

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

LISTED ON:  
VLR 12/17/2009  
NRHP 03/23/2010

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Millbrook  
other names/site number VDHR# 067-0012, 44NT0164, 44NT0165

### 2. Location

street & number 1204 Snead Spring Road  not for publication  
city or town Crewe  vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Nottoway code 135 zip code 23930

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

M. Catherine Swanson  
Signature of certifying official

2/3/2010  
Date

Deputy Director  
Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- 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)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	4	buildings
3	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
8	5	<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling; Secondary Structure

Agriculture: Barns

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling; Secondary Structure

Agriculture: Barns

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic

Federal

Greek Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Brick

walls: Wood: Weatherboard

roof: Metal: Tin

other:

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and non-contributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

See 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)

- 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.
- 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)

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Archeology: Historic Non-aboriginal

**Period of Significance**

c. 1840 – c. 1945

**Significant Dates**

1840, 1855

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

Euro-American, African-American

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Period of Significance (justification)**

See Continuation Sheets

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

See Continuation Sheets

Millbrook  
Name of Property

Nottoway County, Virginia  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

See Continuation Sheets

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

See Continuation Sheets

---

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

See Continuation Sheets

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (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:**

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

Name of repository: **Virginia Department of Historic Resources**

---

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

**Acreage of Property** 110  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>755179</u> Easting	<u>4109857</u> Northing	3	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>754369</u> Easting	<u>4109311</u> Northing
2	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>754669</u> Easting	<u>4109772</u> Northing	4	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>755108</u> Easting	<u>4109173</u> Northing

---

## 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title David A. Brown (DATA), Thane H. Harpole (DATA), and Montford Y. and Donna L. Stokes (owners)  
organization DATA Investigations, LLC date September 25, 2009  
street & number 1759 Tyndall Point Lane telephone 804-815-4467  
city or town Gloucester Point state Virginia zip code 23062  
e-mail [Fairfield@inna.net](mailto:Fairfield@inna.net)

---

## Additional Documentation

---

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

---

## Photographs:

---

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See Continuation Sheets

**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. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

---

Millbrook

---

Nottoway County, Virginia

---

N/A

---

Section number 7 Page 1

---

### Narrative Description

---

#### Summary Paragraph

Millbrook is located in Nottoway County, Virginia, three miles west of Nottoway Courthouse. The earliest portion of the house was constructed circa 1840 and appears to incorporate the lower portions of a chimney and foundation that date prior to 1820. A nineteen-foot-square addition was made by 1855 on the west side of the house which transformed the two-story, three-bay, side-hall plan house into a balanced two-story, five-bay, center-hall plan I-house with a Greek Revival-style centered front porch and English basement with three finished floors above. Chimneys at each gable end of the house support six fireplaces. The primary formal staircase extends from the first floor to the attic and a secondary staircase connects the dining room with the floor above. Each floor contains three primary rooms extending across the length of the house. Many of the rooms retain their original elements, including plaster, baseboards, chair rail, doors, and paint. The English basement foundation is handmade brick, while the remainder of the house is timber-framed, with original beaded weatherboard, and a roof of standing-seam tin. The rear porch was partially incorporated into a circa 1950 single-story library addition with an enclosed stairway leading to the cellar. In addition to the main house, the 110-acre property includes two contributing archaeological sites (44NT0164 and 44NT0165), a contributing tobacco barn ruin, and four restored contributing buildings: kitchen, smokehouse, hay barn, and dairy. There are, in addition, four non-contributing buildings: a garage, tobacco packing barn, well house, and icehouse. The probably mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century tobacco packing barn and the circa 2000 garage are relatively modern buildings that fall outside of the period of significance, while the well house and icehouse are faithful representations of the type of buildings found at Millbrook during the nineteenth century, and were reconstructed above remnants of the original piers or foundations. Contained beneath the icehouse superstructure is the original excavated ice pit, which is proposed, along with the acreage surrounding the main house, as a contributing archaeological site (44NT0164) due to the extensive assemblage of artifacts found and their potential to contribute to research on the nineteenth- and twentieth-century history of the property and its occupants. The second contributing archaeological site (44NT0165) represents a mid-to-late nineteenth-century secondary dwelling taken down within the last decade. There is a single, non-contributing 1 ½-acre man-made pond near the southeastern edge of the property. The property, which is generally flat, includes the house, approximately at the center, surrounded by six fields currently in agricultural production (some lined with four-board fencing). The fields are punctuated by stands of natural timber, including cedar, hardwoods, and softwoods.

### Narrative Description

---

#### Millbrook (contributing building)

The main house is approached from the south by a ¾-mile gravel drive edged by woods, from which extends a circular drive connecting to the old, handmade brick sidewalk which in turn leads to the pedimented Greek Revival front porch. There are nandinas accentuating the circular drive, as well as pink, white and red azaleas adorning the main brick sidewalk and appurtenant brick pathways. Flowering dogwoods, holly trees, rose of Sharon, crape myrtle, and American and English boxwood complete the landscaping adorning the front of the house. To the rear, one encounters more American and English boxwood, a large farm garden area, smaller kitchen garden bordering the dairy, a small herb and flower garden with easy access to both the main house and the kitchen building, and a large rock garden between the smokehouse and kitchen building displaying various herbs, flowers, and vegetables. Surrounding this are the working fields and mature forests that complete this agricultural landscape.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millbrook

Nottoway County, Virginia

N/A

Section number 7 Page 2

*Exterior*

The earliest (eastern) portion of the building was likely built between the 1835 marriage of John D. and Martha Branch Bland Williams and the first record of building value for the parcel in the Nottoway County Land Tax Records in 1840.<sup>1</sup> The property was transferred from David G. Williams to his son, John D., in 1830 after David G. had owned it for less than two years. Historian W.R. Turner states that it was common for David G. Williams to present his many children with property and aid in the construction of their first home, suggesting the elder Williams purchased the property in 1828 from the estate of John Doswell for that very reason.<sup>2</sup> The house began as a two-story, three-bay, side-hall plan house, but incorporates the lower portion of a chimney built in Flemish bond that may have been built prior to 1820. John Doswell acquired the property prior to 1814 and a building value of \$1000 is listed in 1820, the first year in Virginia that building values are recorded.<sup>3</sup> The building value decreased to \$250 in 1826 and disappeared in 1828, perhaps suggesting a fire or destruction of the house coinciding with the deaths of John Doswell and his wife, Mary, prior to 1826.<sup>4</sup> This evidence lends greater credence to the theory that John D. and Martha incorporated portions of an earlier house into their own.

After John D. Williams' untimely death in 1839, Martha owned and expanded the property and the house during the subsequent three decades, including building a significant addition to the west side of the house by 1855 which produced the classic five-bay, center-hall, single-pile plan.<sup>5</sup> The division between the two construction periods is clearly visible as a junction in the weatherboarding, as well as in the brick foundation. The structure is primarily frame, with a mixture of sawn lumber and hand-adzed beams. The upper three floors are original heart pine. Siding on the house is early heart pine beaded weatherboard. Visible in the English basement, the 4" x 12" pine floor joists are a mixture of sawn and hand-adzed, mortised on both ends into 12" x 12" original pine sills. Saw pattern marks show a combination of both pit sawn and circular sawn elements.

The foundation is continuous handmade brick, approximately 16" thick, which includes the entire English basement extending to approximately four feet above ground level. The bondwork is primarily American or common, including the west chimney, incorporating a 1:3 ratio of headers to stretchers on the original east portion of the house, and 1:5 ratio on the addition. A rowlock course was used occasionally to level the top of the wall at the intersection with the weatherboards which are early 8" beaded heart pine with cut nail fasteners. The east chimney is half Flemish bond and finished in American bond on the upper portion. This is the only use of Flemish bond on the building and suggests that the existing chimney incorporates part of a chimney built for an earlier dwelling on the property. The English basement floor includes random 3/8" thick slate from a nearby mine in Buckingham County, Virginia. The original handmade brick lies beneath the slate, under a layer of concrete added by a previous owner in the twentieth century.

There are 37 windows in the house, 30 of which appear to date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including the sash and much of the glass. In the English basement of the original building there appear to have been five nine-light casement windows: two along the north façade, along with a cellar entrance, and three along the south façade. These are similar to those in the western addition. Three have been replaced with pairs of six light casement windows hinged at the side, which open into the room. An original nine-light casement remains beneath the south porch while a second one was cut down into a three light casement to accommodate an air-conditioning unit. The two closet pents flanking the east chimney appear to be early additions, due to inconsistent bondwork, and each includes a four-light casement window similar to those in the garret of the east gable. There are four nineteenth-century basement windows in the western addition, two each along the north and south façades, and all contain nine-light awning windows which swing up into the room, with a hook at the ceiling. These sash match in profile and form to those used in the upper floors of the house, as well as the windows in the east cellar room. Windows throughout the house may have been replaced with the construction of the addition circa 1855, or special attention was likely shown to match the windows in the addition with the earlier examples. All of the basement windows originally had wooden bars, perhaps without sash. Except for the window beneath the south porch,

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

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Millbrook

Nottoway County, Virginia

N/A

Section number 7 Page 3

these bars were removed by the time the Stokes purchased the property. They have replicated many of the bars on the south basement windows, but not on the north. The inset holes for these bars are all clearly visible.

On the first floor there are four nine-over-nine, double-hung wood sash, with 11" lights, along the primary south façade. There are three identical windows on the north facade. Attached to the west gable is the keeping room, which has two very unusual two-over-two pocket windows on the north façade and west gable which raise vertically and appear to be original to the west addition. The circa 1950 library addition includes two identical sets of windows along its east and north facades, containing a primary six-over-six, double-hung wood sash flanked by a pair of four-over-four, double-hung wood sash windows. A single six-over-six, double hung sash window is centered on the west façade of the library addition. On the second floor, there are ten examples of six-over-nine, double-hung wood sash windows, five on both the north and south facades. On the third floor/garrett there are four wood casement windows (two in each gable) with four lights each. All but three examples of the sash on the first three stories are original, with pegged, heart pine construction.

Shutters and shutter hardware appear to be original, or, at worst, correct for the period. Shutters appear to have been installed when the addition was built. All are numbered with original metal tags to match corresponding tags on all window sills. The fact that the sequence of the tag numbering extends sequentially across the entire building lends credence to the hypothesis that the shutters were installed along with or after the western addition. The shutters appear to be made of cypress.

The pedimented front porch measures 12' x 16', centered on the south facade of the house, with four original solid pine round Doric columns and two flat half-columns abutting the house, standing on four stone piers elevating the porch entry to the level of the main floor. The porch is contained with original railing and balusters. The roof is standing-seam metal, and was originally heart pine fishscale shake, remnants of which were found within the open space in the gable peak of the porch roof. The fishscale shake can be seen in a circa 1895 photograph. The floor of the porch is tongue-and-grooved wood, restored during the recent realignment. The porch was originally positioned at the western edge of the earliest (eastern) portion of the building. When the western addition was constructed, the porch was left off-center, approximately 23" to the right of the façade's centerline. The current owners disassembled the porch, moved the stone piers to a centered position, using almost exclusively the original stone, and repositioned all porch elements in their respective locations. The brick sidewalk was taken up and moved at the same time, with any missing or unusable bricks replaced with local, handmade bricks from an appropriate era.

The roof is side gabled with a steep, 11/12 pitch and is covered with standing-seam tin, although it was originally heartpine fishscale shake. As noted above, some of the original tarred shakes were found within the front porch upper crawlspace. Two large chimneys on the east and west ends of the house serve six working fireplaces. The chimneys are 1:7 common bond, with the exception of the lower portion of the east chimney, which is Flemish bond. The bond on the original (east) portion of the house is 1:3 common bond, while the addition has 1:5 common bond. All the brick is handmade, kiln-fired, measuring about 4" wide and 8" long.

*Interior*

There are two entrances to Millbrook through its English basement, including one in the original section on the north side (now enclosed by the circa 1950 library addition), and one in the western addition along the west gable. The installation of the enclosed exterior stairway connecting the basement with the first story circa 1950 appears to be the first time there was access between the two levels, speaking perhaps to its use as a storage and food preparation area and separation from daily family use. The basement entrance on the northern side in the original portion appears to have had a cellar cap or bulkhead, with markings on the external stone wall demonstrating its original shallow angle and placement. The English basement contains three primary rooms which approximate the room divisions found on the first floor. The

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

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Millbrook

Nottoway County, Virginia

N/A

Section number 7 Page 4

original cellar entrance opened into the large eastern room, which currently serves as a family room. A smaller room was to the west under the hall. On the east side of the house there are two pent basement closets flanking the brick chimney. The western addition contains one large room used as a modern kitchen, with cabinetry and other details evoking the character of the house. A small entry room on the west side of the kitchen serves as a mudroom and primary entrance into the cellar. The basement has exposed beams throughout with period-style doors as well as a 7" high double-beaded chair rail in the eastern basement room. The doors may be period replacements installed prior to the Stokes family ownership. The chair rail appears original or at least early twentieth century as the mid-twentieth century radiator pipes cut through it, both having been discovered behind wide-board pine paneling installed by Robert J. Fowlkes or a previous owner. The chair rails and doors match the upper stories. Also, there is evidence that the ceiling in the eastern room was formerly plastered. Period mantels in the east and west rooms are also additions that match the style of those found throughout the house. The ceiling in the basement is 6'4" high. The west exterior basement door is of board and batten construction. A relatively modern screen door and a second board and batten door divide the mudroom from the kitchen along the west side.

Directly above the mudroom, along the west gable of the house, is a keeping room which now serves as a bathroom. It adjoins the dining room on the first floor, but does not span the entire width of the gable. Instead, there is a first floor entryway connected to an open side porch with stairs to the ground. The keeping room and porch were likely added during a series of renovations coinciding with the construction of the western addition, allowing easy access to the dining room from the external kitchen to the west of the house. Tradition holds that original shelving on two sides of the porch allowed for placement of food to cool and to allow the carrier to open the dining room door.

The original 12' x 16' back porch was enclosed to form a library circa 1950. At the same time, brick stairs joining the main floor to the English basement were constructed and covered to allow full access without venturing outside. The library contains floor-to-ceiling shelving.

While the original house originally had two rooms on the first floor, including a side hall, the western expansion allowed for both a formal parlor and dining room, generally measuring 19' square, flanking a central hall. The walls are predominantly original plaster, with the exception of the dining room ceiling, which is drywall. The ceilings are generally twelve feet tall on the first floor. Moldings on the first floor are simple and elegant, with baseboards, wainscoting up to the chair rail, and a simple chair rail. Faded paint lines visible in the parlor and dining room during the restoration, along with a surviving section found stored in the dairy, allowed the owners to restore the single board crown molding in these rooms. The wainscoting is comprised of rectangular raised panels; the panels in the east room include original chamfered corners. Although painted over in the twentieth century, the current owners restored the earliest layer of blue paint which shows off the chamfered corners to better effect. All of the mantels are original, carved in the Federal style with various molded profiles. The parlor has a simple marble surround in addition to the wood mantel. Composite, light-weight, plaster-like material was used to replicate ceiling medallions remembered by neighbors of Millbrook in some of the formal rooms in the early twentieth century. The central hall is about 19' x 12', with a steep staircase leading to the second floor. The stairway has a simple round rail with a round newel post and three rectangular balusters per tread. A second staircase leads to the second floor via the dining room.

The second floor generally matches the first in plan, with the central hall abbreviated along the north side to accommodate a modern bathroom. This bathroom has entryways from the east and west, linking the original and western portions of the house. The presence of two stairways in close proximity suggests that the second story hall and west room were not originally connected. The moldings on the second floor are simplified from the first, with only baseboards, chair rails, and less elaborate mantels. The ceilings are generally nine feet tall on the second story. The third story/garret is divided into three rooms, similar in dimension to those below, and lit by small windows in each gable. The simple wood

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millbrook

Nottoway County, Virginia

N/A

Section number 7 Page 5

door and chair rail, as well as wide floor boards suggests that these rooms were used as secondary living space or storage.

Millbrook contains eight original or early closets distributed through the house. Most door locks are English Carpenter locks. These and other hardware are either original or period replacements matching the period of significance. The floors are original heart pine, tongue and groove, 1 ½" thick boards. The floors of the first level are blind nailed while the second floor and attic are a combination of face nailed (original section) and blind nailed (western addition).

*SECONDARY RESOURCES:*

**Kitchen (contributing building)**

The mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century kitchen measures 16' x 18' and stands upon a dry-laid fieldstone foundation approximately fifty feet west of the main house. At the time of purchase by the Stokes family, the building was in significant decline and required stabilization. The owners decided to restore it to its 19<sup>th</sup>-century appearance using as much reclaimable material as possible. The building retains its original oversized fireplace with external chimney made of handmade bricks. The fireplace includes the original oak beam lintel embedded above the opening and the original built-in iron bar for the suspension of trammels to hold cooking pots. The building also contains its original tongue-and-groove heart pine flooring, as well as the original stair to the second-floor quarters, likely for slaves. During restoration the root cellar and all original wood furnishings were retained. Replaced elements include the siding, which is presently 8" beaded weatherboard (identical in measurements to the original), and the roof, which is new 5V metal (the original having been heartpine fishscale as evidenced by the purlin pattern on the remaining original rafters). Carved into the lowest riser of the original stairway are the initials "MW", which may represent Martha Williams, wife of John. They may be responsible for building several of the structures at Millbrook. It is likely that this building is represented by a small square, west of the main house, on an 1871 plat of Millbrook.

**Smokehouse (contributing building)**

This mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century smokehouse is a 12' square timber-framed building with vertical studs spaced at 12" centers mortised into 10" square oak sills which rest on a dry laid fieldstone foundation. It is located approximately 75 feet northwest of the main house. The early 20<sup>th</sup>-century concrete floor covers the original dirt floor. The building has three overhead beams in the center which held hams and other meats. Some original wrought iron hangers remain. The door to the smokehouse is original and shows evidence of large box locks, with keyholes averaging two inches in height. The locks are no longer present. The interior of the building is blackened from smoke. The siding has been replaced with 8" beaded pine weatherboard, similar to the original. Original salting shelves remain in place. As with the kitchen, the original heart-pine fish-scale shingled roof was replaced with new 5V metal.

**Dairy (contributing building)**

This mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century dairy is a 12' square, timber-framed building with 10" square oak sills sitting on a dry laid fieldstone foundation. It is located approximately 50 feet north of the main house, situated between the well house to the west and the icehouse to the east. This building was used to process dairy products such as milk and butter, and possibly cheese. The building has original louvered vents designed to help cool the building. Original shelving is in place for holding milk trays and other milk products. The east side of the building has a small door near the roof gable for additional venting. The original heart-pine fish-scale shingled roof was replaced with new 5V metal and the siding replaced with 8" beaded pine weatherboard, similar to the original.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millbrook

Nottoway County, Virginia

N/A

Section number 7 Page 6

**Millbrook Archaeological Site (contributing site)**

Site 44NT0164 includes the ten acres immediately surrounding the manor house. Elements of the site include the foundations, architectural remains and distinct artifact concentrations related to extant and no longer extant nineteenth- and early twentieth-century buildings, intact stratified deposits related to the nineteenth-century ice house pit, and isolated artifact finds connected with prehistoric Native American encampments. Chert and rhyolite hafted bifaces, recovered from the fields near the house, suggest a prehistoric Native American component, most likely from the late Archaic period. A plat of Millbrook in 1871 locates additional buildings, no longer extant, within the site boundaries. Specifically, the location of a tack barn and corn crib, both likely dating to the nineteenth century, are documented in photographs from the late twentieth century and seen in architectural artifact scatters to the west of the old hay barn. The restoration of the nineteenth-century kitchen also yielded abundant domestic and cooking-related artifacts found beneath the floor. Most significant, though, is the excavation of the ice house pit. After Montford and Donna Stokes purchased Millbrook in 1998, they began researching the history of the property and its built landscape. During the reconstruction of the ice house directly north of the main house, the property owners excavated the filled-in ice house pit. To their amazement, this intact, stratified cultural deposit held within its walls remarkable evidence of the nineteenth- and early twentieth-century occupation of Millbrook. The massive amount of fill soils covered concentrated layers of domestic and agricultural artifacts related to both the Euro-American owners of the farm as well as African-Americans working there (both before and after the Civil War). The dominant context appears to date primarily to the late nineteenth century, but also includes earlier artifacts dating as early as the first quarter of the nineteenth century, suggesting both an early date for the construction of the ice house pit and the frequency with which the ice house pit was used as a disposal area. The artifacts recovered from the primary fill layers include hundreds of fragments of refined earthenwares, often found with similar hand-painted and printed designs. Vessel forms included plates, cups, saucers, punchbowls, and other dining and serving forms. Specific types of wares included pearlware, whiteware, ironstone, and course earthenwares, the latter found in more utilitarian forms for food preparation and storage. Iron, copper alloy, and silver alloy utensils were recovered, as well as a variety of table glass forms, including wine glasses and glass tumblers, decanters, and the ubiquitous dark green wine bottle. Diagnostic forms of these vessels were primarily mid-to-late nineteenth century in date. Of particular note were the tremendous numbers of seltzer water containers, distinctive for their rounded bottoms that precluded upright storage. Personal items recovered included pocket watch fragments, spectacles, and numerous buttons of glass, metal, and bone. Agricultural implements and other farm equipment were also abundant, although primarily in the final episode of deposition. Hoe blades, axe heads, ice tongs, rakes, pitch forks, and other hardware (primarily iron) were recovered along with limited amounts of animal bone and other daily trash. As a whole, the assemblage is indicative of a middle-to-upper-middle class family household with associated workers living nearby. While a detailed analysis and inventory of the artifacts is not yet complete, the assemblage is remarkably intact and accessible. As a whole, these artifacts and deposits have revealed much about Millbrook's nineteenth-century character and suggest a strong potential for the presence of additional archaeological resources that would contribute to a better understanding of past lifeways in Virginia's Southside region.

**Old Hay Barn (contributing building)**

This early twentieth-century hay barn was carefully restored by the current property owners circa 2000. The two-and-a-half story, wood frame building appears in the same location as a likely similar building on the early plat of Millbrook. The building has a concrete block foundation and wire nails are used exclusively across the framing. Major alterations appear to be limited to the replacement of the roof with a new 5V metal roof, the inclusion of two small, four-pane fixed windows on the second story of the east gable, the placement of four-pane hinged windows within the wood panel openings on the first story, and replacement of weatherboard siding where needed. Three modern overhangs were constructed on the north and south façade, and across the west gable to house equipment, but they do not disturb the integrity of the structure.

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

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Millbrook

Nottoway County, Virginia

N/A

Section number 7 Page 7

**Well house (non-contributing building)**

The 2006 well house is a new building, measuring 9' x 18' and constructed on a reconstituted dry-laid fieldstone foundation. The building is directly above remnants of an earlier well house, relocated through interviews with local residents and probing for the original foundations. It is located approximately 50 feet north of the main house, situated between the smokehouse to the west and the dairy to the east. A working manual water pump sits above the old well which is enclosed by railings and a deck abutting the well house. The well house construction is the same as used in the other restored buildings described above, including 8" beaded pine weatherboard for the siding and a 5V metal roof.

**Icehouse (non-contributing building)**

The 16' x 18' icehouse is a new building (circa 2000), constructed on the exact site of the original icehouse. The first-half, nineteenth-century ice pit contained within was originally excavated to a depth of 18' below modern grade. It is located approximately 75' north of the main house, east of the dairy. It was abandoned and filled during the early twentieth century. The Stokes family's restoration of the building began with the accurate reconstruction of the pit after the archaeological excavation of the interior fill. Archaeological evidence led to the reconstruction of a log ice rack at a depth of 14' and the inclusion of chinked-log siding sitting on the original rock foundation. All artifacts from the excavation were retained and are displayed on the shelves around the building's interior. Artifacts appear to date from the late 1700s through the late 1800s, and include large quantities of bottles, metal, glass, and pottery shards. The new building rests on a reconstituted dry-laid fieldstone foundation, as did the original. Maintaining a similar appearance to the other nearby outbuildings, the Stokes family used 8" beaded pine weatherboard for the siding and a 5V metal roof. The interior has a large crossbeam with a block and tackle for servicing the pit. The square ice pit was reconstructed with salvaged logs above the original stone foundation, and is accessed via an 18' wooden ladder. The reconstruction of the icehouse, as with the well house, incorporated the memories of individuals in the community who were able to describe the original structures, along with visible evidence of the buildings themselves and the archaeological remains uncovered during the restoration.

**Garage (non-contributing building)**

The garage and workshop built around 2000 was designed to emulate a Williamsburg-style carriage barn and is located approximately 150 feet west of the main house. Measuring approximately 60' x 30' the wood-framed building has a poured concrete foundation and is clad with wood weatherboard and a 5V metal roof similar to the other outbuildings located on the property. The five-bay, east façade includes four six-over-six, double-hung sash windows flanking a central door with five dormers situated directly above, each with similar six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. The west façade consists of only two dormers, identical in design to those on the east façade, and evenly spaced along the roof with an interior chimney piercing the roof just west of the crest. An overhang extends approximately 12' to the west along the entire west façade, shading a central door and two six-over-six, double hung sash windows situated in line with the dormers above. The south gable includes two garage doors on the first story, while the north gable has only one, offset to the west. The upper story has double panel barn doors on the north and south gable.

**Secondary Dwelling Archaeological Site (contributing site)**

The Stokes family dismantled the above-ground elements of this mid-to-late nineteenth-century secondary dwelling after they purchased the property. The remaining resource is now designated Site 44NT0165 and represents the partially intact subsurface structural remains and associated artifact scatter connected with this building. The one-and-a-half story frame structure raised on machine-made brick piers had been abandoned for some time prior to its dismantling, and

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

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Millbrook

---

Nottoway County, Virginia

---

N/A

---

Section number 7 Page 8

---

architectural elements were incorporated into other restoration efforts at Millbrook. The interior included five and six-panel doors and frequent use of Victorian details suggesting it may have been constructed in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century for use by a family member and later rented to tenants. A building is located in close proximity on the 1871 plat of Millbrook. This building may have incorporated elements of that structure or replaced it.

**Tobacco Barn Ruin (contributing site)**

This late nineteenth-/early twentieth-century tobacco barn ruin includes the artifacts and architectural materials associated with a building that once symbolized the core agricultural activity at Millbrook. After the current owners deemed the barn too far gone to restore, they removed the log walls of this one-time two-story building and reused them as the walls and structural elements of the reconstructed ice pit. The upper framing elements are covered with the original standing seam metal roof and remain on the site, along with parts of the building foundation and related architectural debris.

**Barn (non-contributing building)**

This likely post-1945 building is a tobacco-packing barn and is similar in proportions to the old hay barn on the property. It was probably constructed as part of a series of improvements instituted by Robert J. Fowlkes after he gained control of Millbrook in 1945. Situated in general proximity to an outbuilding on the 1871 plat of Millbrook, the building may be a replacement for an earlier barn or quarter. The two-story, wood-frame building has a standing seam metal roof and a two-story added overhang along the east façade. It also has a full basement used to moisten overly-dry tobacco during processing. There are two entryways on the first floor and an inaccessible exterior entryway to the second floor, both beneath the overhang. Set into the north gable is a curious arrangement of six-light wood frame casement windows, or converted double hung sash, along with artificial brick-textured siding. The west side is also covered with brick-textured siding, whereas the remainder of the building is clad in weatherboard siding and rests on a concrete block foundation, with the interior brick chimney situated near the northeast corner.

**Pond (non-contributing structure)**

There is a 1 ½-acre post-1950 pond, built at the southeastern edge of the property, that served as a water source, an attractive landscape feature and a swimming hole for the neighborhood during its initial decades.

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

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Millbrook

---

Nottoway County, Virginia

---

N/A

---

Section number 8 Page 9

---

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

Millbrook, located east of Rural Route 49 along Snead Spring Road near Crewe in Nottoway County, Virginia is significant at the local level under Criterion C as a remarkably intact example of early nineteenth-century regional architecture and building practices, as well as nineteenth- and early twentieth-century agricultural buildings and landscape. It is also significant under Criterion D for the intact, stratified archaeological resources previously excavated on the property and the potential for additional resources whose study would contribute significantly to the region's history, particularly during the period circa 1840 through circa 1945. Built by 1840, the vernacular farmhouse features elements of both the Federal and Greek Revival styles, with notable details including original mantels, window sash, stairways, and flooring. The house is complemented by a grouping of restored and reconstructed outbuildings that evoke the complexities of daily life on farmsteads across Virginia's Southside. The survival of a pair of photographs, circa 1895 and pre-1932, attest to the remarkable degree of integrity associated with the main house. Extending beyond the main house, this property is an excellent representative of the architecture and layout of nineteenth-century farmsteads in the Southside region, including the use of Greek Revival decorative elements to elaborate an often restrained Federal style. With very few modern additions or alterations, coupled with the period restoration and limited reconstruction of outbuildings on their original locations, Millbrook represents the largely unrecognized and unresearched antebellum landscape of Nottoway County. Nottoway County has always been a rural county dominated by rolling farmland and a reliance on a few staple crops, such as tobacco, cotton, and mixed grains. In the prosperous decades of the early nineteenth century many similar plantations were established across the county, made possible by slave labor, agricultural improvements, and an expanding transportation system, but few have survived as intact and unchanged as Millbrook. In addition, no other state or federally recognized properties in the county have substantiated evidence of intact stratified archaeological deposits which can help illuminate Nottoway County's growth and development from the early national period to the modern era. Millbrook is exceptional for both its architectural and archaeological integrity as well as for representing a once ubiquitous but quickly disappearing landscape. Advancing from its beginnings as a small tobacco plantation worked by enslaved Africans towards one employing tenant farmers and day laborers, Millbrook's network of support buildings, fields, and main house encapsulate the history of an evolving rural county. The current 110-acre property contains the core of the plantation, including thirteen resources: five contributing buildings (the main house, a first-half nineteenth-century dairy, a first-half nineteenth-century smokehouse, a first-half nineteenth-century kitchen, and a late nineteenth-/early twentieth-century hay barn), four noncontributing buildings (a circa 2000 garage, a pre-1950 tobacco packing barn, and two recently reconstructed outbuildings: a well house and ice house); one noncontributing structure (a mid-twentieth-century pond), and three contributing sites (the nineteenth- and twentieth-century plantation core, an outlying late nineteenth-/early twentieth-century secondary dwelling, and a ruinous late nineteenth/early twentieth-century tobacco barn).

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins with the construction of the eastern (original) portion of the main house by 1840. Other notable dates include the first and most noteworthy addition to the house by 1855, and the construction of numerous buildings attributed to these periods and to the late nineteenth/early twentieth century. Special note must be made of the incorporation of an earlier chimney associated with a house on the property that was built prior to 1820, and possibly as early as 1803. The period of significance ends circa 1945 because the modernization of the house, including the introduction of indoor plumbing and electricity, occurs during the period shortly after the death of Virginius Fowlkes in that year. His son, Robert, instituted improvements to the house, specifically with the construction of the library addition ca. 1950, and elsewhere on the property, including the construction of the pond in the 1950s. In addition, the primary archaeological deposit researched at the site includes evidence of domestic and agricultural activities from the mid-to-late nineteenth century through the early twentieth century relating to both Euro-American and African-American occupations at the core of Millbrook farm and there are agriculture-related outbuildings, specifically linked to tobacco production, which

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

---

Millbrook

---

Nottoway County, Virginia

---

N/A

---

Section number 8 Page 10

date to this period. The house exterior and farm landscape appear to have changed very little between the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and their recent restoration.

### Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

---

### Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

#### Architecture

Millbrook is a remarkable example of an antebellum plantation landscape, significant for both its high degree of integrity and for representing a formative period of growth and change in Southside Virginia. At the center of this landscape is the main house. While first valued in the 1840 Nottoway County Land Tax Records at \$1000, the building was likely built by John D. and Martha Branch Bland Williams between their marriage on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1835 and his untimely death in 1839.<sup>6</sup> The house incorporates an earlier chimney, likely associated with buildings on the property built prior to 1820, possibly by then landowner John Doswell, and abandoned or destroyed by 1829.<sup>7</sup> The circa 1840 house began as a three-bay, side passage building with a full English basement, first floor, second floor, and garret space, totalling as many as eight rooms. This vernacular house with Federal-style influences had a single chimney centered on the east gable, a formal south entrance porch leading into the passage, and likely a similar porch on the north. The use of brick, the generous size of the house, and the incorporation of numerous windows speaks to the wealth of the Williams family, as each of these materials and their installation would have been far more costly than those used in the majority of houses in the region. The house befits the local prominence of this family, helping to legitimize their position within the community through their knowledge of architectural form and fashion, and their ability to construct a substantial house within a community where few could accomplish similar feats.

The Williams family was very wealthy and owned land throughout Southside Virginia. Local historians agree that, during the early nineteenth century, David G. Williams, patriarch of the family and father to John D. Williams, was said to have been the second largest slave owner in Virginia.<sup>8</sup> Millbrook spoke to the family's desire to continue an upwardly mobile trend in social standing within the surrounding community. David G. Williams purchased the Millbrook property from John Doswell's estate in 1829 and presented it to his son in 1830.<sup>9</sup> The construction of the house shortly after John's marriage to Martha, with his father's support, signaled to guests and passersby a stately elegance and level of comfort which bespoke the success and grace of the lives lived within. Millbrook was not unique in its form or outward appearance, but it is significant for representing a group of successful agricultural entrepreneurs who aspired to greater heights politically, socially, and economically during the antebellum period. It is also remarkable for its integrity, which allows modern eyes to view both its formative period, as well as its continued growth both before and after the Civil War, without the distraction or damage caused by later changes.

As it stands today, the house is most visually connected to a rural vernacular that incorporates elements of the Federal and Greek Revival architectural styles that swept the region during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Significant additions and alterations to the house are attributed to the period prior to 1855 when the home was lived in by Martha B. Williams and her daughter, Mary E.P. Williams.<sup>10</sup> The western addition changed the outward appearance of the house by adding a matching two-bay wing with exterior chimney onto the west gable of the original house, nearly doubling the size of the house. The increase in square footage, including a third basement room, would have allowed for greater storage, additional sleeping areas, and, most importantly, another "public" room within which they could entertain visitors. The inclusion of a formal dining room on the first floor further heightened the stature of the owners and demonstrated their wealth and taste. Interior and exterior details were added or altered to upgrade the house, including the use of Doric

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

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Millbrook

Nottoway County, Virginia

N/A

Section number 8 Page 11

columns on the south and, presumably, north porches, the installation of mantelpieces with simple, yet elegant moldings, and the extension of similar details across the building through door moldings, baseboards, chair rails and wainscoting. The new, five-bay façade with flanking chimneys towered above the surrounding landscape and announced to all who visited that the owners were both fashionable and prosperous. The dense cluster of surrounding outbuildings bordering expansive fields where enslaved laborers toiled furthered the impression that this was the home of a thriving local plantation owner.

As a female property holder during the three decades following her husband's death, Martha's house is a testament to her skills as a farm manager and active member of the community's elite. The addition to Millbrook necessitated a significant expenditure of money and labor. It was successful in visually communicating the status and knowledge of its occupants and, for a time, kept the single-woman household at the social and economic level of her local contemporaries. By choosing to expand the house to the west and create a center passage plan, Martha created a house form that was very popular in the 1850s in Southside. The two-story, five-bay I-house with Greek Revival decorative elements would have been recognizable to her neighbors, as it is recognizable to historians today, as the centerpiece of a prosperous farm and the home of a wealthy family. There are other examples in Nottoway County of side-passage plan houses being updated with additions to create a center-passage plan; Mountain Hall (067-0031) and Clay House (067-0087) are believed to have been expanded slightly earlier than Millbrook. Martha's actions should therefore be understood within this context of perceived social hierarchy; the creation of additional square footage is important not just for the increased usage that it implied but for the way in which it was done which conveyed a clear message of social prominence. Unlike many of her contemporaries, Martha refrained from expanding the main house further with a T or L-shaped addition to the rear. She may have not had the financial flexibility to do so, or simply did not require the additional space beyond that provided by the western addition. However, when viewed through the lens of social currency, it is also true that a rear addition, largely invisible at the rear of the building, does not have the same cache. Perhaps Martha was motivated more by the social symbolism of the architecture than a real need for additional space. After all, in 1855, census records indicate that Martha and her teenaged daughter were the sole occupants of the house.

The house was purchased by H.B. Fowlkes soon after Martha's death in 1870.<sup>12</sup> He was a member of a prominent regional family who owned notable plantations such as nearby Hyde Park (Old Field, 67-0040).<sup>13</sup> The prominence of the Fowlkes family, and their connections within the region, are seen in their continued ownership of the property until the purchase of Millbrook by the current owners, Montford and Donna Stokes, in 1998.<sup>14</sup> Most of the small outbuildings immediately surrounding the main house are believed to have been constructed prior to the Civil War, and possibly related to the Williams family's ownership of the property. The construction techniques, materials, functions and placement of these buildings match with our current understanding of the antebellum period, and an arrangement of buildings similar to this is indicated on the 1871 plat of the property, drawn during the ownership of H.B. Fowlkes and, later, his son Virginus.<sup>15</sup> The presence of these buildings, including the kitchen, dairy, smokehouse, well house, and icehouse, in close proximity to the main house, accentuates the remarkable integrity of the working landscape. The property owners' attention to detail in the restoration of three of these buildings, and the painstaking reconstruction (based on archaeological and architectural evidence) of the icehouse and a later well house, adds to the sense of place and space for an early-to-mid-nineteenth-century plantation in Southside Virginia. Extending outward from the core, the presence of a hay barn and other outbuildings, most likely dating to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, reiterates the constants that connected this region's agricultural landscape throughout its history: tobacco and self-reliance.

The contributions of African-Americans are often overlooked when considering the architecture of the mid- to late nineteenth-century Virginia Southside. As slaves, they were largely responsible for the physical construction of buildings and modifications to the natural landscape. They performed the majority of functions necessary to maintain the plantation and to bring the primary crops to market. At Millbrook, their influence is seen in the buildings that survive, and particularly

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

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Millbrook

---

Nottoway County, Virginia

---

N/A

---

Section number 8 Page 12

---

the kitchen which may have housed more than a few of them. Martha increased the number of slaves at Millbrook from 32 to 47 between 1850 and 1860 while maintaining a household with only one other Anglo-American, her daughter, Mary E.P. Williams. The presence of a considerable population of enslaved workers, many of whom would likely live within close proximity of the main house, and be responsible for maintaining the buildings and grounds, indicates that their identity is as closely interwoven with the architectural fabric as their owners'. While their names and numbers are barely noted in the census records and county documents, their presence is still felt in the built landscape they helped construct.

### Archeology

Contained within the boundaries of Millbrook are significant archaeological resources with the confirmed potential to contribute significantly to our understanding of nineteenth-century agricultural life in Southside Virginia. The excavation of the ice house pit documents the presence of intact, stratified cultural deposits on the property and their potential for revealing significant information about the farm's occupants during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Numerous artifacts found while restoring the kitchen, as well as foundation remnants of the well house and icehouse found prior to their rebuilding, points to a high level of archaeological integrity relating to buildings and work areas surrounding the house. Testimony from past residents and workers on the plantation not only confirmed building and activity areas, but led to the systematic restoration and reconstruction of service buildings in a manner matching the style and construction techniques of the extant mid-to-late nineteenth-century outbuildings surviving near the house.<sup>16</sup>

As with the architecture of the house, the significance of Millbrook's archaeological resources rests not in their unique character, but rather in their representation of common elements of daily life in Southside Virginia during the mid-to-late nineteenth century, which as of yet have seen little scholarly attention. Outside of the archaeological survey and limited testing of historic sites in nearby Fort Pickett, archaeological study of historic plantation sites in the Southside region, and particularly in Nottoway County, has not been done. No other state or federally registered property within the county includes Criterion D for historic archaeological resources at this time; not because these resources do not exist, but because they have not been identified. However, the loss of historic farms and the expansion of industrial-scale farming and forestry threaten these very resources.

Unlike the well documented plantation landscapes of the colonial and nineteenth-century Chesapeake region, the historic landscapes of Virginia's Southside are poorly understood. While well-documented excavations on comparative sites are located at a considerable distance, they are nonetheless valuable in demonstrating the potential for further archaeological research at Millbrook. A handful of sites, including Thomas Jefferson's retreat at Poplar Forest, his main residence at Monticello, the home of James Madison at Montpelier, and the home of James Monroe at Ashlawn Highland, include intact stratified deposits, as well as surface artifact concentrations, that have revealed much about the complexities of life on these expansive plantations. Though not associated with a President of the United States, similar resources at Millbrook offer the chance to study important segments of Virginia society, namely the middle to upper-middle class agricultural entrepreneurs who extended a slave-based agricultural system through the tumultuous decades of the nineteenth century, and the slaves who completed much of this work. The creation of an intentionally modified landscape figures prominently at the homes of Jefferson and Madison and has seen intensive archaeological research over the past three decades. Though on a much smaller scale, the building and modification of the main house at Millbrook, and the creation of an orderly, functioning, and aesthetically interesting plantation complex in the immediate acreage surrounding the house, references both the colonial plantation system of the Chesapeake and the changing modes of architectural design, landscape modification, and agricultural methods that are more fully fleshed out on the elite grounds of Virginia's presidential estates. Millbrook, in both scale and complexity, is representative of a plantation form that dominated the Southside region's fertile fields.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Millbrook

Nottoway County, Virginia

N/A

Section number 8 Page 13

Intact archaeological deposits, such as the ice house pit at Millbrook, include layers of rapid deposition of domestic and agricultural refuse, as well as thin layers of "in-use" trash. Deposits like this have been found in Poplar Forest's sunken garden, and in the dry well at Monticello, and can reveal much about the day-to-day life and activities of the owners and workers on the property. All three sites served as private residences throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, maintained an agricultural focus, and experienced similar cycles of repair, removal, and rebuilding which result in a complex archaeological record. While the homes of Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe have witnessed substantially more attention, including systematic archaeological survey and in-depth excavation and analysis of intact stratified deposits, it is highly likely, based on the comparable circumstances regarding landscape change and development, that Millbrook retains the same level of integrity as these sites.

The archaeological deposits at Millbrook have the potential to expand our understanding of nineteenth-century lifeways in Virginia's Southside. Artifacts related to other nineteenth-century agricultural buildings indicate the potential for intact stratified deposits beyond the ice house pit. While most of these outbuildings will not have deep subterranean deposits, they often are connected with distinct horizontal artifact distributions that indicate activity areas. How these artifact distributions change over time is a significant indicator of landscape change. The connection between landscape change and cultural change, specifically the organization of labor, the imposition of regimented building design and placement within the plantation's core, and its reflection of the owner's worldview are viable avenues of inquiry which hold great promise for research in this region. Equally important is the potential for these resources to speak to the lives of the enslaved African Americans who lived and worked at this tobacco plantation for multiple generations before the Civil War, and undoubtedly continued working here during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Recovered during restoration of the adjacent kitchen, a racoon baculum, often associated with slave religious practices, speaks to the power of a single artifact to illuminate past experiences regardless of the historical documentation associated with the plantation. Further analysis of the artifacts found in and around the outbuildings, and those associated with the activity areas dating to the antebellum period, would not only shed light on the material world of enslaved African Americans, but also allow for a comparison with artifact concentrations dating to the post-emancipation period. The transition from enslaved to free is one of the most important periods of study in American history and Millbrook has the potential to inform our understanding, both through the analysis of artifacts recovered from the ice house pit, as well as those yet to be recovered from the work yard adjacent the house. Millbrook's archaeological resources are revealing of the lives of all of these people, and are testimony to the archaeological potential of similar plantations in the region.

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Nottoway County Marriage Register, 1835; Nottoway County Land Tax Records (NCLTR) 1840.

<sup>2</sup> David G. Williams to John D. Williams, 600 acres, February 1, 1830, Nottoway County Deed Book (NCDB) 8, page 398; NCLTR 1828, 1831; Turner 1932: 47.

<sup>3</sup> NCLTR 1814, 1820.

<sup>4</sup> NCLTR 1826, 1828. The property is listed in the NCLTR under Mary's name in 1821, as "Mary Doswell, Estate" in 1824, and as "John Doswell, Estate" in 1826, suggesting that he died as early as 1820 and she died prior to 1824.

<sup>5</sup> John D. Williams wrote his will on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1836, confirming that he lived on the Millbrook property at that time and that his estate would transfer to his wife Martha and daughter Mary. The estate is listed in Martha's name in 1841 and the 1840 United States Census for Nottoway County lists only "John D. Williams, Estate." The NCLTR in 1855 list Martha B. Williams as owner and the total value for buildings on the property doubles by \$1000 to a total of \$2000 with the notation "value of new improvements added." Her ownership, in the public mind, is also confirmed with the listing of her name as the property owner on maps created for Union Army forces during the Civil War.

<sup>6</sup> Nottoway County Marriage Register, 1835; Nottoway County Land Tax Records (NCLTR) 1840. NCDB 8, page 398 clarifies that David G. Williams, John D.'s father, was married to Mary Epes Pythress Doswell, the daughter of John Doswell, previous owner of the property.

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

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Millbrook

---

Nottoway County, Virginia

---

N/A

---

Section number 8 Page 14

---

<sup>7</sup> NCLTR 1820, 1826, 1828. Nottoway County Will Book (NCWB) IV, page 262, includes John Doswell's will written on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 1817 and stating that he leaves his property "on both sides of Whetstone Creek" to his wife Mary and that it is the land on which "I now reside." David G. Williams, who would later marry John Doswell's daughter, is a witness and trustee for the will, and also for the will of John Doswell's wife, Mary (NCWB V, page 67).

<sup>8</sup> Turner 1932: 110.

<sup>9</sup> NCLTR 1829, 1830; NCDB 8, page 396.

<sup>10</sup> NCLTR 1855; United States Census 1850.

<sup>11</sup> Birch et al. 1996: 29; Virginia Department of Historic Resources Architectural Site Inventory Files, Richmond, Virginia, 2009.

<sup>12</sup> NCLTR 1870, 1871.

<sup>13</sup> Virginia Department of Historic Resources Architectural Site Inventory file for Old Field (Hyde Park); Turner 1932: 47.

<sup>14</sup> Nottoway County Will Book 11, Page 479; Deed Book 309, page 748. Henry B. Fowlkes (Sept. 29, 1831 – Dec. 3, 1902) was a Civil War veteran and is buried with a Confederate Army memorial plaque (NCWB 3, page 24). His wife, Mary Stokes Ingram (1839 – 1913), continued to farm the property until her death at 74 years of age. Her son, Virginius, retired to the property from his business in South Boston and after his death (1945) passed the property onto his son, Robert Jordan Fowlkes, Maj US Army Retired (Jan. 28, 1895 – May 24, 1986), and his son's wife, Mary Winn Abernethy (May 6, 1900 – Oct. 10, 1994).

<sup>15</sup> Barrow 1871.

<sup>16</sup> Montford and Donna Stokes undertook multiple oral interviews with members of the local community, including past tenants of the property and individuals who worked at the farm during the early-to-mid-twentieth century.

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

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Millbrook

---

Nottoway County, Virginia

---

N/A

---

Section number 9 Page 15

---

**Bibliography**

- Barrow, L.E. Map of Millbrook Farm, Property of V.L. Fowlkes Situated in Nottoway County, 1871. Original on file at the Nottoway County Courthouse.
- Birch, Valerie N., Alison S. Blanton, & Mary A. Zirkle. Historic Architectural Survey of Nottoway County, Virginia, Roanoke, Virginia: privately printed for Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the County of Nottoway, Virginia, 1996.
- Brumfield, Robert. A Plat of Land Patents [ca. 1720-1780] in Amelia County, Nottoway Parish. Amelia, Virginia: Amelia Historical Committee, 1987.
- Cole, A.L. WPA of Virginia Historical Inventory. Blackstone, Virginia: manuscript in possession of the property owners. Notes regarding Millbrook taken on August 28, 1936.
- Cummins, A. B. Nottoway County, Virginia: Founding and Development with Biographical Sketches. Richmond, Virginia: W.M. Brown & Son, Inc., 1970
- Gilmer, J.F. Map of Nottoway County. Facsimile reproduction. Richmond: Virginia Historical Society, 1864.
- Huston, Clifton A. An Archaeological Inventory Survey of Fort Pickett Cantonment Excess Area, Nottoway County, Virginia. Report on file with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 1998.
- No author. Nottoway County Virginia Heritage. Waynesville, North Carolina: Walsworth Publishing Company, 2006:22, 23.
- Stokes, Montford and Donna. Oral Interviews with Nottoway County Residents concerning memories of Millbrook from the early 1940s and forward, 1998-2008. Interviews included W.R. Turner of Blackstone, Virginia, Mrs. Spencer of Crewe, Virginia, and R.F.D. Tenant (address unspecified).
- Turner, W.R. Old Homes and Families in Nottoway, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Blackstone, Virginia: Nottoway Publishing Company, 1982:126-127, 129.
- United States of America. 1840 Federal Census, Nottoway County, Virginia. Transcribed by Thomas Walter Duda, 2009.
- United States of America. 1850 Federal Census, Nottoway County, Virginia. Transcribed by Thomas Walter Duda, 2009.

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

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Millbrook

---

Nottoway County, Virginia

---

N/A

---

Section number 10 Page 16

---

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundaries of the listed property are the same as referenced in the Nottoway County Courthouse records for: "39-44A Deed Book 309, Page 748," and shown on Tax Map 39-44A for the same parcel.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The 110-acre parcel is the extent of the property owned by Montford and Donna Stokes and represents the core of the original property as it was configured by 1840. Consisting of a mix of open pasture, forest, and historic resources, it is nearly devoid of modern construction and evokes a nineteenth-century viewscape with a significant degree of integrity. This land contains the primary resource and the remains and/or footprints of the contributing and non-contributing secondary resources historically associated with this farm.

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

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Millbrook

Nottoway County, Virginia

N/A

Section number Photographs/Additional Documentation Page 17

**PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION**

Unless otherwise noted, the following information is the same for all photographs:

**Name of Property:** Millbrook

**Location:** Nottoway County, Virginia

**Photographer:** DATA Investigations, LLC

**VDHR#** 067-0012

**Date Photographed:** May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**View:** Looking north to south façade of Millbrook

**File:** VA\_NottowayCounty\_Millbrook\_001.tif

**Photo:** 1 of 10

**Photographer:** Donna and Montford Stokes

**Date Photographed:** 1/20/09

**View:** Looking south towards north façade of Millbrook

**File:** VA\_NottowayCounty\_Millbrook\_002.tif

**Photo:** 2 of 10

**View:** Looking east towards west façade of Millbrook

**File:** VA\_NottowayCounty\_Millbrook\_003.tif

**Photo:** 3 of 10

**View:** East room mantelpiece

**File:** VA\_NottowayCounty\_Millbrook\_004.tif

**Photo:** 4 of 10

**View:** Stair hall

**File:** VA\_NottowayCounty\_Millbrook\_005.tif

**Photo:** 5 of 10

**View:** Looking west towards smokehouse and modern garage

**File:** VA\_NottowayCounty\_Millbrook\_006.tif

**Photo:** 6 of 10

**Date Photographed:** 4/24/09

**View:** Looking northeast towards outbuildings

**File:** VA\_NottowayCounty\_Millbrook\_007.tif

**Photo:** 7 of 10

**View:** Fireplace in restored kitchen outbuilding

**File:** VA\_NottowayCounty\_Millbrook\_008.tif

**Photo:** 8 of 10

**Date Photographed:** 4/24/09

**View:** Rebuilt icehouse pit with original stone foundation

**File:** VA\_NottowayCounty\_Millbrook\_009.tif

**Photo:** 9 of 10

**Photographer:** Donna and Montford Stokes

**Date Photographed:** 1/25/06

**View:** Icehouse pit excavation (44NT0164)

**File:** VA\_NottowayCounty\_Millbrook\_010.tif

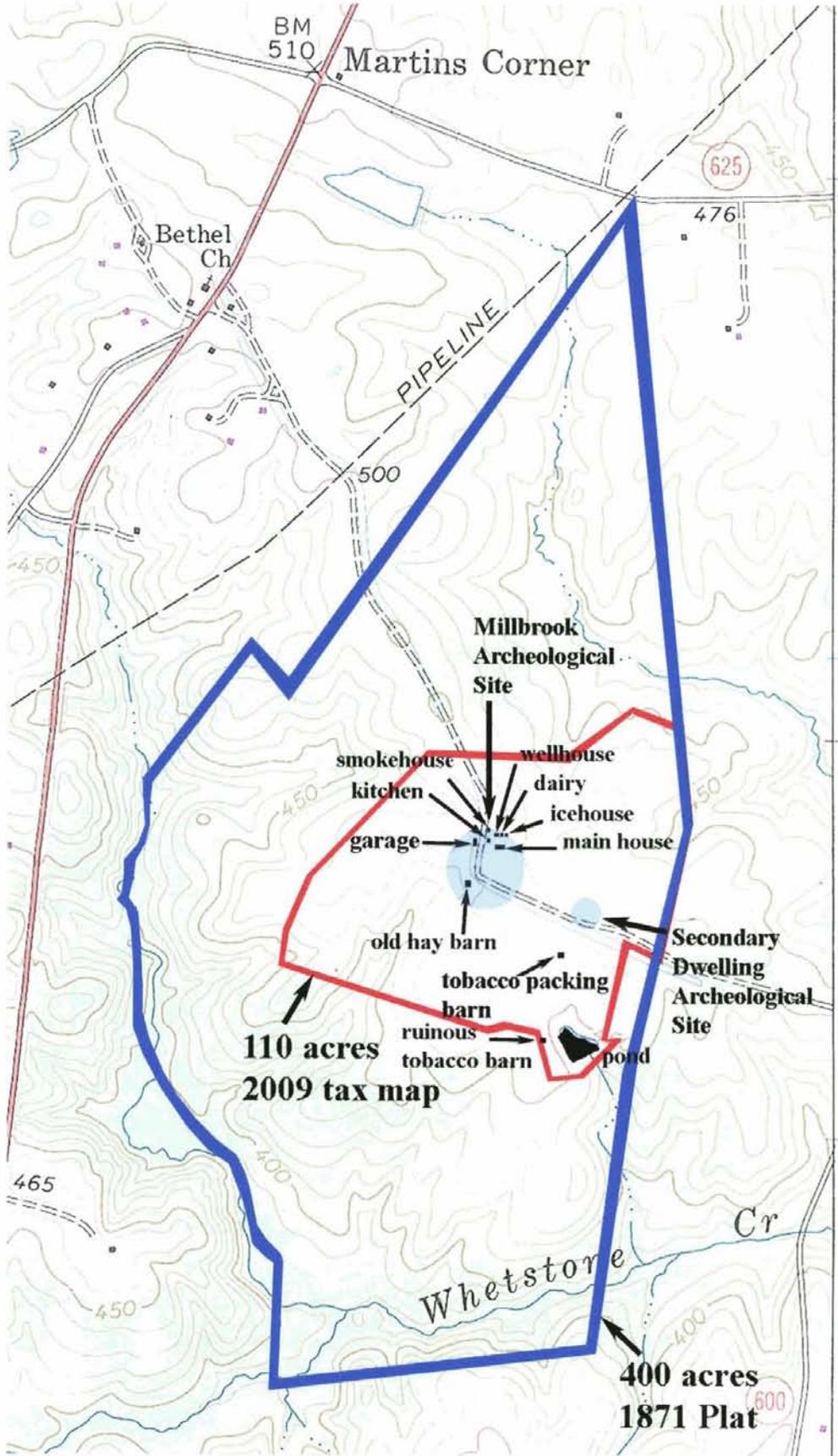
**Photo:** 10 of 10

**Additional Documentation**

Figure 1. Site map of Millbrook, showing 1871 plat in comparison to current tax parcel, and locations of resources.

Millbrook  
DHR# 067-0012  
Northway County,  
Virginia

Figure 1



North  
↑  
Not to Scale

RUBERMONT QUADRANGLE  
VIRGINIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SW/4 CREWE 15' QUADRANGLE

5358 11 NE  
(CREWE EAST)

BURKEVILLE 5 MI.  
57

751

10'

752

2 100 000 FEET

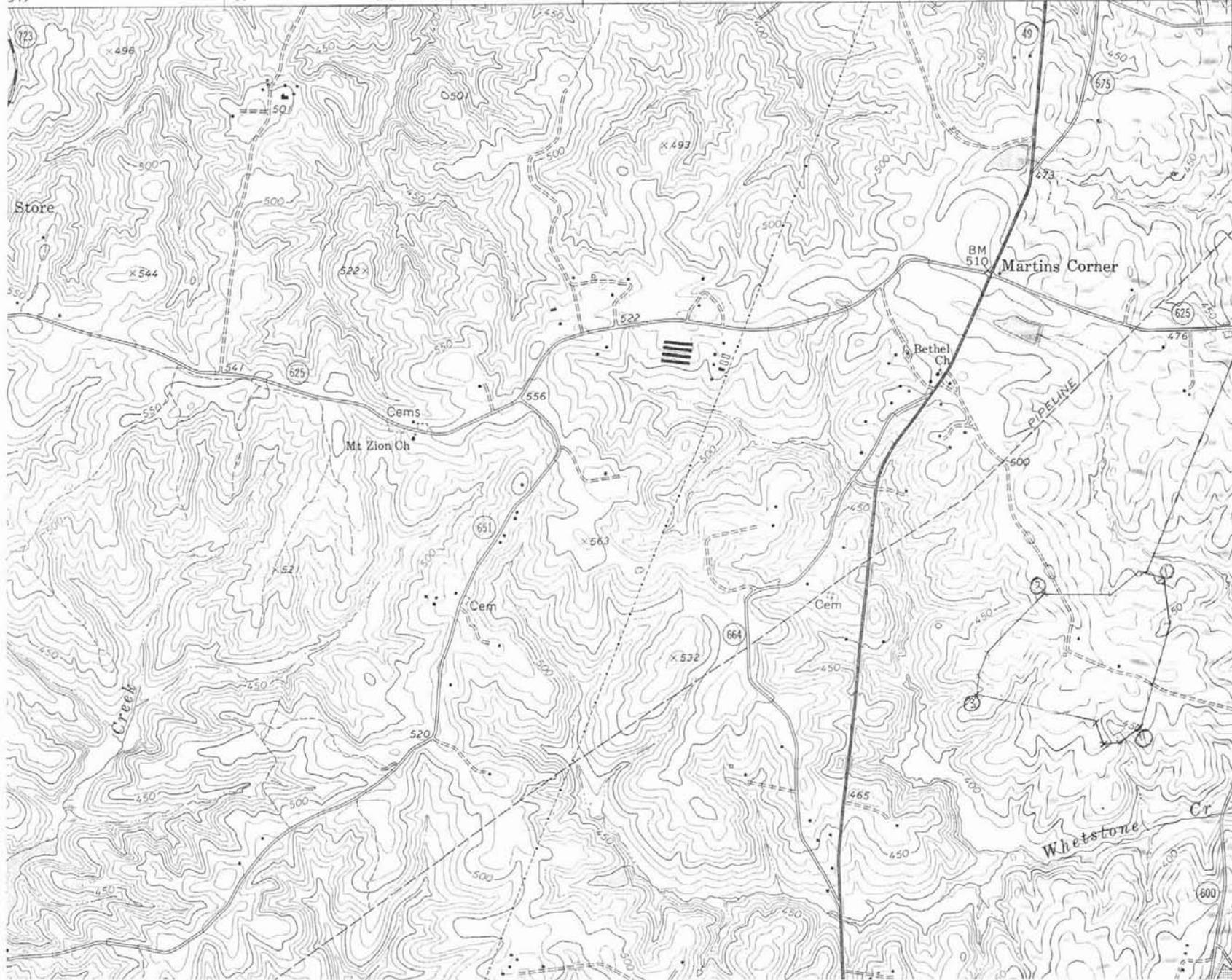
753

754 CREWE 3.5 MI.

755

78°07'30"

37°07'30"

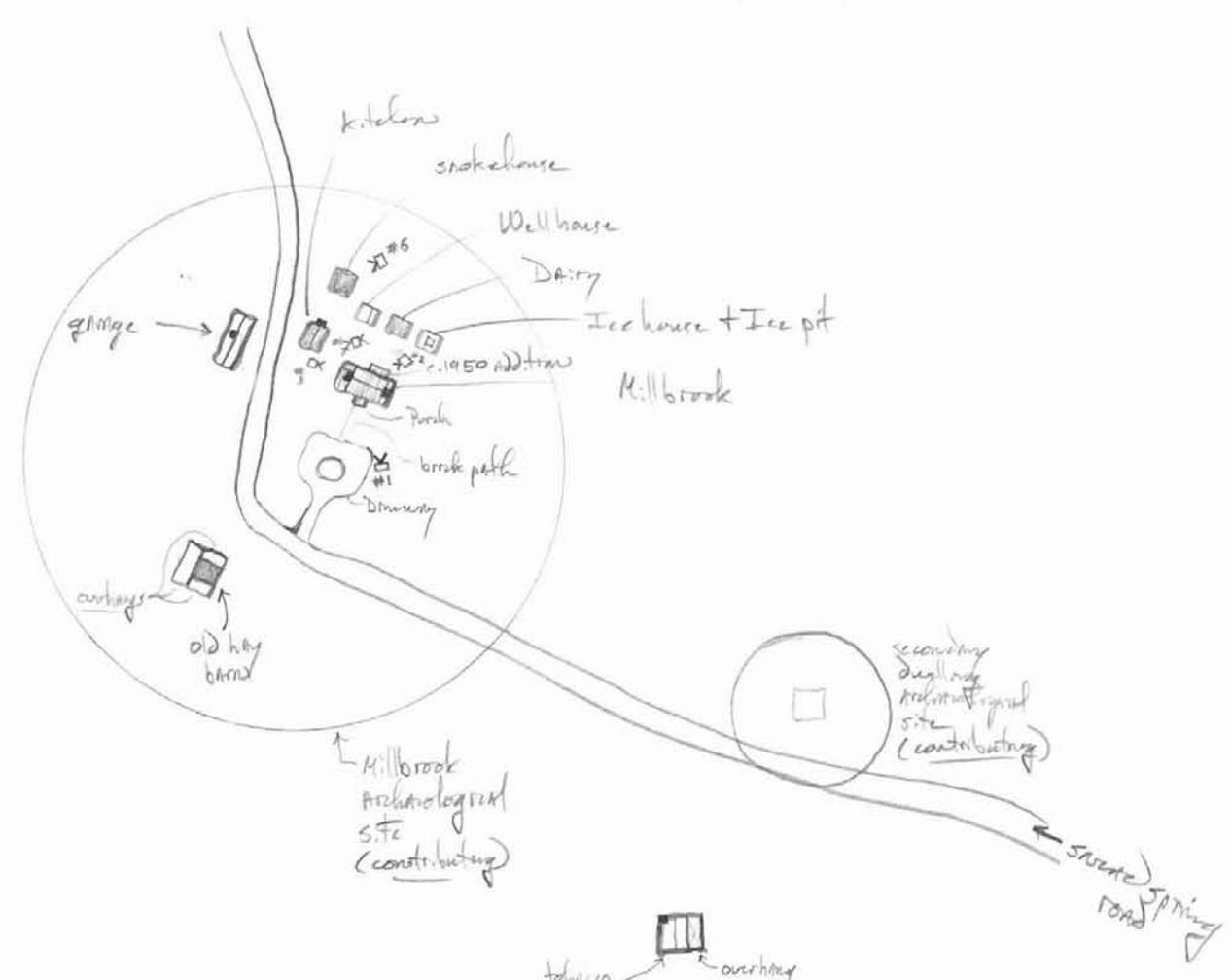


412  
NOTTOWAY COURT HOUSE 3.5 MI.  
4110  
280 000  
FEET  
4109

Millbrook  
Nottoway County  
Virginia  
DHR# 067-50012  
Rubermont Quad  
JAD 1983

- ① E 755177 N 4109857
- ② E 754669 N 4109772
- ③ E 754269 N 4109311
- ④ E 755108 N 4109173

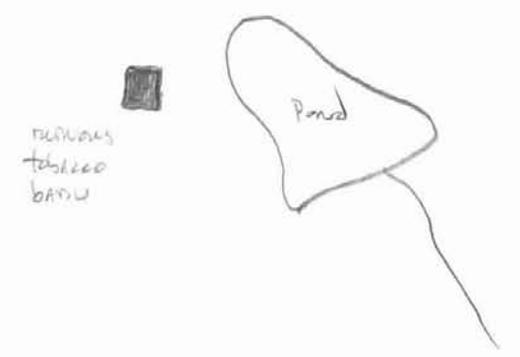
Sketch map September 2009 1204 Sward Spring Road  
 Millbrook (067-0012) Nottoway County, Virginia  
 44NT \_\_\_\_\_ + 44NT \_\_\_\_\_  
 + numbers not yet assigned for  
 archaeological sites



north  
 ↑

not  
 to  
 scale

- = contributing
- = non-contributing
- ⊗ = photo locations
- # photos #1, 4, 5, 8-10 = interiors





# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221-0311

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick  
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391  
TDD: (804) 367-2386  
www.dhr.virginia.gov

January 11, 2010

Montford Stokes  
Spring Road  
23930

York, Nottoway County

Dear Mrs. Stokes:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Board of Historic Resources has placed **Millbrook** in the Virginia Landmarks Register. The State Review Board recommended this property for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Following final review, we will forward the nomination to the National Park Service, including my recommendation, and the Board's, that the resource is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Virginia Landmarks Register includes historic landmarks, buildings, structures, districts, objects, and sites that are recognized as having historical, architectural, or archaeological significance at a local, regional, or national level. **Millbrook** deserves this official recognition as one of the Commonwealth's historic resources. The responsibility for preserving Virginia's irreplaceable historic resources rests with interested citizens like you. While registration does not in itself protect the property, we believe that formal recognition will provide encouragement to your continuing efforts to preserve this important part of Virginia's history.

Ongoing protection and preservation of registered Virginia landmarks is of immediate concern to us. We welcome the opportunity to serve, and it is our hope that you will inform us if we can be of any assistance to you in providing any technical advice on contemplated alterations or sensitive renovations or other issues.

Sincerely,

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick  
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

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

Tidewater Region Office  
14415 Old Courthouse Way, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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) 868-7033