

## Department of Historic Resources

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## NINE NEW STATE HISTORICAL HIGHWAY MARKERS APPROVED

*—A War of 1812 marker is slated for Westmoreland Co.—*

*—Other markers cover topics in the counties of Fairfax (2), Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Southampton (2), and the cities of Lynchburg and Richmond—*

**[Note: The full text for each marker is reproduced at the end of this release.]**

RICHMOND – From a sign commemorating the origins of Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts to a marker remembering the farm that offered safe haven to young Jews who escaped Nazi Germany, nine new state historical markers approved by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources highlight stories tied to events of state or national scope.

Wolf Trap Farm was established in 1930 in **Fairfax County** by philanthropist Catherine Filene Shouse, an advocate for women’s causes. “A lifelong patron of the arts and member of the board of the National Symphony Orchestra,” as the new marker states, “Shouse donated parcels of her property to the National Park Service in 1961 and 1966, including an amphitheatre she had constructed.” Wolf Trap opened in 1971 as the National Park of the Performing Arts.

In 1938, during Germany’s Third Reich under Adolph Hitler and the Nazis, Richmond department store-owner William B. Thalheimer Sr. purchased the circa-1752 Hyde Park property in **Nottoway County** and “incorporated it into Hyde Farmlands Academy,” according to the new marker, “to help several dozen young German Jews from the Gross Breesen Agricultural Institute escape Nazi Germany.” The marker, titled “Hyde Park,” states that the “refugees constructed a dairy, cultivated tobacco, and established a chicken farm for what was intended to be a model agricultural community.” The venture closed in 1941.

Other markers include one slated for **Southampton County** to commemorate the plantation of the Blow family where the slave Dred Scott lived as a child. As an adult, long after he was moved from Virginia, Scott sued for his freedom while enslaved by an Army officer who was stationed in U.S. territory where slavery was illegal. In 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a landmark decision that “Scott was property, not a citizen”

and, hence, could not file a law suit. A year prior to Scott's death, Blow family members purchased his freedom.

Another marker, "The Hand Site," also to be erected in **Southampton County** highlights a Late Woodland Indian settlement that was "occupied intermittently circa A.D. 700 to 1650." The site, which includes archaeological "features such as a fortified town and burials," according to the marker text, shows the influence of various tribes associated with Algonquin and Iroquoian linguistic groups.

Two new signs cover topics associated with the two wars the U.S. fought with Britain.

A marker slated for **Lunenburg County** highlights the "Glebe of Cumberland Parish," where Anglican minister Rev. James Craig resided. During the Revolutionary War, "Craig allowed his mill on Flat Rock Creek to be used as a supply depot for American troops," according to the marker. In retaliation, the British burned the mill and imprisoned Craig. The Glebe property later operated as the Flat Rock Female Seminary from 1834 until 1871.

A marker for **Westmoreland County**, "War of 1812 Poisoning Inquiry at Yeocomico Church," recalls an episode during 1814 when invading British forces "accused the Virginia militia of uncivilized warfare" after they discovered poisoned wine in a nearby house.

In **Lynchburg** a new sign will commemorate the career of Dr. Robert Walter Johnson, who worked to desegregate professional tennis in the U.S. Among future African American tennis stars Johnson trained were Wimbledon Champions Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe. In 2009, Johnson was posthumously inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. The marker is proposed for installation near Johnson's former residence at 1422 Pierce Street.

In addition to the sign the Catherine Filene Shouse marker, two other signs will highlight the contributions of two women whose respective leadership and life-long work improved the lives of Virginia's citizens.

The "Florence Jodzies" marker in **Fairfax County** summarizes the career of this woman who "campaigns for better living conditions in rural communities, including the need for improved roads, indoor plumbing, and access to recreational facilities," according to the marker. Jodzies, who founded the Vale Home Demonstration Club in Fairfax County and became Chairman of the Virginia Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs, spearheaded "the Federation's library project to bring books, magazines, and literature to rural Virginians."

Nursing innovator Sadie Heath Cabaniss will be recognized with a marker in **Richmond**, where she "laid the foundation for professional nursing in Virginia and was the founder of the VCU School of Nursing in 1893." As the marker reads, "Cabaniss molded Virginia's first generation of professional nurses."

All nine markers were approved by DHR's Board of Historic Resources during its June 16 quarterly meeting in Richmond.

The Virginia highway marker program, which began in 1927 with the installation of the first historical markers along U.S. Rte. 1, is considered the oldest such program in the nation. Currently there are more than 2,200 official state markers, most of which are maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation, a key partner with the Department of Historic Resources in the historical marker program.

The manufacturing cost of each new highway marker is covered by its respective sponsor, except for those markers developed by the Department of Historic Resources as part of a nearly decade-long program to create new markers that focus on the history of women, African Americans, and Virginia Indians. Markers created by DHR are funded by a federal transportation grant.

More information about the Historical Highway Marker Program is available on the website of the Department of Historic Resources at <http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/>.

### **Full Text of Markers:**

*(Please note that proposed locations are just that—proposed; they have yet to be confirmed with VDOT or other officials.)*

#### **Sadie Heath Cabaniss—Nursing Innovator (1863-1921)**

Sadie Heath Cabaniss laid the foundation for professional nursing in Virginia and was the founder of the VCU School of Nursing in 1893. Cabaniss, who held leadership positions in both state and national nursing organizations, led the movement to secure licensing registration for Virginia nurses in 1903. As superintendent of the Old Dominion Training School, Cabaniss molded Virginia's first generation of professional nurses. Her devotion to the cause of public health led her to develop a nurses' settlement in Richmond and in St. Augustine, Florida. She also established the first rural health visiting nurse service in Virginia for Hanover County.

Sponsor: DHR

Locality: Richmond City

Proposed Location: Near VCU School of Nursing

#### **Dred Scott and the Blow Family**

Dred Scott, a slave, lived as a child northeast of here on the Peter Blow plantation early in the 1800s. The Blows moved to Missouri and in 1830 sold Scott to an army officer who was stationed in various free territories. Scott sued for his and his family's freedom in 1846 because he lived where slavery was illegal. In 1857, however, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Congress could not outlaw slavery and that Scott was property, not a

citizen. The Dred Scott decision outraged abolitionists and further divided the nation. Blow's sons purchased Scott's freedom in 1857; he died in 1858.

Sponsor: DHR and Southampton County Historical Society

Locality: Southampton County

Proposed Location: Route 58 near the town of Capron

### **The Glebe of Cumberland Parish**

To the south stood the Glebe House of Cumberland Parish, residence of Anglican minister Rev. James Craig, from 1759 until his death in 1795. An ardent patriot during the Revolutionary War, Craig allowed his mill on Flat Rock Creek to be used as a supply depot for American troops. While raiding Southside Virginia in 1781, British Lt. Col. Barnastre Tarleton and his cavalry burned the mill, and suspecting Craig of storing arms at the Glebe House, held him prisoner until paroled. The Orgain family, Craig's descendants, occupied the Glebe property from 1834-1910, operating the Flat Rock Female Seminary there from 1834 until 1871.

Locality: Lunenburg County

Proposed Location: Intersection of State Route 40 and Oakes Road, 2 miles west of Kenbridge

Sponsor: Cynthia Mattson, of Arlington,

### **The Hand Site**

East of here near the Nottoway River stood a Late Woodland Indian settlement occupied intermittently circa A.D. 700 to 1650, and long claimed by the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway). Excavated in the 1960s, occupation phases included features such as a fortified town and burials. In an area flanked by Iroquoian Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) and Meherrin to the north- and southwest, and by Algonquian Weyanoke, Nansemond, and Chowanoke tribes to the northeast and south, the site shows influences from both linguistic groups which may indicate both trade and use by different groups at different times. Archaeologists also found 17th century European iron scissors and hand wrought nails.

Co-Sponsors: Nansemond Chapter, ASV, and Nottoway Indian Tribe of Southampton County

Locality: Southampton County

Proposed Location: Northbound side of VA State Route #671, General Thomas Highway, approximately 300 yards where it intersects with VA State Route #734

### **Hyde Park**

John Fowlkes began construction of Country Georgian style Hyde Park circa 1752. In 1938 department store-owner William B. Thalhimier Sr. of Richmond purchased the property and incorporated it into Hyde Farmlands Academy to help several dozen young

German Jews from the Gross Breesen Agricultural Institute escape Nazi Germany. The refugees constructed a dairy, cultivated tobacco, and established a chicken farm for what was intended to be a model agricultural community. They constructed many of the chicken coops in a common German-American architectural style. Hyde Park failed to become economically self-sufficient and closed in February 1941.

95 words

Sponsor: DHR

Locality: Nottoway County

Proposed Location: TBD

### **Florence Jodzies (1887-1969)**

Here in 1934, at her home Harmony Farm, Florence Jodzies founded the Vale Home Demonstration Club, affiliated with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. An excellent speaker and writer, Jodzies campaigned for better living conditions in rural communities, including the need for improved roads, indoor plumbing, and access to recreational facilities. In 1936, as State Library Chairman of the Virginia Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs, she developed the Federation's library project to bring books, magazines, and literature to rural Virginians. Designed to "bring improvement of mind and refreshment of soul" to members and their communities, by 1938 the project was adopted by clubs throughout Virginia.

Sponsor: Friends of Vale Schoolhouse, Inc

Locality: Fairfax County

Proposed Location:

### **Dr. Robert Walter Johnson (1899-1971)**

The desegregation of tennis was due in large part to the efforts of Dr. Robert W. "Whirlwind" Johnson. The first African American to earn staff privileges at Lynchburg General Hospital, he also worked to overcome barriers keeping young African Americans out of tennis. As founder of the Junior Development Program of the American Tennis Association, Johnson sponsored African-American players from across the country in tournaments, and coached and mentored them on backyard courts here at his home. Among those he trained were Wimbledon Champions Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe. Johnson was posthumously inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2009.

Sponsor: DHR

Locality: Lynchburg

Proposed Location: 1422 Pierce Street, Lynchburg

### **Catherine Filene Shouse (1896-1994)**

Catherine Filene Shouse, philanthropist and advocate for women's causes, purchased a portion of McDaniel Plantation in 1930 to share her love of nature with her children. She

renamed the property Wolf Trap Farm, raised her own crops, and ran a successful dog-breeding kennel. A lifelong patron of the arts and member of the board of the National Symphony Orchestra, Shouse donated parcels of her property to the National Park Service in 1961 and 1966, including an amphitheatre she had constructed, for the creation of a national park of the arts. In 1971, Wolf Trap opened as the National Park of the Performing Arts.

Sponsor: DHR

Locality: Fairfax County

Proposed Location: Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna

### **War of 1812 Poisoning Inquiry at Yeocomico Church**

In Spring 1814, a 36th U.S. Infantry detachment camped here at the near ruinous Yeocomico Church to guard against British Potomac River raids. Soon after the British landed at nearby Nomini Ferry in July, they found poisoned wine at the Thompson house and accused the Virginia militia of uncivilized warfare. Militia Gen. John P. Hungerford held a court of inquiry here in the repaired church and found the accusations “utterly without foundation.” The British accepted the finding. In 1816, William L. Rogers, a 36th Regiment soldier, returned here from New Jersey, married Ann Murphy of Ayrfield, and coordinated the 1706 church’s restoration.

Locality: Westmoreland County

Proposed Location: 1233 Old Yeocomico Road, Tucker Hill, VA—Route 606, 3.5 miles east of Kinsale

Sponsor: Episcopal Church of Cople Parish, Hague, VA