

VLR- 3/19/09  
NRHP-5/21/09

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Bristersburg Historic District

other names/site number VDHR File No. 030-5161

**2. Location**

street & number Area including parts of Elk Run and Bristersburg roads not for publication N/A

city or town Bristersburg vicinity N/A

state Virginia code VA county Fauquier code 061 zip code 22728

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide X locally. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 3/19/09  
Signature of certifying official Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
   entered in the National Register  
   See continuation sheet.  
   determined eligible for the National Register  
   See continuation sheet.  
   determined not eligible for the National Register  
   removed from the National Register  
   other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>19</u>	<u>7</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>22</u>	<u>9</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>General Store</u>
<u>Religion</u>	<u>Church</u>
<u>Education</u>	<u>School</u>

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>Religion</u>	<u>Church</u>

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Queen Anne  
Other: Vernacular

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone  
 roof Metal; Asphalt  
 walls Wood; Weatherboard, Stucco; Stone; Synthetic; Vinyl;  
 other Wood; Brick; Concrete

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
TRANSPORTATION
COMMERCE
EDUCATION

Period of Significance circa 1838-1958

Significant Dates circa 1838; 1852; 1910

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources: Richmond, Virginia

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 28 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Table with 8 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing. Includes a note 'x See continuation sheet.'

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Maral S. Kalbian, Architectural Historian; Margaret T. Peters, Historian
organization Maral S. Kalbian, LLC date November 1, 2008
street & number P.O. Box 468 telephone 540-955-1231
city or town Berryville state VA zip code 22611

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name See Attached Property Owners List
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form.

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### **7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:**

Bristersburg is located in the southeast portion of Fauquier County and grew up at the intersection of two major roads. The community was one of southern Fauquier's main trading centers during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and because of its location along a major thoroughfare, maintained its position as a commercial center for the surrounding agricultural area for well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Bristersburg Historic District boundaries are generally drawn in a linear fashion along Elk Run Road (Route 806), from its junction with Route 616 (Bristersburg Road) west to the Bristersburg School and include three dwellings, a church, a school, and three stores. Bristersburg is remarkable for its visual cohesiveness and the survival of the core type of historic buildings usually found in small rural communities.

The buildings in Bristersburg date from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries and are representative examples of residential and commercial styles and forms popular in the region during that time. The former school dates to ca. 1910 and is well preserved although it has been converted into a dwelling. The commercial buildings are vacant and one has been incorporated into a dwelling. Archaeological resources are not included in this nomination. Although relatively small, the Bristersburg Historic District contains a high degree of architectural integrity and is one of the best-preserved collections of historic buildings in the southeast portion of Fauquier County.

Linear in its configuration, the layout of the Bristersburg Historic District is dictated by the roads and property lines. Historic maps indicate that the community grew up around a crossroads intersection. It appears that the northerly leg of the intersection was shifted to the east after the construction of the school in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and a new road also leading to the north was created west of the original intersection. All the buildings within the district are easily visible from Elk Run Road, a two-lane paved road with no shoulders or sidewalks. The character of the district can be described as a grouping of buildings within a rural setting.

The Bristersburg Historic District boundaries include the highest concentration of historic buildings that are located fairly close to the original crossroad intersection of the village. These buildings give a clear representation of Bristersburg's role as a major crossroads and a center of commercial, religious, and educational activity in an otherwise rural area beginning in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and continuing into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Very little modern construction has occurred around Bristersburg, which still maintains its rural setting surrounded by large farms.

### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION AND ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS:**

The Bristersburg Historic District, located in the southeastern part of Fauquier County, Virginia, at the intersection of Elk Run and Bristersburg roads, can be characterized as a small village with a varied

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collection of mid-19<sup>th</sup>- to early-20<sup>th</sup>-century building types and forms that fully document its history as a rural crossroads and commercial and social center. The 28-acre district contains four dwellings, five commercial buildings, a church, a school, a cemetery, and several outbuildings. Although Bristersburg has no official limits, the boundaries are drawn to include the highest concentration of historic buildings within the area generally defined around the main intersection. More remote rural areas were not included in the district boundaries.

Bristersburg's beginnings were during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century as a crossroads community and commercial and social center for a rural area of southeastern Fauquier County. The earliest resource in Bristersburg that survives is a commercial building that is now encapsulated within a later dwelling and is located at 11120 Elk Run Road [030-5161-0005], directly at the crossroads intersection. According to tradition, the core of this two-story, four-bay vernacular dwelling was constructed ca. 1838 and is of log. Resting on a solid stone foundation, the frame dwelling, clad in weatherboard siding, has been enlarged and now has the appearance of a late-19<sup>th</sup>-century dwelling. Details include a standing-seam-metal, cross-gabled roof with three interior brick chimneys, two-over-two-sash wood windows, two front doors, overhanging eaves, a partial Queen Anne-style bay within the cross-gabled two-story wing, capped corner boards, a plain frieze, and a six-bay partially-enclosed wraparound porch with turned posts. The present L-shaped frame building operated as a store (Tulloss Brothers Store) until about 1930 and was also used as a dwelling. The building also housed the Bristersburg post office.

Located almost directly across the road, at the northeastern corner of the original intersection is the Zoar Baptist Church [030-0159; 030-5161-0003], which according to an inscription in one of the stone lintels was constructed in 1852. Replacing an earlier 1837 church on this same site, the current two-story, two-bay, vernacular Greek Revival-style stone church rests on a solid, stone foundation and is the architectural centerpiece of the community. The gable-end front of the masonry building features two front doors (one for men and one for women) topped by massive stone lintels, one of which contains the inscription "I & T. B. 1852." The walls of the building are laid in coursed stone with corner quoins and stone lintels over the window openings. The side elevation is three bays wide with one bay being a door that leads up to the gallery. The gable-ended roof is covered in standing-seam metal. The interior of the building was remodeled in early 2000. A one-story, stuccoed meeting hall is located just north of the church and is connected to it by a walkway. The earliest section of the gable-roofed building was constructed in 1972 with an addition made in the early 1990s.

A small cemetery is located in a strip of land just north of the church and includes only a few graves bearing the name French, Schooler, and Clement. The earliest visible burial is Sara E. Clement who died in 1881. Harriet Schooler died in 1905 and George Lee French in 1903 and his wife Martha McCoy in 1905.

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The Eskridge House [030-5161-0002], located at 11082 Elk Run Road, is another of the group of mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century buildings in the community. Sited on a fairly large piece of land along the north side of Elk Run Road, the house sits on a small rise above the grade of the road and is surrounded by trees in an otherwise open farm field. An early-20<sup>th</sup>-century frame shed and workshop are located in the rear yard, north of the house.

The left two bays of the two-story, three-bay, vernacular hall-parlor-plan, timber-frame dwelling were constructed ca. 1850 and rest on a solid, stone foundation and feature an exterior-end stone chimney. The right bay was added ca. 1890 and contains an interior-end brick chimney. The house is stuccoed and the gabled roof with exposed rafter ends is covered in standing-seam metal. The house also features two-over-two- and six-over-six-sash wood windows and a three-bay porch with Tuscan columns and a concrete floor with the date "August 2, 1947" inscribed in it. The rear gable-roofed wing appears to have been added ca. 1910 and features an interior-end brick flue and partially enclosed side porch. The Eskridge House is an example of a mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century timber-frame dwelling that was enlarged during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to its current hall-parlor-plan configuration.

At the southwest corner of the junction of Bristersburg and Elk Run roads are two abandoned commercial buildings that once operated as Payne's Store [030-0182; 030-5161-0007]. The larger, two-story, three-bay vernacular structure appears to have been constructed ca. 1880 and rests on a solid stone foundation. The frame, gable-end building is clad in weatherboard siding and features a standing-seam-metal roof with a lunette attic window. The first floor has six-over-six-sash windows while the second floor has four-over-four-sash windows--most of which are missing their glass. Remnants of louvered shutters on the second floor and batten shutters on the first floor exist. The double-leaf entrance door on the first floor is made of vertical tongue-and-groove boards. The early-20<sup>th</sup>-century, one-story, three-bay, gable-ended warehouse next to it is in fair to poor condition. It has exposed rafter ends, a standing-seam-metal roof, board-and-batten siding, exposed rafter ends, and double-leaf tongue-and-groove doors. Although both the store and the warehouse are abandoned, they retain architectural integrity and are some of the earliest surviving commercial buildings in the district. Prominently situated on a large rock along the Elk Run Road side of the same property is a bronze U. S. G. S. benchmark from 1935 with the inscription "Z-116, 1935."

Another commercial building that developed in the community was the blacksmith shop at the Greenstreet House [030-5161-0001] at 11120 Elk Run Road. The main house sits at the northwest corner of the junction of Elk Run and Bristersburg Roads at the western edge of the district and the former blacksmith shop in the yard right off Elk Run Road. While the house may encapsulate an earlier dwelling, its current configuration is a two-story, four-bay, L-shaped, vernacular dwelling typical of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Resting on a solid stone foundation, the frame house has vinyl siding and a standing-seam-metal, cross-gabled roof with a central-interior, brick chimney with a

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corbelled cap, two-over-two-sash wood windows, overhanging eaves, three-bay enclosed front and side porches, and cross-gables. The rear yard contains several sheds, a pumphouse, a chicken coop, and a garage.

The large one-story, five-bay, vernacular commercial building that was used as the William Griffith Blacksmith Shop from 1915-1960 has a standing-seam-metal, hipped roof with exposed rafter ends, a large three-bay porch, pressed tin siding, two interior brick flues with corbelled caps, and a side lean-to that is partially enclosed. The central three-bay portion has six-over-six-sash windows, and a central four-paneled door flanked by sliding vertical tongue-and-groove sliding doors.

The Compton-Thorpe House and Compton's Store [030-5161-0004] is another example in the district of a dwelling with an adjacent commercial building. Constructed ca. 1912, the complex of buildings is located on a large fairly level residential lot on the north side of Elk Run Road. Sited above the grade of the road, the front yard contains a two-tier stone wall with a soldier course of quartz stone on top, a brick walkway, stone gateposts with a metal gate, a graveled driveway, and mature trees and bushes.

The two-story, three-bay, L-shaped, Queen Anne-style dwelling was constructed ca. 1912 and rests on a solid, formed concrete foundation. Clad in weatherboard siding, the well-preserved frame dwelling features a standing-seam-metal, cross-gabled roof with a central-interior, brick chimney, capped corner-boards, plain frieze board, and overhanging eaves. A large two-story Queen Anne-style, polygonal bay projects forward and has wooden shingles, a decorative vergeboard, and a four-light round attic window in its front gable end. The house also features a transom and sidelights around the door, two-over-two-sash wood windows, a two-bay front porch with Tuscan columns, pedimented gable ends with wooden shingles, a side entrance with semi-circular porch with Tuscan columns and a roof deck, two two-story rear ells, and a rear porch and deck.

The intact but vacant store is located in the front yard, southeast of the house and has an orientation parallel to Elk Run Road, not perpendicular as might be expected. Constructed around the same time as the main house, this large, one-story, three-bay country store has a tall hipped roof covered in standing-seam metal with an interior brick flue, exposed rafter ends, and two-over-two- and four-over-four-sash wood windows. The pressed tin siding covering the walls simulates rusticated stone. An impressive feature is the intact three-bay storefront with double-leaf recessed doors with a transom, and full-height storefront windows with paneled kickplates. A rear one-story, gable-roofed wing is covered in weatherboard siding and rests on a formed concrete foundation. To the side is a one-story, three-bay warehouse wing with a standing-seam-metal roof, six-over-six-sash windows, a scalloped fascia, exposed rafter ends, a concrete pier foundation, and batten freight doors.

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The property also includes several period outbuildings including a garage, pumphouse, barn, and corncrib. The gable-roofed barn with standing-seam-metal roofing has an open central bay with a concrete floor, rests on a formed concrete foundation, and is covered in board-and-batten siding. The one-bay, gambrel-roofed corncrib has an open central bay, weatherboard siding, concrete-pier foundation, and a standing-seam-metal roof. Both these outbuildings reflect the fact that this was an agricultural area and that some of the properties within Bristersburg were on large tracts of farmable land. The one-story, exposed log cabin in the rear yard was moved here in the 1970s and is non-contributing.

At the eastern edge of the district is the former Bristersburg School. This large, impressive building, now used as a dwelling, sits on a fairly level lot on the south side of Elk Run Road and is oriented parallel to the road. The yard contains a graveled driveway, numerous mature trees, and several modern sheds. The two-story, five-bay school was constructed in 1910 and housed grades 1-12. Retaining much architectural integrity despite being converted into a house in the early 1970s, the frame building is clad in German-lap siding and features a standing-seam-metal, hipped roof with a modern brick chimney and overhanging eaves, a stone foundation, eight-over-eight- and six-over-six-sash wood windows, a one-bay wooden porch with square posts, double-leaf front doors with a twelve-light transom, and an open, bell-less, bell tower with a hipped roof. The building contains a rear two-story wing and a modern two-story, hip-roofed side wing. The rear wing was probably added while the building functioned as a school while the side wing appears more modern. Constructed on the site of an earlier school, the Bristersburg School closed in 1969.

The architectural resources in Bristersburg include a variety of building types and architectural styles ranging in date from the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the 1920s. The school and several stores were still operational in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, and the church is still an active congregation. Although all the commercial buildings in the village are now vacant, the district contains a high degree of architectural integrity and is one of the best preserved districts in this portion of Fauquier County.

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### BRISTERSBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY

#### NOTES ON FORMAT, ORGANIZATION, AND JUSTIFICATION OF INVENTORY:

In the following inventory, which is listed numerically by street address, all resources, both primary and secondary, have been considered either contributing or non-contributing based upon the areas of significance as listed under Criterion C with ARCHITECTURE and Criterion A with TRANSPORTATION, COMMERCE, AND EDUCATION as the areas of significance and based upon the period of significance as circa 1838-1958. All non-contributing resources have, therefore, been so noted for being either constructed after 1958 or as having no integrity left to represent the period and areas of significance. The resources are keyed to the accompanying sketch map in regular order.

#### Bristersburg Road

No Address                      030-0182                      Other DHR Id#: 030-5161-0007

Name: Payne's Store

Primary Resource Information: Commercial Building, Stories: 2, Style: Vernacular, ca. 1870, ca. 1910

Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building      Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: Warehouse                      Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: USGS Benchmark              Contributing (Object)

#### Elk Run Road

10885 Elk Run Road              030-0586                      Other DHR Id#: 030-5161-0006

Name: Bristersburg School

Primary Resource Information: School, Stories: 2, Style: Vernacular, 1910

Individual Resource Status: School                              Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: Shed                                  Non-Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: Shed                                  Non-Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: Shed                                  Non-Contributing

11023 Elk Run Road              030-5161-0005

Name: Tulloss's Store- Cooper House

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Vernacular, ca. 1840

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling              Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: Shed                                  Contributing

11026 Elk Run Road              030-5161-0004

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Name: **Compton-Thorpe House**

**Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Queen Anne, ca. 1912**

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling      Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building      Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: Garage      Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: Corn Crib      Contributing (Structure)  
Individual Resource Status: Barn      Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: Pump House      Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: Cottage      **Noncontributing**

**11036 Elk Run Road      030-0159**

Other DHR Id#: 030-5161-0003

Name: **Zoar Baptist Church**

**Primary Resource Information: Church, Stories: 2, Style: Vernacular Greek Revival, 1852**

Individual Resource Status: Church      Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: Cemetery      Contributing (Site)  
Individual Resource Status: Pump House      **Noncontributing**  
Individual Resource Status: Fellowship Hall      **Noncontributing**  
Individual Resource Status: Pavilion      **Noncontributing (Structure)**

**11082 Elk Run Road      030-5161-0002**

Name: **Eskridge House**

**Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Vernacular, ca. 1850, ca. 1890**

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling      Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: Shed      Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: Workshop      Contributing

**11120 Elk Run Road      030-5161-0001**

Name: **Greenstreet House; William Griffith's Blacksmith Shop**

**Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Vernacular, ca. 1900**

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling      Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building      Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: Pump house      Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: Chicken Coop      Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: Garage      Contributing  
Individual Resource Status: Shed      **Noncontributing**  
Individual Resource Status: Carport      **Noncontributing (Structure)**

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## **8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

Bristersburg Historic District, located in the southeastern portion of Fauquier County in Virginia's rolling Piedmont, is significant as an unusually well preserved enclave of institutional buildings along with a handful of dwellings, most of which date from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Three stores--one with a warehouse--(ca. 1838, 1880, and 1910), a church (1852), a school (1910) and a blacksmith shop (1915), along with three historic dwellings (ca. 1850; 1900, 1912) comprise the district whose earliest structure dates from ca. 1838. Its site at an intersection of two primary roadways dictated its location and its selection as a post office. The north-south road at the intersection, now State Route 616 (Bristersburg Road), was known as the Carolina Road, an important travel route linking Pennsylvania and North Carolina running through Virginia's Piedmont in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>1</sup> The east-west road, now State Route 806 (Elk Run Road) played the role in the 19<sup>th</sup> century that U. S. Route 17 does today as the primary link between Fredericksburg to the east and Warrenton to the north and west. Bristersburg dates to the period when the Carolina Road was the most important transportation route through Fauquier County and prior to the construction of the Virginia and Midland Railroad (later the Southern Railway) that crossed the southern half of the county. With the construction of the railroad, the road leading north known as Bristersburg Road linked the village with Calverton, one of Fauquier primary stops along the east-west rail system in the southern half of the county.

The village's services – transportation, religion, education, and commerce – served the surrounding farms. As the only village with all these services centered in one location in the area, Bristersburg appears on most major 19<sup>th</sup>-century maps including those from the Civil War. It continued to offer retail services until the middle years of the twentieth century. Bristersburg's association with the Civil War includes the use of Zoar Baptist Church as both a stable and hospital during hostilities. A school built in 1910 on the site of an earlier school, continued operations until the late 1960s.

Bristersburg Historic District is eligible under Criterion C for its remarkably intact architectural fabric including a dwelling, the core of which was a store dating to ca. 1838, an 1850 dwelling, and a fine stone church, dating to 1852; and locally under Criterion A for its association with transportation, commerce, and education in the southeastern portion of Fauquier County with a period of significance from circa 1838, the date of the earliest structure, to ca. 1958, when it was still a vibrant commercial center.

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

According to Fauquier County local historian Eugene Scheel, legend says that Bristersburg was likely named for a man named Brister or Bristers who was hanged there sometime early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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A search of census records for Virginia for the period between 1820 and 1840 reveals only two families with that surname. One family lived in Southampton County and Petersburg, and a Thomas Brister was listed in the census for Middleburg, Loudoun County in 1820. Thomas Brister's name does not appear again in Virginia after 1820, so we can speculate that if a man named Brister(s) was indeed hanged in the area, it might have been Thomas Brister.<sup>2</sup> What is certain is that a post office was established July 29, 1841, likely in the store owned by the Tullos brothers at the junction of the road coming from the north, now Route 616 and the road leading to Fredericksburg to the southeast.<sup>3</sup> A good reason for locating a post office there would have been its convenient site on a significant north-south route through the county that led to Haymarket, Leesburg, Frederick, Maryland, and finally as far north as Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, likely the historic Carolina Road.<sup>4</sup> The east-west road led to Elk Run and the western part of Fauquier to the west and to Fredericksburg to the southeast. The presence of a store in which the post office could be located undoubtedly helped as well. The Tullos Store [030-5161-0005] that stands at 11023 Elk Run Road is encapsulated within a turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup>-century frame dwelling. In the 1850 census, Joseph Tullos and probably his brother, William H. Tullos, are both recorded as "merchants" with combined real estate valued at about \$1,100.

In 1925, the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture "appointed a committee 'to undertake immediately the selection and designation of a comprehensive and uniform scheme for designating such routes in such manner as to give them a conspicuous place among highways of the country all roads of inter-state and national significance;'" U. S. Route 15 was one of those 26 roads so designated.<sup>5</sup> Prior to that, Virginia highways were identified by letters rather than numbers.<sup>6</sup> The Route 15 that appears on the 1932 Fauquier County road map at Bristersburg was *County* Route 15, not U. S. 15 which by then had been moved to its present location running due south from Warrenton west of Bristersburg.<sup>7</sup> Even today, U. S. Route 15 remains the highway number for the north-south highway that stretches from New York to South Carolina and that traverses the Piedmont areas of the Mid-Atlantic States, although it has been moved to the west and follows a part of the Route 29 corridor.

Beyond being the location of the post office for the area, the most imposing structure to stand in Bristersburg is the Zoar Baptist Church [030-0159; 030-5161-0003] constructed in 1852 at 11036 Elk Run Road. The "mother church" of Zoar was the Elk Run Church, located nearby and named for the creek of the same name in 1822. According to a short history of the church, "in 1836 a number of Elk Run's congregation elected to remain with the Baptist Association when some had chosen to leave. Joseph S. and Mary George, large land holders in the area of present-day Bristersburg and who likely were related to Weedon S. George, owner of the house now know as the Eskridge House, donated one acre of land "on the north side of the main road leading from Elk Run to Dumfries (present day Route 806)...for the purpose of erecting a house of worship to be called 'Zoar,' free for religions of all denominations" but reserving the use by the regular Baptists of the area at least one Saturday and Sunday each month. The word "Zoar" in Hebrew means "little meeting place." The original 1837

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wooden structure later burned and had been replaced with the present stone structure by 1852. According to the church's history, an enslaved stone mason carved his initials and the date "1852," in one of the stone lintels over a door to the sanctuary. It is likely that the slave who did this stone work belonged to one of the several slave holders among the church's membership who lived in the vicinity of Bristersburg. Joseph George who gave the land for the church did own a 23-year old male slave in 1850, who possibly could have done the work. Of the two known slave holders in the village of Bristersburg (not just the surrounding area), the Tullos brothers' slaves were too young to have done the work. The Paynes had three slaves of an appropriate age in 1850 but no specific documentation supports Payne's direct relationship to this church at that time. One can only conclude that a local slave holder did indeed "lend" his slave to do the work, but conclusive documentation as to the slave's owner does not appear to exist.

A cemetery stands just north of the church, with the earliest stone dating from 1881. There may be earlier interments but no stones survive from before 1881. The Zoar congregation recorded as many as 118 members in the 1850s. The local history also says that the solid stone building was used by Confederate forces as a hospital and the Yankees stabled horses there during the Civil War, not an uncommon practice in this Northern Virginia area where so many military units traversed the primary roads and fought nearby along the Orange and Alexandria Railroad or at the battles near Manassas to the east.<sup>8</sup> Again, Bristersburg's location on a road that led to Fredericksburg and less than a dozen miles south of the railroad would have made it convenient for both opposing military forces. Given the number of prosperous farmers enumerated in the area, there is little wonder that there were the financial resources to construct this solid sanctuary known as Zoar Church. Even today, the stone church remains a familiar landmark in the area. The church's location would have attracted many to its doors, undoubtedly profitable for business at the Tullos Store as well.

By 1860, the census records for the village are far more revealing. For the only time in its history, Bristersburg Post Office was recorded as the postal facility for a large region, a role that by 1870 had been assigned to Upperville.<sup>9</sup> The area was described by the census as the "Cedar Run District," for the largest creek in the area. Seventy households, including nearly 200 people, were served by the Bristersburg Post Office.<sup>10</sup> In addition to the expected number of those identified as farmers, there is a doctor Horace Smoot, assisted by a student of medicine in his practice. There is a merchant from Italy named L. E. Massoletti; a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church South; a wheelwright, a carpenter, a well digger, and of course the sheriff. Robert H. Payne, whose son's store stands on Bristersburg Road, [030-0182; 030-5161-0007] is called a "minister of the gospel" and farmer in 1860.<sup>11</sup> Also appearing as a resident living in or near Bristersburg according to the 1860 census is Weedon S. George, possibly associated with the house known as the Eskridge House at 11082 Elk Run Road [030-5161-0002]. The land tax books for 1857 show a dwelling in this location charged to W(eedon) S. George valued at \$500. Deeds researched by the present owner trace this property back to

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the George family and the house appears to date from circa 1850.<sup>12</sup> Most significant, however, is that several Civil War maps show Bristersburg as an important site in Fauquier County. An 1862 map, described as “Map of Northeast Virginia and the City of Washington” show Bristersburg with a “church” (Zoar) and a “store,” (Tullos) as well as four dwellings.<sup>13</sup> One of the dwellings is the Eskridge House [030-5161-0002]. The fact that at least three antebellum buildings, all rendered on an 1862 map, survive in 2008 is a remarkable measure of the durability and significance of this very tiny Fauquier County village.

The 1870 Census is more difficult to decipher as it relates to Bristersburg. Tullos and his store survived the War and although his occupation is listed as “farmer,” it can be presumed his commercial enterprise was still operating. One can also assume that although the main north-south road would have continued as an important transportation route, the focus for commercial traffic would have shifted a dozen miles north to the various towns that lined the Virginia and Midland Railroad like Calverton and Catlett. There is little indication that much happened in Bristersburg during the period from 1870 to 1910. The H. D. Garden Map of 1876 renders the name of Bristersburg in lettering as large as Catlett’s and Bealton, confirming that it was still an important village in the eastern portion of the county.

Land Tax books for the 1880s give Bristersburg as the village standing at the center of an area where a number of farmers continued to reside. One of those farmers, Robert Payne, whose family had lived in the area since before the Civil War, operated a store [030-0182; 030-5161-0007] that enhanced the mercantile activity in the village. Land Tax books for 1888 record that Robert and Kate Payne, his sister, had \$1,300 worth of buildings on their property. A warehouse dating from the same period stands on the store parcel as well. The 1888 tax records also indicate that the Trustees of the Fauquier County Public Schools received a one-acre parcel from H. C. Crum [sic] in the “Town Run” vicinity, the creek that is located just east of the village. The census shows that Crum, a Pennsylvania native, did not live in the Bristersburg area but obviously owned land there.<sup>14</sup> It appears that it was this parcel on which the Bristersburg School was constructed in 1910 at 10885 Bristersburg Road [030-0586; 030-5161-0006] and likely was the location of an earlier school. Family names including Peters, Payne, George, Tullos, and French continue to appear as land holders in the area specifically referred to as “Bristersburg,” indicating that there continued to be an active community around the tiny village.

Five extant buildings appear to have been built in the Bristersburg Historic District in the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century: the Bristersburg School in 1910 [030-0586; 030-5161-0006]; Compton’s Store and house in 1912 [030-5161-0004] at 11026 Elk Run Road; and the Greenstreet House (ca. 1900) and William Griffiths Blacksmith Shop in 1915 at 11120 Elk Run Road [030-5161-0001]. Julian Compton, first appears in the 1910 Census for Fauquier as a “boarder” and “merchant.” By 1920, he appears as a “merchant” in a “retail store.” The Griffiths family had lived in the Bristersburg

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area since the 1840s, and a blacksmith shop was always a familiar site on primary transportation routes. The Tullos family members continued to reside in the area, primarily described as “farmers” but likely continuing their association with the mercantile functions of the village in their store building that dated to 1840. By 1914, the configuration of the roadways had been altered to allow the main road to pass by the newly constructed school before turning north towards Catlett.

Bristersburg School [030-0586; 030-5161-0006], a substantial two-story structure, is now used as a residence. According to Jim Brumfield’s Survey of Fauquier Public Schools in 1934/35, this six-room, two-story school for white students accommodated 83 pupils, a large school in the educational system. The census for 1910 identifies two teachers living in Bristersburg, indicating that there was an earlier school building on the site. It clearly drew its students from the surrounding area. An article in the Fauquier Democrat from 1978 describes a 50<sup>th</sup> reunion of Bristersburg High School students. The school continued its operations until 1969 and has now been converted into a private residence.<sup>15</sup>

The 1914 Fauquier County Board of Trade map confirms that Bristersburg continued its place as an active village in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Both the Bristersburg School for white students and Zoar Church are noted, along with a cluster of buildings undoubtedly representing the stores that continue to serve the area.<sup>16</sup> With the shift of Route 15 to a corridor to the west after 1926,<sup>17</sup> Bristersburg lost its convenient location on a primary inter-state transportation route. No longer did Elk Run Road carry the stage road between Winchester and Fredericksburg. The presence of a substantial school in the village assured its place in the county until at least 1969. Zoar Church with its long and distinguished history continues to grace the village, drawing worshippers from the area.

Bristersburg’s significance lies in the essentially unaltered quality of the collection of historic buildings related to the primarily non-residential needs of a rural community – commerce, education, and transportation. Its location on a historic road assured contact with areas north, south, east, and west from the middle years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Confirmed by census records for over 100 years, Bristersburg was a destination as an institutional gathering place for that same period. Through these buildings, one can visualize all the important aspects of social life from the fourth decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

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ENDNOTES:

<sup>1</sup>United States War Department. The Official Atlas of the Civil War, with an introduction by Henry Steele Commager. [New York: T. Yoseloff, 1958] Map C (100), # 1 "Central Virginia," (1864/65); Eugene Scheel, "The Carolina Road." The History of Loudoun County, Virginia at [www.loudounhistory.org/history](http://www.loudounhistory.org/history).

<sup>2</sup>Federal Census for Loudoun County, Virginia (Middleburg), 1820.

<sup>3</sup>Fauquier County Bicentennial Commission. Fauquier County, Virginia, 1759-1959. [Warrenton, Va.: 1959] 293.

<sup>4</sup>Scheel. "The Carolina Road." [www.loudounhistory.org/history](http://www.loudounhistory.org/history).

<sup>5</sup>Virginia Department of Transportation. A History of Roads in Virginia, 'The Most Convenient Ways.' (Richmond, 1996), 30.

<sup>6</sup>Margaret T. Peters, comp. A Guidebook to Virginia's Historical Markers. [Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1985] ix; Fauquier County historical maps 1876, 1914, 1932 at [www.fauquiercounty.gov/government/departments/gis/index](http://www.fauquiercounty.gov/government/departments/gis/index) (historical maps); AAA maps of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Maryland 2002; 2008.

<sup>7</sup>Dave Dick, Fauquier County VDOT Office, Warrenton, Virginia. Information provided October 30, 2008.

<sup>8</sup>"A Short History of Zoar Baptist Church." Published but undated and located in the files (030-0159) of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Va.

<sup>9</sup>See the U. S. Federal Census for Fauquier County, 1860, 1870, 1880. Bristersburg is recorded as the "Post Office" in 1860; by 1870, the Upperville Post Office is listed.

<sup>10</sup>U. S. Federal Census for Fauquier County, North East Revenue District, Bristersburg, 115-125.

<sup>11</sup>Federal Census for Fauquier County (1860) page 115-125 (The Northeast Revenue District, Post Office Bristersburg).

<sup>12</sup>Fauquier County Deed Books: 39/276 (1811); 18/70-71 (1838); 65/517 (1873); 72/65 (1881); 88/388-389 (1892); 114/153 (1916); 120/205 (1920).

<sup>13</sup>The Official Atlas of the Civil War... Map VIII, no. 8 (1862).

<sup>14</sup>Fauquier County Land Tax Records, 1888.

<sup>15</sup>Department of Historic Resources Reconnaissance Level Survey form [030-0586] completed by Helen Ross November 11, 1994. The Fauquier Democrat, June 15, 1998.; Jim Brumfield "Historical Analysis of Facilities, Fauquier County Public Schools." 1934/35.

<sup>16</sup>Fauquier County Board of Trade. Map of Fauquier County, 1914.

<sup>17</sup>See highway map of Fauquier County (1932) on the Fauquier County web site where Bristersburg Road is still referred to as Route 15.

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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES

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## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### UTM REFERENCES: (NAD 83)

A: 18 271777E 4273931N  
B: 18 272410E 4273894N  
C: 18 272465E 4273782N  
D: 18 272666E 4273829N  
E: 18 272603E 4273640N  
F: 18 272352E 4273705N  
G: 18 272221E 4273802N  
H: 18 271769E 4273794N

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary of the district is shown on the accompanying scaled map entitled "Bristersburg Historic District," which was prepared by the Fauquier County Geographic Information Systems Office.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The Bristersburg Historic District boundaries were drawn to include the largest concentration of historic buildings that tell the story of the growth and development of the village. Noncontributing resources, whenever possible, particularly when on the edge of the boundary, were excluded. The district boundaries coincide with property lines and natural landscape features whenever possible.

### PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION:

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are of:

Property: **Bristersburg Historic District**

VDHR File Number: **030-5161**

Location: **Fauquier County, Virginia**

Date of photograph: **January 2008**

Photographer: **Maral S. Kalbian**

Negatives filed at: **Virginia Department of Historic Resources in Richmond, Virginia.**

Photo 1 of 8

View: Tulloss's Store; Cooper House [030-0585; 030-5161-0006]; north view

Negative Number: 23742 [35]

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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**Bristersburg Historic District  
Fauquier County, Virginia**

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View: Eskridge House [030-5161-0002], south view

Negative Number: 23742 [8]

Photo 3 of 8

View: Zoar Baptist Church [030-0159; 030-5161-0003], southwest view

Negative Number: 23741 [30]

Photo 4 of 8

View: William Griffith's Blacksmith Shop [030-5161-0001], south view

Negative Number: 23743 [35]

Photo 5 of 8

View: Compton-Thorpe House [030-5161-0004], south view

Negative Number: 23741 [18]

Photo 6 of 8

View: Compton-Thorpe Store [030-5161-0004], southwest view

Negative Number: 23741 [8]

Photo 7 of 8

View: Bristersburg School [030-0586; 030-5161-0006], northwest view

Negative Number: 23743 [31]

Photo 8 of 8

View: Streetscape, looking east on Elk Run Road toward intersection with Bristersburg Road

Negative Number: 23742 [22]



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.  
Secretary of Natural Resources

Department of Historic Resources  
2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221-0311

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick  
Director

Tel. (804) 367-2323  
Fax (804) 367-2339  
TDD (804) 367-2386  
www.dhr.virginia.gov

January 25, 2009

Dallan C. Wordekemper, CPM  
Real Estate Specialist, Facilities – Headquarters  
4301 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22203-1861

**RE: Bristersburg Historic District, Fauquier County; Sumerduck Historic District, Fauquier County; Broad Run/Little Georgetown Rural Historic District, Fauquier and Prince William Counties; Danville Tobacco Warehouse and Residential Historic District, Boundary Increase, City of Danville; Ware Neck Store and Post Office, Gloucester County; B. Williams & Company Store, Mathews County**

Dear Mr. Wordekemper:

We are pleased to inform you that the above referenced resources will be considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at our March 19, 2009 Board Meeting in Richmond.

**There is reference of postal use in both the Ware Neck Store and Post Office and the B. Williams & Company Store nominations. There is also a current Post Office located at 5073 John Marshall Highway within the Broad Run/Little Georgetown Rural Historic District.**

We want to let you know about the nominations for your future planning purposes. We have notified all property owners by letter, and by newspaper legal notices. The processing of all nominations has followed the state regulations, which invites all owners and adjacent owners to a public information session. We provide comments from these meetings to the State Historic Preservation Officer.

The National Register is the Federal Government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage.

Enclosed is a copy of the notice that was distributed to all owners in each district by first class mail. Also included are maps that delineate the boundary of the districts.

Administrative Services  
10 Courthouse Avenue  
Petersburg, VA 23803  
Tel: (804) 862-6416  
Fax: (804) 862-6196

Capital Region Office  
2801 Kensington Ave  
Richmond, VA 23221  
Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391

Tidewater Region Office  
14415 Old Courthouse Way, 2nd Floor  
Newport News, VA 23608  
Tel: (757) 886-2807  
Fax: (757) 886-2808

Roanoke Region Office  
1030 Penmar Ave., SE  
Roanoke, VA 24013  
Tel: (540) 857-7585  
Fax: (540) 857-7588

Northern Region Office  
5357 Main Street  
PO Box 519  
Stephens City, VA 22655  
Tel: (540) 868-7029  
Fax: (540) 868-7027

Listing in the National Register provides the following benefits to federally owned historic properties:

-Consideration in the planning for federally assisted projects. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 provides that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be given an opportunity to comment on projects affecting such properties.

-Consideration of historic values in the decision to issue a surface coal mining permit where coal is located, in accordance with the Surface Mining and Control Act of 1977.

For more information about Virginia's Register Program you can visit the web site:

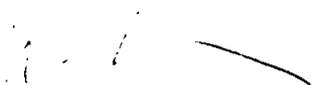
<http://www.dhr.state.va.us/register/register.htm>

You may review the pending nominations on the agency web site:

[http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/homepage/features/board\\_activities.htm](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/homepage/features/board_activities.htm)

If you wish to comment on the historic district proposal, please send to Kathleen S. Kilpatrick, Director, State Historic Preservation Office. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions. I can be reached at 804-367-2323/x-115 (email: [Marc.Wagner@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:Marc.Wagner@dhr.virginia.gov)).

Sincerely yours,



Marc Christian Wagner  
Director, Resource Information Division  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Enclosures



COUNTY OF FAUQUIER  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

PAUL S. McCULLA  
County Administrator

10 Hotel Street, Suite 204

Warrenton, Virginia 20186

PHONE 540-347-8680 FAX 540-349-2331

E-mail: [paul.mcculla@faquiercounty.gov](mailto:paul.mcculla@faquiercounty.gov)

ANTHONY L. HOOPER  
Deputy County Administrator

CATHERINE M. HERITAGE  
Deputy County Administrator

March 17, 2009

Mr. Marc Christian Wagner  
National and State Register Manager  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
2801 Kensington Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23221

Re: Broad Run/Little Georgetown Rural Historic District  
Sumerduck Historic District  
Bristersburg Historic District

Dear Mr. Wagner:

Enclosed are the original Copy Teste Resolutions from the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors in support of the nominations to the Virginia Landmarks and National Register of Historic Places for the Broad Run/Little Georgetown Rural Historic District, the Bristersburg Historic District, and the Sumerduck Historic District. The Board of Supervisors and community are exceptionally proud of the historic national, regional, and local heritage represented by these nominations.

We look forward to their placement on both registers.

Sincerely,

Paul S. McCulla  
County Administrator

PSM:KRA:d  
Enclosures

cc: Board of Supervisors  
Planning Commission  
Architectural Review Board  
Frederick P.D. Carr, Director, Department of Community Development  
Kimberly Abe, Senior Planner

FAUQUIER COUNTY  
250<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## RESOLUTION

### A RESOLUTION TO THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF HISTORIC RESOURCES AND THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED BRISTERSBURG NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

WHEREAS, Southern Fauquier County, as Fauquier County's cradle of settlement, features some of the region's most notable historic resources memorialized in its landscapes, villages, roads, and archaeological sites; and

WHEREAS, one such notable place is called Bristersburg that originated in 1841 as a post office and served as one of Fauquier County's main trading centers from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century; and

WHEREAS, Bristersburg is a quintessential crossroad community with a high degree of integrity as a historic village within the modern landscape featuring the circa 1852 Greek Revival Style "Zoar Baptist Church" that was free for religions of all denominations, three historic dwellings (1838, 1880, and 1910), a school (1910), a blacksmith shop (1915), and three stores (1838, 1880, and 1910); and

WHEREAS, these sites originated along Carolina Road (now Route 616), an important travel route linking Pennsylvania and North Carolina running through Virginia's Piedmont in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, that intersected in Bristersburg with an east-west road; and

WHEREAS, this village historic district comprises 28 acres of land framed by outlying farms that represent an important chapter in the story of the Piedmont region's settlement history; now, therefore, be it

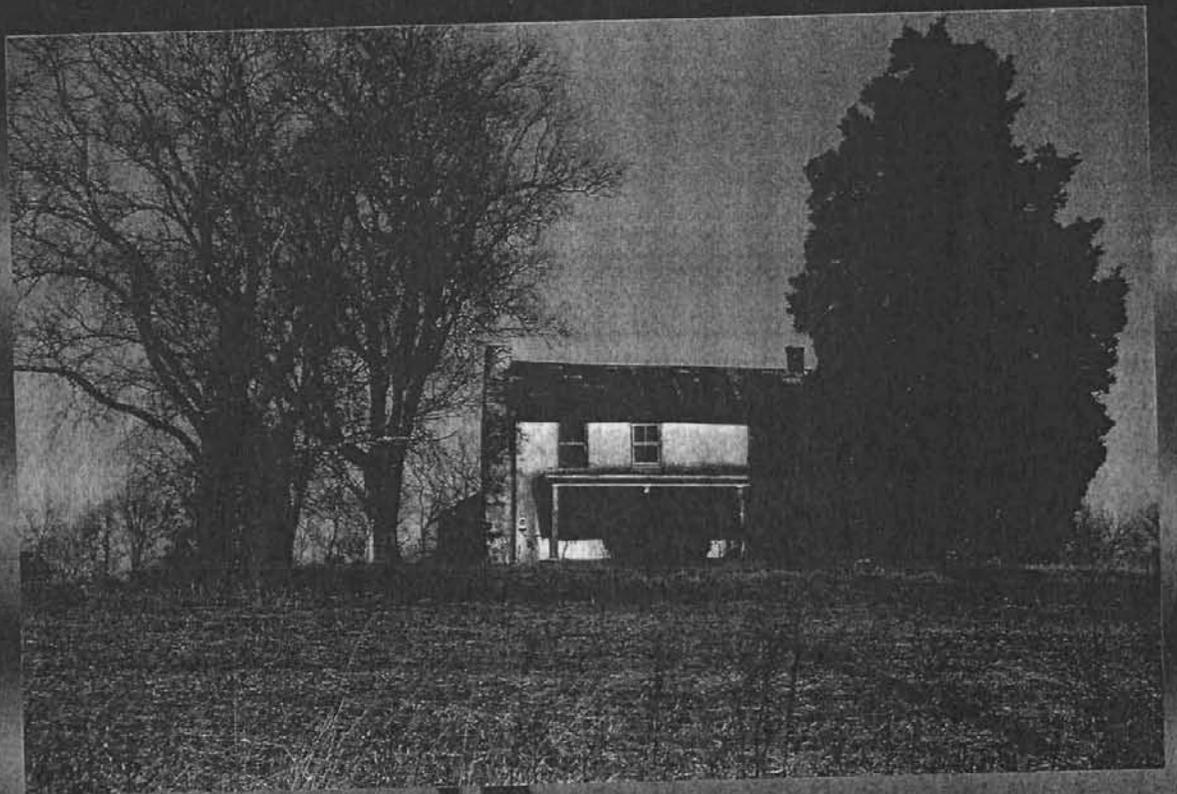
RESOLVED by the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2009, That the Board hereby supports and encourages the Virginia Board of Historic Resources to include the Bristersburg National Register Historic District, located in the Cedar Run Magisterial District, in the Virginia Landmarks Register; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Virginia Board of Historic Resources recommend to the National Park Service, due to the established and unique history and National significance of Bristersburg, that this district be enrolled in the National Register of Historic Places.

*A Copy Teste*



*Paul S. McCulla  
Clerk to the Board of Supervisors*



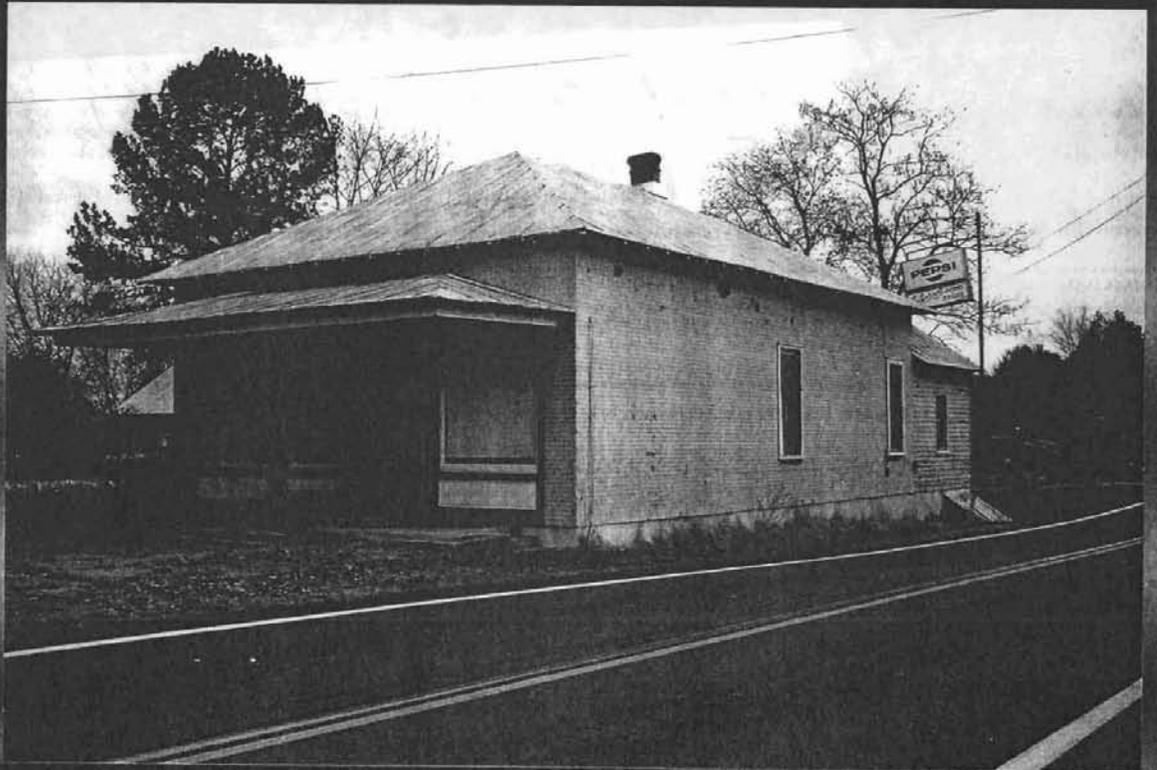
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Fauquier County, VA  
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Bristersburg Historic District  
Fauquier County, VA  
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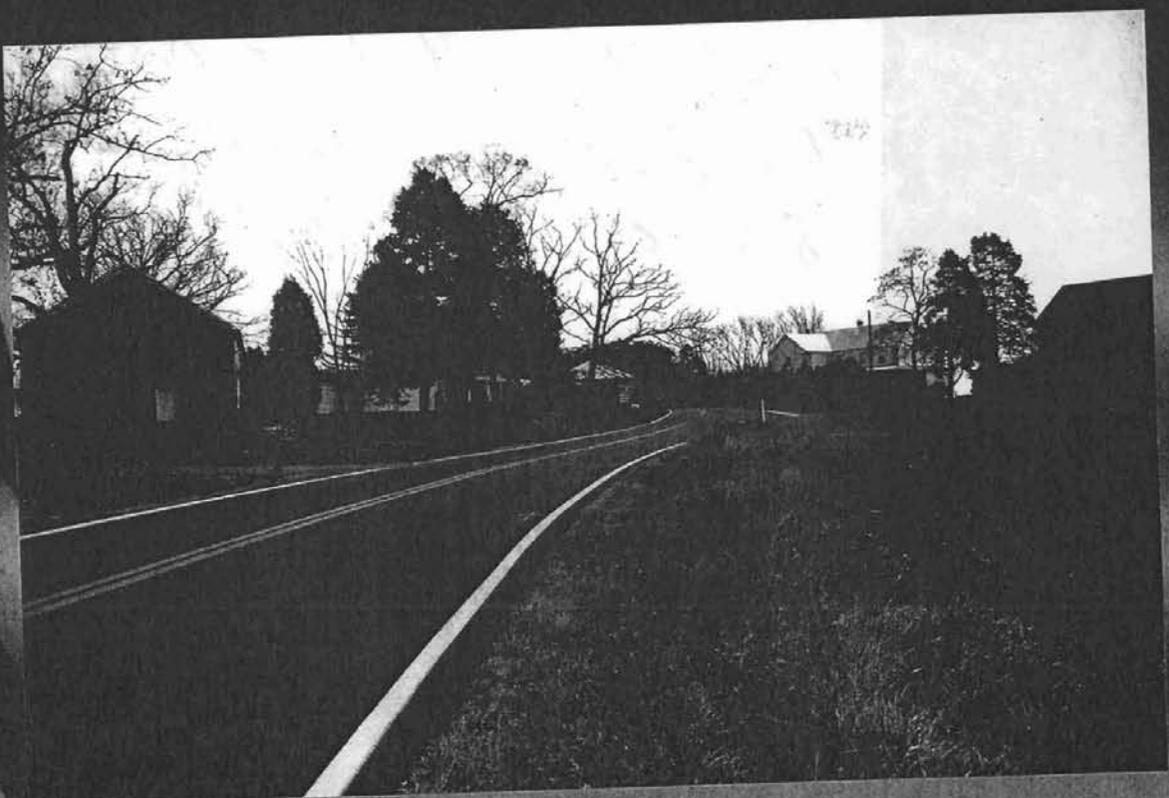
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Fauquier County, Virginia

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BRainerdsburg to HD  
 VANDERBILT  
 -SOUTH BRITAIN 44-50-161  
 USA TO THE SOUTH

UTM References  
 ZONE 18

- A 271777
- 4273731
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