

# Department of Historic Resources

**For Immediate Release**

June 23, 2011

Contact: **Randy Jones**

Department of Historic Resources

(540) 578-3031 / [Randy.Jones@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:Randy.Jones@dhr.virginia.gov)

## STATE ADDS 16 HISTORIC SITES TO THE VIRGINIA LANDMARKS REGISTER

**—Listings cover sites in the counties of Accomack, Amherst, Arlington, Botetourt, Clarke, Fauquier, Frederick, Louisa, Mecklenburg, Rockingham, and Shenandoah; and cities of Richmond (2), Roanoke (2), and Waynesboro—**

\* \* \*

**—VLR listings will be forwarded to the National Park Service for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places—**

**—A slideshow highlighting each of the new sites is posted on DHR's homepage: [www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov)—**

RICHMOND – The oldest known house existing in western Virginia and likely the oldest remaining dwelling on the Eastern Shore's Chincoteague Island are among the 16 new sites recently added to the Virginia Landmarks Register by the state's Department of Historic Resources (DHR).

The Bryan McDonald House, in **Botetourt County**, constructed in 1766, is associated with one of the early families to settle in Botetourt County, where many settlers were of Scottish descent, including the McDonald family.

The McDonald House is one of only two 18th-century stone houses recorded in Botetourt County (the other one, Mulberry Bottom, was built circa 1786). The house is also the oldest known extant building in DHR's 27-county western region that extends from Rockbridge County in the Shenandoah Valley to Lee County, on Virginia's western tip.

The McDonald House is unique as well for incorporating course sandstone blocks into its front façade instead of limestone, which is used in other portions of the house, and commonly used for stone construction throughout the region. The house also features an 1840 brick addition.

The Captain Timothy Hill House, in Accomack County, was built around 1800 on Chincoteague Island. The modest dwelling is a rare example today of log plank construction and retains its original pit sawn and hewn pine planks with full dovetail joints. Carved into the exterior of the house in simple outlines are the depictions of more than 30 19<sup>th</sup>-century sailing vessels including schooners and sloops, accurately rendered in detail and proportion.

In addition to possibly being the oldest remaining dwelling on Chincoteague, the Hill House is one of the few houses standing in Virginia that at one time had a wooden chimney.

Oral history has it that Captain Hill, who died in 1859, made Chincoteague his home after he shipwrecked on nearby Assateague Island. An Accomack County deed records his purchase of 30 acres for \$133 on Chincoteague Island on April 22, 1822.

Fourteen other historic sites were added to the Virginia Landmarks Register by DHR's Board of Historic Resources during its quarterly meeting on June 17.

In central and Southside Virginia, the area covered by DHR's Capital Regional Preservation Office (located at DHR headquarters in Richmond), the following sites were approved for listing on the VLR:

- Hanshill, constructed in 1925 in **Amherst County**, is an early Rustic Revival-style retreat home in Virginia's Piedmont on property associated with an early YWCA camp geared for young women working in Lynchburg factories.
- In **Richmond**, Kent Road Village is an example of a garden apartment complex built with Federal Housing Authority financing during World War II. When completed in the spring of 1943, the Kent Road Village's 88 apartment units provided urgently needed accommodations for Richmond residents facing an acute wartime housing shortage.
- Also in **Richmond**, the West Broad Street Industrial and Commercial Historic District was added to the state register. The district witnessed industrial and commercial development, beginning in 1902 and through the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as the area capitalized on rail and road infrastructure, the availability of land, and annexations by the city in 1906 and 1912 that brought municipal services to the area. Initial industrial development, including the Putney Shoe Factory and C.F. Sauer, depended on rail access, while a subsequent wave of commercial development that followed during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century focused primarily on automobile traffic along West Broad Street.
- The Louisa County High School, constructed in 1924, replaced a 1907 school destroyed by fire. Constructed of stone, the latter school building was designed by Charles M. Robinson, architect for dozens of other Virginia schools. Originally the school served students in grades one through eleven.
- The O.H.P. Tanner House, in **Mecklenburg County**, is a Georgian-style residence dating back to 1769. Recently and painstakingly restored, the house displays unaltered architectural craftsmanship in an excellent state of preservation and features a foundation and two chimneys constructed of fieldstone.

In Northern Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley, the area covered by DHR's Northern Regional Preservation Office (located in Stephens City), the following places were added to the VLR:

- Auburn Battlefield, in **Fauquier County**, is the site of Civil War actions fought on October 13 and 14 in 1863, during the Bristoe Campaign, between the forces of Confederate General Robert E. Lee and Union Maj. General George G. Meade. The land area involved in the First Battle of Auburn is entirely encompassed by the larger Second Battle of Auburn fought on the following day. The Bristoe Campaign is considered by many historians to mark the beginning of the decline of the Confederate army and its leadership in the aftermath of the North's triumph at Gettysburg in July, 1863.
- Cleridge, in **Clarke and Frederick counties**, is a circa-1790 Federal-style dwelling believed to be the earliest brick house in Frederick County. The property boasts an important agricultural legacy beginning with Charles Clevenger, who increased the farm's tillable acreage while raising dairy and beef cattle and small livestock. Cleridge's total estimated value of overall farm production in 1879 surpassed every other farmer's in Frederick County, except two larger farms. Cleridge also features a stone and frame icehouse and a mill site.
- The Crompton-Shenandoah Plant, in **Waynesboro**, covers a 40-acre site with roughly 10 acres featuring buildings that date from 1926 through the 1970s. The plant specialized in the cutting, dyeing and finishing of greige goods and produced corduroy, velvet and velveteen fabrics. A major employer in Waynesboro for over 50 years before closing in 1982, Crompton-Shenandoah employed 1,200 workers at its peak in the late 1940s and was the leading producer of corduroy and velveteen fabrics in the world.
- The Haugh House, a modest farmhouse built around 1855 in Rockingham County, was at the epicenter of Civil War combat on June 8, 1862, squarely between Federal and Confederate battle lines during the Battle of Cross Keys, part of Lt. Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's Shenandoah Valley campaign. The log portion of the house, which still retains scars from the battle, bears silent witness to the travails experienced by the common person in the path of the Civil War.
- The Highland-Overlee Knolls Historic District, in **Arlington County**, encapsulates residential subdivision design and development from the late-19<sup>th</sup> century through to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. A suburb of Washington D.C., the district was established with the arrival of the railroad and streetcar and expanded during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the advent of more rails, and later buses and cars. It provides one of the best illustrations in Arlington County of how the Federal Housing Administration influenced neighborhood planning and the Better Homes movement fostered residential development within the individual subdivisions.

- Mount Pleasant, in **Shenandoah County**, is a Federal-style house constructed in 1812 on a bluff above Cedar Creek three miles northeast of Strasburg. A limestone wing of the house likely dates to circa 1790. The house was constructed by Lt. Isaac Bowman, a veteran of the Revolutionary War and a grandson of Jost Hite, who is credited with having brought the first groups of European settlers from the Rhine River region to the northern Shenandoah Valley.
- Also located in **Shenandoah County**, Toms Brook School, constructed in 1935-36, was designed by Luray architect James R. Mims in a Colonial Revival style. The school has served as both an elementary and high school at different periods.

In addition to the McDonald House, other VLR listings in Western Virginia, the area covered by the Western Regional Preservation Office (based at Roanoke College, Salem) include the following places in the **City of Roanoke**:

- The Belmont M. E. Church, completed in 1921, is among Roanoke's most significant Protestant churches dating to the first quarter of the 20th century, and today is an important part of the city's historic Belmont neighborhood. Designed by noted Virginia architects Herbert L. Cain and Homer M. Miller, the church remains in excellent condition with few modifications to the original building. An imposing local landmark, the church incorporates an extensive array of Gothic Revival-design elements, superior workmanship, and durable, high quality building materials.
- The Wasena Historic District is an early 20th-century residential suburb of Roanoke developed by a private land company as improvements in bridge connections and public transportation made former farmland accessible to downtown. The Wasena neighborhood was the city's first "bus suburb" after the introduction of the first bus route was prompted by its development. The neighborhood reflects the city's population growth and the increase in home ownership, particularly after World War II when veterans could purchase homes through loans supported by the GI Bill. The district boasts a wide range of 20th-century residential architecture including Craftsman bungalows, American Foursquare, Tudor-Revival, Cape Cod, and Ranch style houses. Located along the Roanoke River and the railroad tracks, the Wasena neighborhood includes industrial, commercial, and recreational resources that supported the community.

DHR has posted to its Web homepage ([www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov)) a link to a slideshow highlighting each of the sites listed above.

These new VLR listings will be forwarded by the Department of Historic Resources to the National Park Service for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Listing a property on the state or national register places no restrictions on what a property owner may do with his or her property.

Designating a property to the state or national register either individually or as a contributing building in a historic district does provide an owner the opportunity to pursue tax credit rehabilitation improvements to his or her property.

Such tax credit projects must comply with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. An owner of a register-listed landmark may also donate a preservation easement on the property to the Commonwealth of Virginia in return for state tax credits.

Virginia is a national leader among the 50 states in registering historic sites and districts. The state is also a national leader for the number of tax credit rehabilitation projects proposed and completed each year. Together the register and tax credit rehabilitation programs have played a significant role in promoting the conservation of the Commonwealth's historic places and in spurring economic revitalization in many Virginia towns and communities.

The nomination forms, which provide detailed information about each of the above listings, can be accessed on the DHR website at the following address:

<http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/boardPage.html>.

###