

Department of Historic Resources

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**STATE ADDS 12 HISTORIC SITES
TO THE VIRGINIA LANDMARKS REGISTER**

—New listings cover sites in the counties of Clarke, Fauquier (2), Henrico, Loudoun (2), Mecklenburg, Rockbridge, and Shenandoah, and the cities of Franklin (in Southampton Co.) and Richmond (2)—

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—A boundary increase expands a previously-listed historic district in King and Queen Co.—

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

RICHMOND – From the vaulted brick and stone cellars of a 19th-century brewery along the James River near Richmond to the high-society estates and scenic farms, stone structures and villages of the horse and hunt country in rural northern Virginia, the commonwealth's history from the colonial to the post-World War II eras is represented in 12 sites listed this month in the Virginia Landmarks Register by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

The James River Steam Brewery Cellars in **Henrico County** are the sole surviving remnant of the James River Steam Brewery, which operated from 1866 to 1879. Built shortly before the advent of mechanical refrigeration, the cellars consist of arched tunnels with stone foundations and end walls, and brick piers and vaults. The largest tunnel is 146-feet long and 10- to 17-feet wide.

The cellars served as the belowground storage and fermentation space for the five-story James River Steam Brewery building, destroyed by fire in 1891. The brewery was affiliated with the Eagle Brewery of Pottsville, PA, now known as Yuengling Brewery, considered to be the oldest continuously operating brewery in the U.S.

Encompassing over 23,000 acres in the horse and hunt countryside of northeastern **Fauquier County** in northern Virginia, the Little River Rural Historic District retains an abundant array of nearly 1,500 historic dwellings and agricultural buildings that date from the late-18th century through the 20th century. The buildings include finely-constructed, vernacular log, frame, and stone houses, smokehouses, bank barns, and structures such as bridges, stone fences and walls, and the ruins of three stone gristmills, a sawmill, and a distillery, as well as cemeteries and historic road traces.

Initially land owners who settled the Little River district subsisted on orchards, Indian corn, and livestock until improved transportation networks opened access to markets in Haymarket and Alexandria. In 1903, the Orange County Hunt from Goshen, NY, relocated to the area, fostering a hunt and horse industry that transformed the district during the 20th century. Former working farms became gentry' estates where horse breeding, racehorse training, and dressage exercises occurred, along with foxhunting by wealthy land owners who made Middleburg the heart of hunt country.

The district also contains 760 acres affiliated with the Civil War Battle of Middleburg, an important cavalry battle that occurred on June 19, 1863.

Another large rural historic district approved for listing in the state register is located in the northern Shenandoah Valley. Covering approximately 11,496 acres of countryside in central **Clarke County**, the Chapel Rural Historic District contains well-preserved residences and affiliated buildings such as smokehouses, springhouses, garages, sheds, and summer kitchens, alongside commercial and institutional ones. This varied collection of buildings date from the mid-18th century to the mid-20th century and demonstrate a variety of uses and styles—from plantation houses to modest vernacular dwellings—over a period of more than 200 years.

The Chapel Run district, representative of one of the richest farming regions in Virginia, features the Old Chapel—likely the oldest Episcopal church west of the Blue Ridge—and other Episcopal churches, as well as an early-19th-century Baptist church, several late-19th-century African-American churches, and a rare surviving slave chapel. The district also has at least five small historic African-American communities—the hamlets of Browntown, Pigeon Hill, Pyletown, Claytonville, and a part of Millwood.

Other historic properties in Northern Virginia listed in the state landmarks register earlier this month include –

- Fair Oaks, built in 1881 and today a 91-acre working farm in **Loudoun County**. The property's two-and-a-half-story frame house, with a front porch and a rear ell, was built by Alexander Moore, whose family ran the Aldie Mill for six generations. The house is constructed of many materials produced at the mill. The property also includes four secondary buildings also built in the early 1880s including a hay barn and a spring house. Fair Oaks is important as a well-preserved example of late 19th-century farm. It also contains a Moore family cemetery, established in 1844.
- Old Welbourne in **Loudoun County** is an impressive circa-1878 manor house originally built in the Queen Anne style and remodeled in Colonial Revival style in 1910. Established in 1812, Old Welbourne since 1840 has continually hosted the Piedmont Fox Hounds, partaking of the area's foxhunting tradition that emerged as a farmer's past time before evolving into a more formalized social event. Today's 164-acre property contains the ruins of the original 1812 home site, a family cemetery, and the stone ruins of an early 19th century bank barn and retaining wall, a circa-1878 farm building located to rear of the current house, and a circa 1910 frame tenant house. Historic structures include an 1812 roadbed and a circa 1837 stone springhouse-dairy.
- Paradise, in the Warrenton Historic District in **Fauquier County**, is believed to have been built about 1758. It is a two-story, evolved Federal-style timber-frame house, retaining much of its original interior woodwork, doors, windows, and mantels. The house is important for its association with Martin Pickett, a county leader and representative to the State Convention of 1776 and the Constitutional Convention of 1787, and Judge William Gaines, a wealthy businessman who purchased the property after the Civil War and lived there until his death in 1888. Gaines distinguished himself in the legal field eventually serving as a judge on the Fauquier County Circuit Court. The property contains two historic secondary buildings— a circa 1830 frame smokehouse and an 1870 summer kitchen resting on a brick foundation.
- Wilkins Farm is a late-18th-century farmstead of German immigrant origin in **Shenandoah County**. It was owned and developed by three different but close-knit German families. The main residence is an evolved two-story farm house that began as a single-room log dwelling in 1776 and was expanded to two stories in 1789. A rear ell was added to the main block in 1842. The house is distinctive in that most of the 1789 interior elements remain in their original condition and it also features faux painting that documents German folk art of the era. The property was the boyhood home of Emanuel Wilkins, a noted Shenandoah Valley artist who practiced the *fraktur* tradition of stylized lettering and illuminated illustration developed by German immigrants in Pennsylvania. Secondary buildings on the property include a circa-1789 log granary and a summer kitchen with a limestone basement and fireplace, a well, and domestic quarters above. The Wilkins family occupied the farm from 1824 until 2003.

In **Richmond**, the Springhill Historic District captures the 19th - and 20th-century history of settlement and industrial development along the south bank of the James River. The Springhill district arose as a street-car suburb beginning in the 1870s, although most its homes were constructed during the early decades of the 20th century and reflect popular styles of the era such as Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Bungalow and American Foursquare.

The Springhill district also features structures associated with the early-19th century Manchester Waterworks and the James River Manchester Canal. The structures include a sub-surface aqueduct and the stone foundations of the waterworks, a stone sluiceway and a settling basin built in the 1820s, and later expanded around 1878. The district also contains the site of a water-control tower, built between 1814 and 1820.

The Springhill district was part of Chesterfield County until 1873, when it was annexed to the Town of Manchester. Residential expansion was tied to a boom in manufacturing, quarrying, and shipping in Manchester after the Civil War. As part of Manchester, Springhill was annexed to the City of Richmond in 1910.

Also in **Richmond**, Laurel Meadow has been listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register. It is an early plantation home situated now on the one-acre remnant of its original 902-acres. The one-and-one-half story, L-shaped house is a simple frame building, constructed in two distinct sections and displaying elements of Colonial and Federal architectural designs. One house section, resting on an English basement, may have been constructed prior to 1776 when Col. David Patteson, an agent for William Byrd's Falls Plantation, acquired the property. The other section appears to have been built in the early-19th century. A kitchen addition was attached around 1900 and was later extended to include a bath and laundry area. Patteson was a first lieutenant in the Revolutionary War, a colonel in the Virginia Militia, a member of the House of Delegates, and a representative to the Virginia Federal Constitutional Convention of 1788.

Other sites from around the state approved for listing in the state register by DHR's Board of Historic Resources during its quarterly meeting on December 12 are —

- Haines Chapel in **Rockbridge County**, completed in 1914 as a small, wood-frame, vernacular house of worship located in a mountainous, sparsely populated area near today's Blue Ridge Parkway. The chapel's interior features extensive handcrafted original woodwork including flooring, chair rails, and altar, as well as a brass chandelier with six oil lamps and an antique piano and organ. A cemetery surrounding the chapel and founded in the late 18th century contains an unknown number of graves gravestones, some displaying regional forms of funerary art and symbolic motifs. The earliest known interment is that of Joel Hight in 1793. Regular worship services at the chapel ceased in 1955.
- On the Hill, a circa 1886 Queen Anne-style house occupying nearly 23 acres in the Town of Boydton in **Mecklenburg County**, sits with its dependencies on the crest of a small hill. A contributing property in the Boydton Historic District, the three-story house features a Victorian-era wraparound porch, gazebo, turret, soaring and multiple cross-gabled roofs, gingerbread, and naturalistic raised metal designs. Its interior Victorian embellishments also remain intact. Secondary buildings consist of a pump house atop a stone-lined well, a summer kitchen, a smoke house, and a caretaker's cottage.
- Woods Hill in the **City of Franklin** is a significant example of the collaborative work of two 20th-century master practitioners in Virginia of home and landscape design, Alan McCullough and Charles Freeman Gillette, with the landscape design being the primary focus of the nomination. Gillette sited the house and other buildings, including incorporating existing buildings (a 1937 restaurant, service station, and pump house) and laid out the property's ponds, gardens and other plantings. Architect McCullough designed the two-story brick and wood house, constructed in 1951. Today's 17-plus acre property features a car park, dog cemetery, log cabin, flower house, dog house, stables, peacock house, pump house, doll house, and fort.

In King and Queen County, the King and Queen Courthouse Green Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998, was expanded to include the adjacent Immanuel Episcopal Church and its associated cemetery. The church was constructed in 1884 in the Carpenter Gothic style and has been used continuously as a church since then.

All of these listings in the state register will be forwarded to the National Park Service for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

A slideshow of these new listings will be available for viewing on the website of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources at the following link:

<http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/SlideShows/BoardMeetings/2013Dec/Dec2013.index.html>

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

A property listed in the state or national registers—either individually or as a contributing building in a historic district—offers its owner the opportunity to pursue improvements to the building through historic rehabilitation tax credits, when qualifying conditions are met. Tax credit projects must comply with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Virginia is a national leader among states in listing historic sites and districts in the National Register of Historic Places. During the federal fiscal year 2013, Virginia ranked #3 nationally for listing historic districts and individual sites in the National Register of Historic Places. The state is also a national leader for the number of federal tax credit rehabilitation projects proposed and completed each year.

Together the register and tax credit rehabilitation programs have played significant roles in promoting the conservation of the commonwealth's historic places and in spurring economic revitalization and tourism in many towns and communities.

Photographs and the nomination form for each of these properties can be accessed on the DHR website here: <http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/boardPage.html>.

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