

# 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: Mead's Tavern  
Other names/site number: VDHR Inventory Nos. 015-0120 and 44CP0244  
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: 594 Alum Springs Road  
City or town: Lynchburg State: VA County: Campbell County  
Not For Publication:  n/a Vicinity:  x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   X   D

	<u>9/27/2021</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	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 :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

---

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

---

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

---

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

##### Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

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

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

---

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/ hotel/ tavern

EDUCATION/school

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/ Work in progress

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

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

---

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; STONE; CONCRETE; SYNTHETICS;  
vinyl; ASPHALT

### 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.)

---

### Summary Paragraph

Mead's Tavern stands at the southwest corner of the intersection of Alum Springs Road (Rt. 858) and Town Fork Road (Rt. 623) on a clear, level lot of 0.9 acre in the Town of New London in Campbell County, Virginia, close to both roads. An asphalt driveway off Town Fork Road provides access to a modern, detached garage southwest of the tavern. Archaeological Site 44CP0244 occupies the extent of the nominated property area. A boxwood southwest of the building possibly dates from the eighteenth century. A span of chain link fencing is visible along the northwest boundary of the parcel. Documentary evidence indicates that Mead's Tavern was built by William Mead, one of the original trustees of New London, the county seat of Bedford County at its formation. Originally built as a tavern in 1763, Mead's Tavern also functioned as a school and doctor's office, before finally converting to a single-family dwelling in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Mead's Tavern is the only remaining building of New London's colonial era. Mead's Tavern has experienced several alterations to the original building since its initial construction that reflect the building's changes in use over the centuries. However, elements of the building's original design, workmanship, and materials still exist under the later materials. This includes the foundation of the original portion of the tavern, a significant example of stacked stones with several courses of English-bond brick. In addition, there are examples of mortise-and-tenon construction visible in the basement, walls, and attic of the tavern. The archaeological investigations completed in and around Mead's Tavern add to the historical

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

narrative of the property concerning its use and occupation. Mead's Tavern possesses integrity of location, feeling, workmanship, and materials. The former tavern is a contributing building and Site 44CP0244 is a contributing site, while the garage is a non-contributing building.

---

## **Narrative Description**

### ***Setting***

Mead's Tavern stands at the southwest corner of the intersection of Alum Springs Road (Rt. 858) and Town Fork Road (Rt. 623) in the community of New London. The area around Mead's Tavern contains mid-twentieth century dwellings, with the exception of the mobile home park to the west. A span of chain link fence along the northwest boundary of the parcel divides the Mead's Tavern parcel from the mobile home park. An asphalt driveway off Town Fork Road provides access to the modern, detached garage that sits to the rear of the Tavern. The southern portion of the property is a clear, level lot. A large shrub accents the one-story addition on the west side of the tavern. An impressive fir tree stands to the northwest of the building. A large, possibly eighteenth-century boxwood is southwest of the tavern.

### ***Architecture***

#### ***Mead's Tavern, Contributing Building – Exterior Description***

Mead's Tavern is a two-story, frame dwelling on a combination foundation with multiple additions. The original, two-story portion of the tavern is composed of heavy framing members joined with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints, and is currently covered with modern vinyl siding over earlier weatherboards. The 1763 section of the tavern rests on a foundation of stone at its base and is capped with brick laid in English bond. The brickwork, laid in English bond, has scribed mortar joints of hard, whitish mortar. Further, the bricks and mortar have traces of a red oxide wash. The top course of stonework consists of rectangular stones that have a regular ashlar-like appearance. The stonework below this course is coursed rubble. There are vents along the foundation, some of wood with a beaded surround and another has an inserted window sash. The foundation on the east elevation of the 1763 section of the Tavern has been replaced with concrete block. Poured concrete foundations are found under the twentieth-century additions.

The front porch is one story with three-bays and runs the width of the 1763 section of the tavern, stopping at the west wing, a late-nineteenth century addition. The earliest archival evidence for the front porch is the 1803 Mutual Assurance Society policy that describes a "Porch and Portico on North Side 30 by 6 feet."<sup>1</sup> Early-twentieth-century photos depict a two-story porch as well; therefore, the porch was reduced to one-story later in the twentieth century. The porch is supported by four chamfered wood posts with late-nineteenth-century sawn brackets. Also visible is a modern sawn railing and balustrade. The porch rests on a foundation of sturdy stone piers. A continuous hewn beam runs under the porch to where it joins the house. The porch is capped with a hipped roof with an aluminum awning, vinyl-clad ceiling, modern vinyl lattice underpinning, and modern concrete front steps.

---

<sup>1</sup> 1803 Mutual Assurance Policy.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

The original 1763 section of the tavern has two front (north) entries. The one on the left has a modern replacement door with a decorative upper window panel. The right entry has a ca. 1880 Italianate door with rounded, arched window panels over two raised panels. This door has a decorative metal escutcheon with a crystal knob. The door is capped by a rectangular transom that has been sided over on the exterior. Both of the entries have modern, single-leaf storm doors.

The vinyl replacement windows have one-over-one-light, double-hung sashes. Wooden sash windows are visible on the west wing of the tavern. Picture windows are visible on the façade and west elevation and consist of a center section composed of multiple, fixed lights flanked by four-over-four sashes. The roof is a combination of both side gable and hipped and is covered with asphalt shingles. There is a large central-interior chimney and a smaller, central-interior flue, both of which are parged.

There is a one-story, frame addition clad in vinyl siding on the west side of the tavern. The west addition rests on a partially parged and random rubble foundation. The windows consist of two vinyl picture windows with centers composed of multiple fixed lights flanked by four-over-four lights with double-hung sashes.

There are multiple additions on the rear (south) side of the tavern, including a two-story, frame addition capped with a hipped roof with a one-story shed roof. To the rear of this addition is a one-story, frame addition with a gable roof and a shed-roof extension to the west. The remaining addition is a diminutive frame addition with a flat roof.

### ***Interior***

#### ***Basement/Cellar***

The basement has a dirt floor and has been divided into three rooms. One large, main room, used primarily for storage, runs the length of the tavern. Two smaller rooms are found on the south elevation. One of these rooms contains the furnace and water heater, the other is an anteroom outside of the original foundation. This room is accessed through a well porch and down a flight of concrete steps. The original foundation is the most intact on the north wall of the basement and demonstrates the same treatments visible on the outside except the interior bricks and mortar are not red-washed, but whitewashed. It is in the basement where the random courses of foundation stone are most visible. The east, west and south walls of the main room are composed primarily of replacement, modern materials. Concrete piers in the center of the main room have been added to aid in the support of the tavern.

The basement has a variety of different building styles and components, including mortise-and-tenon construction, hand-hewn, pit-sawn and vertically sawn beams, and modern wood beams with circular saw marks and mechanical fasteners. The joists, sills, and girders demonstrate reworking and replacement, but a significant amount of original material survives. The sills, which are hand hewn and pit-sawn are the most intact at the ends, while signs of repair and replacement become more common toward the middle of the basement. The girders that span the

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

basement are a mix of original and replacement materials. Two north-south girders lay side-by-side with the girder on the west displaying a hand-hewn finish on the three visible sides. The west girder also has several pieces of scrap lumber nailed to the sides though the purpose of these pieces is not certain. The faces of the east girder indicate that the beam was finished at an up-and-down (vertical) sawmill. Interestingly, the east girder contains none of the scrap pieces of lumber found on the west girder. The east and west girders of the Tavern, which run from the end walls to the north-south girders, are hewn.<sup>2</sup>

The reconstruction and replacement of original materials visible along the foundation of the east, west, and south walls is also visible in the overhead structure of the basement. On the west foundation where an original joist was removed there are empty mortises in the sills and girder with a new joist added close to the end wall to support the hearth in the room above. The supports for the hearth consist of scrap lumber nailed to the replacement joist with cut nails. The joists in the main room of the basement appear original. Some are pit-sawn, while others are pit-sawn on one side and hewn on the other. One replacement joist is circular-sawn.<sup>3</sup>

### *First Floor*

The northeast room is entered directly from the porch and contains a nineteenth-century mantel and corner stair. The mantel has an architrave form that consists of narrow strips of wood with reeded inner edges. The fireplace is capped with a reeded strip topped with delicate stack moldings under the shelf, which has a molded edge. Currently, the fireplace is walled up. The northwest corner of the room has a section of the baseboard with flaking modern paint that reveals layers of brown paint, dark brown paint, yellow paint, as well as shades of green and gray paint.

The stair is located in the northeast corner of the room and consists of two runs; a short bottom run of three steps and a longer run with a landing between the two. The stair contains cut nails that suggest a nineteenth-century construction date. The simple, square newel post has a flat top and the balusters are rectangular in shape. It appears that the upper run of the stairs was originally enclosed by a partition, now removed. The lowest riser of the upper run contains oak graining which was likely protected from painting by the partition (this graining may be similar to what was found on the baseboard). Traces of gray paint are visible on the newel and treads.<sup>4</sup>

Located under the stairs is a small closet constructed from sheathing boards, wire nails, and triangular hinges. The interior of the closet provides a view of the framing members of the outer wall. These members include a hewn L-section corner post, part of a diagonal corner brace, and studs. There are wrought nails at the base of the stud between the corner post and brace, and on the surfaces of the stud and corner posts. Missing plaster where the sloping soffit of the stair

---

<sup>2</sup> Pezzoni and Rakes, "Interim Historic Structures Report for Mead's Tavern, New London, Virginia, 2017, 22-23.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 12.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

meets the ceiling reveals pit-sawn and possibly hewn joists. A notch present in one of the joists suggests the location of a former stair in the same location as the current stair.<sup>5</sup>

The northwest room is accessed by the Italianate front door. This room has a simple mantel of post-and-lintel form with molded caps on the pilasters. The single window in the room has beaded and molded trim.

The southeast room served as the dining room in the twentieth century. The room has a vertical beaded tongue-and-groove wainscot, modern crown molding and ranch trim. The doorway to the passage that leads to the southwest portion of the first floor is capped with a glass transom. The room contains a concrete hearth which may have actually served as a pad for a stove or heater. The opening for the fireplace is concealed by the wainscot. In the northeast corner of the room is a closet that sits between the interior chimney and outer wall. The closet has a six-panel door of pegged construction with raised panels. Traces of brown and yellow varnish or graining is visible under the modern white paint. HL hinges are located at the top and bottom of the door. The interior of the closet has walls and ceilings covered in mud plaster with a white finish, except the west side which incorporates the chimney brickwork. The bottom of the closet has molded baseboards over earlier, plain baseboards. Interestingly, the inner edges of the doorway to the closet are trimmed with narrow molding decorated with oak leaflets and scrolling arabesques.<sup>6</sup>

The southwest quadrant of the tavern has a passage with walls clad in modern paneling that connects the northwest and southeast rooms to the west wing and a small bathroom. The door to the bathroom is a reused, two-panel door that was cut in half and hinged, creating a bi-fold door with brown and yellow oak graining.

The west wing of the building is accessed from the passage and down two steps. Modern finishes of gypsum wallboard cover the walls and ceiling, while the floor is clad in wood floor covering with decorative false pegs. The main room of the west wing contains the west chimney with a vernacular Greek Revival-style mantel with oak graining similar to that found in the tavern section. The mantel lacks a shelf and the twentieth-century siding continues behind it. It is not clear whether the mantel is original to this location or was placed here during the 1950s remodeling of the west wing. The fireplace is flanked by modern closets accessed via decorative folding doors. The right closet is lined with cedar, while the left is covered with wallboard. During the work conducted for the 2018 Historic Structures Report the wallboard in the left closet was removed, revealing two different types of wallpaper. The older wallpaper consists of a pattern of flowers, scrolling, and cartouche-like elements outlined in green. The wallpaper likely postdates 1890 and has a stamp "Thompson Abbott/Bedford Springs" visible in the wallpaper. The second wallpaper has an Art Nouveau-inspired pattern of vertical stripes and panels with green and yellow forms and probably dates from the early-twentieth century. The south side of the west wing contains a bathroom accessed through bi-fold doors and a foyer with side-to-side,

---

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 13.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 16.



Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

sliding glass doors that allow access to a deck on the rear elevation. The ceiling of the foyer has been painted yellow, which suggests that the foyer may have been an open porch at some time.<sup>7</sup>

The rear, one-story wing contains a kitchen with modern, wood cabinetry and early-twentieth century door trim with turned corner blocks. There are two pantry-like rooms accessed by doors off the kitchen; one doorway with a stack-panel door capped with a glass transom and the other with a wood-and-panel door. West of the kitchen is an enclosed plywood porch with a stone-lined well and steps that lead to the basement.

#### *Interior: Second Floor*

The second floor contains a short passage leading from the stairs to three bedrooms. The passage has a modern, drop ceiling of acoustical tile and plywood flooring. Above the acoustical tile is a plaster-and-lath ceiling with some visible traces of blue paint. The passage contains examples of wallpaper on both the walls and ceiling. One wallpaper has vertical green lines and dots, then a wide border paper with flowers and birds, followed by a paper with a cloud or flower pattern.<sup>8</sup>

The bedrooms on the second floor have cut-nailed floor boards, two-panel doors, molded door and window trim, and oak-grained plain baseboards. Plain mantels, dating from the late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century, are present in the west and south bedrooms. The door to the south bedroom has the best-preserved door finishes with oak graining and iron lockbox with a ceramic knob. A seam found on the floor of the south bedroom indicates a possible former partition.

#### *Attic*

The attic over the original portion of the tavern contains a considerable amount of eighteenth-century material that appears original to the building. Some of the original materials include wrought-nailed, and pit-sawn boards. The common rafters of the attic are pit sawn, and taper toward the ridge of the roof where the rafters are mortised and tenoned at the top and small holes are visible for pegs. Only one peg is present, the others were either removed or never inserted. Marriage marks of Roman numerals are visible on most, if not all the rafters, though not all of the marks match up. Visible pairings include V/II and IV/III. Interestingly, there are two rafters with the Arabic number 3 also present in the attic. In addition, fragments of wood shingles are present in the attic.<sup>9</sup>

The hewn plates in the attic possess some unique features that speak to the changes in the building over time. The east plate has small and regularly-spaced vacant dovetail notches on the north and middle sections suggesting supports for an exterior cornice. In addition to the dovetails are two crudely cut diagonal gashes that lean toward the front of the building. The purpose of these gashes is unknown; however they may be related to the construction of the tavern. The

---

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 18-19.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 20.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., 22.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

attic provides access to the ceiling of the second floor and indicates that the interior chimney is a later addition to the building. A tie beam runs behind the chimney and contains two notches that likely received joists from the other side of the chimney before the addition of the interior chimney.<sup>10</sup>

The attic over the kitchen reflects the twentieth-century construction of that addition to the tavern. It contains a circular-sawn roof and ceiling, as well as circular-sawn studs for the wall, and rafters butted and nailed at the ridge. This section of the attic affords a view of the second-story south wall of the original portion of the building. This wall began as an exterior wall of the tavern, evidenced by the rows of hammered-down nails where the weatherboard attached to the building. The presence of plaster and lath, attached by wrought nails, demonstrates the transition of the wall to an interior feature.<sup>11</sup>

The attic over the west wing shares some similarities with that of the kitchen. Present in this portion of the attic is a circular-sawn roof, as well as butted and nailed rafters. The west chimney rises through this portion of the attic and its handmade bricks are laid in courses, stepped in above the joists. A portion of the west exterior wall of the original building is visible, sheathed in beaded weatherboards adhered to the studs with cut nails.<sup>12</sup>

### ***Garage, Non-contributing building***

Located southwest of the former tavern, the late-20<sup>th</sup>-century garage is a prefabricated metal frame building with metal siding and a shallow-pitched front gable roof, also clad with metal. A single metal overhead door occupies the east façade. A metal extension with an open east bay spans the south elevation. The garage is noncontributing to the property because it postdates the property's period of significance.

### ***Architecture Integrity Analysis***

Mead's Tavern maintains integrity of location, it has not been moved from its original location. The setting and feeling of Mead's Tavern has changed over time as a result of new development within the community of New London. Currently, the area around Mead's Tavern consists of modern, residential dwellings, a mobile home park, and clear lots. All modern development is in scale with Mead's Tavern and reflects the transition of New London to a residential community of the City of Lynchburg, as well as the tavern's twentieth-century function as a dwelling. Mead's Tavern has a minimal amount of integrity of association. The transition of New London from an eighteenth-century governmental center for Bedford County to a bedroom community to the City of Lynchburg resulted in the loss of its eighteenth and nineteenth-century buildings and landscape. Mead's Tavern is the only extant building with direct association to New London's colonial-era history. The original design, workmanship, and materials of Mead's Tavern have

---

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 23.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., 24.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

been modified over its 250-year history as the function of the building changed. However, a Historic Structures Report completed for the building in 2018 demonstrates that a considerable amount of original fabric and eighteenth- and nineteenth-century construction methodology remain. This includes the impressive foundation composed of stacked stone capped with several courses of English-bond brick, and mortise-and-tenon timber-frame construction found in the basement, walls, and attic.

### ***Archaeology, Site 44CP0244, Contributing Site***

Beginning in 2013, Hurt & Proffitt (H&P) began conducting archaeological field investigations at Mead's Tavern, archaeological site number 44CP0244. The Mead's Tavern site is located in the unincorporated community of New London in northern Campbell County. It lies on the western side of the Piedmont physiographic province in the James River watershed. The Piedmont, Virginia's largest physiographic province, is bordered on the west by the nearby mountains of the Blue Ridge province and on the east by the Fall Zone which separates it from the Coastal Plain.<sup>13</sup>

Gently rolling hills and deeply weathered bedrock characterize the province. As a result of the weathering, few outcrops occur outside the stream valleys. The bedrock of the Piedmont is composed of a variety of igneous and metamorphic rocks with a complex geologic history. Kyanite and high quality slate are two of the economically important resources in the province.<sup>14</sup>

The former Mead's Tavern stands at the historic crossroads on the northeast corner of the lot, as it has for over 250 years. A thick overgrown boxwood circle lies near the center of the lawn to the tavern's southwest. The southeast property corner is marked by a large maple tree, but the entire yard south of the driveway consists of open grassy lawn.

The goal of the archaeological survey begun in 2013 was to identify cultural artifacts and features related to Mead's Tavern, to define site boundaries, and to begin to evaluate site integrity. Archaeologists employed subsurface testing since the entire site was covered in grass.

H&P produced digital photographs and a plan drawing of test units (TU's) containing features. Select features were bisected, where appropriate, and profiled in drawings and photographs. Most features were recorded and left in place. None of the features warranted removal of flotation or other samples for future use. H&P standard excavation unit forms were used to record detailed field data.

Laboratory processing and the curation of artifacts were carried out at the Hurt & Proffitt Archaeological Materials Laboratory in accordance with the Virginia Department of Historic

---

<sup>13</sup> College of William and Mary, Department of Geology, *Piedmont Province*, available from <http://web.wm.edu/geology/virginia/provinces/piedmont.html>, accessed 2016.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

Resources State Curation Standards.<sup>15</sup> All recovered artifacts were cataloged using a Microsoft Access 2010 database.

The Phase I survey resulted in the excavation of 85 test units (TU's), each measuring 2ft. x 2ft. and spaced at 20-foot intervals, across the nearly one-acre Mead's Tavern lot (Figures 1 and 2). Several TU's were offset to avoid obstacles such as trees or buildings and several were not excavated due to excessively sloped/disturbed land and larger obstacles. Remarkably, all 85 TU's were positive for the presence of historic artifacts, reflecting heavy and continuous use throughout the site's more than two-and-a-half-century history. More significantly, the site possesses several apparently intact cultural features.

---

<sup>15</sup> Virginia Department of Historic Resources, State Curation Standards, available from: [http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/arch\\_DHR/curation.html](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/arch_DHR/curation.html), 2001b.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

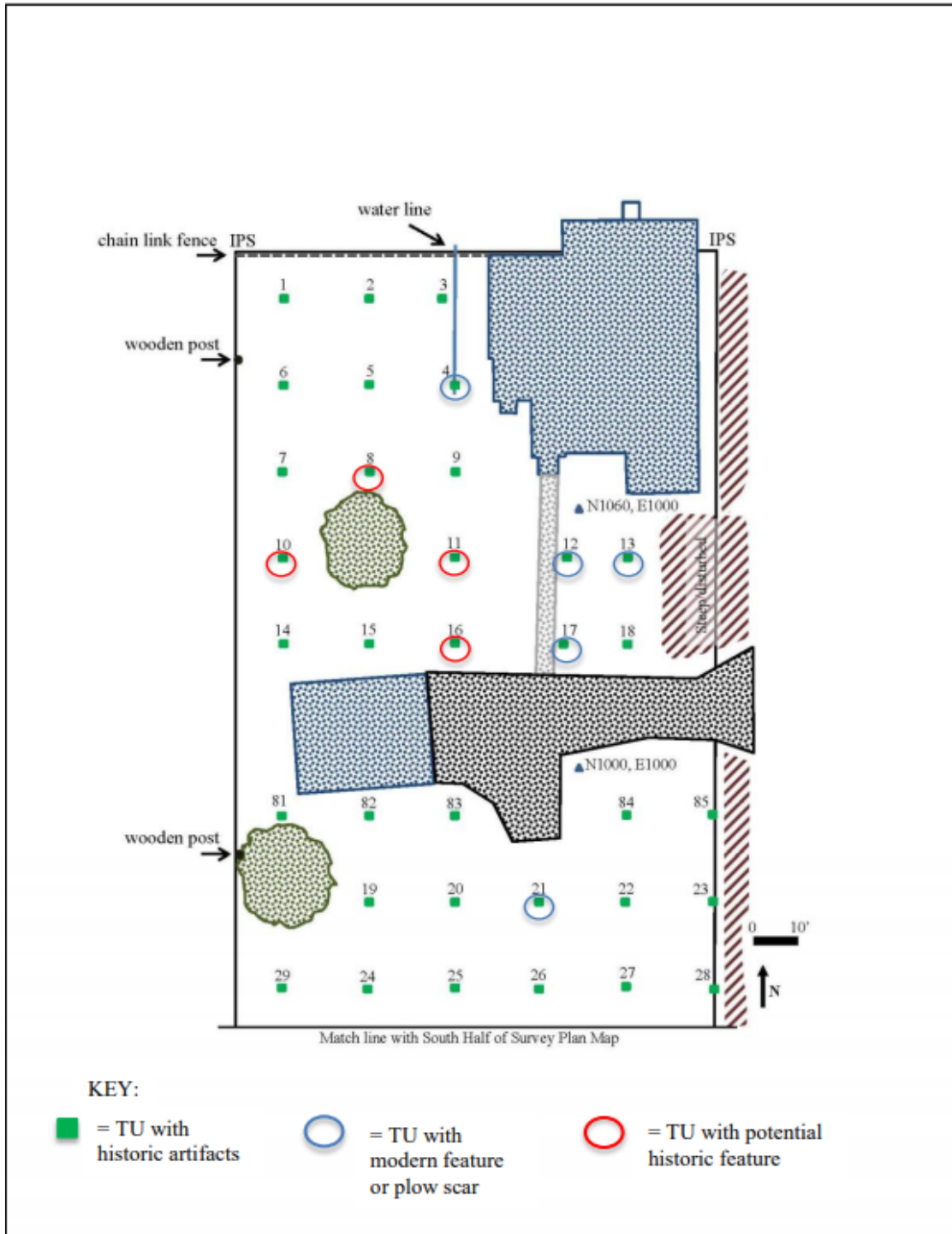


Figure 1. Test Unit location map depicting the north side of the Mead's Tavern lot.

Mead's Tavern  
 Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
 County and State

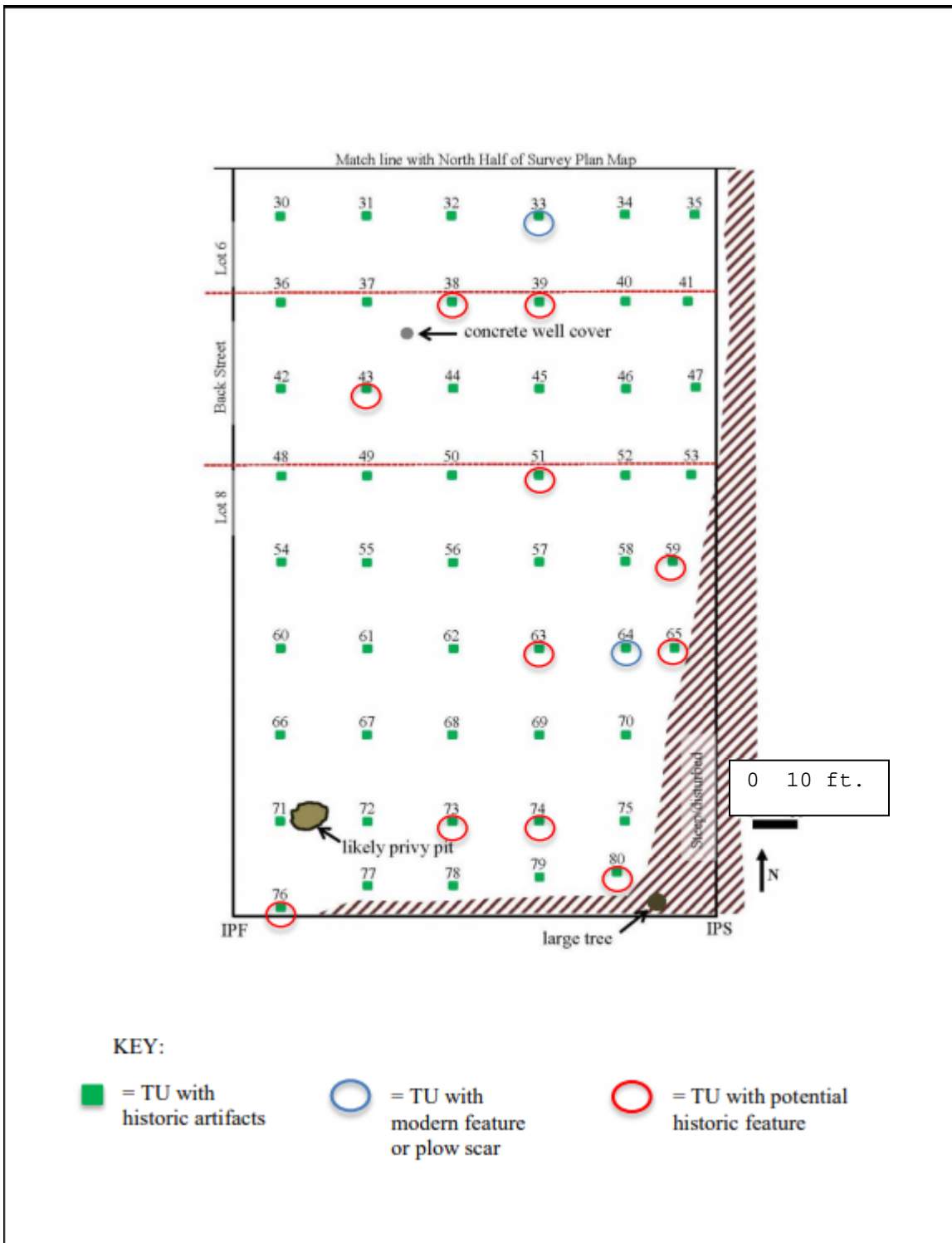


Figure 2. Test Unit location map depicting the south side of the Mead's Tavern lot.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

The foregoing analysis of Phase I data demonstrates that the Mead's Tavern property possesses a very high potential to yield significant new information on the lifeways of its inhabitants, particularly during the colonial and early national periods. Antebellum and Reconstruction period artifacts are also present in sufficient numbers to suggest that significant new insights may be gained into this period of the property's history. With specific reference to the VDHR's survey guidelines, archaeological research at Mead's Tavern can contribute to our knowledge of the Tavern/Inn specialized context in the Lower Piedmont during the Colony to Nation (1750-1789) period.<sup>16</sup> It also has great potential to contribute to our knowledge of later periods in the domestic, education, commerce, religion and medicine contexts as the property use evolved.

Areas with the highest research potential are indicated in green on the following site maps, while low potential areas are indicated in red (Figures 3 and 4). The remainder of the site can be considered to possess moderate potential. The areas of highest research potential encompass the yard north of the present asphalt driveway, as well as the center of the south end of historic lot 6. The latter area is found in the center of the lot just to the south of the driveway. It should also be noted that although no testing was done beneath the driveway and shed/carport, there is moderate to high potential that significant historic features survive beneath them. Construction of these amenities may have disturbed only the upper soil layers and left intact large portions of features. Any future removal or alterations to the driveway and shed/carport should be closely monitored by an archaeologist.

Several of the high probability areas may relate to outbuildings depicted on the 1805 MAS plat. The plat names three buildings and their distances from the tavern. Figure 5 depicts the tavern and test unit excavation map in relation to those distances. It would appear that the wash house was almost if not entirely located beneath the current deck and other additions to the tavern. However, the smokehouse and kitchen footprints should lie within the boundaries of the current survey. Evidence from units 11 and 16 strongly suggests the presence of a substantial building that could be the kitchen.

As stated above, H&P has determined that unshaded areas of the property possess moderate research potential (Figures 3 and 4). Gardening in the south end of the lot may have disturbed intact soil layers to a degree, but several as yet unidentified features were recorded cutting into subsoil throughout this part of the property. It is unclear whether any of these features may be related to the former stable depicted on the 1803 and 1805 MAS plats and noted in deeds of that period (Figure 5). However, early stables may exist archaeologically only as a series of post holes at regular intervals. These features are difficult to locate at the Phase I level of investigation and this portion of the lot is worth investigating further for that reason.

---

<sup>16</sup> Virginia Department of Historic Resources Guidelines for Conducting Cultural Resource Survey in Virginia, available at: [http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/review/Survey\\_Manual\\_Web.pdf](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/review/Survey_Manual_Web.pdf), 2011a.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State



Figure 3. North half of site map depicting areas of high (green) and low (red) research potential.



Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

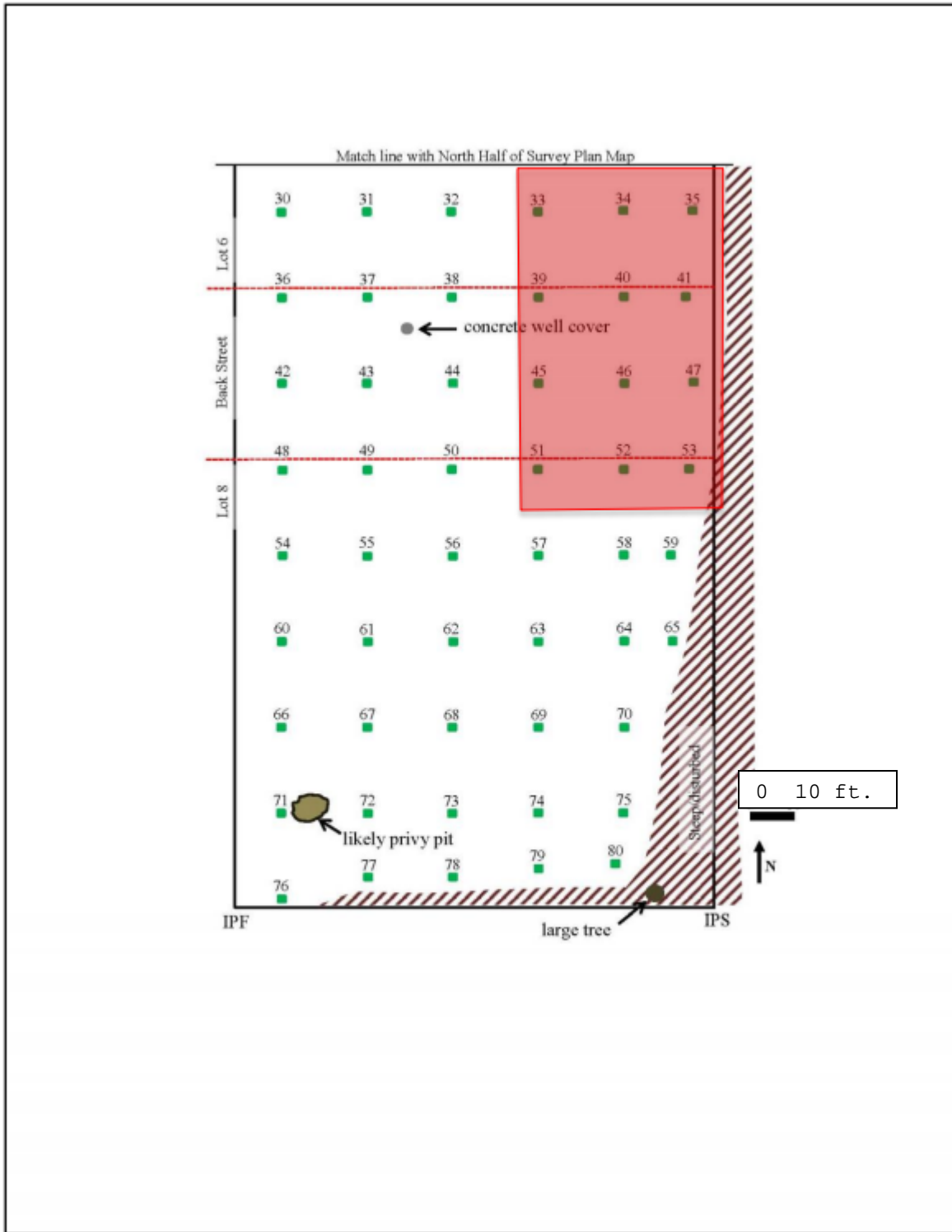


Figure 4. South half of site map depicting areas of high (green) and low (red) research potential.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

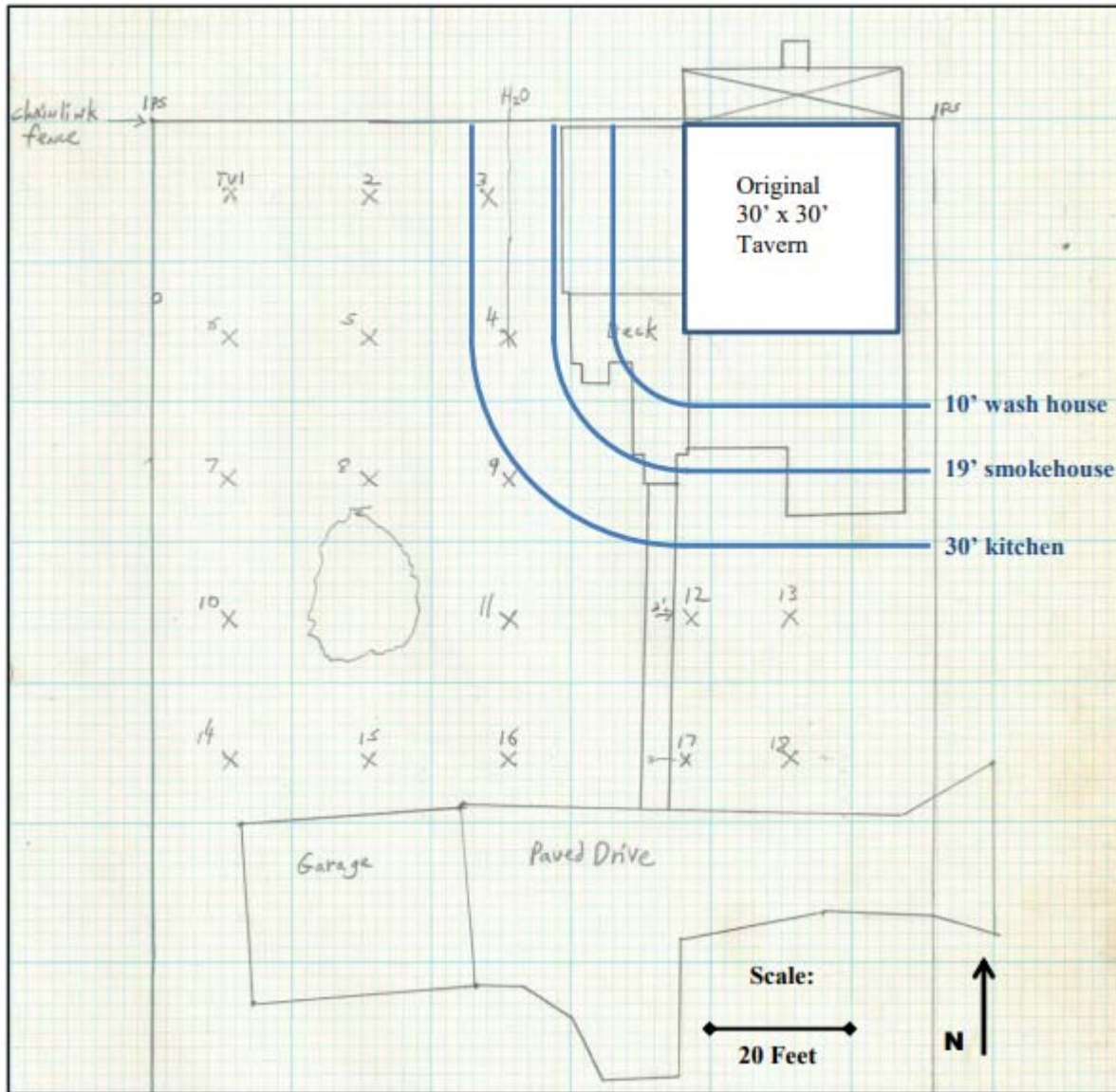


Figure 5. Possible locations of 1805 outbuildings depicted on the current archaeological survey map.

The archaeology conducted on the Mead's Tavern lot was followed by additional work focused on the wall cavities, the spaces between the framing members of the tavern, and hearths of the building's interior, as well as the basement. The mission of this archaeological project was two-fold; to collect archaeological deposits left in wall cavities and other above-ground parts of the structure and to investigate the tavern basement for data on both the architectural evolution of the structure and the lives of its inhabitants.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

H&P collected a series of deposits located in the tavern's wall cavities and hearths in conjunction with the ongoing architectural investigation. H&P excavated a total of 15 whole or partial 5ft. x 5ft. (1.5m x 1.5m) units in the Mead's Tavern basement. Architectural samples were collected from the two upstairs hearths and several areas within the walls of the first floor west front room and south hallway. H&P archaeologists collected a total of 11 architectural samples during the investigation. Downstairs, the samples tended to consist primarily of plaster keys that had fallen into crevices formed by the intersection of studs and down braces or studs and flooring.

A wide variety of small artifacts were collected from the two upstairs hearths, including pins, buttons, brass pen nibs, a 1968 penny and a .30 caliber rimfire cartridge. Numerous bits of wood, nails, brick, plaster, and paint were also found in the sand from the hearths. At the base of the sand deposits, archaeologists saw clear evidence for replacement boards likely dating from the twentieth century. The largest artifacts consisted of a pair of nineteenth-century andirons that had been sealed into the firebox of the west bedroom hearth by a sheet of plywood. While some artifacts were earlier in date, it was clear that the hearth sand had been removed and reused in modern times. A small sand sample was collected from each hearth for future analysis.

Downstairs, excavators sampled cavities in the west front room and from above a doorway in the south hallway leading to the west addition. These spaces were nearly devoid of artifacts save for plaster keys that had fallen from above. The keys and other miscellaneous architectural artifacts, such as the wire brad and wallpaper fragment, were collected and saved for potential future analysis.

The basement excavations were divided into three main locations (Figure 6). The areas that were explored were dictated by the research goals set out for the project. Two of the areas were chosen primarily for the potential to yield information useful for understanding the architectural history of the structure. These areas, at the east and west ends of the basement, included units at the presumed locations of earlier chimneys and at the threshold of the basement entry door. Units in the southwest corner of the present utility room were intended to sample deposits that could lend insight into the use of space in the basement. That was also a goal of excavations in all other areas of the basement in addition to the specific architectural concerns.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

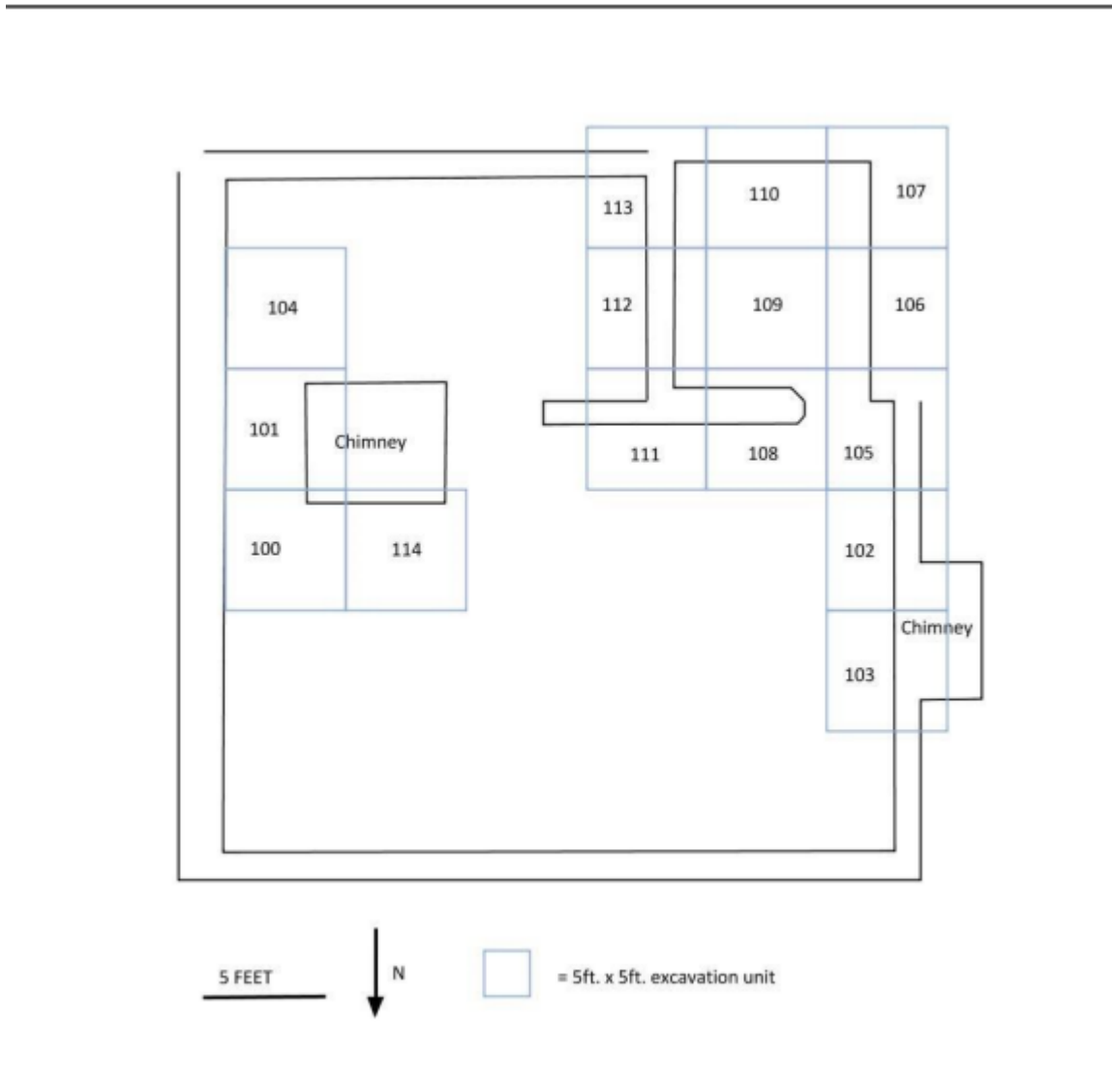


Figure 6. Plan view of basement excavation units.

The present excavation project provided extensive new information on the architectural history and use of Mead's Tavern. The project included the collection and analysis of architectural samples from hearths and wall cavities on the first and second floors of the structure and targeted excavation of three areas in the basement.

H&P, in coordination with the architectural investigative team, devised an archaeological methodology to collect and analyze these samples. The upstairs hearths produced relatively large samples with a variety of personal and architectural artifacts. Although they contained several nineteenth-century artifacts, such as cut nails, the sand in the hearths had clearly been removed and placed back into the cavities in the twentieth century. The boards at the base of the sand

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

deposits in both hearths were relatively new and artifacts from the south bedroom location included a 1968 Lincoln cent. A plastic nut from the later twentieth century was recovered from the west bedroom hearth. The numerous buttons, pins and other personal items mostly relate to the building's later inhabitants and have limited research value.

Samples collected from the first floor, on the other hand, simply contain few artifacts other than plaster keys. Several bits of plaster with paint were retained for future analysis and may provide clues to early paint colors. The majority of the samples, however, offer limited research value.

Excavation in the tavern basement produced a wealth of new information about the structure's architecture as well as the early use of this level as living space. The most consequential discovery was the presumed original end chimney base along the tavern's east wall. The original brick had been built over by the c. 1805 central chimney, cut through by an early-twentieth-century pit feature and covered by a thick mid-twentieth century fill deposit. Yet it survived remarkably intact.

The early chimney base measures 8ft. north-south. It was centered between the two angled mortises, thought to be the locations of corner fireplace braces, in the sill above. A portion of the original brick firebox remains intact. It would have measured 5.2ft. wide (north-south). The firebox is cut by a pit feature, which had the effect of revealing the soil profile beneath it. While the brick in the firebox appears to have been placed on subsoil, the profile shows discoloration approximately .25ft. thick just below the bricks. This is consistent with the clay subsoil being partially fired by the intense heat transmitted through the brick above. The tops of the firebox bricks are ashy, gray and degraded, the result of intense use. If excavators' interpretation of Feature 13 in Unit 114 is correct, the basement fireplace contained a hearth that ran north-south across the full 8ft. face of the chimney. With the hearth included, the fireplace extended a full 7ft. westward into the basement from the east foundation wall. The portion of the presumed hearth not covered by the current central chimney was thoroughly robbed-out, so it is not possible at present to determine whether it consisted of brick or stone. However, portions preserved under the central chimney or perhaps in the utility room could reveal its composition.

The discovery of the end chimney confirms the architectural evidence for this feature and is an important piece of the architectural history of the tavern. Perhaps more significantly, the discovery shows that the basement area contained a fireplace prior to construction of the current central chimney. Today the basement is a cramped and damp storage space primarily used for locating utilities. However, prior to c. 1805 the basement hearth provided a source of heat and light that would have dried the space, removed the chill and made it suitable for occupation. Excavations also showed that the original earthen floor, now precariously high relative to the overhead joists, was set deeply enough to allow approximately 6 feet 2 inches of headroom. Remnants of whitewash on the brick and stone foundation suggest the basement would have been brighter and cleaner than its present appearance.

Excavation along the west wall of the utility room and along the west foundation of the tavern near the current entrance provides ample evidence for eighteenth and early nineteenth century

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

occupation of the space. In the utility room, Units 112 and 113 contained part of a sheet midden overlying subsoil that was densely populated with domestic artifacts. It contained pins, buttons, a pipe stem fragment, numerous animal bones and teeth, and a wide variety of ceramics and bottle glass. A single cut nail and one sherd of whiteware were the only artifacts recovered that suggested a nineteenth century deposition. The whiteware, being an outlier, may be intrusive and linked to substantial disturbance found at the tops of the two units. The cut nail is one of 18 nails recovered from the context with all of the others being wrought. This supports a cutoff date for basement occupation between the 1803 and 1805 Mutual Assurance drawings depicting a change in chimney location.

The base of Units 112 and 113 were pockmarked with 21 small indentations of cultural origin. The majority of these were square shaped while others were round and tapering. These likely represent places where furniture legs sank into the clay floor. This area would have been located within about 10ft. of the hearth and would have been a good location for chairs or a worktable. Alternatively, some of the holes may relate to storage shelves placed along the wall. However, larger parts of the utility room would need to be excavated to make sense of the pattern of holes.

Excavation on the west side of the basement and on both sides of the extant entrance door provided additional evidence of occupation. Inside the small anteroom leading to the basement, excavators discovered a hard-packed clay subsoil floor beneath the modern concrete pad. The only features located in the room were the twentieth-century cobble path leading from the base of the concrete steps to the basement door and a small rodent burrow. Once through the threshold, however, archaeologists discovered a dense sheet midden of eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century artifacts. As in the utility room, there was evidence of recent disturbance across the tops of the units, but the midden overlying subsoil contained an abundance of personal and clothing items, ceramics, bottle glass, iron keys, eating utensils, tools, animal bones, and teeth. Of the hundreds of chronologically diagnostic artifacts recovered from the midden across four excavation units, only four sherds of whiteware, a decal-decorated refined earthenware sherd, a solarized bottle glass shard and a single wire nail can clearly be attributed to post-1805. In contrast, the midden contained hundreds of sherds of creamware, pearlware and other ceramics with eighteenth-century TPQs. The assemblage from this and similar deposits elsewhere in the basement paint a vivid picture of life in this subterranean space during the tavern period.

Results of the west foundation excavation block were mixed with respect to the architectural research questions. The units lying along the west wall contained no evidence for an interior or partially interior end chimney. If there was an earlier end chimney than the current one, as the architectural historians speculate, then evidence for it may be found west of the basement beneath the nineteenth-century addition. A single probable post hole in Unit 103 is similar in size to post holes recently discovered beneath the tavern's north porch. Archaeologists speculate that these may be scaffold holes. If true, there is the potential that Feature 17 in Unit 103 could be related to scaffolding used to build the end chimney.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

No clear evidence was found to support the construction date of the basement entrance. The twentieth-century cobble and cement path appeared to have destroyed any evidence of an earlier threshold. However, the fact that the midden deposit extended across the threshold suggests that this may have been an earthen threshold or that the original material was removed from it by the early nineteenth century. Architectural evidence above the doorway may be a better indicator of its age. Overall, the limited excavations conducted in the basement to date indicate that it retains its archaeological integrity and possesses features and artifacts that are highly significant for interpreting eighteenth-century tavern life.

While the excavations revealed that the basement was occupied during the eighteenth century, the question of who lived there remains unanswered. It is quite possible that the earliest tenants were tavern keepers who rented the structure from William Mead. Several are listed in the Historic Structures Report. It is also possible that the tavern keepers lived upstairs or even offsite and that free or enslaved laborers belonging either to them or to Mead may have occupied the basement. There is some potential, as well, that enslaved individuals accompanying affluent travelers may have been offered basement accommodations as opposed to sleeping outside or in an outbuilding such as the stable. Further documentary research and potential further excavation may lead to additional insights regarding the occupants.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

---

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Criteria Considerations

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

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



Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ARCHAEOLOGY – Historic – Non-Aboriginal

ARCHITECTURE

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

**Period of Significance**

1763–1822

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

**Significant Dates**

1803

1805

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

Euro-American

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

**Architect/Builder**

Mead, William

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

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

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

Mead's Tavern is located in the Town of New London in Campbell County. The property is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement and Commerce for trends in history related to the Colonial and Early National history of New London and the exploration and settlement of frontier Virginia. Further, Mead's Tavern provides insight into the commerce of an eighteenth-century community and tavern establishment. Founded in 1754, New London was the first county seat of Bedford County and home to approximately 80 buildings in this pre-Revolutionary War era town. Today, Mead's Tavern is the only building remaining from New London's eighteenth-century landscape. Mead's Tavern is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture because it possesses significant characteristics of Colonial and Early National period methods of construction. The building is a significant example of a two-story tavern built in the eighteenth century. A majority of the taverns built during this time period are typically one-story structures. Architectural studies completed for Mead's Tavern, especially a 2018 historic structures report, demonstrate the evolution of the building as its use changed over time. In addition, the historic structures report identifies the incredible amount of historic building fabric that remains in the Tavern, shedding light on building techniques and materials from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Though Mead's Tavern has been altered as the use of the building changed, it still retains integrity of location, feeling, workmanship, and materials. Mead's Tavern is locally significant under Criterion D in the area of Archaeology – Historic – Non-Aboriginal for its potential to yield significant information through future study related to archaeology. The archaeological excavations completed on the Mead's Tavern parcel and basement, as well as the interior of the tavern, yielded a tremendous number of artifacts related to the eighteenth-century occupation of the building. The artifacts allow for a better understanding of the complexity of life on the eighteenth-century Virginia frontier. The period of significance for Mead's Tavern begins in 1763 with the construction of the building and ends in 1822 with the closing of the Roland Academy and the transition of the building to a dwelling. The significant dates of 1803 and 1805 refer to the Mutual Assurance Society policies taken out on the property that provide important information about the property's early-nineteenth-century configuration and condition.

---

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

**Criterion A: Exploration/ Settlement and Commerce**

Mead's Tavern is locally significant under Criterion A for trends in history related to the exploration and settlement as well as the commerce of the eighteenth-century Virginia frontier. Founded in 1754, the Town of New London was the first county seat of Bedford County. New London sat at the crossroads of the Great Wagon Road and the Wilderness Road, a prime location for a new town and county seat. The Great Wagon Road eventually became the Lynchburg-Salem Turnpike, and today is called Alum Springs Road. By the beginning of the

Mead's Tavern  
 Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
 County and State

Revolutionary War, New London contained Mead's Tavern, the Bedford County Courthouse and numerous other commercial buildings. New London remained the county seat of Bedford County for 27 years, until the formation of Campbell County in 1781.

The construction of Mead's Tavern is attributed to William Mead, who was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, in 1727. A carpenter by trade, Mead and his wife Ann Haile Mead moved to Bedford County in 1754. In November 1761, Mead became one of the incorporators of New London.<sup>17</sup> It was during this time that Mead and his business partner Benjamin Howard, also a trustee of New London, purchased lot 6, as well as several other contiguous properties within the town comprising approximately six acres of land (Figure 7). A requirement of the time was that the purchaser erect a building of a certain size within one year, and a brick or stone chimney within four years.

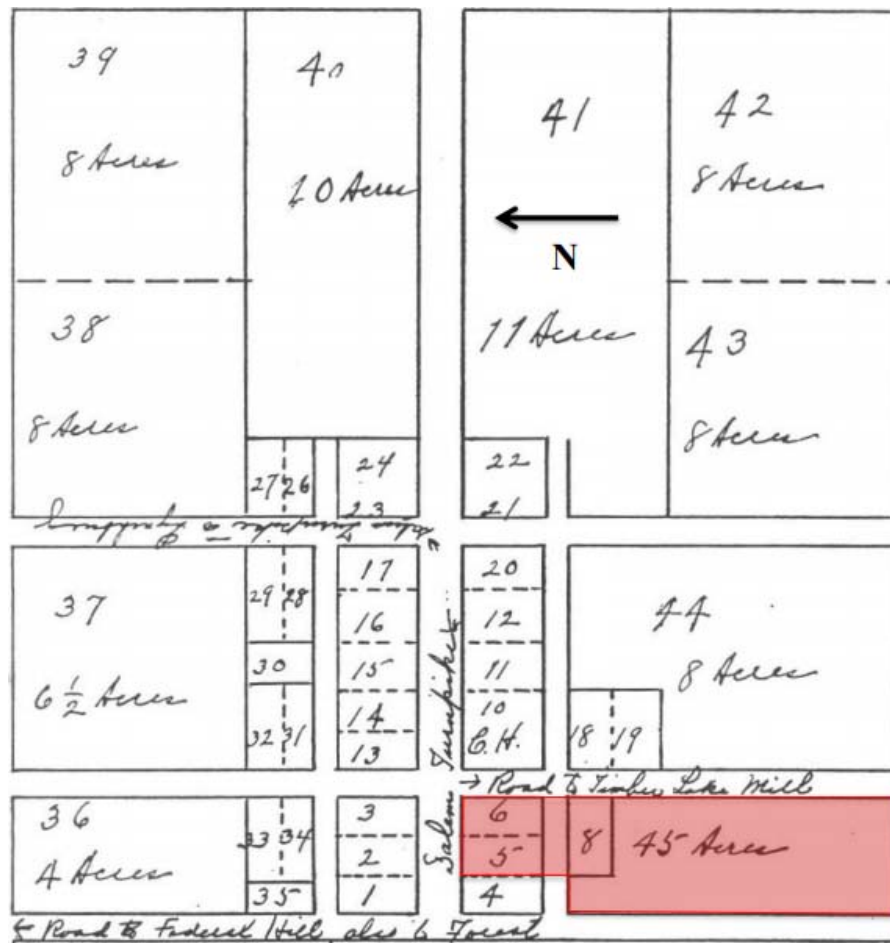


Figure 7. Annotated original plat of New London with Mead and Howard properties highlighted.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Callahan, "Some of the Meads," 193-194.

<sup>18</sup> Lichtenberger, "Phase I Archaeological Excavation of the Mead's Tavern Basement, 12.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

It was this requirement that led to a Chancery Court case brought against Mead and Howard by Mr. Fitzpatrick in 1767. In that case Howard testified to the construction of a building on lot 6, “a very magnificent house erected on the said lot 6 in the year 1763.” Further, the case indicates that Mead and Howard built a temporary structure on lot 6 prior to 1763, but that the building was sold to William Inglis who moved it to his own lot. The removal of this earlier building created some uncertainty as to who actually owned lot 6. In addition, lot 6 was said to be “of Very Considerable Value” due to its location on a corner and across from the courthouse.<sup>19</sup>

Further clarification as to the construction of Mead's Tavern on lot 6 is provided in a 1791 Campbell County Chancery case. In the case Thomas Anderson and his wife Elizabeth versus William Mead, Anderson asserted an interest in lot 6. Anderson claimed that Mead and Howard “made considerable improvements” to lot 6 prior to Howard's death in 1771, and that Mead “did after the said Howard's death, receive all the profits, rents and emoluments arising therefrom for a considerable number of years without ever making any satisfaction or payment to the said Benjamin Howard for his moiety and proportion during his life or to your Orator and Oratine [Anderson and his wife] his legal representative since.”<sup>20</sup>

In response to Howard's claim, Mead claimed that he acquired Howard's interest in the property and provided a 1765 receipt from Howard to Mead for “lots and houses sold him in New London,” and an account settlement dated February 26, 1767. The account settlement provides information pertaining to the business transactions between Mead and Howard during the years 1764 and 1765. The case provides considerable information pertaining to the construction of Mead's Tavern. Mead wrote:

After the aforesaid purchase he began to build on the aforesaid lots such houses as the law required that after such beginning it was concluded that such houses were too small for any purpose and that they would erect much larger more commodious buildings in their stead the constructing [illegible] and superintending of which was left entirely to this defendant. This respondent shows that after he had [illegible] som lenth in effecting the said buildings the said Howard became desirous of disposing of his interest therein alledging that the expenses would be too great and it was then understood that this respondent should take the lotts aforesaid to himself.

Mead further asserts that he undertook the “whole expense on the building.”<sup>21</sup>

Neither William Mead nor Howard lived in New London during this time; the building was rented to other people. Based on research conducted by Agnes Evans Gish, Virginia tavern historian, Robert Hairston and Richard Turner received a license to operate an ordinary “at

---

<sup>19</sup> Bedford County Chancery Court Records 1767

<sup>20</sup> Campbell County Chancery Case 1796-004.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

Mead's House" on lot 6 in New London.<sup>22</sup> The activities that took place within New London taverns is well documented by contemporary newspapers. An example includes an advertisement in the *Virginia Gazette* from Francis Thorp, who operated a tavern in the town in 1766. In the advertisement Thorp writes:

The subscriber takes this opportunity to acquaint the public, that he hath taken the LONG ORDINARY in the Town of NEW LONDON, in the County of Bedford, where all gentlemen travelers who pass that way, may depend upon good entertainment for themselves, and plenty of provisions and good pasturage for their horses, at all times of the year.

The subsequent owner of the Long Ordinary, William Callaway, also utilized the *Virginia Gazette* to advertise his business, "The LONG ORDINARY at Bedford court-house, formerly kept by Francis Thorp, for fifty pounds per year, with all convenient houses, gardens, pastures, and fifty or sixty acres of good corn or wheat land, all of which are in good repair."<sup>23</sup> While neither of these advertisements are for Mead's Tavern, it is known that like the Long Ordinary, Mead's had land adjacent to lot 6 that provided the same pasture for the horses of weary travelers.<sup>24</sup> The March 1783 Campbell County court order that set the rates for items served at ordinaries in the county provides a list of popular items served at the establishments. The list includes West India and "taffy" rum, peach and apple brandy, French brandy, cider, strong and small beer, good wine and whiskey, and "toddy with soap sugar." The court order also set the rates for hot and cold dinners and breakfasts, oats and fodder, as well as stableage and pasturage.

William Mead retained ownership of lots 5, 6, 8, and 45 until 1784 when the property was sold to William Harris of Bedford County.<sup>25</sup> It was at this time that Mead left Virginia and relocated to Augusta, Georgia. Mead's relocation coincides with the establishment of Campbell County in 1782 and the relocation of the Bedford County seat to Liberty (later Bedford), and the Campbell County seat to Rustburg. In 1785, William Harris sold lots 5, 6, 8, and 45 to John Mead, son of William Mead, who retained ownership of the property for only a year. However, during this time John Mead did have a license "to keep ordinary at his own house in the Town of London," likely at Mead's Tavern.<sup>26</sup> In 1786, John Mead and his wife sold the parcels to James Buford. Buford began to gradually sell off some of the original landholdings of William Mead. In 1797 Buford sold lot 5 and two acres of lot 45 (which originally contained 5 acres) to Thomas Reid.<sup>27</sup>

During the time that Buford owned lot 6 and Mead's Tavern, a Mutual Assurance Society (MAS) policy was purchased for the property. In an insurance policy dated 1803, the policy provides a

---

<sup>22</sup> Pezzoni and Rakes, "Interim Historic Structures Report for Mead's Tavern, New London, Virginia, 2017, 34.

<sup>23</sup> *Virginia Gazette*, July 18, 1766 and April 14, 1768.

<sup>24</sup> Lichtenberger, 12.

<sup>25</sup> Campbell County Deed Book 2, page 91.

<sup>26</sup> Campbell County Deed Book 2, page 82.

<sup>27</sup> Campbell County Deed Book 4, page 391.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

description, and dimensions of the building, as well as an outbuilding. The MAS described the Tavern as “a Wooden Dwelling 30 by 30 feet with a Porch and Portico on North Side 30 by 6 feet underpinned 3 feet above the earth.” The outbuilding is described as “a Wooden Stable one story 32 by 22 feet one story high” (Figure 8). Interestingly enough, the policy was not purchased by James Buford, but by John Thompson. Typically, policies are purchased by the property owner, indicating that John Thompson obviously had some stake in the property though no documentation has been found to substantiate this relationship.<sup>28</sup>

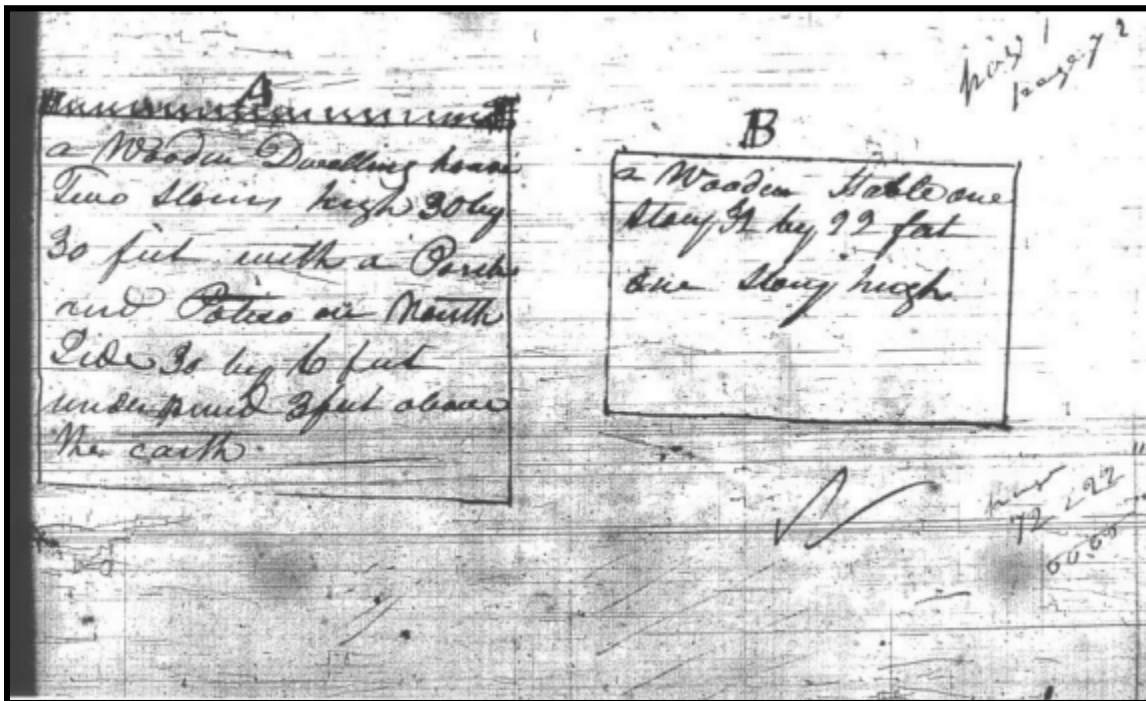


Figure 8. Excerpt of 1803 Mutual Assurance Society policy plat, found at the Library of Virginia.

In 1804, traveler John Howell Briggs made the following observation about the Town of New London: “this town seems to be in a declining state. A number of handsome & comfortable houses are tenantless; and there seems to be but a few inhabitants. It was some years ago a very thriving place.” Briggs did note that, “There is a boarding school here for young ladies, said to be under good regulations; and within two miles a college.”<sup>29</sup> The “college” that Briggs refers to may be the New London Academy, a school chartered in 1795. Also by 1795, a girls’ boarding school run by Mrs. Ward was said to have sat on the corner lot across from the courthouse, the Mead’s Tavern lot.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>28</sup> University of Mary Washington 2013.

<sup>29</sup> Briggs, “Journal of a Trip to the Sweet Springs,” 31.

<sup>30</sup> Reed, *New London Today and Yesterday*, 31.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

In 1805, James Buford and his wife, who resided in the County of Bourbon in the state of Kentucky, sold “three lots or parcels of ground in the town of New London and known in a plan of the Town by the figures following, viz., No. 6 being one half acre on which stands a large two storey house called Meads Tavern, No. 8 being one half acre and lying back of the lott aforesaid, and also three acres of ground being part of the lott No. 45 which originally contained five acres, it being the part of said lott not conveyed by me to Thomas Reid” to Robert Snoddy of Campbell County for the sum of 300 pounds.<sup>31</sup>

Though the property changed hands, John Thompson still retained an interest in the property because in 1805 the MAS policy was reevaluated per his request, the difference between the two policies being that Thompson had separate policies for the Tavern and the stable. The MAS policy describes the stable as sitting on “my Lot No. 8 situated on the Back Street N London now occupied by David Hambilton.” The stable is described as a wooden structure, one-story high, covered with wood, and measuring 32 by 20 feet. Further, the policy states that the stable sits on the “back street leading from north to south 30 feet wide” and “the main street leading east to west 60 feet wide.” The back street in this description is currently called Town Fork Road.

The 1805 policy for Mead's Tavern provides the following description: “Lot 6 situated on the south side of the street in New London now occupied by Hambilton,” with a “wooden dwelling house 2 stories high and covered with wood, measuring 30 by 30 feet.” The building had a two-story wood portico measuring 30 by 7 feet, an end chimney, and a central-interior chimney. The MAS policy also provides information pertaining to the number of outbuildings and the distance of the buildings from the main dwelling. The policy states that “this building is contiguous to three buildings that is within the limits allowed by law built of wood.” Though not drawn to scale, the buildings are labeled as a kitchen 30 feet, smoke house 19 feet, and wash house 10 feet (Figure 9).<sup>32</sup>

---

<sup>31</sup> Campbell County Deed Book 7, page 62.

<sup>32</sup> University of Mary Washington, 2013.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

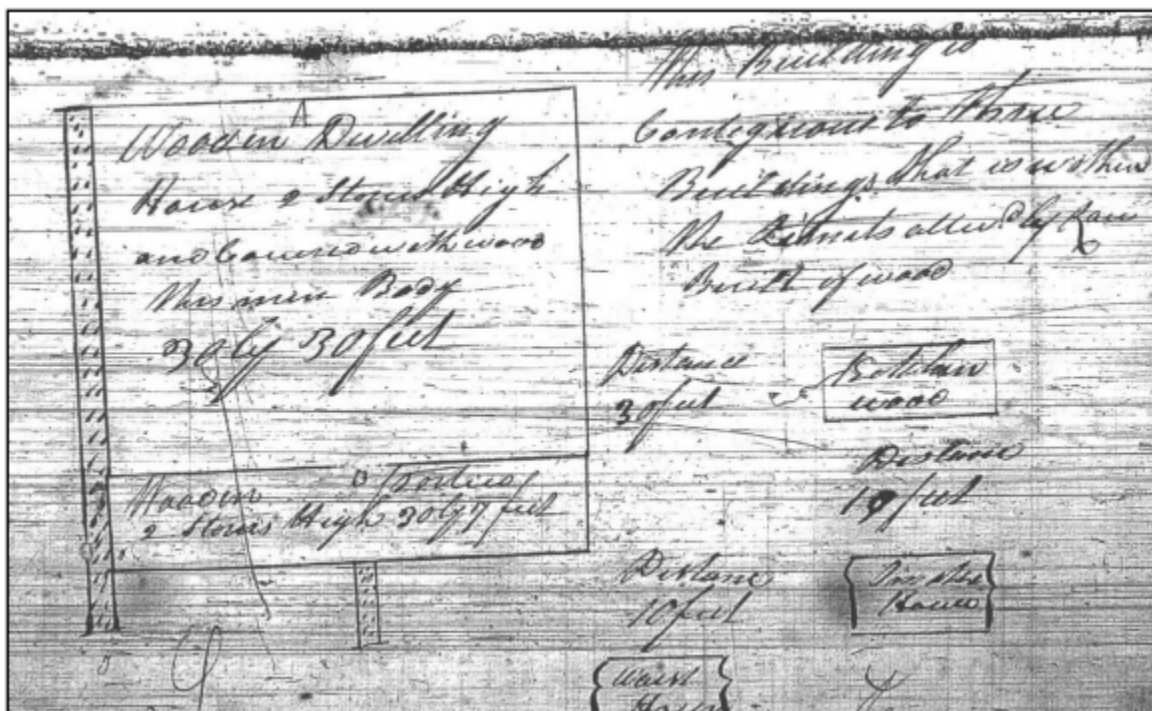


Figure 9. Excerpt of 1805 Mutual Assurance Society Plat of Lot 6, found at the Library of VA.

Robert Snoddy retained ownership of Lot 6 until 1807, when the property was sold to John Thompson. The description of the property in the deed states: “. . .one half acre lot number six whereon stands a two story house formerly called Meads Tavern; also one other half acre lot lying south of it and in the same position with it, being a part of lots numbered eight and forty-five.” Strangely, the orientation of lot 8 changed from east-west to north-south, and there is no explanation for this change. Some potential explanations may be lot 8 was never defined on the ground for whatever reasons, or perhaps the stable was built in the northeast corner of lot 45 and the orientation changed so the stable could easily convey with the tavern. Finally, Buford may have accidentally sold the western portion of lot 8 to Thomas Reid in 1797 when he sold him two acres of lot 45. The southern property line of lot 5 would prevent Reid from having direct access to his newly acquired land.<sup>33</sup>

During the ownership of John and Lydia Thompson, the former Mead's Tavern continued to operate as a school. The Roland Academy opened in 1811 as a female boarding school run by Ann (Nancy) Ball Miller and her son Samuel Thomas Miller. According to Samuel T. Miller's biographer, Ann Miller “was at the head of the establishment, and she was a lady of refinement, well fitted to take charge of young ladies.” Samuel T. Miller was a teacher at Roland Academy. “The school prospered and attracted pupils from the best families for miles around.” The students used Walker's Dictionary, Murray's small grammar, and Goldsmith's small geography as part of their education. An advertisement for the school claimed that the students would receive “the same maternal attention to her protégées that Mrs. Miller has heretofore aimed at,

<sup>33</sup> Campbell County Deed Book 7, page 610.



Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

she will still make it her endeavor to practice and their intellectual improvement will ever be the first and greatest care." The school remained in operation until 1821.<sup>34</sup>

The Thompsons sold lots 6 and 8 to James Penn in 1812. The deed describes the parcels as "two lots of land in the Town of New London . . . one number (6), six in the plan of the town the other immediately back of the former on which a large stable is erected both of them half acre lots as will appear by deed from Robert Snoddy and wife to said Thompson and recorded in Campbell County."<sup>35</sup>

In 1815, James Penn sold lots 6 and 8, as well as his plantation The Grove, to Christopher Clark of Bedford County. The deed identifies lot 6 as having "one tenement in the town of New London occupied as a female academy and conveyed to him by John Thompson." In 1820, Clark entered into a deed of trust with James Moorman, Harvey Clark, and James Bullock to secure some debt. The deed of trust involves Clark's properties Sandusky and The Grove, as well as "one house and lot in the Town of New London purchased by the said Clark of James Penn," believed to be the lot containing Mead's Tavern.<sup>36</sup>

Christopher Clark took out a MAS policy in 1822, this was a reevaluation of Thompson's earlier policy from 1805. The revised policy identifies a portico on the south elevation of the Tavern described as a "portico of wood 30 by 8 feet . . . with walls and roof of wood." The MAS policy describes the surrounding roads, and the Back Street identified in the 1805 policy is now referred to as the "street by the old court house." The occupant of the property is identified as Sackville King, since the Roland Academy closed its doors in 1821.<sup>37</sup>

---

<sup>34</sup> Miller and Miller, *Life of Samuel Thomas Miller*, 11, 43-44, 57.

<sup>35</sup> Campbell County Deed Book 9, page 408.

<sup>36</sup> Campbell County Deed Book 12, page 450.

<sup>37</sup> University of Mary Washington, 2013.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

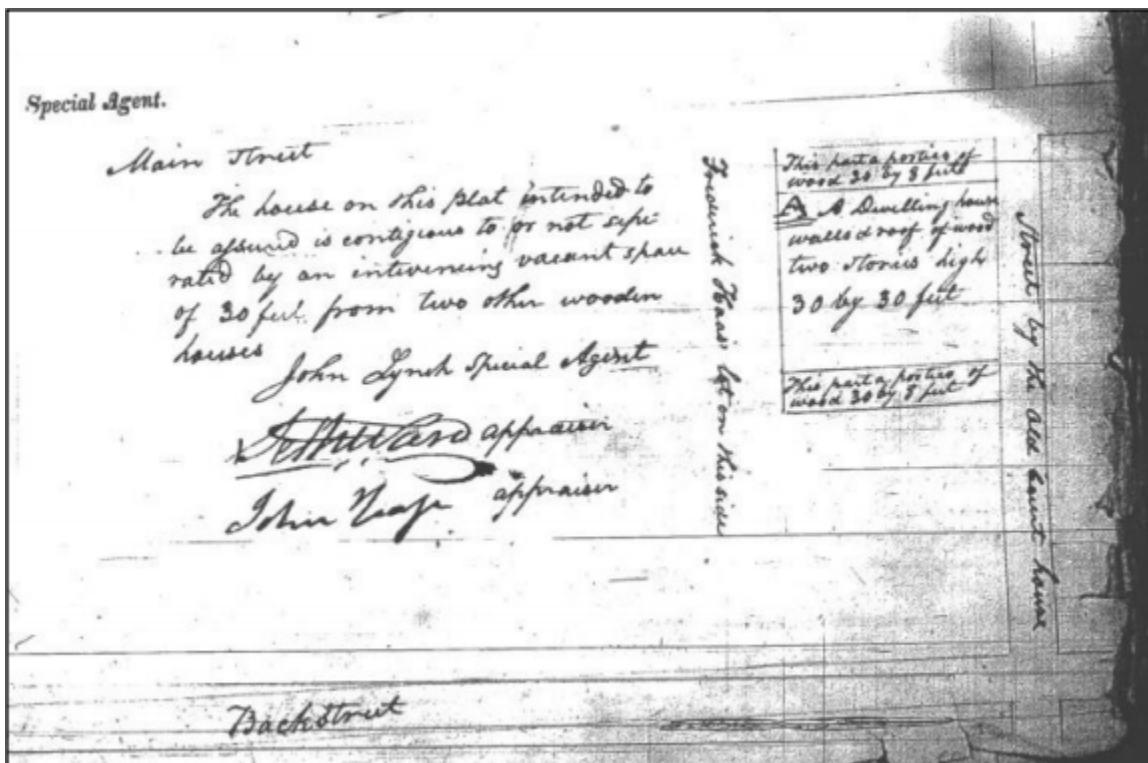


Figure 10. Excerpt of 1822 Mutual Assurance Society Plat, found at the Library of Virginia.

In 1822, the Mutual Assurance Society sued Christopher Clark, James Bullock, Jane Wood, and the executors of John Thompson. Apparently, Clark did not pay the premium on the MAS policy and it was unclear as to who owned the property, so the company sued. According to the Chancery Court case, Clark attempted to sell the property to Jane Wood, who made a partial payment on the property. However, once Wood realized that there were encumbrances on the property as a result of the unpaid policy she stopped paying Clark. Clark then sued Wood for the money owed on the property. Wood claimed that because she never paid in full for the property and because she was unaware of the MAS policy, she did not own the property nor was she responsible for the unpaid balance for the policy. In 1833, the MAS won the court case and was awarded \$168.98, plus 6% interest, and court costs. The total owed was tremendous, so in order to recoup its costs the court decided that the property should be sold.<sup>38</sup>

Therefore, on June 2, 1834, Jane Wood sold the property to John H. Bailey for \$120. The property description is as follows: "land in New London bounded as follows, to wit, two one half acre lots lying on the south side of the main street known as #6 and #8, making in aggregate one acre." However this transaction never took place due to a decree issued later in June 1834, which stated that the property should be auctioned because of the MAS court case. The decree states that "sold to Bailey on 23 February 1833 to wit, one two story tavern wooden house situate on main street in the town of New London, Campbell Co. then lately in the occupancy of Mrs.

<sup>38</sup> Lynchburg Chancery Court Records, 1833.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

Jane Wood, also a wooden stable situated on the back street and on Lot #8 of said town. In the end Bailey paid \$80 and would own the property for the next two decades.<sup>39</sup>

The property changed hands multiple times between 1854 and 1872, when it was acquired by Rev. Bennett Williamson Mosely, pastor of the New London Presbyterian Church and principal of the New London Academy. Mosely died in 1886 and a Chancery Court case resulted. The case describes the property as having “sundry out-houses” and that the dwelling was “out of repair . . . it is not desirable as a home and place of residence, it is hard to find a tenant for it, and when rented it has only brought about \$75.00 a year.”<sup>40</sup> As a result of the Chancery Court case, the building sold in 1892 to H.B. Zernow, the pastor at New London Academy Church, he utilized the property as a parsonage. In 1897, Nicholas Kabler acquired the property and he and his father Thaddeus Kabler, who were both doctors, used it as their office.<sup>41</sup>

The Kablers retained ownership of the property until 1902, at which time Mr. R.W. Adams took ownership. Adams sold the property ten days later to William D. Abbott and his wife Sallie. Mr. Abbott operated his Aetna insurance business from the building. In 1950, the Abbott family heirs sold the property to C.C. and Pansie T. Farris. In 1970 it was conveyed to Margaret P. Yankowski, and in 1982 to Ruby L. and Julian D. Johnson. In 2012, the Johnsons sold the property to the Friends of New London, Virginia, Inc., who conveyed the property to Liberty University in 2015.<sup>42</sup>

---

<sup>39</sup> Campbell County Deed Book 19, page 319.

<sup>40</sup> Chancery Case 1892-002.

<sup>41</sup> Campbell County Deed Book 65, page 94.

<sup>42</sup> Campbell County Deed Book 72, page 215; Campbell County Deed Book 72, page 223; Campbell County Deed Book 231, page 102; Campbell County Deed Book 423, page 492; Campbell County Deed Book 579, page 642.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

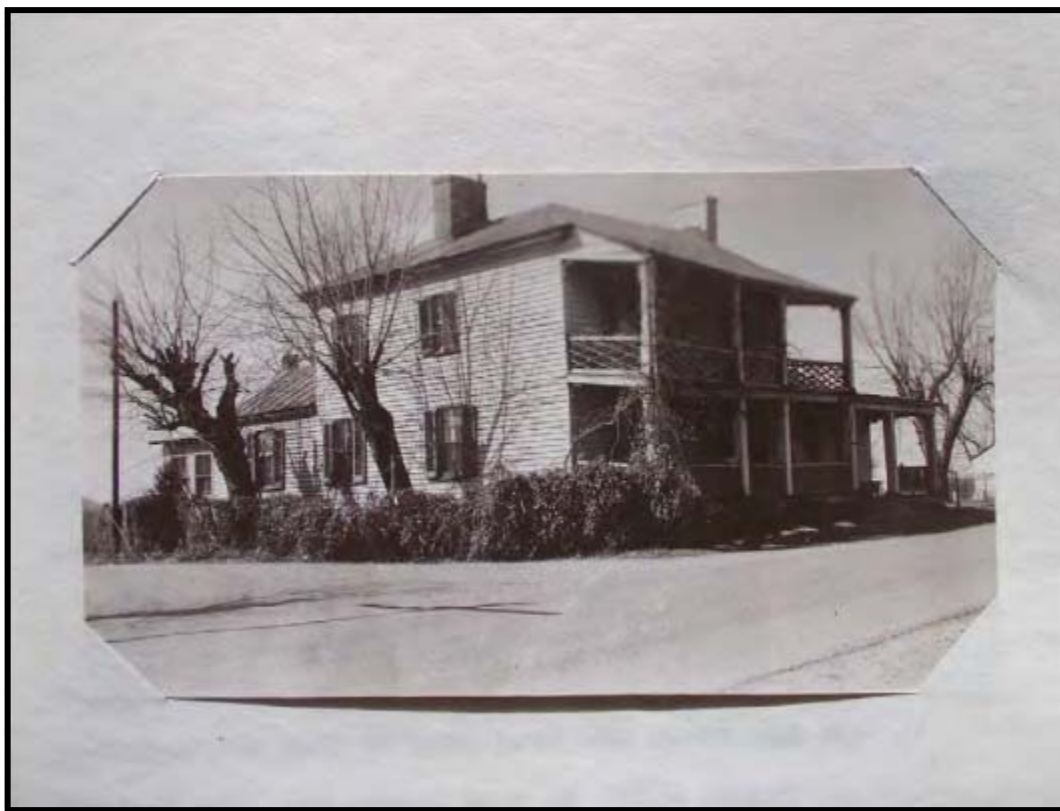


Figure 11. 1941 photo of the Tavern, found in Pezzoni and Rakes.

### **Criterion C: Architecture**

#### *Architecture*

Mead's Tavern is locally significant under Criterion C because it possesses significant characteristics of eighteenth-century construction found in colonial-era, backcountry Virginia. Further, Mead's Tavern is a rare, surviving example of a colonial-era tavern in Virginia, especially in the Piedmont area of the state. There are few extant examples of eighteenth-century taverns in Virginia, particularly those that are two stories in height. Though modern finishes conceal much of the historic fabric of the tavern, the 2018 Historic Structures Report completed for Mead's Tavern peeled back those modern layers, exposing the intact colonial-era fabric of the building. The architectural analysis of Mead's Tavern remains a work in progress, and the future study of the building will continue to inform the scholarship of eighteenth-century, backcountry Virginia.

One quality that makes Mead's Tavern important, especially for the eighteenth century, is the fact that the building is two stories in height. Documentary research, in addition to the work completed for the Historic Structures Report, indicate that the building has always been this configuration. Other documented taverns from this time period and in the Piedmont region of Virginia never exceeded one-and-a-half stories in height. Examples include the Dejanette

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

Tavern (DHR No. 041-0067) in Halifax County, the Lombardy Grove Tavern (DHR No. 058-0073) in Mecklenburg County, Yates Tavern (DHR No. 071-0060) in Pittsylvania County, and Boswell's Tavern (DHR No. 054-0007) in Louisa County. Boswell's Tavern is now a two-story building; however, the pre-1780 portion was only one-story with the additional floor added post-1780. The fine, English-bond brick foundation of Mead's Tavern sets the building apart from its contemporaries. The Dejarnette Tavern and Yates Tavern feature a random stone foundation, while the Lombard Grove Tavern and Boswell's Tavern have brick foundations; however, none are in English-bond brick.<sup>43</sup>

The architectural analysis of Mead's Tavern completed so far identified some of the significant features of the building. In a time when a majority of buildings were limited to one story, or a story-and-a-half, Mead's Tavern is an impressive two stories in height. This is a distinctive trait even among the taverns mentioned above and certainly among the structures present in the Town of New London in the eighteenth century.

Further, the architectural analysis revealed the striking high-end finishes found under modern materials, and throughout the building. This is particularly true of the foundation of the tavern with the impressive stacked stone base, capped with several courses of English-bond brick. The addition of scribed mortar joints and the red oxide wash further illustrate that this was a building meant to be attractive, as well as functional. The paint traces found throughout the tavern further illustrate some of the stunning finishes present. The oak graining found on baseboards, doors, the stairs, and west wing mantel demonstrate an attempt to create a cohesive design in the building. Investigation of the tavern revealed a considerable amount of beaded woodwork, some reused during renovations of the building, and some concealed by additions and alterations.

The architectural analysis of Mead's Tavern provided important information on what aspects of the building remain unchanged since the original construction, and what has evolved over time. For example, though the steps in the northeast room are not original, the location of the steps has not changed. Placing stairs in the corner of a room was common in eighteenth-century construction, allowing the builder to maximize floor space and use the house wall to support the stairs. Currently, it appears that the second floor division of space is original and has not been altered since the tavern's construction.

The study of the tavern resulted in the identification of alterations to the building, many of which are also supported by archival research. It is unclear whether the front porch extended the width of the building, or just covered the presumed original east entrance, though archaeological evidence points to the latter. Full-width porches are not unusual in eighteenth-century buildings, particularly taverns. Carl Lounsbury in his book *Early Courthouses of Virginia* writes that "Piazzas became nearly universal features of late colonial and early federal-period taverns. Stretching across the front of buildings, these open porches were used as a sitting area, a place to gather and converse."<sup>44</sup> The Mutual Assurance Society policies cited above describe a full porch

---

<sup>43</sup> Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Survey Files.

<sup>44</sup> Lounsbury, *Early Courthouses of Virginia*, 288-289.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

that covers the width of the building and is two stories in height. Additional investigations may reveal what type of porch Mead's Tavern had in the eighteenth century. Surviving evidence supports the presence of a two-story porch on the rear (south) elevation. This coincides with the transition of the building to a school and the addition of an enclosed porch would significantly increase the useable space on the second floor.

With alterations to the building came changes in chimney location. Originally, Mead's Tavern was flanked by chimneys on both the east and west ends. At some point, the east chimney was removed, and a central-interior chimney added to the building. This alteration is supported by the presence of mortises with no joists and a remnant joist end found in the attic. This change is further substantiated by 1803 and 1805 MAS policies for the building. The rendering of the property on the 1803 policy shows chimneys on the east and west ends of the building, while the 1805 drawing shows a chimney on the west end, and a central-interior chimney. A component of the central-interior chimney is the hearth box constructed under the fireplace in the first-floor, northeast room. The boards supporting the hearth box are reused from a different location as indicated by the notching present and the hammered-down nails on the board. Subsequently, archaeological evidence has revealed portions of the earlier interior end chimney running from the east tavern wall underneath the extant interior chimney.

Through the building analysis, it was determined that while a chimney has always been present on the west end of the original portion of the tavern, the current chimney is a replacement. This claim is supported by the change in the roof from hipped to gable, the rebuilding of the foundation in this location, and the use of post-eighteenth-century construction techniques. In fact, a significant portion of the foundation on the west elevation is rebuilt, indicating that the original chimney was of an impressive size.

The architectural details discussed above are the results of an intensive, but limited exploration of Mead's Tavern. A significant portion of the tavern remains for additional study and analysis. The likelihood of discovering more historic fabric and detailing is apparent given the tremendous amount of material identified to date. The additional information uncovered, as the modern layers of Mead's Tavern are removed, will add significantly to the historical narrative of eighteenth-century, backcountry Virginia.

**Criterion D: Archaeology – Historic – Non-Aboriginal – Information Potential**

Mead's Tavern is locally significant under Criterion D for its potential to yield significant archaeological information pertaining to its use as a tavern in late Colonial and Early National, backcountry Virginia and its use as a girls' boarding academy in the Early National Period. Archaeologically, the Mead's Tavern property offers the opportunity to study an intact 18<sup>th</sup>-century Virginia tavern lot. The current property boundaries include both the original colonial-era half-acre lot and the eastern half of the half-acre lot immediately south of it. Denoted as lot #8 in the town plan, this appended property contained the stable that served the tavern.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

The first archaeological investigation of the tavern property began in 2013 under the auspices of the non-profit group Friends of New London, Virginia, Inc. This survey-level project consisted of the excavation of 2ft. x 2ft. test units (TU's) across the property at 20ft. intervals along transects spaced 20ft. apart. Liberty University funded the completion of the survey after purchasing the property in 2015. Archaeologists from Hurt & Proffitt, Inc. completed the survey in early 2016.<sup>45</sup>

The Phase I survey resulted in the excavation of 85 TU's across the nearly one-acre lot. Remarkably, all 85 TU's were positive for the presence of historic artifacts, reflecting heavy and continuous use throughout the site's more than two-and-a-half-century history. More significantly, the site possesses several apparently intact cultural features. Among these features are the possible locations of several ancillary structures that may date from the late Colonial to Early National periods.

Archaeologists recommended several areas of the property as priority candidates for future research. The single location with the highest priority is the footprint and associated yard area around what is likely to have been the early tavern kitchen. Prior to excavation, archaeologists observed a roughly square depression measuring 15ft. or more on each side. Subsequent testing revealed a high concentration of building stone, wrought nails and domestic artifacts in and around the feature. Excavation of a series of larger test units, or perhaps an open-area excavation has the potential to reveal the size and function of this structure. The high concentration of artifacts associated with the feature has the potential to produce a large amount of data related to foodways and consumer behavior during the tavern period and later.

Several other potential structure locations bear investigating. These include the large distribution of nails and domestic artifacts near the center of the south end of lot 6, the concentration of wrought and cut nails and domestic artifacts along the west edge of the north yard and a brick, nail and domestic assemblage at the northwest corner of the tavern's western addition. Similarly, a pit feature discovered in TU 8 requires further inquiry. The areas immediately surrounding the tavern to the north and east were not tested during the Phase I survey due to the presence of live utility lines and compacted gravel but do have a high potential for containing significant deposits. Exploration of these areas is most likely to come as part of required mitigation work in the future, but they should not be ruled out as areas of interest. The yard immediately south of the tavern was found to contain a fair amount of modern disturbance, but the recovery of large quantities of artifacts in this location suggests that it would be likely to yield significant data.

Two larger excavation projects have taken place since the survey was completed. These projects were located inside and immediately surrounding the tavern in response to the needs of the ongoing structural study and in anticipation of future restoration.

---

<sup>45</sup> Randy Lichtenberger, *Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Mead's Tavern Site (44CP0244)*, Campbell County, Virginia, 2016.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

The first of these projects was conducted by Hurt & Proffitt, Inc. from February 2018 through July 2018.<sup>46</sup> The project included two areas of inquiry; one being the collection of archaeological deposits left in wall cavities and other above-ground parts of the structure. This part of the investigation has been dubbed architectural archaeology. The other major area of inquiry was the tavern basement which holds important data on both the architectural evolution of the structure and the lives of its inhabitants.

The investigation resulted in the collection of 11 architectural samples and the excavation of portions of 15 5ft. x 5ft. test units in the tavern basement. The architectural sampling revealed that the sand and other deposits in the two upstairs fireplaces had been disturbed in the late twentieth century. Although these features contained several earlier artifacts, there was clear mixing with late twentieth-century artifacts such as modern newspapers and a 1968 Lincoln penny. Architectural samples from the first floor generally contained plaster keys with few other items except for bits of wallpaper, wood and paint which were saved for potential future analysis. The poor result of the architectural sampling does not preclude the discovery of earlier deposits as the restoration get underway.

Excavation in the tavern basement led to the discovery of a suspected eighteenth-century end chimney. The early chimney was partially overlain by the c. 1805 extant central chimney. A significant aspect of this discovery is that the end chimney contained a firebox and hearth at basement level; features that are lacking in the present chimney. The presence of a fireplace in the basement, coupled with the discovery that the original depth of the earthen floor provided ample headroom, indicates that the tavern basement was used as a living space during the eighteenth century. Further analysis and documentary research may reveal whether the occupant was an enslaved worker or one of the tavern operators themselves.

Archaeologists also collected thousands of domestic and architectural artifacts from an eighteenth- to early-nineteenth-century occupation layer that extends across the basement. The assemblage provides important data on the lifeways of the basement's inhabitants and on items likely used to serve guests in the public spaces above. A full excavation of the basement archaeological deposits is currently underway and continues to produce significant new data on the use of the space.

In the winter and spring of 2019, archaeologists with Hurt & Proffitt, Inc. completed an excavation of the footprint of the existing full-width porch on the north side of the tavern. The current porch is constructed of wood and supported approximately 2 feet off the ground by stone piers. The purpose of the excavation was to mitigate potential ground disturbing impacts related to repairing the north foundation wall and improving drainage around the building. Archaeologists anticipated that the excavation would provide important data on the historic configuration of the porch as well as on activities related to the tavern and later occupations of the building.

---

<sup>46</sup> Lichtenberger, 2019.



Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

A full-width porch is depicted on an 1803 Mutual Assurance Society plat of the structure and the building currently has two north entrances. However, architectural evidence points to the west north entrance as having been constructed sometime in the nineteenth century. Meanwhile, the north entrance on the east side of the porch exhibits characteristics of eighteenth-century construction and is considered original.

Archaeologists set out a series of 12 5x5ft. square units in two rows of six along the 30ft.-wide north foundation wall of the tavern. The team first removed two modern layers and several intrusive modern features from the mounded-up soil deposited under the porch. While the contexts contained modern plastics and evidence of twentieth-century porch rebuilding, a large variety of earlier artifacts was also mixed in. These artifacts included several large cents dating from the 1790's through 1803. The heavily disturbed tavern builder's trench also contained a pewter military button associated with the 1790's Wayne's Legion, the first U.S. Army. At the northeast side of the porch, the modern layers were found to cap subsoil and a trash pit approximately 2.5 feet in diameter. The apparent eighteenth-century pit contained numerous animal bones, creamware, kaolin pipe stems, wrought nails, a partial gun flint, a piece of lead shot, a brass button and brass pins.

To the west of the pit, archaeologists identified a large rectangular midden interpreted as the outline of the tavern's original eighteenth-century porch. This dark organic midden measured approximately 14 feet long by 4 feet wide and sat 2 feet to the north of the tavern foundation. The feature had a flat bottom around its edges, suggesting that a porch foundation sat on subsoil in that location and accumulated deposits until it was demolished. It also contained the only substantial deposit of brick fragments found under the present porch, suggesting that the earlier porch had a brick foundation.

The feature produced a large assemblage of approximately ten thousand 18th-century artifacts. Among these are large pieces of animal bones, including jaw bones with teeth; several shards of decorated stemware; two gun flints; numerous brass buttons; gaming pieces (two homemade spherical pieces fashioned from pieces of pearlware dinner plates and several stone cubes); decorated smoking pipe fragments including at least two with maker's marks; wine bottle glass; many straight pins; brass gun part fragments (trigger, butt plate and trigger guard or cheek plate) a stone marble; brass thimble; ox shoe; possible barrel hoop fragment, cut Spanish real, and glass tumbler shards. Ceramics include large numbers of Delftware, Westerwald, creamware, pearlware, and refined red stoneware sherds. In addition to the gun parts, an eighteenth-century brass bayonet scabbard hook, hints at New London's role as a major military arsenal from late in the Revolutionary War until the War of 1812.

Beneath the early porch feature, H&P identified a row of small post holes spaced 10 feet apart and sitting approximately 4 feet north of the tavern. These have been interpreted as potential scaffold holes used to construct the two-story structure.

As excavations conducted to date demonstrate, archaeological data obtained from the Mead's Tavern property is helping to answer a slew of research questions and the property has the

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

potential to provide significant additional data. For example, prior to conducting the recent basement mitigation archaeology, researchers were interested in answering the following questions:

1. What was the original physical layout of the basement space? The modern arrangement consisted of a long north room with a utility room to the south, set off on the east side by a modern concrete block wall.
2. How deep was the basement floor? At the outset of the excavation there was not enough headroom for the average height person to walk comfortably standing up.
3. Did the basement have an earthen floor or was it covered by wood or brick?
4. Did evidence of the suspected east end chimney survive?
5. Did evidence of the suspected larger west end chimney survive?
6. Was the area always used for storage or was it ever a living space?
7. If used as a living space, who inhabited the basement and when?
8. What could the artifacts tell us about daily life of the tavern's inhabitants?
9. What use did the basement serve after the "new" chimney was installed c. 1807?

The excavation has revealed that the basement was constructed with an earthen floor cut into the hard clay. Veins of saprolite streak the original surface and excavators found no evidence that the basement ever contained a hard floor such as wood or brick. The space from the floor to overhead floor joists measured approximately six feet two inches; a comfortable height for most adults.

The original east end chimney base was found intact along the east wall. The bottom course of bricks had been covered over by the c. 1807 chimney, preserving the firebox and the impression of a stone or brick hearth. Archaeologists found no evidence of a previous west end chimney and now suspect the base of this chimney lies outside of the structure to the west, under the late nineteenth-century addition. The early basement space appears to have been organized into a living quarter centered around the hearth at the east end. Two trench features in the northwest corner of the room may indicate a separate storage area. A sump hole in the northeast floor suggests there may have been drainage issues as early as the eighteenth-century.

The dense deposit of eighteenth-century domestic artifacts numbered over 20,000 and included ceramics, bottle glass, a pierced silver coin, a jaw harp, beads, pins, thimbles, lead shot and gunflints. Mending and cross-mending of ceramics and glass are ongoing. The basement assemblage will be analyzed in relation to a large cache of eighteenth-century artifacts recovered under the north porch and the yard assemblage collected during Phase I survey of the tavern yard. The results will address the question of what types of wares were employed in serving guests over the course of the tavern's roughly 40-year operation. The basement assemblage will be assessed for variation from the other two assemblages, as it should reflect the personal possessions of the household occupying the basement versus general tavern wares.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

The number and variety of artifacts indicate the basement's use as a living space in the tavern period. Research continues on the question of who occupied the space. Current theories include the tavernkeeper themselves and possibly members of their household, although the prevailing sentiment is that this area would have been considered more fit for an enslaved cook and their household. Two early tavernkeepers are listed in Bedford County records. Further research may reveal whether they lived on the property or rented accommodations in town. While the tavern could have provided upstairs living space, it may have been reserved for paying travelers. There may also be surviving evidence of whether the tavernkeepers owned or employed enslaved persons, possibly from William Mead himself.

Recent analysis of phosphate levels at the surface of the earthen basement floor suggests that the hearth was used primarily for heating and not for food preparation. The highest phosphate concentrations occurred along the walls in two areas, both of which are prime locations for storage of foodstuffs, perhaps even post-1807 when the hearth was removed. The archaeological survey of the tavern yard identified the likely location of a large external kitchen. This would have been the primary food preparation area for the needs of a busy tavern.

Future excavation of the kitchen building and surrounding west yard of the tavern would provide important additional data on the use of space at the tavern. By the time the basement mitigation work is complete nearly one hundred percent of the room will be excavated; all save for the portion under the c. 1807 chimney. A larger sample of food preparation and serving wares from outside the building to compare with the basement assemblage will help show difference between the household of the basement inhabitant(s) and the lodgers being served above. It is likely, based on the high level of integrity of the tavern yard, that the remains of other dependencies such as the smokehouse, wash house, stable and privy(ies) can be located and studied archaeologically. The large artifact assemblage from beneath the north tavern porch contains animal bones, ceramics and glassware that is likely from intentional discard. Data from the kitchen and west tavern yard can provide the comparative data to determine whether this was a long-standing disposal pattern or related perhaps to changes in management or notions of hygiene. The data will also support an analysis of the investment William Mead made in the tavern furnishings as compared to taverns in wealthier parts of Virginia such as Williamsburg and Fredericksburg. The historical record shows that Mead was quite proud of the impressive two-story building and had a personal desire for higher end goods. The archaeological record is the best place to examine whether his proclivity for luxury goods carried over to the tavern property.

Archaeological investigations that have been completed to date demonstrate that the property contains a high density of artifacts and features from its period of significance. While some evidence of modern disturbance has been found, there are large areas both within and outside the structure that retain excellent preservation. The Mead's Tavern property, therefore, is a rare survival of a colonial-era lot with high archaeological integrity in the Piedmont region of Virginia. This property can provide important new information on both the tavern and girls' school periods of its history.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Bedford County Chancery Court Records. Available at the Library of Virginia. Richmond, Virginia.

Briggs, John Howell. "Journal of a Trip to the Sweet Springs." Richmond, VA: Virginia Historical Society, 1804.

Campbell County Chancery Court Records. Available at the Library of Virginia. Richmond, Virginia.

Campbell County Deeds. Available at the Library of Virginia. Richmond, Virginia.

Callahan, G.C. "Some of the Meads." William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Papers. No.10:3, 193-196. Williamsburg, VA: Omohundro Institute, 1902.

College of William and Mary, Department of Geology. *Piedmont Province*. Available from <http://web.wm.edu/geology/virginia/provinces/piedmont.html>. Accessed 2016.

Kollmorgan Instruments Corporation. *Munsell Soil Charts*. (Baltimore: Kollmorgan Instruments Corporation, 1992).

Lounsbury, Carl R. *The Courthouses of Early Virginia: An Architectural History*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2005.

Lynchburg Chancery Court Records. Available at the Library of Virginia. Richmond, Virginia.

Mutual Assurance Society Policies. Available at the Library of Virginia. Richmond, Virginia.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). *National Cooperative Soil Survey 1.1*. Electronic Database. Available from: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>. Accessed 2016.

Pezzoni, J. Daniel and Barry Rakes. Interim Historic Structures Report for Mead's Tavern, New London, Virginia. 2018.

Lichtenberger, Randy. *Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Mead's Tavern Site (44C0244), Campbell County, Virginia*, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Archaeological Excavation of the Mead's Tavern Basement (44CP0244), Campbell County, Virginia*, 2019.

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

Miller, Samuel Thomas, and Samuel H. Miller. *Life of Samuel Thomas Miller*. Lynchburg, Va.: J. P. Bell, 1911.

Reed, Daisy I. *New London Today and Yesterday*. Lynchburg, Va.: J. P. Bell, 1950.

Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Guidelines for Conducting Cultural Resources Survey in Virginia. Available from [http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/review/Survey\\_Manual\\_Web.pdf](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/review/Survey_Manual_Web.pdf). 2011a.

\_\_\_\_\_. Survey Files. Available at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Richmond, Virginia.

\_\_\_\_\_. State Curation Standards. Available from [http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/arch\\_DHR/curation.html](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/arch_DHR/curation.html). 2011b.

*Virginia Gazette*. Available at the Library of Virginia. Richmond, Virginia.

---

**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: Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA; Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** VDHR Nos. 44CP0244, 015-0120

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 0.9060 acres

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

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

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 37.30173 | Longitude: 79.28089 |
| 2. Latitude:          | Longitude:          |
| 3. Latitude:          | Longitude:          |
| 4. Latitude:          | Longitude:          |

**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 Mead's Tavern boundary is coterminous with the current tax parcel, number 20-A-37, consisting of 0.9060 acres. The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Tax Parcel Map.

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

The historic boundary for Mead's Tavern includes historic lot 6 and the portion of lot 8 where the stable and potentially some of the outbuildings stood based on the plats from the Mutual Assurance Policy, as well as the delineated extent of Site 44CP0244 and the property's historic setting.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Sarah M. Clarke and Randy Lichtenberger  
organization: Hurt & Proffitt, Inc.  
street & number: 2524 Langhorne Road  
city or town: Lynchburg state: VA zip code: 24501  
email: clarke1201@gmail.com

Mead's Tavern  
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia  
County and State

telephone: 804-347-5825

date: April 1, 2021

---

### **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: Mead's Tavern

City or Vicinity: New London

County: Campbell County

State: VA

Photographer: Sarah Clarke and Randy Lichtenberger

Date Photographed: (Photos 1-16) taken July 2020; (Photos 17-18) taken January 2020; (Photo 19 taken December 2015); and (Photo 20) taken April 2019.

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

- 1 of 20. Mead's Tavern, façade and east elevation, view to the southwest.
- 2 of 20. Mead's Tavern, east elevation, view to the northwest.
- 3 of 20. Mead's Tavern, south (rear) elevation, view to the north.
- 4 of 20. Mead's Tavern, west elevation, view to the east.
- 5 of 20. Modern Garage, east elevation, view to the west.
- 6 of 20. Mead's Tavern, northeast room, view to the northeast.
- 7 of 20. Mead's Tavern, northeast room, view to the south.
- 8 of 20. Mead's Tavern, northwest room, view to the east.

Mead's Tavern

Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia

County and State

- 9 of 20. Mead's Tavern, door in dining room, view to the north.  
10 of 20. Mead's Tavern, second floor corridor, view to the east.  
11 of 20. Mead's Tavern, second floor west room, view to the northwest.  
12 of 20. Mead's Tavern, second floor south room, view to the west.  
13 of 20. Mead's Tavern, second floor south room, door detail.  
14 of 20. Mead's Tavern, attic rafters.  
15 of 20. Mead's Tavern, attic rafters with marriage marks.  
16 of 20. Mead's Tavern, basement, view to the northeast.  
17 of 20. Mead's Tavern, basement, brick interior end chimney, view to the south.  
18 of 20. Mead's Tavern, basement, view to the northeast.
- 19 of 20. Mead's Tavern, Phase I survey in progress 2016, south lawn, view facing southwest.  
20 of 20. Mead's Tavern, porch midden feature prior to excavation, view to the east.

**Figures**

- Figure 1. Test Unit location map depicting the north side of the Mead's Tavern lot.  
Figure 2. Test Unit location map depicting the south side of the Mead's Tavern lot.  
Figure 3. North half of site map depicting areas of high (green) and low (red) research potential.  
Figure 4. South half of site map depicting areas of high (green) and low (red) research potential.  
Figure 5. Possible locations of 1805 outbuildings depicted on the current archaeological survey map.  
Figure 6. Plan view of basement excavation units.  
Figure 7. Annotated original plat of New London with Mead and Howard properties highlighted.

**Historic Images Log**

- Figure 8. Excerpt of 1803 Mutual Assurance Society Policy, found at the Library of Virginia.  
Figure 9. Excerpt of 1805 Mutual Assurance Society Plat of Lot 6, found at the Library of Virginia.  
Figure 10. Excerpt of 1822 Mutual Assurance Society Plat, found at the Library of Virginia.  
Figure 11. 1941 photo of the Tavern, found in Pezzoni and Rakes.

**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.

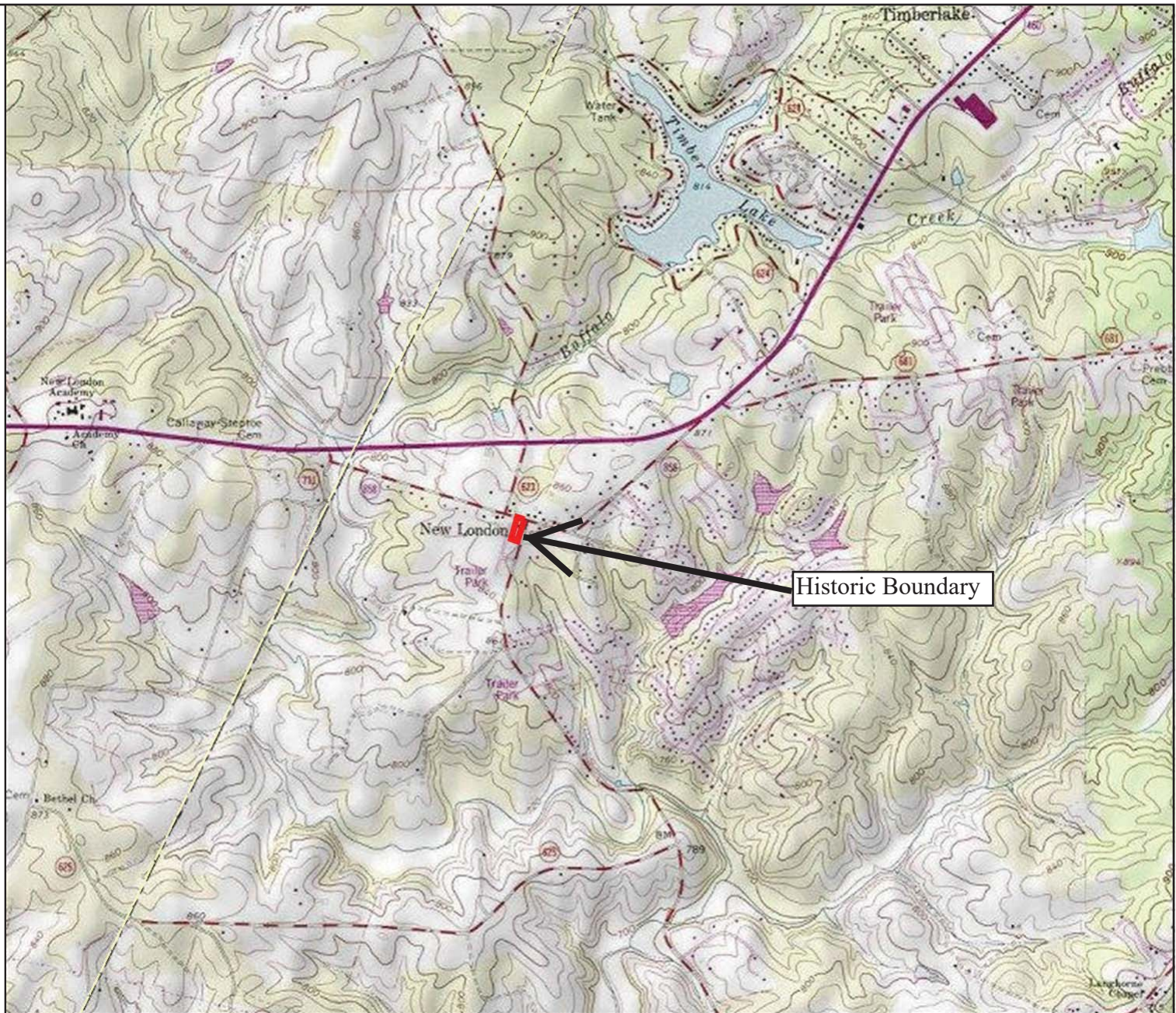


## TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Mead's Tavern

Campbell County, VA

DHR No. 015-0120



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400

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

**Title:**

**Date: 9/24/2021**

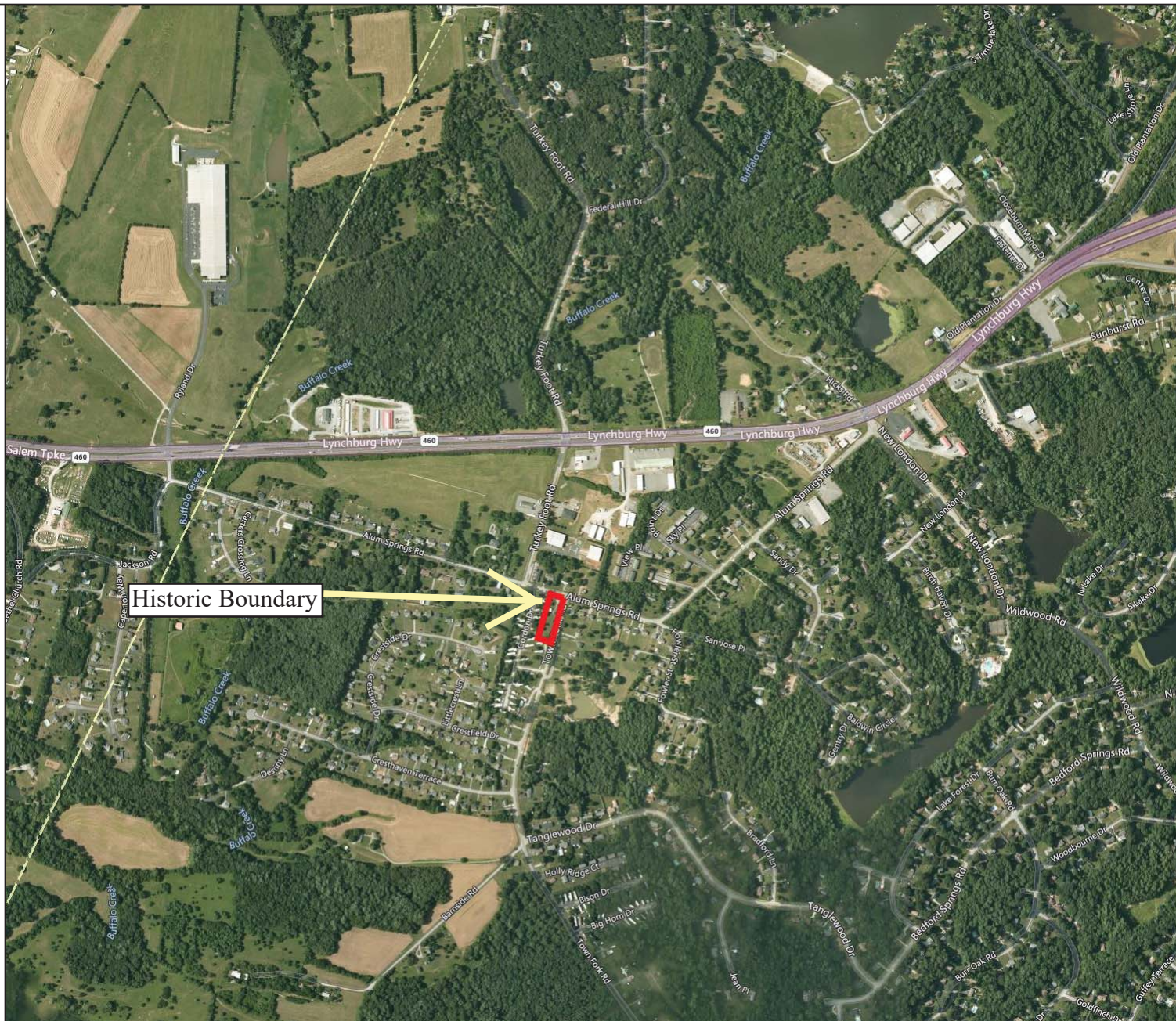
*DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information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

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



**AERIAL VIEW - VICINITY**

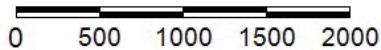
Mead's Tavern  
Campbell County, VA  
DHR No. 015-0120



Historic Boundary



Feet



1:18,056 / 1"=1,505 Feet

**Title:**

**Date: 9/24/2021**

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

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

Location Map

Mead's Tavern

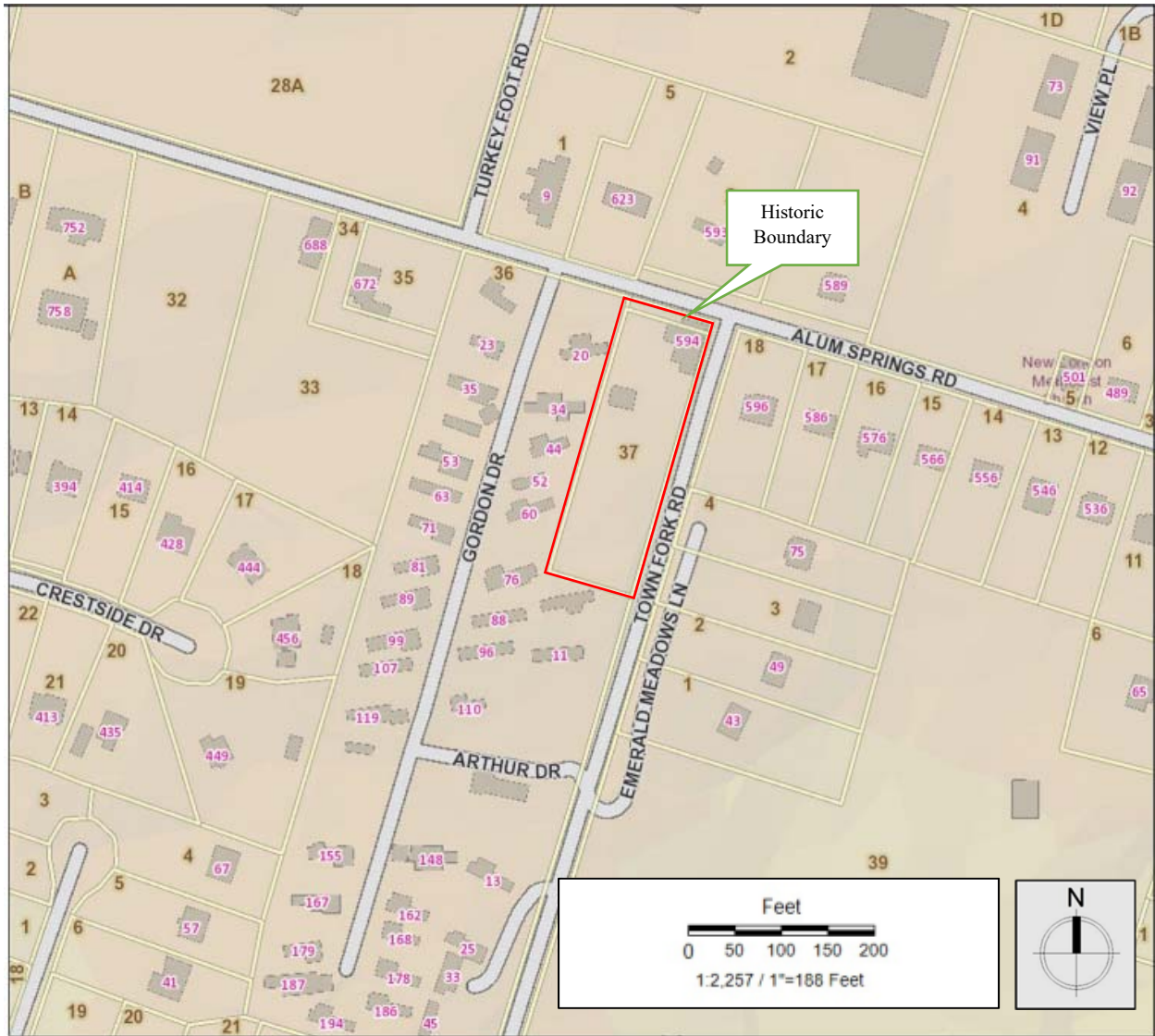
Campbell County, Virginia

DHR Nos.: 015-0120 and 44CP0244

Latitude: 37.30173

Longitude: 79.28089

Campbell County GIS <https://parcelviewer.geodecisions.com/Campbell/>





**AERIAL VIEW**

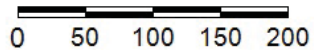
Mead's Tavern  
Campbell County, VA  
DHR No. 015-0120



Historic Boundary



Feet



1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet

**Title:**

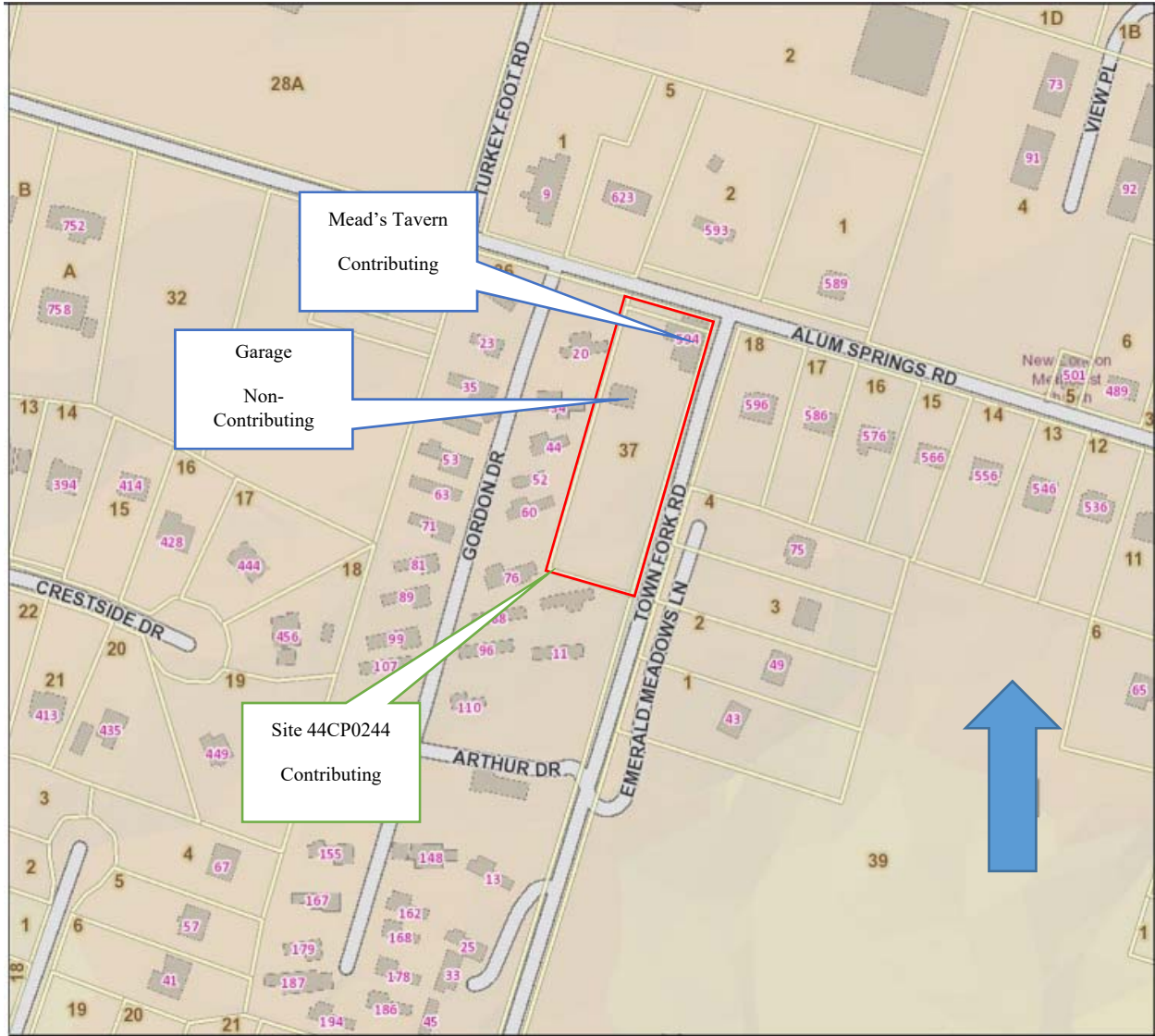
**Date: 9/24/2021**

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

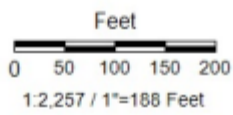
*Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.*


Sketch Map

Mead's Tavern  
Campbell County, Virginia  
DHR Nos.: 015-0120 and 44CP0244



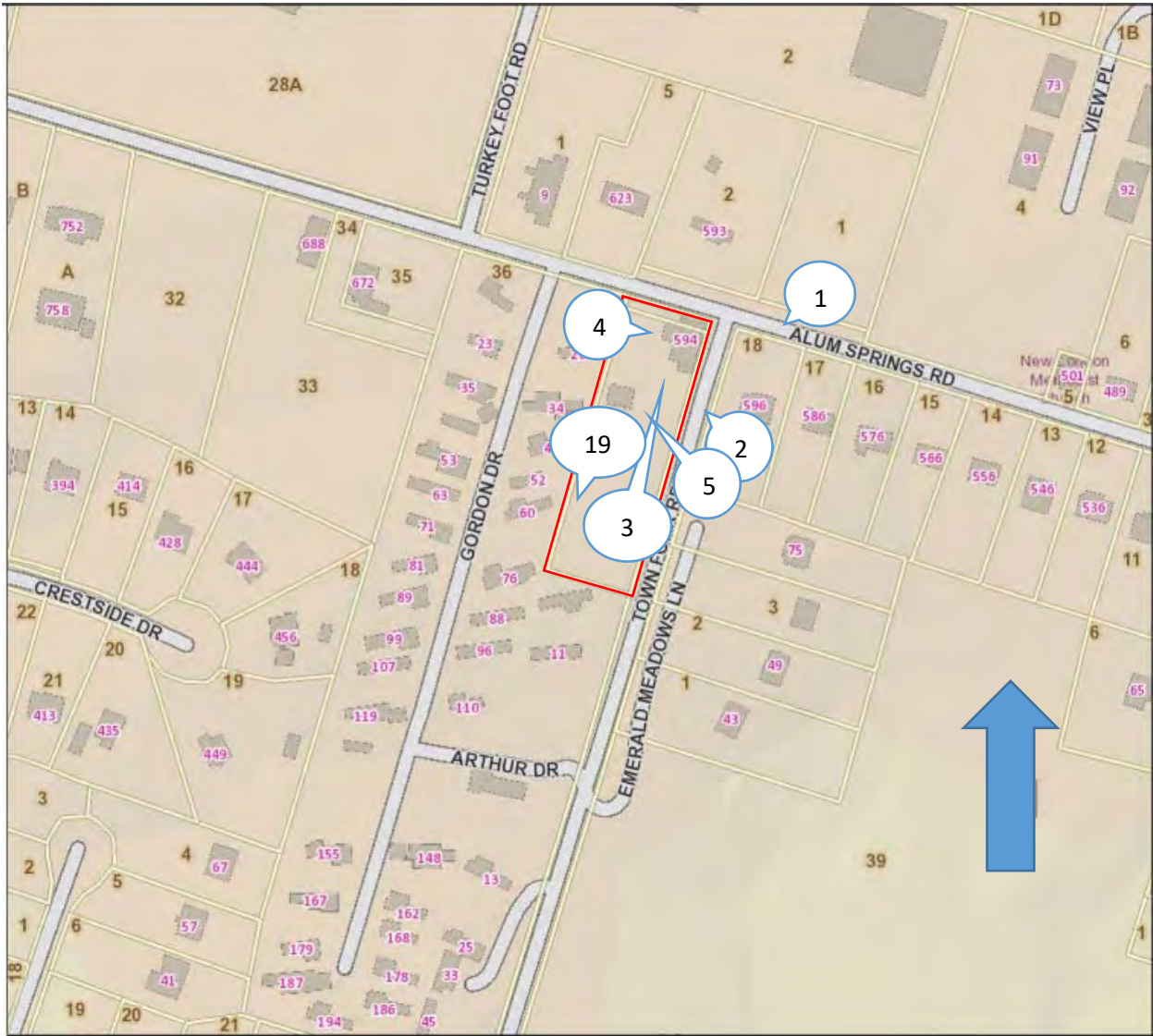
Scale



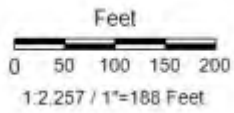
 Site 44CP0244 Boundary  
Coincides with Historic  
Boundary

**Photo Key, Exterior**  
Mead's Tavern  
Campbell County, VA  
DHR #015-0120

1 Photo Locations

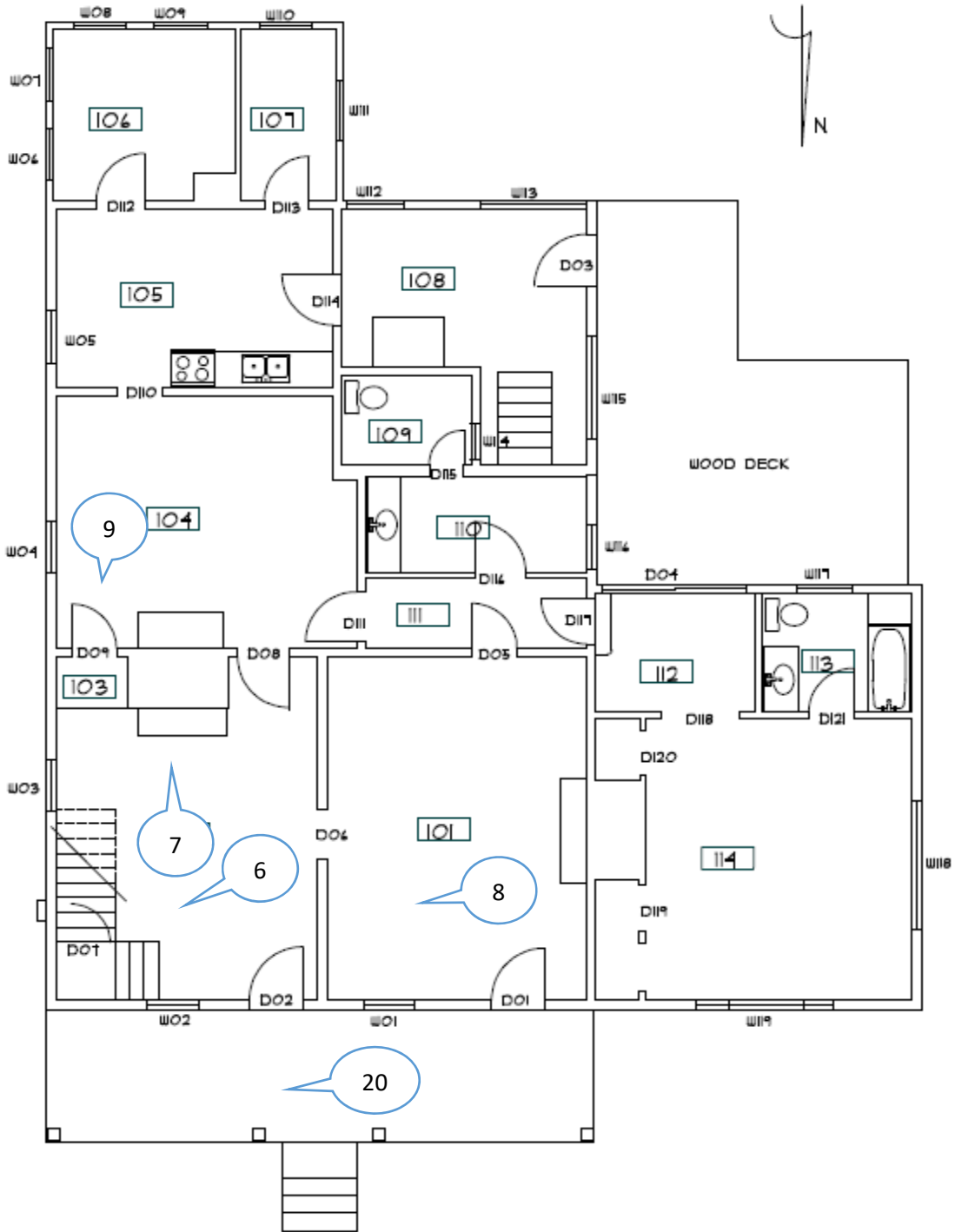


Scale



**Photo Key, First Floor**  
Mead's Tavern  
Campbell County, VA  
DHR NO. 015-0120

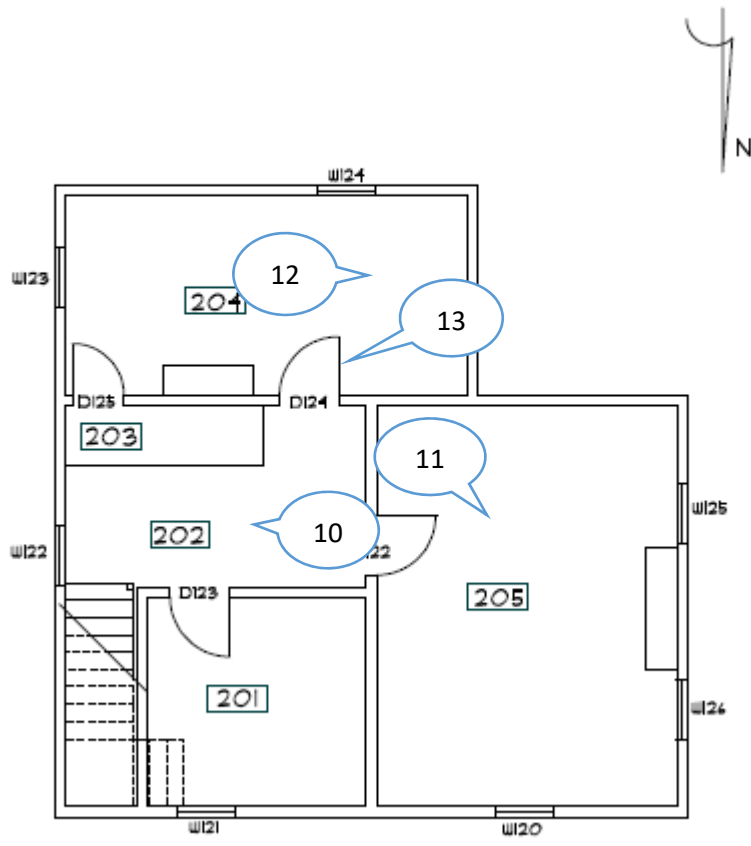
1 Photo Locations



**Photo Key, Second Floor**

Mead's Tavern  
Campbell County, VA  
DHR No. 015-0120

1 Photo Locations

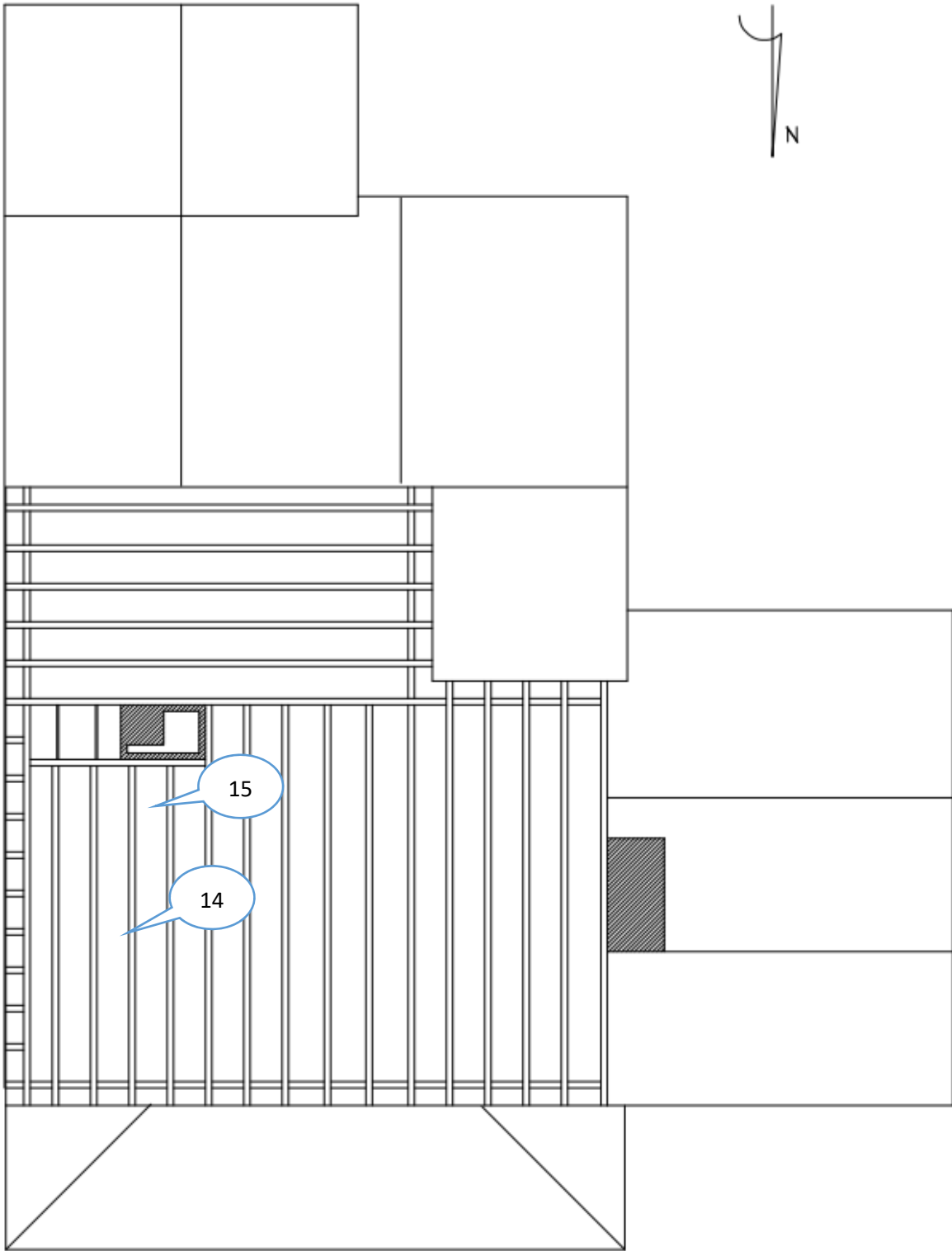




**Photo Key, Attic**  
Mead's Tavern  
Campbell County, VA  
DHR #015-0120

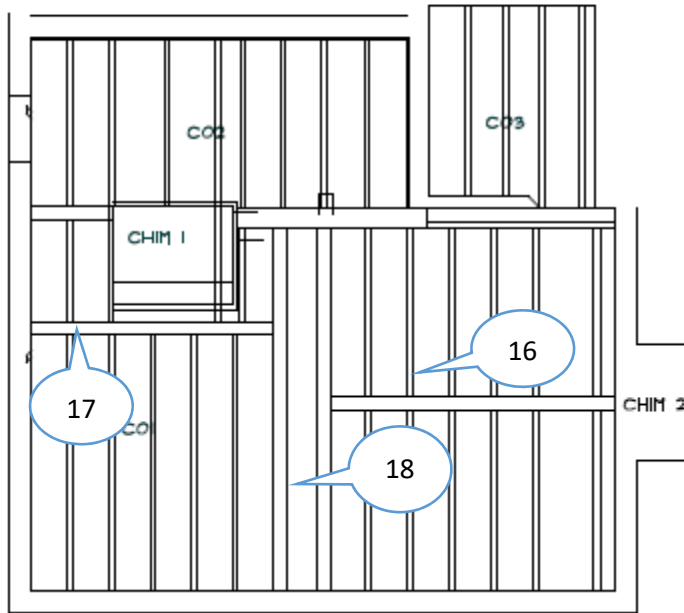
1

Photo locations



**Photo Key, Basement**  
Mead's Tavern  
Campbell County, VA  
DHR #015-0120

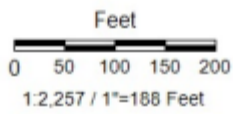
1 Photo locations




Tax Parcel Map  
Mead's Tavern  
Campbell County, Virginia  
DHR File Nos.: 015-0120, 44CP0244  
Obtained April 13, 2021  
Campbell County GIS <https://parcelviewer.geodecisions.com/Campbell/>



Scale:



 Historic Boundary