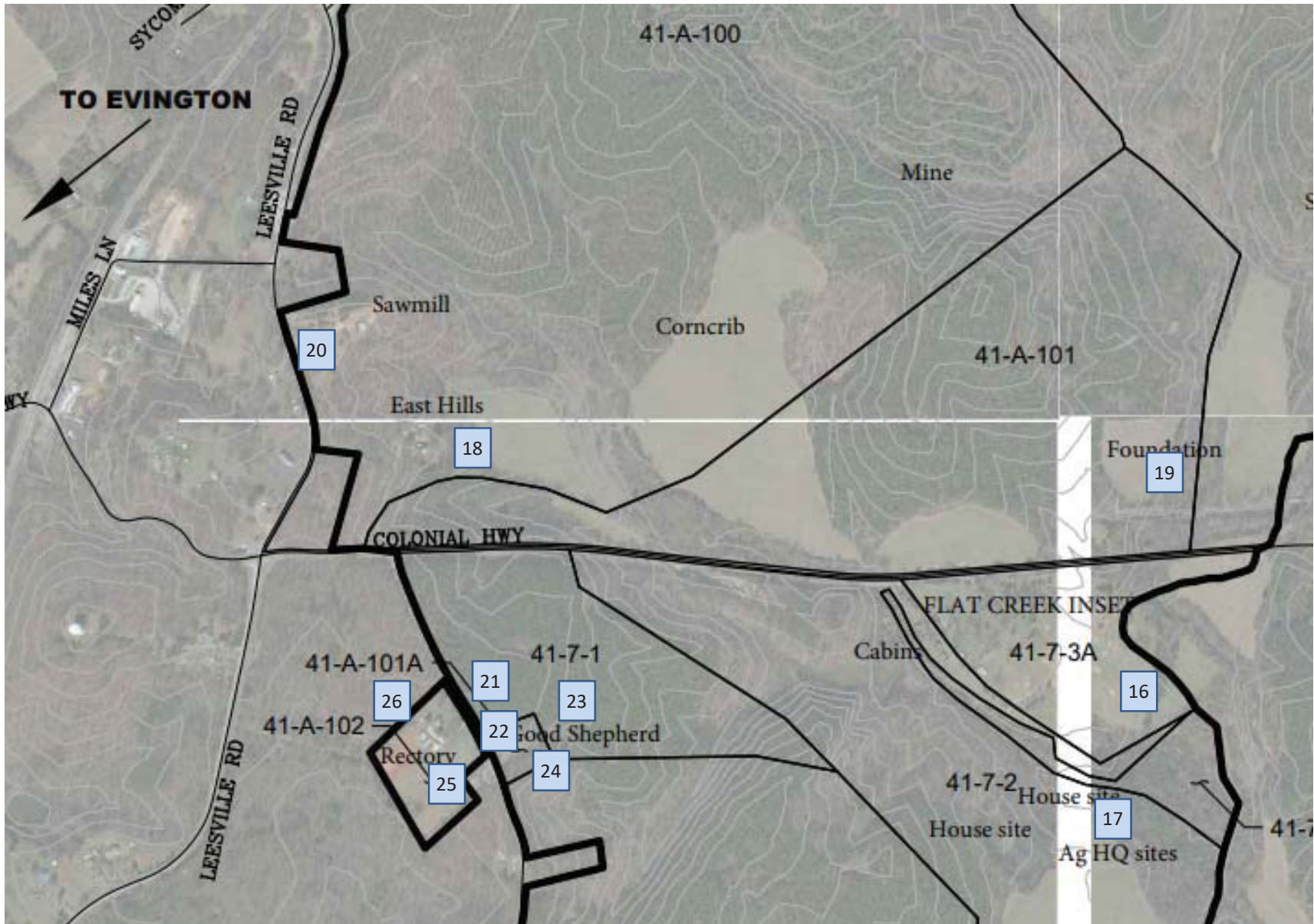


**Flat Creek Rural Historic District**

Campbell County, VA; DHR No. 015-5181

**Photo Numbers keyed to NR photo log**

**Map 1 of 2**



**Flat Creek Rural Historic District Photo Numbers keyed to NR photo log**

Campbell County, VA; DHR No. 015-5181

Map 2 of 2

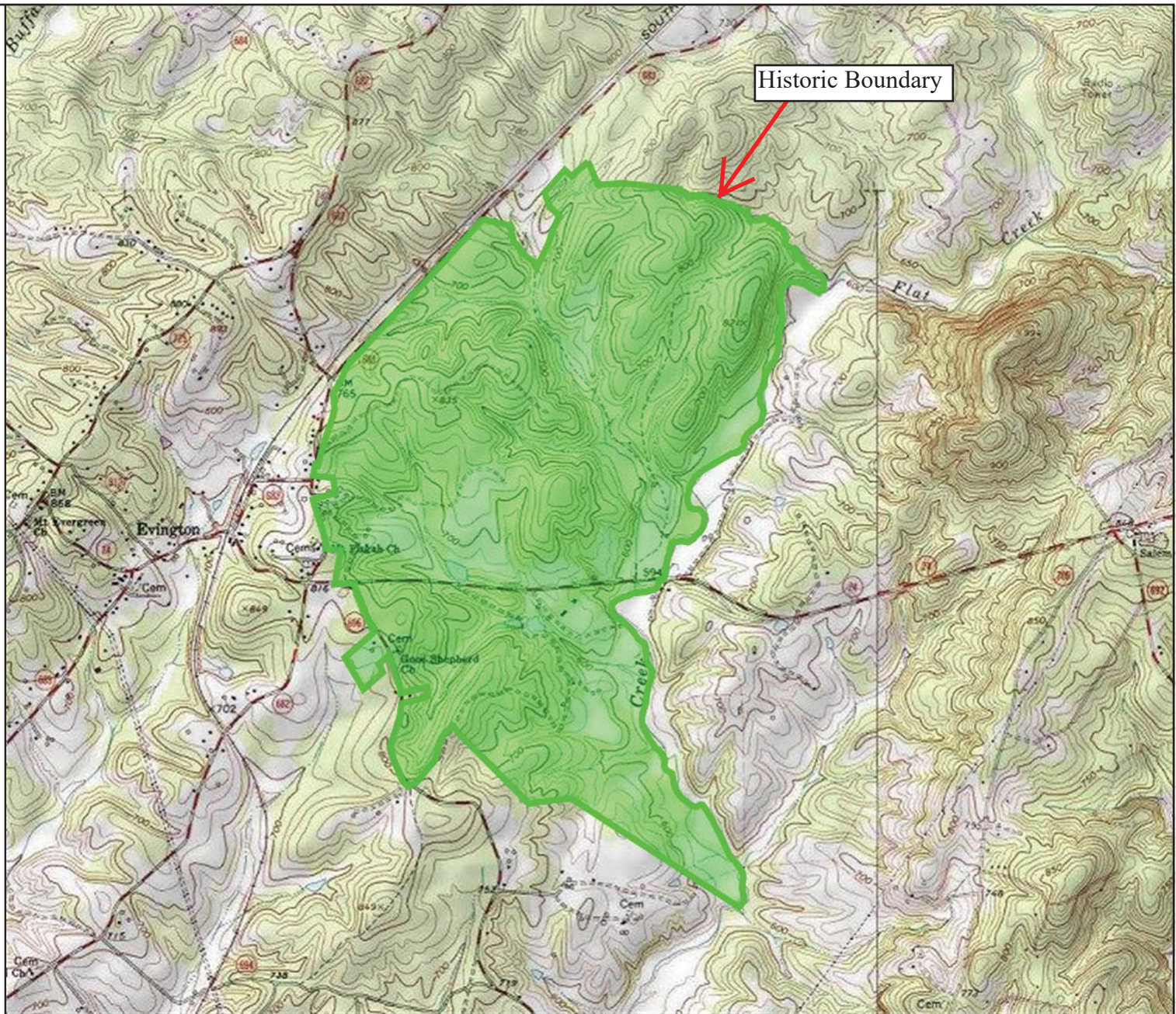


**TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**

Flat Creek Rural Historic District

Campbell County, VA

DHR NO. 015-5181



Feet



1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet

**Title:**

**Date: 9/24/2020**

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*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.*