

Department of Historic Resources

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STATE APPROVES 15 NEW HISTORIC RESOURCES FOR LISTING ON THE VIRGINIA LANDMARKS REGISTER

–Listings cover landmarks in the counties of Albemarle, Charlotte, Fairfax, Gloucester, Loudoun, Mecklenburg, Rockbridge, Russell, and Wythe, and the cities of Charlottesville, Danville, Norfolk, Petersburg, and Richmond–

RICHMOND – Traditional Virginia industries from seafood and dairy to mining, textiles and steamer trunk manufacturing were represented among the 15 new historic sites approved for listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register by the Department of Historic Resources.

Evoking **Petersburg**'s heyday as the self-proclaimed world's leading manufacturer of trunks and valises, the Virginia Trunk & Bag Company, established in 1898, had a large facility operating in the city by 1903. The complex today retains its original buildings and structures, where the various trunk-manufacturing operations were performed, from receiving raw lumber to shipping finished products. From 1916 until 1931 the site was also the headquarters for the American Hardware Company, the parent company for at least six different trunk makers in Petersburg. The Virginia Trunk & Bag Co. currently represents the most intact and best preserved of the remaining trunk manufacturing facilities in Petersburg.

Recalling **Danville**'s former role as a world textile-manufacturing powerhouse, Mill No. 8 was built by Dan River Inc. in 1920 and operated from 1921 through to the 1990s. Encompassing 18-plus acres on the south bank of the Dan River, the mill was designed in a simplified Gothic Revival architectural style. The five-story mill is among the few left standing of the numerous mill buildings in the Riverside Division, most of which were demolished in just the last few years. Also known as the "White Mill," the building is an important reminder of the textile industry's contribution to the economic development of Danville and Virginia's Southside region.

Located within New River Trail State Park, the 16-acre Foster Falls Historic District, in **Wythe County**, recalls southwest Virginia's iron ore industry. The historic district contains much of the commercial-industrial area of this 19th-century farming village that grew rapidly after the discovery of nearby iron ore and the construction in 1881 of an iron furnace, the last of the cold-blast, charcoal-fueled furnaces to operate in the region. At its peak the furnace produced 3,000 tons of pig iron annually. In 1887 a railroad depot was

built near the furnace and by 1895 Foster Falls had an elegant Victorian-style hotel, a post office, gristmill and sawmill, general store, distillery, and about 100 houses, including a row of 27 now vanished company houses. After furnace operations ceased in 1914, the Foster Falls Hotel, which stands today, later served as a Presbyterian Church-run industrial school for homeless young women. In 1938, the school became a co-ed orphanage, which closed in 1962.

A reminder of **Fairfax County**'s once-thriving dairy industry, the Floris Historic District arose as a village to serve the local dairy farming community from the late 19th through the mid-20th century. During the 1700s the land comprising the district was owned by multiple generations of the influential and wealthy Carter family, renowned throughout colonial Virginia. The district's period of significance spans from circa 1785, when the Frying Pan Meetinghouse—the earliest building in the district—was constructed on land granted by Robert Carter, through to 1960, when Frying Pan Farm Park was established, clearly marking the downturn of dairying in Fairfax County.

During an era when **Norfolk** was one of the largest producers and distributors of oysters and fish in the country, the Virginia Ice & Freezing Corporation was established in 1920. Located next to several leading seafood processing plants in Norfolk, the facility was among the largest ice and cold storage operations in the city. Virginia Ice & Freezing Corp., which still operates today as a cold storage facility, represents the most intact and best preserved cold storage warehouse in Norfolk.

In addition to the Virginia Trunk & Bag Co., the following properties (and one boundary increase to an existing historic district) were approved for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) from the capital region of the Department of Historic Resources (DHR), covering central and Southside Virginia:

- Constructed in 1858 in **Charlotte County**, Annefield is an Italianate villa house, a popular style in the mid-19th century, as interpreted by Jacob W. Holt, a master builder in the region. Hillery M.L. Goode, a local planter, businessman, and legislator, commissioned the house, a rare example of the antebellum high-style in the county. In addition to the main house, stylistic evidence suggests that Holt also designed and built the kitchen quarter and smokehouse. Annefield represents a relatively intact antebellum farm complex.
- **Albemarle County**'s Boyd Tavern served travelers along Three Chopt Road from circa 1825 to 1937. The current building likely was constructed between 1825 and 1840 on the site of an earlier tavern that was built around 1750 for Thomas Jefferson's brother-in-law, Col. Charles L. Lewis. Among notable patrons who visited the earlier tavern, known as Watson's Ordinary, were Jefferson, the Marquis de Lafayette, and Daniel Boone. In 1802 Thomas and Mary Boyd rented the tavern, then purchased it in 1812, operating it for nearly 50 years and establishing a store and post office. In the mid 1800s, the property was sold to the Shepherd family, who renamed it Shepherd's Inn and maintained its popularity as a rest-stop, and general store. After

1937 the building was converted to a private residence.

- Constructed in 1895 in **Richmond**'s Jackson Ward neighborhood, the First Battalion Virginia Volunteers Armory, featuring brick towers and crenellation along the roof parapet, was built for an African-American militia unit and is now the oldest of three identified black-affiliated armories in the U.S. It also is one of only two surviving armories in Richmond, where five such crenellated buildings once existed. After the black militia company who used it disbanded in 1899, the building housed a school for African American children from 1903 until World War II, when it was converted to a reception center for the thousands of black soldiers who passed through its doors between 1942-45. After World War II, the armory served again as an educational facility and for a period housed The Black History Museum of Richmond.
- Four Locust Farm, formerly the Pettus Dairy Farm, in **Charlotte County** near Keysville, represents a well-preserved example of a 20th-century major Richmond market dairy farm. Operating as a dairy farm from 1925 to 1962, today's 332-acre farm features a circa 1859 two-story farm house and two associated domestic outbuildings, and 20 historic barns and agricultural buildings associated with its nearly 100-year agricultural history. Because of continuing use, the buildings retain an exceptional level of exterior and interior integrity.
- The expanded and amended Grace Street Commercial Historic District (originally listed in 1998) in **Richmond** extends the district's period of historical significance to 1956 and incorporates 19 additional historic buildings. The district, featuring 19th-century residential and 20th-century commercial and modern architecture, illustrates the transition of the Grace and Franklin Street corridors from a residential neighborhood to a commercial district, as Broad Street and Richmond became a regional retail and entertainment center.
- Lewis Mountain, in **Albemarle County**, refers both to the stately mansion and the mountain directly west of the University of Virginia that it crowns. Designed by Charlottesville architect Eugene Bradbury, the house, a massive granite structure, along with its guest house and stable, was completed by 1911. Its architectural style pays tribute to the classicism introduced to the region by Thomas Jefferson, who encouraged use of the Roman architectural elements for the dwellings of Virginia's Piedmont. The estate's grounds were laid out by Boston landscape architect Warren H. Manning. Lewis Mountain was the dream of John Watts Kearny, a former Union Army officer, who took note of the site while passing through the region during the Civil War. He vowed to return some day and establish his home on the mountain's summit.
- The MacCallum More and Hudgins House Historic District, located in Chase City, in **Mecklenburg County**, features a museum and gardens created by the Hudgins family throughout most of the 20th century. The Colonial Revival-style Hudgins House was built in 1910 by Virginia Supreme Court Chief Justice Edward Wren Hudgins and his wife, Lucy Morton Hudgins. In 1929, they built MacCallum More, a

new house located across the street from their earlier residence. The house was designed by Richmond architect Carl Lindner in the Colonial Revival style. The six-acre property also includes a guest cottage, a museum, and extensive woodland landscapes and display gardens. The Hudgins family contributed much to the Chase City community through their civic activities with the ultimate gift being MacCallum More, its gardens, and the museum and its art collections.

- The William H. McGuffey Primary School in **Charlottesville**, built 1915-16, was named for the author of the first standard U.S. reader series and staunch advocate of public education, who also taught ethics at the University of Virginia. The school, a two-story, brick building in the Colonial Revival style, was Charlottesville's first primary school building constructed for that purpose. It was lauded for its physical harmony, both on its facade and with its interior layout, which followed contemporary guidance for Progressive Era primary and secondary school design. The building became a model for subsequent school construction in Charlottesville. In 1973, McGuffey School, the first area school to employ a female principal, ceased operations.

In the Northern Virginia region, in addition to listing the Floris Historic District, DHR also approved a boundary increase for the existing Hillsboro Historic District:

- The original 1979 boundaries of **Loudoun County's Hillsboro Historic District** for the most part followed the town's established legal limits. The boundary increase extends the district to incorporate buildings and structures that more fully represent the history and development of this village, which arose out of a mountain-gap community dating back to the early 1700s. After milling operations were established in the area in the late 18th century, the community attracted an influx of businesses and residents. The district is notable for its Quaker-influenced architectural styles and buildings constructed of locally quarried limestone, and its dense clustering of residential and commercial buildings.

In addition to Foster Falls Historic District and Danville's Mill No. 8, the following landmarks in the Roanoke region, covering southwest Virginia, were approved for listing in the VLR:

- The Honaker Commercial Historic District, in **Russell County**, encompasses the core of this "boom town" that arose in a small valley at the juncture of a major rail line and highway, providing good access to timber, coal and other mineral reserves in the Alleghany Mountains. Honaker, established in 1889, grew rapidly during the last two decades of the 19th century. Today's historic district features 24 one-, two-, and three-story buildings, with decorative wood, brick, and stone detailing, erected between the late 19th and mid-20th centuries. Representative of many similar late 19th-century towns that boomed in southwest Virginia, Honaker has changed little during the past 50 years. Since 1982, the town has hosted a Red Bud Festival each spring.

- Located in central **Rockbridge County**, the Willson House is a refined and well-preserved plantation residence that features elements of Georgian and Federal style architecture. It was built in 1812 for Robert and Elizabeth Willson, along the Lexington and Covington Turnpike. An important local architectural landmark, the property is also significant for its association during the 20th century with Ruth Anderson McCulloch (1876-1971), a principal founder of the Rockbridge Historical Society, which developed out of a meeting held in the house. McCulloch was also a founder of the Blue Ridge Garden Club and active in the local chapter, now named in her honor, of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (now Preservation Virginia). The period of significance for the Willson House and surrounding 14 acres extends from 1812 to 1939, the last year of McCulloch's association with the property.

In addition to the Virginia Ice & Freezing Corporation, the following landmark from DHR's Tidewater region was also approved for listing on the state register:

- The T.C. Walker House, in **Gloucester County**, was Thomas Calhoun Walker's residence during 53 of his 72 years of service to enhance the lives of fellow African Americans. Built in 1880, the house was acquired in 1900 by Walker, a lawyer who founded a company that supported acquisition of land by blacks. Walker also was an influential force in creating African American schools in Gloucester County. Elected twice to the Gloucester County Board of Supervisors, Walker also received two presidential appointments—the first as Collector of Customs, Port of Tappahannock, from President William McKinley; the second as an Advisor on Negro Affairs in the Works Progress Administration from President Franklin Roosevelt. After Walker's death in 1953, his daughters inherited the house and renovated the structure, eventually donating the property to Hampton University in 1977.

In other actions, DHR approved a "multiple property document" (MPD) for the Village of Hobson in present-day **Suffolk**.

Hobson was settled in 1865 by a group of African Americans who fled the Virginia Peninsula between the James and York rivers and settled at Barrett's Neck in Nansemond County, now the City of Suffolk. Community members earned their livelihood mostly as farmers and watermen, particularly by oystering. From its heyday during the 1920s and 1930s, Hobson gradually declined in population following World War II due to improved educational and economic opportunities for black citizens and the deterioration of the oyster industry. Today the village retains a patchwork of historic fabric, and the remaining houses, landmarks, and sites are an important reminder of the contributions of blacks to the economy and culture of Suffolk and the Tidewater region following the Civil War and through the 20th century.

While no specific landmarks in Hobson were listed in the VLR, the approval of the MPD provides the overarching framework and justification for the future listings of individual landmarks and sites within the village.

These new Virginia Landmark Register listings, approved by the two boards of the Department of Historic Resources during a joint quarterly meeting September 17, will be forwarded by Virginia's State Historic Preservation Officer— Kathleen S. Kilpatrick, director of the Department of Historic Resources—to the National Park Service for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places as well.

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 does provide an owner the opportunity to pursue state or federal tax credit rehabilitation improvements to his or her property. 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 preservation of the Commonwealth's historic sites and in spurring economic revitalization in many Virginia towns and communities.

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