

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Madden's Tavern (Preferred) (VHLC File No. 23-29)

and or common Maddenville Farm

2. Location

street & number VA Rt. 610, 1 mile north of Lignum &&not for publication

city, town Lignum vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county Culpeper code 047

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name T.O. Madden, Jr.

street & number Maddenville Farm, Box 48

city, town Elkwood vicinity of N/A state Virginia 22718

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Culpeper Co. Courthouse

street & number West Davis St.

city, town Culpeper state VA 22701

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None to date has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A federal N/A state N/A county N/A local N/A

depository for survey records N/A



# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				black history

Specific dates Ca. 1840; 1900-05; Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Madden's Tavern is one of the few small rural taverns from the antebellum period surviving in Piedmont Virginia. Constructed ca. 1840, the tavern was designed, built, and operated by a free black, Willis Madden. Madden rose from poverty, mastered a variety of trades, and finally became the respected proprietor of what was then a traditionally white-run business. The only known black-owned and-operated tavern in the Virginia Piedmont prior to the Civil War, Madden's Tavern was a popular stopping place and landmark among white travellers and teamsters passing between the old trade center of Fredericksburg and the Piedmont "upcountry". The building stands as evidence of early rural Virginia black entrepreneurship, as well as a monument to its ambitious and remarkable builder. Although troop raids during the Civil War destroyed the original outbuildings and dealt the tavern business a fatal blow, the family continued to utilize the old tavern as a dwelling. Today the property, first acquired by Willis Madden in 1835, remains in the hands of descendants.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Willis Madden, a free Negro, purchased approximately 87 acres in 1835, and built the nucleus of the present house ca. 1840.<sup>1</sup> Born in 1799, Willis Madden was the son of Sarah Madden, a mulatto child born in Spotsylvania County in 1758 to a white pauper named Mary Madden. Following the laws of the day, Sarah Madden was bound out as an indentured servant until the age of thirty-one. Her known masters were George Fraser, a Fredericksburg merchant, and, later, Col. James Madison, Sr. of Orange Co., father of the President. After her term of indenture was over, ca. 1790, Sarah Madden settled near Stevensburg in Culpeper Co., earning her living as a seamstress and laundress. By the early 1820s, Sarah, her son Willis, and probably several other of her children as well, were living as tenants on the John Barnes farm east of Stevensburg, and it was there that Sarah Madden died and was buried in 1824.<sup>2</sup> John Barnes, who had died in 1799,<sup>3</sup> left a wife and several children; his estate was in litigation for years. In 1830, his farm, estimated at 87 acres was sold by his executor, Robert Slaughter, to Frederick Cline.<sup>4</sup> A few weeks later, perhaps by prior arrangement, Cline sold the property back to Slaughter, who added it to his estate, "The Grange".<sup>5</sup> After Robert Slaughter's death, the entire "Grange" plantation, totalling over 1200 acres, was sold to Martin Slaughter.<sup>6</sup> It was Martin Slaughter who sold the old Barnes farm to Willis Madden.

Willis Madden worked at a variety of trades, ranging from farm laborer through blacksmith, nail-maker, distiller, cobbler, and teamster, in order to support his

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Culpeper Co. Deed Books, Will Books, Land Tax Books.  
 Madden family papers, in possession of T.O. Madden, Jr. Elkwood, VA (microfilm copies in Manuscripts Division, Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA; xerox copies at Orange Co. Historical Society, Orange, VA.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.75 acres

Quadrangle name Germanna Bridge, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point on the E side of VA 610 approximately 1200' SE of intersection of VA 610 and VA 724; thence extending approximately 450' N; thence approximately 225' S; thence approximately 300' NE; thence approximately 125' SE; thence approximately 50' E; thence approximately 100' SE crossing private drive;  
**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries** (See Continuation Sheet #13)

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann L. Miller, Research Historian

organization Orange Co. Historical Society date Feb. 1984

street & number Box 591 (130 Caroline St.) telephone (703) 672-5366

city or town Orange, state VA 22960

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell  
 H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director  
 title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date May 15, 1984

**For NPS use only**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
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MADDEN'S TAVERN, CULPEPER COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

The loft room above the old living quarters was not plastered until the renovations of ca. 1900-1905. The room is devoid of any ornamentation. There is no fireplace surround. Floors are original. Prior to the installation of the dormer windows in ca. 1900-1905, the only illumination to this or the adjoining loft room was via the small four-light windows which flank the chimneys in each gable end. The narrow door which communicates with the adjoining loft room is a product of the ca. 1900-1905 remodeling. Prior to this, there was no communication between the two upstairs rooms, which were originally served by separate stairways.

The first-floor SE room, the old tavern room, underwent extensive remodeling in the early and mid-20th century. The batten door which communicates with the old family living quarters, as well as a similar door in the rear (NE) wall are original. This rear door originally constituted the only direct access to the outside from the tavern room. The front (SE) wall is pierced by a single window, the only one in this room. The sash, like that of the window in the adjoining room (the old living quarters) is of early 20th-century vintage. The stonework mantel was added by the present owner in the mid-20th century. As in the adjoining room, the walls were plastered in the early 20th-century remodeling. At the same time, the enclosed stair in the center wall in this section was removed, and a door cut to provide access into the stairway in the old living quarters on the other side of the wall. The original plastered ceiling in the old tavern room is now hidden under a suspended ceiling.

The loft room above this public room was originally plastered and was replastered in the early 20th century. The small windows on either side of the chimney, one of which was removed to provide access to a later wing of the house, were identical to those in the adjoining loft room, above the old living quarters. With the exception of a simple, classical mantel, consisting of a plain mantel shelf, with pilasters and entablature formed by plain boards, there is no ornamental woodwork in this room.

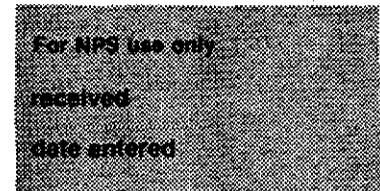
The two-story frame addition to the SE gable end of the tavern was added between 1900 and 1905. There is one room on each level. Like the old tavern, it is covered by a gable roof. Both the tavern section and this section have roofs covered with asphalt shingles on the front face and a metal roof on the rear face. At the time of the construction of the two-story addition, doors were cut in the east gable ends of both the ground and loft levels of the old tavern, to provide communication between the old and new sections.

None of the old outbuildings remain. A modern barn and tenant house are several hundred yards north of the old tavern. The surrounding land is in pasture.

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MADDEN'S TAVERN, CULPEPER COUNTY, VA



Continuation sheet #2

Item number 8

Page 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE

family and put aside enough money to buy the property where he and his mother had lived, and where she lay buried. He continued many of these trades in addition to farming his new land, but also made a notable addition to his talents--that of tavernkeeper, operating a business in which the participation of blacks was generally restricted by law. Willis Madden never acquired a tavern license, but operated under a loophole in Virginia law which exempted those who furnished camping facilities to teamsters and drovers--which Willis Madden did in addition to running his tavern--from having to acquire a license. His tavern activities, apparently with the connivance of local authorities, were conducted under the aegis of hospitality to "friends" who happened to stop by, with the "friends" then offering reimbursement for food and lodging in equally "neighborly" fashion.

Willis Madden built the original portion of the present house--the old tavern building--a few years after purchasing the property. Land Tax Books are inconclusive as to the year of construction: the date of ca. 1840 is a traditional one within the Madden family. The property stood at what was then a major crossroads for the Fredericksburg-bound trade of the region: the intersections of the Kirtley, or Old Fredericksburg Road, the Peola Mills-Kellyville Road, and the Stony Ford Road. In addition to the tavern, and his farming operations, Willis Madden also set up his campground for teamsters, a general store, and a blacksmith/wheelwright shop on the property (none of the old outbuildings remain), while also continuing his business as a teamster. He employed several of his sons, as well as other relatives and local free blacks in his various concerns, and was well known in Culpeper and the surrounding region as a respected and trusted member of the community. Madden's Tavern was one of the best-known taverns in the Culpeper area. It was also the only tavern in central or western Virginia known to have been owned and run by blacks. Tavern records in the family's possession indicate that many prominent local men--all, of course white--were among the guests.

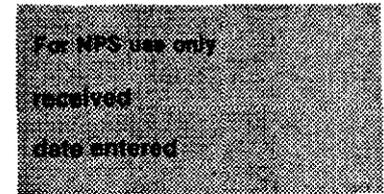
The coming of the Orange & Alexandria Railroad to Culpeper County in 1852-53 signaled the decline of the tavern, as it virtually eliminated the Fredericksburg-bound trade which had provided most of the tavern's customers. The Civil War ended what little remained of the tavern's operations. Willis Madden was virtually wiped out by damage committed by Union troops during the winter of 1863-64. Still, Madden's Tavern appears on most Civil War maps of Culpeper County, and is mentioned as a landmark in a variety of Civil War accounts and reports. In February 1863, Major John Pelham stayed at the tavern while on a reconnaissance mission for General "Stonewall" Jackson.

Upon Willis Madden's death in 1879, the house tract passed to Willis' daughter, Maria, who later bought the residue of the property from the executor, Willis' son, Rev. Samuel William Madden, a well-known black minister in Washington, DC. During the Civil War,<sup>7</sup> Samuel Madden had been the chaplain at the Freedmen's Hospital in Washington. After Maria Madden's death in the 1890s, the farm passed to her sons, Thomas Obed and Willis Jackson Madden. Thomas Obed Madden bought out his brother's share in the property in 1898.<sup>8</sup> Upon the death of T.O. Madden, Sr.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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MADDEN'S TAVERN, CULPEPER COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #3

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

in 1949, the property passed to two of his children, T.O. Madden, Jr. and Odenla Madden Phillips. With the death of Mrs. Phillips in 1980, sole title now rests with T.O. Madden, Jr., great-grandson of Willis Madden.

<sup>1</sup> Culpeper County Deed Book 2, p. 402.

<sup>2</sup> Documented by Madden family papers in possession of T.O. Madden, Jr., Box 48, Elkwood, VA.

<sup>3</sup> Culpeper County Will Book D, p. 267.

<sup>4</sup> Culpeper County Deed Book XX, p. 200.

<sup>5</sup> Culpeper County Deed Book YY, p. 38.

<sup>6</sup> Culpeper County Deed Book 2, p. 41.

<sup>7</sup> Culpeper County Will Book X, p. 416; Culpeper County Deed Book 20, p. 328.

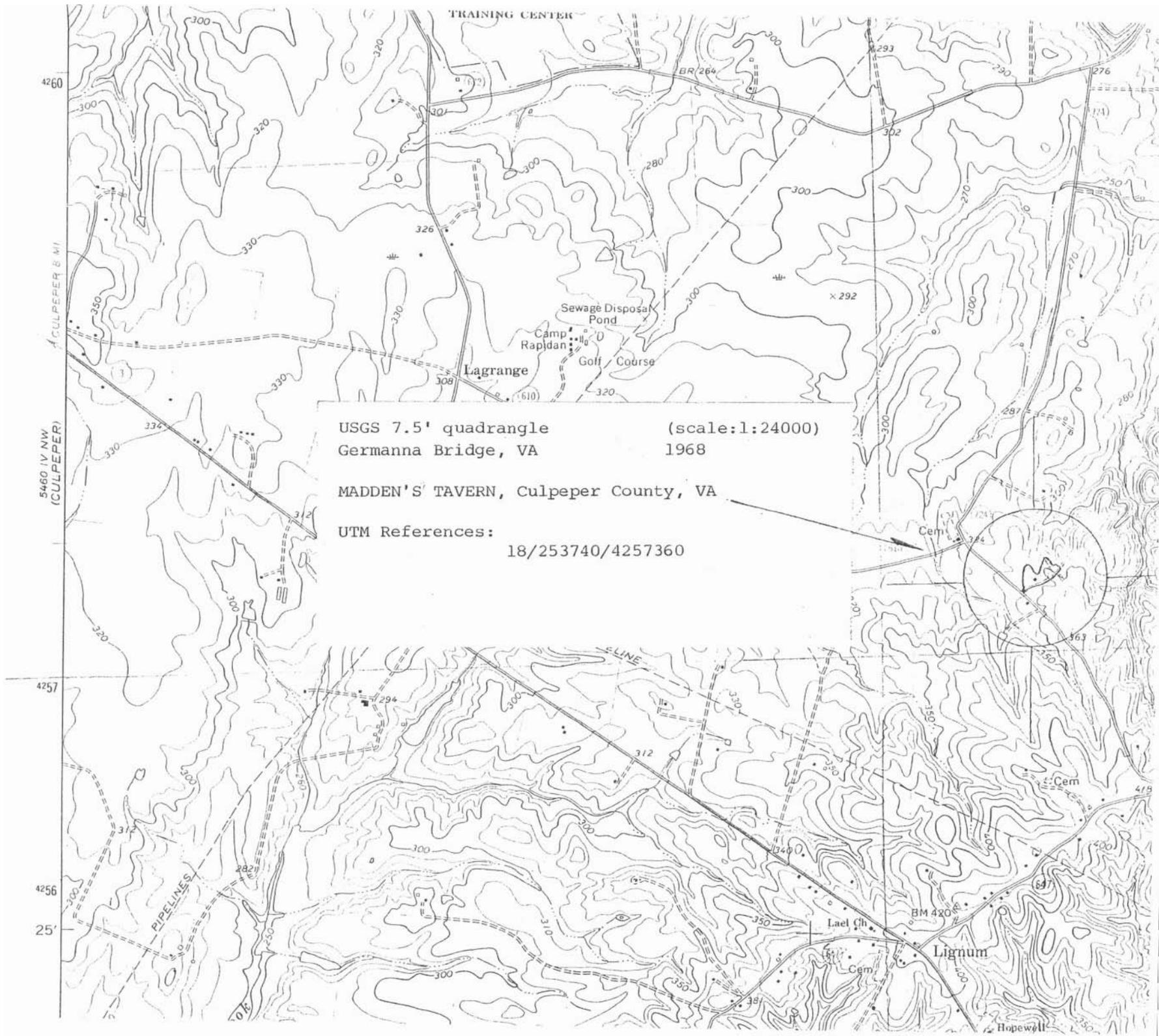
<sup>8</sup> Culpeper County Deed Book 30, p. 37.

<sup>9</sup> Culpeper County Will Book 24, p. 363.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA--Verbal Boundary Description & Justification

thence following S side of said drive approximately 600' SW to E side of VA Rt. 610; thence approximately 50' NW along E side of said route to point of origin.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property consists of 3.75 acres which is a small fraction of the original 87 acres purchased by Willis Madden in 1835 and still held by the Madden family. The nominated acreage includes the house and a small portion of the surrounding land.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Germanna Bridge, VA 1968

MADDEN'S TAVERN, Culpeper County, VA

UTM References:  
18/253740/4257360