



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 053-0871

Purpose of Evaluation

Please use the following space to explain briefly why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

The owner wishes to rehabilitate the property and utilize the State Rehabilitation Tax Credits.

Are you interested in applying for State and/or Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes No

Are you interested in receiving more information about DHR's easement program? Yes No

1. General Property Information

Property name: Neersville (Porter's General Merchandise)

Property address: 12909 Harper's Ferry Road

City or Town: Purcellville

Zip code: 20132

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Loudoun

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 6.48

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban Suburban Town Village Hamlet Rural

Briefly describe the property's overall setting, including any notable landscape features:

Neersville is located on the west side of the main road leading from Harper's Ferry to Hillsboro, in a rural area of far western Loudoun County. The 6-acre property is mostly in grassy fields with woods bounding the parcel on the north and south, woods and a creek (Piney Run) along the west, and trees along the side of Harper's Ferry Road to the east. Most of the buildings are clustered close to the road; the log house and attached stone store sit less than 30 feet from it. Stone walls exist on all the property lines of the original land, in various states of preservation. The stone wall along the main road way (east boundary) consists of dry-laid stone with wood posts and rails embedded in it. Along the south property line there is a gap at the road, and then the wall exists in rubble form in the woods all along the south line as one heads west. On the western border, across from Piney Run, the wall resembles the construction at the main roadway. Along the north side of the property, the wall is quite high and has no posts. The wall terminates at the corner which sits at the northeastern corner of the property.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Main House: Folk Victorian

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: _____

If the builder is known, please list here: _____

Date of construction (can be approximate): Main House: 1906, Log House: ca. 1780

Narrative Description:

In the space below, briefly describe the general characteristics of the entire property, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the architectural style, materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions, remodelings, or other alterations.

Neersville includes nine buildings, one site, and three objects. All are functionally related and illustrate the continued use and occupation of the property from ca. 1780 to the present day. The oldest two buildings are the log house and the adjacent stone store. These buildings are located very close to the road. The main house is located further back from the road, to the northwest of the log house and store. For the most part, the various outbuildings are clustered around these resources, with the exception of the springhouse which is located in the field to the west of the dwellings. All resources on the property are listed below, in order of date of construction.

- 1) Log House. (ca. 1780, 1825, 1860, 1940) Source date: Deeds and DHR assessment (see DHR Survey ID 053-0871).

Constructed ca. 1780, the oldest building on the property is a two-story, three-bay log house with a side gabled roof and stone exterior end chimneys, the southern one covered with an early lime render coat. It rests on a stone foundation and is clad in wood weatherboards held in place with rose-headed wrought nails. In small areas at the corners where the logs are visible it appears that they are not notched at all. On the façade, a six-panel door with raised panels is capped by a four-light transom in the central bay, flanked by what appear to be original 9-over-6 light double-hung sash windows on either side. The west (rear) wall of the house has an identical door and transom directly opposite the front door. On the second story of the facade, there are three original 6-over-6 windows. A one-story, one-bay porch with simple chamfered posts supporting a hipped roof shelters the main entrance. Across the front and rear elevations is a simple boxed cornice with a beaded edge and bed molding. This cornice is particularly well preserved beneath the shed roof of the rear ell. The hall-and-parlor plan log dwelling was improved ca. 1825 with interior plaster, chair rail, baseboard, cornice peg board, beaded door and window surrounds, and exterior wood siding. In places where the plaster has failed, whitewash on the interior log walls is visible beneath the plaster. The interior retains much of the plaster and paint finishes dating to this period. The nail boards for clothing are only in the parlor, the upstairs chambers, and the upstairs hall, not in the hall, kitchen addition, or kitchen loft. A one-and-one-half-story, one-bay rear kitchen addition with a shed roof and another exterior stone chimney was added at the same time. It would appear that these ca. 1825 improvements to the log house coincided with the rear addition to the adjacent stone store (see below) as both buildings exhibit very similar interior finishes and the north wall of the rear kitchen addition is the south wall of the rear store addition (stone). The two other walls of the kitchen ell are frame. As originally constructed, the rear addition/kitchen was isolated from the original house, with access only through a porch on the west elevation of the addition. The second half story of the ell is accessed by a corner winder stair. Around 1860 a doorway was opened from

the main hall room into the kitchen ell, and a door into the upper sleeping loft was made of a former second story window. The lockset faces the house.

The interior of the original house consists of a hall-and-parlor plan with two rooms downstairs and three chambers up (two above the hall and one above the parlor). An enclosed winder stair is located in one corner of the larger downstairs room (hall). The door to the stairs is missing, along with the interior door between the hall and parlor, and these two doors are probably the ones now located in the kitchen and rear entry of the main house. The attic has original flooring and a door with a lock. In the attic it is possible to see that the rafters are pit sawn with roman numerals carved into them and are notched and pegged at the ridge with no ridge board (typical for late 18th and early 19th century construction). There are three mantels in the house, probably dating to the ca. 1825 period. All are wood with raised-paneled pilasters supporting a wide, blank frieze beneath two rows of knife-edged molding below a heavy, square mantel shelf. Some architectural historians working in the area refer to this style as “Winchester” mantels because there are so many of them in the surrounding area; the theory is that they were built by slaves who were working from drawings and rendered the moldings with a knife edge rather than the intended curve. First floor rooms have molded chair rail with plastered wainscoting. An exterior door with transom, identical to the front door, is located directly opposite it on the rear wall of the main downstairs room. Graffiti relating to store sales and inventory can be found on the interior plaster walls with dates from the 1930s and 1940s. The rear porch on the kitchen ell has simple chamfered wood posts that match those on the front porch but was mostly enclosed ca. 1900 and a concrete block was installed on the rear porch and enclosed in a tongue-and-groove closet. This closet and the rear porch floor show signs of oil staining and may have been the location of a small feed mill. Around 1900, the kitchen was modified with bead board ceiling and knob and tube electric. A ceramic stove pipe was installed in the stone chimney. Cedar shake roofing of the original building remains visible sheltered beneath the shed roof of the rear addition. Subsequent asphalt shingle roofing exists on the main roof, with standing seam metal on the rear ell. The standing seam is located on rough wood purlins and appears to date to the 1940s.

During the 19th century, this building was likely the home of the store-keeper. With the construction of the new house ca. 1906 (see below), it would appear that this dwelling transitioned to a supplemental store facility from 1906 – 1950.

2) Stone Store (1810, 1825, 1860, 1932).

Adjacent to the log house is a one-story, two-bay stone store with a side gabled roof. The exterior is covered with lime-based stucco and it has a simple, boxed wood cornice. The façade features a heavy, horizontal plank door capped with an eight-light (4/4) transom with a single-hung six-over-six window to the right. The exterior of the door exhibits a star burst of nails (possibly for holding up an old metal sign?) from corner to corner in x and then in a horizontal line between. The nails are square headed peg nails. On the north elevation, there was originally a loading door in the attic gable; it was infilled with stone ca. 1932 and two windows with concrete sills were installed on either side of that location. There are no windows on the first story of the north elevation. On the south elevation, the northern exterior stone chimney of the log house has been incorporated within the stone store building. A cellar under the original building features a small spring that may have been used for cold storage, and exposes the foundation for the chimney of the log house. The building was expanded ca. 1825 with a one-room rear addition on the west elevation that extended the full width of the store. The rear slope of the original gable roof was simply extended over this addition creating an asymmetrical gable. The rear elevation of the addition contains two small windows, both with two-light fixed sash above four-light casements with wood sills, and both covered with a single exterior shutter comprised of vertical boards. The south wall of the addition also formed the north wall of the kitchen ell of the log house, suggesting that both rear additions occurred at the same time. Baseboards in the attic match those in the log house. The interior of the store is one large room and retains much of its 19th century character, with shelving and the original post office boxes. An enclosed winder stair in the corner of the room beside the front door provides access to the attic. The original portion of the attic was

floored and whitewashed, the section above the addition was not. The rear of the log house chimney has been breached with chimney pipe access for a pot-belly or similar stove within the store interior. There are early 20th century knob and tub lighting fixtures. Standing seam metal roofing (c.1940) covers the roof and the roof of the kitchen ell.

3) Stone Spring House (ca. 1825, 1940)

In the field to the west of the 1780 log dwelling is a small stone springhouse with a front gabled roof. It faces east, towards the log house, and has a lime stucco exterior and a standing seam metal roof. The roof extends beyond the front wall of the building and is supported by plain wood posts at the front corners, one of which is missing. The first floor of the springhouse is about four feet below grade, and is accessed via stone steps and a door on the east elevation. The interior walls of this space are covered with stucco and/or a lime wash. It originally had a brick floor and trench (currently covered in concrete). Two openings with metal bars on the west and south elevations allow ventilation at the ground level. A brick box has been added at the front elevation over the water source, with piping to the main house. The second story is reached via a ladder from the exterior and there is a nearly full sized door on the front elevation. This door features a large early padlock, arguing that the building served a dual purpose, perhaps as a meat house or storage for some other valuable commodity. There is a small six-light window on the west elevation of the second story. The gable ends of the second floor are beaded clapboard in the style of the log house. The spring remains active and was the house water supply until 2013.

4) Smokehouse. (ca. 1840, ca.1880)

Almost directly behind the log dwelling is a log smokehouse with a front gabled roof resting on a dry-laid rubble stone foundation. The exterior of the building is covered with vertical wood board siding and has exposed rafter tails at the eaves. The only door is on the north elevation. It is surrounded by a simple wooden surround with a slightly peaked lintel, reminiscent of the Greek Revival style. The gable ends at the attic level are board and batten with smoke holes in the north and south gables. The large logs are hewn (visible from the interior only) and the notching technique is not visible. Large spaces between logs are chinked with stones and mortar. On the interior, rafters feature iron pegs for hanging dried meat, and wrought iron hooks on the level below. The floor is dirt. At some point a second story was introduced with a tongue and groove floor. The joists that the floor rests on are circular-sawn, suggesting a post 1850 date, possibly ca. 1880 when the other improvement to the property were taking place. The construction date is based on the Greek Revival Style trim at the entry. Roofing is a mixture of corrugated and standing seam metal.

5) Corn Crib/Wagon Shed (ca. 1880)

The corn crib/wagon shed is located at the northeast corner of the property. The timber-frame corn crib has a front gabled roof and features a center slate-lined driveway with barn/garage doors on metal tracks at the east and west elevations. Two cribs line the open center bay with two doors at the interior east elevation for accessing corn. Two large axels span the open center bay for lifting the wagon in order to load corn at the two upper loading doors on either side. The exterior siding is vertical wood boards with air space for the drying of the corn cobs. The roof is corrugated metal. A copper weather vane in the shape of a sulky and driver is located at the center.

6) Chicken Coop (ca.1880, 1920)

The chicken coop is located beside the smokehouse along the southern edge of the building complex. It is a small one-story hewn timber-frame building with a gabled roof. It has vertical board planking on the exterior and exposed rafter tails. The roof is standing seam metal on the public (east) side and corrugated metal on the west side. The building is whitewashed on the exterior and interior. A poured concrete floor

and chicken ramps with roosting area remains inside. Two barred windows on the east and south elevations are no longer functioning. A small roosting room was added at some point to the west elevation. The building is in very poor condition and lacks a foundation.

7) Summer Kitchen (ca. 1906, 1920)

The summer kitchen is located beside (south of) the rear wing of the main house (ca. 1906). It is a two-story, frame, gable-roofed building with an interior brick chimney at the southwest corner. The exterior is covered with wooden weatherboards on the east and south elevations and German lap siding on the west and north sides. The German siding was installed ca. 1920. There are doors on the north elevation (facing the house), and the west elevation. On the east elevation, there is a six-over-six double hung wooden sash centered on the first story with a 6-over-3 single or double hung sash vertically aligned above in the second story. There is a low, wide cased opening towards the southeast corner of the building; it is currently boarded from the interior. Single sash, six-pane windows are on the second story in the north and south gables. The roof is standing seam metal. On the interior, there is one large room on each story. There is an iron well pump in the north east portion of the building over a hand dug well. The second floor is accessed by a corner winder stair. The interior of both first and second floors is unfinished with wood floors and exposed framing on the walls and ceiling. There is a wooden and wire cage which could have been for animals or a garden extending from the west elevation of this building. The door on the west elevation opens into it.

8) Main House (1906, 1920, 1950)

The main house on the property dates to 1906 and it is roughly centered among all the secondary resources. The two-story balloon-frame building rests on a stone foundation and has a side gabled roof with a central front gable and an original two-story rear ell. There is an interior end brick chimney on the south elevation and an interior brick chimney located at the ridge of the roof between the original ell and the main block. Walls are clad with wood weatherboards, the cornice is boxed, and the roof is slate with some decorative rows of fish-scale shingles on the front slope. The symmetrical façade is three bays wide with a central entrance consisting of a Victorian-era glazed and paneled door with a single-light transom above. Windows on the façade are one-over-one double hung sash. A one-story wrap around porch covers the façade and wraps around the north elevation of the house. The hipped roof of the porch is supported by turned wooden posts with wagon wheel type brackets at the tops; the balustrade has turned wooden balusters. The centered gable has cornice returns and holds paired round-arched, one-over-one double-hung wooden sash surrounded by decorative fish-scale wood shingles. Windows on the side elevations are two-over-two double-hung wood sash with small, two-light windows in the gable ends.

At some point in the 1920s an original porch on the west elevation of the rear ell was partially enclosed for a bathroom and hall. At the same time, a one-story addition was constructed to the rear of the bathroom/hall. This addition has a separate concrete foundation and a low-pitched, asymmetrical gabled roof. The original function of this addition appears to have been the housing of “modern” systems for the house - steam boiler, oil tanks, water heater, water system (sourced from the springhouse), and plumbing for the bathrooms.

The interior of the original house has a center hall plan. The first floor has a parlor to the left of the front hall, and a dining room to the right. Behind the dining room, in the ell, was the kitchen. This space was repaneled in “knotty pine” at some point in the 1950s. A small half bath exists within a portion of the former kitchen porch, now fully enclosed. The main stair is located in the center hall and rises in a straight run to the second floor. Interior access to the full basement, which is located only beneath the front section of the house, is beneath the main stair. On the second floor the south bedroom is a single room with an exposed brick chimney. This room shows evidence of once having a wall running north to south dividing the space roughly in half; there are still two doorways, one at the front of the hall and one at the rear. The

northern portion of the second story remains divided into two rooms. A bathroom was inserted behind the hall in the rear ell, and a small bedroom in the rest of the ell is accessed through the rear-most north bedroom. An enclosed stair to the attic is located in the second floor hall. The attic has wide plank flooring but does not appear to have been used as a sleeping area.

The interior retains all the original trim. Doors and windows have typical Victorian-era surrounds with molded architraves and bulls-eye corner blocks. There is an original mantel in the parlor with Ionic columns supporting a projecting frieze with applied wreaths and a molded mantel shelf. There is another original mantel in the dining room that has been moved from the west wall (where the chimney is) to the north wall. The open-stringer stair has a large, square newel with a finial on top in the Victorian style, and turned balusters, two to a stair. Window and door trim, stair newels and balusters, and the mantel are all unpainted and darkly varnished. All doors appear original and retain the original hardware. Doors that do not face public spaces retain the original faux wood graining. Two doors on the rear addition and enclosed porch appear to match the doors on the log house and show signs of the original 1825 graining from that dwelling.

9) Garage (1920, 1950)

The garage is located behind (west of) the stone store. This one-story frame building has a low-pitched, front-gabled roof and it faces north, towards the driveway. It is two bays wide, with two separate double-leaf wooden garage doors. The bay to the right has a gravel floor. The bay to the left has a poured concrete floor. This building has very deteriorated metal siding (ca. 1950) and a metal roof.

Other types of resources on the property.

Site: Below grade foundation and spring well (1840)

Along the east side of the property line at the roadway and stone wall, south of the log house, is a below grade foundation and a spring well. This foundation has much in common with the construction of the spring house. Stone steps lead to a masonry basement 10 x 10 square. It appears to have had a building and floors above it, but these are no longer extant. A small circular well lies to the west of this building and continues to have spring water flowing from it.

Object: Stone wall (1825, 1900)

Stone walls exist on all the perimeters of the original land, in various states of preservation. The stone wall along the main road way (east) consists of dry-laid stone with wood posts and rails embedded in it. Along the south property line there is a gap at the road, and then the wall exists in rubble form in the woods all along the south boundary as one heads west. On the west, across from the Piney Run, the wall resembles the construction at the main roadway. Along the north side of the property, the wall is quite high and has no posts. This section of the wall terminates at the corncrib foundation.

Object: Iron Fencing (1900)

Along the road between the corncrib/wagon shed and the store there is a mortared stone wall (ca.1900) surmounted by iron fencing produced by Stewart Ironworks (Victorian pattern 44R). This fencing terminates at two stone gate posts marking the driveway just to the north of the store. Portions of the fencing are missing.

Object: Livestock ramp (1920)

Along the east side of the property south of the log house and past the site of the below grade foundation and spring well is a stone and earth livestock loading ramp about 20 feet long and 10 feet wide. Portions of the original stone wall make up the base of the ramp.

Briefly describe any outbuildings or secondary resources (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

See above.

4. Property's History and Significance

In the space below, briefly describe the history of the property, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property. Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

The property of Neersville includes multiple significant buildings and embodies the history of commerce in the form of the local general store in this region of Loudon County. It is significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Architecture and Commerce at the local level with a period of significance of ca. 1780 (construction of the log house) - ca. 1965 (closing of the store).

In the mid-18th century, the acreage was part of a large land grant belonging to Thomas Fairfax. In 1785, brothers Conrad and Henry Near (or Neer) leased 100 acre parcels from Fairfax and became full owners later that year when the Virginia General Assembly did away with the colonial leasing system. The buildings and acreage currently associated with Neersville were owned by Conrad Neer in the late 18th century. During his ownership, the log house was probably constructed in the late 18th century and the stone store about 20 years later around 1810. The architecture suggests that the rear addition to the stone store and rear frame wing on the log dwelling were built at the same time, somewhere around 1825, when the interior of the log house was updated with plaster and trim. According to the deed research, the property was sold in December 1826 by Samuel Neer and his wife to Presley Wigginton. It would make sense that the improvements to the store and log dwelling coincide with the property changing hands. Wigginton and his wife sold the property in 1837 to Nathan Neer and Jacob Shriver. The store was certainly in operation in 1839 when the U.S. Post Office established a post office at Neersville located within the store; the first postmaster was Jacob Shriver. The property was auctioned in 1853 and in a subsequent transaction that same year the property is described as "Dwelling house, storehouse and other improvements thereon known as "Neersville"." Thomas Vickers Jr. bought the property in 1855 and a plat related to a court case pertaining to the Turnpike running in front of the store in 1857 confirms that Vickers was operating the store at that time. A chancery case from 1866, however, indicates that Vickers was actually leasing the store and dwelling from the previous owners in 1852, and this pattern, of the store (and possibly also the log dwelling) being leased and operated by someone besides the property owner, was a recurrent theme in the 19th century history of the property. From 1858-1864, John F. Porter is recorded as the postmaster for Neersville; during those six years the property was owned first by Vickers and then by John Grubb Jr. In 1877, the property was owned by Henry Clay Miller. According to the oral history of Hazel Porter, a man named John H. Price was leasing the store from Miller at that time, but Hazel's grandfather, John Franklin Porter, bought the property out from under him and took over operation of the store. Porter became postmaster (again) and storekeeper that same year and remained in that position until his death in 1907. The post was discontinued by the U.S. Post Office that same year. Porter's son, Joseph Jesse Porter,

inherited the property and took over the operation of the store. The store was known as Porter's Store. The main house on the property was built around 1906, presumably by J.J. Porter, and the log dwelling ceased to be used as a residence and instead became storage for the store. The plaster walls of the log dwelling exhibit handwritten accounts and lists of merchandise from the first half of the 20th century. George R. Hess married Porter's daughter, Hazel, and joined his father-in-law in the store in 1919. J.J. Porter died in 1949 and left the property to his daughter. The store became known as G.R. Hess General Merchandise until it closed in the late 1950s or early 1960s. According to local recollections, Mr. Hess would open the store if someone needed something in the later years but didn't keep it open continuously. The property remained in the Hess family until Hazel's death in 1980.

This property is centrally located along the main road that ran between Hillsboro and Harper's Ferry in the valley that locals called "Between the Hills" as it lies west of the Short Hill Mountain and east of the Blue Ridge Mountain. During the 19th century such transportation routes dictated the locations of commercial enterprises. Petitions to the state legislature for a right to collect tolls and partial state support for road maintenance were begun in the 1840s, and in March 1849 the Virginia General Assembly enacted a law to incorporate the Hillsborough and Harper's Ferry Turnpike Company, under the direction of three sets of directors, and to allow investment or shares to be sold for the roadway construction. Neersville, being the central point of commerce along the route, saw many of the primary landowners and merchants made directors (John Smith, William Grubb, George Abel, Presley Wigginton, John Price, Thomas Vickers, Joseph Conrad, Jonathan Conard); the other sets of directors would be based at Hillsborough and Harpers Ferry, the other two points of commerce. The turnpike never paid much in the way of direct dividends, but attracted investment due the public purpose and the potential for development along the roadway.

Travel by horseback and wagon was time consuming, so every community had a local general store that sold just about anything the local farmers could want. Along with schools and churches, these local stores became the gathering places of the surrounding community. The U.S. Post Office often established local post offices inside existing general stores because the surrounding farmers were already coming to the store on a regular basis. Stores were often used as polling places as well. The store at Neersville is representative of this history of 19th and early 20th century commerce, as it served all of these functions during its 100+ years of operation. Of course the merchandise changed with the times, keeping pace with the demands of the surrounding community, and several newspaper articles from the mid-20th century provide a glimpse of the shifts at Porter's store. The early 20th century and the invention of the automobile resulted in road improvements, faster travel, and a need for fuel for those automobiles. Porter's Store was one the first in the area to sell gasoline, starting around 1910, when Mr. J. J. Porter himself purchased one of the area's first cars. The larger community of Neersville also included a church (St. Paul's Lutheran Church) and a school, both located further south on the main road and not on this property. The community as a whole began to wane in the second quarter of the 20th century; the school closed in the 1930s, the store in the 1950s or 60s, and the church in the 1970s. As the increasing popularity of the automobile made travel easier, local farmers no longer needed a general merchandise store in their own valley, Harper's Ferry and Hillsboro were both an easy drive away.

In comparison to other stores in Loudoun County, Neersville stands out. Based on a V-CRIS search, it appears to be the oldest general store standing, and is one of very few surviving antebellum general stores located outside of small towns. Searching pre-1900 resources in Loudoun County with "store" in the resource name results in 41 hits. Luckett's Store (053-0451) and Original Taylorstown Store (053-0458) are two other antebellum examples located outside of Leesburg and Waterford, but both are heavily altered with poor integrity. Other stores like Bolen's Store (053-0952), ca. 1890s, and Unison General Store (053-0449), ca. 1870s, retain fair integrity but are at least 50 years younger than the store at Neersville. The Neersville store is an excellent example of an early 19th century general store and post office located along a major transportation route in a rural area, and it may be one of the best examples in the County.

The absence of antebellum stores in Loudoun County may be due to The Burning Raid, November 28 – December 2, 1864, when the Union army marched through western Loudoun and northern Fauquier counties destroying barns, mills, and distilleries, and stealing or destroying hay, grain, and livestock in an effort to stop the predations of Mosby's raiders on the Union troops in the area. Other Civil War action touched closer to home. The proximity to Harpers Ferry made the area one of frequent small engagements up and down the Between the Hills valley. Between October 30 and November 1, 1862, Neersville served as the Headquarters of the 5th Army Corps, Army of the Potomac. This was just after the fall of Harpers Ferry to Jackson in September of 1862, showing the changing battle lines of captured territory in Loudoun. Just to the North of the property, Sagel Road and the Turnpike meet allowing alternate escape from the valley; this area was mentioned in Union dispatches as one that required protection from enemy raiders.

Architecturally speaking, the property as a whole is an excellent example of a residential complex that evolved over nearly 150 years. The log house is an excellent, and largely intact, example of a modest late 18th century log dwelling that was updated with plaster and trim in the second quarter of the 19th century as the home of a successful storekeeper. With the construction of the much larger Folk Victorian dwelling in the early 20th century, reflecting the continued success of the store, the log house was abandoned as a dwelling and became an expansion of the store. The store itself is a good representative example of stone architecture and an excellent example of a small general store. The interior of the building retains original shelving and the post office boxes. The choice of stone as a building material may have been intended as fireproofing and/or for security purposes. In a store packed with dry goods, fire would have been catastrophic. Theft was also a concern and there are court records of four criminal cases involving the store, one in which a woman set the interior of the store on fire after stealing a petticoat, ribbon, and spoons. The survival of the outbuildings (smokehouse, springhouse, chicken coop, corn crib/wagon shed) speaks to the many agricultural and domestic activities that took place on the property outside of the store. And the Folk Victorian main house is a good example of the type of dwelling constructed all over rural Loudoun County in the early 20th century. Altogether, the architecture of the property represents important themes in the history of the Loudoun County countryside.

It is difficult to search V-CRIS for architecturally similar properties simply because Neersville contains multiple distinctive resources. As noted above, the early 19th century stone store appears to be a rare resource; it was also the only store found in the existing records built of stone. The late 18th century log house is also a significant resource in its own right; the exceptional 19th century integrity of this building sets it apart. Searching for resources in V-CRIS by construction material is challenging; a search for log buildings resulted in 48 results, though this is surely not a complete set due to variations in how buildings are now recorded and were recorded in earlier editions of the database. A similar property might be Furr Farm (053-5056-0001) which has a main house with an original portion that shares some characteristics with the log house at Neersville. Like the Neersville house, the original section of the main house at Furr Farm is two stories high, three bays wide, built of log, with a hall and parlor plan and two exterior end stone chimneys. It also has at least one mantel that is very similar to those at Neersville with the sharp knife-edged moldings below the mantel shelf and the raised panel pilasters. The house at Furr Farm is a much more evolved dwelling than the one at Neersville; at Neersville, the construction of the main house in ca. 1906 resulted in excellent preservation of the 19th century integrity of the log house. Furr Farm is listed on the National Register under Criteria A and C in the areas of Military and Architecture. It has Civil War history that Neersville does not, but Neersville has commercial history that Furr Farm lacks. With regards to its architectural significance, the nomination for Furr Farm states that it is eligible under Criterion C as a representative example of an evolved vernacular log dwelling with surviving late 18th or early 19th century woodwork and for its two-story log construction, which is more rare than one-and-one-half-story log buildings. Neersville shares these significant features and also has the architecturally significant stone store and the larger evolved complex of buildings.

The Neersville property retains integrity of location, design, materials, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association, and is eligible in the areas of Architecture and Commerce under Criteria A and C at the local level.

References

Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia. Richmond: William F. Ritchie, 1849.

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5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: Public\Local Public\State Public\Federal

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: Ms. Jennifer Wellock

organization: _____

street & number: 12909 Harper's Ferry Road

city or town: Purcellville state: VA zip code: 20132

e-mail: jentrify@aol.com telephone: 304-546-3955

Legal Owner's Signature: _____ Date: _____

•• Signature required for processing all applications. ••

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

name/title: Kristin Kirchen, Architectural Historian

organization: Iron Dog Preservation, LLC

street & number: 200 W. 33rd Street

city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23225

e-mail: irondogpreservation@gmail.com telephone: 804-516-8200

6. Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

name/title: Tim Hemstreet, County Administrator

locality: Loudoun County

street & number: 1 Harrison St. SE, Mail Stop #02, P.O. Box 7000

city or town: Leesburg state: VA zip code: 20177-7000

telephone: 703-777-0200