

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

LISTED ON:	
VLR	09/17/2009
NRHP	08/12/2010

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

**1. Name of Property**

historical name Floris Historic District

other names/site number DHR File No.: 029-5179

**2. Location**

street & number Bounded by Centreville Rd., West Ox Rd., Monroe St., and Frying Pan Branch not for publication N/A

city or town Herndon

vicinity X

state Virginia

code VA

county Fairfax

code 059

zip code 20171

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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

*William A. Jensen*  
Signature of certifying official

June 29, 2010  
Date

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_ entered in the National Register

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_ determined eligible for the

National Register

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the

National Register

\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>21</u>	<u>20</u> buildings
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<u>8</u>	<u>28</u> structures
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>34</u>	<u>49</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 4

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling;  
EDUCATION secondary structure  
RELIGION school  
religious facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling;  
RELIGION secondary structure  
FUNERARY religious facility  
cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Vernacular  
LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Late Gothic Revival; Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE; CONCRETE; STUCCO  
roof METAL; ASPHALT; WOOD  
walls WOOD; METAL; ASBESTOS; BRICK;  
SYNTHETICS: Vinyl; CONCRETE  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

Floris Historic District

Fairfax County, Virginia

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**8. Statement of Significance**  
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**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.)

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

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE  
ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance** circa 1785-circa 1960  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates** circa 1785  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**  
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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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Floris Historic District

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**Primary Location of Additional Data**

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

**Name of repository:** Fairfax County Park Authority; Virginia Department of Historic Resources

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** approximately 138 acres

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

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>                    </u>	2 <u>                    </u>	3 <u>                    </u>	4 <u>                    </u>

x See continuation sheet.

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

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

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Darrell E. Cook, Architectural Historian/Helen P. Ross/DHR Staff

organization Virginia Department of Transportation date January 22, 2009

street & number 1700 North Main Street telephone (757) 925-1598

city or town Suffolk state VA zip code 23434

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

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

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

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**Property Owner**

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

name various

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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**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. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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**Historic Function (cont.)**

- FUNERARY            cemetery
- AGRICULTURE        agricultural field
- agricultural outbuilding
- EXTRACTION        extractive facility
- LANDSCAPE         natural feature
- object

**Current Function (cont.)**

- RECREATION AND CULTURE    auditorium
- outdoor recreation
- marker
- AGRICULTURE                processing, storage
- agricultural field
- animal facility
- horticultural facility
- agricultural outbuilding
- LANDSCAPE                 parking lot
- park
- natural feature
- object
- TRANSPORTATION            pedestrian-related

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**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

The Floris Historic District is located west of Washington D.C., about one mile east of Dulles International Airport, in the highly suburbanized western portion of Fairfax County, Virginia. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources includes Fairfax County in its Northern Virginia cultural region.<sup>1</sup> The tight-knit village, roughly bounded by Centreville Road (Route 657), West Ox Road (Route 608), Monroe Street (Route 666), and the Frying Pan Branch, remains as a vestige of agricultural life from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries. Suburban-style development has encroached upon the district on all sides, but the most salient features remaining within the district convey the feeling of a small dairying community. Floris is represented by man-made resources such as schools, churches, farmhouses, and agricultural buildings, and the last working farm in Fairfax County, Frying Pan Farm Park, which includes agrarian buildings as well as other complementary elements such as woods, plowed fields, pastures, green spaces, and Frying Pan Branch.

The district's topography is consistent with Virginia's Piedmont, with generally slight variances in elevation at 300 to 400 feet above sea level.<sup>2</sup> The open pasture and crop fields within Frying Pan Farm Park are mostly flat. Deciduous hardwood trees buffer the district on its north side from the recently extended Frying Pan Road and recent residential development. A row of trees lining a vehicular path at the park's northeastern corner blocks the park's view of some recent residential development. This area also contains a large stormwater detention area that is used by the park for interpretation of some wildlife and natural plant and insect species. Frying Pan Branch, which winds along the northern part of the district, north of Frying Pan Meetinghouse, has played a part in the history of Floris, from use in church baptisms to rock quarrying. A small waterfall in the Frying Pan Branch on the north side of the park marks a rock outcropping where quarrying occurred in the woods. A natural rock outcropping occurs on land behind the activity center building in the equestrian area of the park.

Spatially, the district consists of a rural village centered at the intersection of Centreville Road and West Ox Road in the southwestern portion of the district, the Frying Pan Meetinghouse property in the northwestern part of the district, and two distinct farms on its eastern side, forming a large portion of the land area within the district. The village area features low-density development on variable-sized lots. Frying Pan Meetinghouse sits in a discrete area, apart from the other portions of the district. The two extant farmsteads, which have been incorporated into Frying Pan Farm Park, are spaced as late-nineteenth-century and early-twentieth-century farms would have been, with buildings and structures centered near the farmhouse and pasture and crop fields located beyond this domestic area. Today, these farms also contain elements of the park for recreation and interpretation of period farms. Floris Historic District includes 10 main contributing resources, including the site of the Lee Farm. The Lee Farm was located just south of the Frying Pan Meetinghouse and is now incorporated into one of the park's trails. The non-contributing Cherok House site is located within the district at the northeastern corner of Centreville Road and West Ox Road. Bowman's Store was located on the west side of Centreville Road, across the street from the district, but was torn down in 2008 for a road expansion project. The locations of Bowman's Store and the Cherok House are vacant and a portion of each is being utilized in the expansion of Centreville Road. Eleven main resources are included in the Floris Historic District, and six of those are located within Frying Pan Farm Park, while five are located adjacent to the park. Ten of the eleven main resources are contributing to the historic district; Cherok House Site is the only non-contributing property.

The Lee Farm, included in Frying Pan Farm Park, was located just south of the Frying Pan Meetinghouse and is now incorporated into one of the park's trails. Most of the main resources also have additional contributing and non-

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contributing components that are associated with them. The non-contributing Cherok House site is located within the district at the northeastern corner of Centreville Road and West Ox Road. Bowman’s Store was located on the west side of Centreville Road, across the street from the district, but was torn down in 2008 for a road expansion project. The locations of Bowman’s Store and the Cherok House are vacant and a portion of each is being utilized in the expansion of Centreville Road.

The earliest contributing resource within the district, the Frying Pan Meetinghouse, was constructed circa 1785 and reflects the beliefs of its congregation through simple late-eighteenth-century architecture. Other main contributing resources within the district range in age from the last decade of the nineteenth century to the first two decades of the twentieth century. Architectural styles tend to be subdued, vernacular examples without high-style influences. The use of stone and concrete for foundations of contributing buildings and structures is almost universal. Some residential Colonial Revival-style details and forms are evident. Residential buildings generally include the use of two-story construction, gable roofs, overhanging eaves, exterior and interior brick chimneys, mostly two-over-two sash, wood windows, and various types of porches. All dwellings have had either additions or noticeable alterations, and most have both. Stylistic details are more evident on public buildings within the district. The Floris School and the Floris Vocational Technical High School Shop exhibit features of the Colonial Revival style. The Floris Methodist Church features a simple plan with Gothic Revival-style windows and later Colonial Revival-style elements.

The district retains essential features that it possessed at the time it achieved significance. Aerial photographs and other sources show that Floris consisted of a village centered at the junction of Centreville Road and West Ox Road with farms surrounding the village area.<sup>3</sup> Over time, specific road patterns have changed; however, the basic placement and composition of the village center remains much as it did during Floris’s time of significance. The district has lost some resources since its period of significance, changes have been made to the extant resources, and the creation of Frying Pan Farm Park has added non-contributing resources, but Floris Historic District maintains key elements of its late- nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century farming community, which stands in stark contrast to the recent suburban development which envelops the area.

**Inventory**

In the following inventory, which is listed numerically by Virginia Department of Historic Resources architectural inventory numbers, all resources, primary and secondary, have been considered either contributing or non-contributing based upon the areas of significance as listed under Criterion C with ARCHITECTURE and Criterion A with AGRICULTURE and based upon the period of significance as circa 1785 – 1960. All non-contributing resources have, therefore, been so noted for being either constructed after 1960 or as having no integrity left to represent the period and areas of significance. The resources are keyed by the listed numbers to the accompanying sketch map.

A large portion of the district’s land area is contained within, what is today, Frying Pan Farm Park. The park, operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority, began in 1960 with the acquisition of 4.5 acres. Additional resources and land have been added throughout the years. The park’s mission is to preserve and interpret a 1920s through 1950s farm, agricultural processes, rural community life, and landscape.<sup>4</sup> The park consists of the Kidwell and Ellmore farmsteads, equestrian facilities, agricultural fair facilities, two early-twentieth-century schools, the Lee Farm site, and the eighteenth-century Frying Pan Meetinghouse. The historical resources within the Frying Pan Farm Park are associated with the individual farms and other properties within the park based on the property lines circa 1930s when dairying farming was at its height in Fairfax County. The park features elements of a traditional park, such as benches, trash

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cans, restrooms, pole lights, pedestrian paths, and information kiosks, which slightly inflate the number of non-contributing resources, though these do not detract from the district’s overall historic appearance. The park currently has within its boundaries 34 contributing resources.

Other resources within the district are located adjacent to the park, centered at the intersection of Centreville Road and West Ox Road, and represent late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century village life in Floris. Additional contributing resources to the district include three houses (the Stover House, the Fox House, and the Higgins House) and the Floris Methodist Church. The Cheroke House (Cockerill-McFarland House) site is located within the district, but is considered non-contributing. Bowman’s Store (029-0262), located at 2628 Centreville Road, was a key part of community life during the district’s period of significance. Built in 1893 according to land tax records, the wood frame, two-story, Italianate-style house faced north. An addition was added at its rear in 1901 and a storefront addition faced Centreville Road. The building was demolished in 2008 for a road expansion project and the resource was excluded from inclusion in the district.

Floris Historic District is made up of the following main resources:

**Frying Pan Farm Park**

- 1) Ellmore Farm (029-5179-0001; 029-0270)
- 2) Kidwell Farm (029-5179-0002; 029-0268)
- 3) Floris Vocational Technical High School Shop (029-5179-0004; 029-0274)
- 4) Floris School (029-5179-0005; 029-0204)
- 5) Lee Farm Site (029-5179-0011; 44FX0862)
- 6) Frying Pan Meetinghouse (029-5179-0012; 029-0015)

**Adjacent Properties to the Frying Pan Farm Park**

- 7) Higgins House (029-5179-0006; 029-0267)
- 8) Fox House (029-5179-0007; 029-0420)
- 9) Cheroke House/Cockerill-McFarland House Site (029-5179-0008; 029-0419)
- 10) Floris Methodist Church (029-5179-0009; 029-0263)
- 11) Stover House (029-5179-0010; 029-0264)

**FRYING PAN FARM PARK**

**Ellmore Farm (029-0270; 029-5179-0001)**

**2739 West Ox Road**

1. The *Ellmore Farmhouse* is a wood frame, two-story, side-gabled I-house sheathed in aluminum siding.<sup>5</sup> The rear of the main block features three two-story additions: a rear gabled ell, a shed-roofed infill addition, and a full-width, flat-roofed rear addition. An open shed-roofed porch that may have been screened at one time extends at the rear of the house. An enclosed staircase on the northwest side of the house was added in the twentieth century. The building rests on a solid, concrete-covered foundation and is topped by a recent standing-seam metal roof with overhanging eaves,

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aluminum soffit, fascia, and shutters. Two-over-two double-hung sash wood windows, light most of the house, however, paired and three-part six-over-six double-hung sash windows light the rear of the addition. An interior brick chimney rises on the rear ell and an exterior brick chimney rises on the southeast elevation of the main block. A post-1954 replacement front porch features Colonial Revival-style detailing.

c.1896

(Contributing building)

2. The **Ellmore barn** has been used as the park's visitor center since c.2005 and was previously converted from a barn into use as a church building in 1989 by the Chantilly Bible Church.<sup>6</sup> These functional changes have resulted in additions and alterations to the original barn. The barn once consisted of a gabled main block with shed extensions on its north and east elevations. Today, additional extensions appear at the rear (north elevation) of the building with noticeable one-story additions on the front and west elevations to accommodate the visitor center. However, the window fenestration, sheathing materials, and paint color mimic the original main block. The wood frame building is sheathed in board-and-batten siding and topped by a standing-seam-metal roof. A second-story door in the front gable was converted into a large, four-part, circular window. A hay hood extension of the front gable remains. The interior of the main gabled block is used as an auditorium today, and consists of open space with exposed support members.

c.1900

(Contributing building)

3. **Bathrooms**, constructed for park visitors, sit near the Ellmore Barn. The gable-roofed concrete building mimics the appearance of vertical wood siding.

2008

(Non-contributing building)

4. A recently constructed **picnic pavilion** has a steel-beam support structure.

2008

(Non-contributing structure)

5. **Pasture and crop fields**, located between the Ellmore and Kidwell farms, significantly contribute to the significance and eligibility of the district. The ordered agricultural space and field patterns that remain intact continue to be farmed and stand in sharp contrast to the highly developed land surrounding Florin.

(Contributing site)

6. A wood frame **pig run-in**, surrounded by a fenced area, is wood-sided and topped by a 5V-metal roof.

2003

(Non-contributing structure)

7. A small, wood frame **outbuilding**, located between the pig furrowing pen and the pig run-in and used as a pig nursery, features a front-gabled metal roof and is sheathed in board-and-batten wood siding.

2002

(Non-contributing structure)

8. A frame **run-in shed**, located behind the property between the Ellmore and Kidwell farms, features a metal shed roof.

1998

(Non-contributing structure)

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**Kidwell Farm (029-0268; 029-5179-0002)**  
**2709 West Ox Road**

9. The *Kidwell Farmhouse* consists of a side-gabled, two-story main block with a center gable front extension and a rear ell.<sup>7</sup> A one-story shed-roofed addition attached to the rear of the house features a modern handicapped-accessible ramp. A wrap-around porch is located on the front elevation and one side elevation and features turned posts and brackets. Two central brick chimneys rise through the recent standing-seam metal roof. The frame, wood-sided house rests on a solid stone foundation. Wood, two-over-two double-hung sash windows light the house. Recent renovations removed stucco covering to reveal the original wood siding. A bathroom added c.1950 in the front porch area was also removed.

*c.1900*  
(Contributing building)

10. A *workshop* with a park office on its east side is located behind the Kidwell Farmhouse. The wood-sided, side-gabled building features a rear, shed-roofed extension sheathed in board-and-batten siding. Aluminum soffit and fascia covers the overhanging eaves of the workshop's 5V-metal roof. The front elevation has two double-leaf garage doors on the west side and an office door opens on the east side.

*pre-1937*  
(Contributing building)

11. A front-gabled frame *shed* located behind the dwelling is sheathed in wood siding with fish-scale wood shingles that match the house's front gable. The building is covered by a metal roof.

*c.1900*  
(Contributing building)

12. A *stone retaining wall* runs along West Ox Road at the front of the house and wraps around and into the driveway.

*pre-1937*  
(Contributing structure)

13. A similar *stone wall* encloses a flower bed behind the house.

*pre-1937*  
(Contributing structure)

14. A recently built *cider press barn* stands near the blacksmith shop and houses a c.1928 cider press brought from another property outside of Floriss. It is meant to represent a significant component of Fairfax County's agricultural production within the district's period of significance. The frame side-gabled, two-story barn, sheathed in board-and-batten wood siding, is topped by a new metal roof. Large sliding wood doors open to exhibit the press.

*2006*  
(Non-contributing building)

15. The *Kidwell Barn* is a reconstructed two-and-one-half-story barn sheathed in board-and-batten wood siding and topped by a gambrel roof. A large gable-roofed section is attached on the rear elevation.

*1975*  
(Non-contributing building)

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16. The *Middleton Barn*, moved from another site in Florin, was originally attached to a bank barn. The two-and-a-half-story, side-gabled building is topped by a metal roof. Sheathed in wood siding, the building also features large, wood, sliding doors.

2002

(*Non-contributing building*)

17. A large *information kiosk* near the Middleton Barn has a wood floor with wood posts and is topped by a pyramidal roof.

c.1997

(*Non-contributing structure*)

18. A large, wood frame, modern *machine shed*, built near the Middleton Barn to house the park farm's equipment, features board-and-batten wood siding and large sliding doors.

2006

(*Non-contributing building*)

19. A reconstructed *corn crib* is located next to the machine shed. The structure, made of wood and chicken wire, rests on a concrete pier foundation and is topped by a 5V-metal roof. The corn crib was made to resemble a nineteenth-century corn crib found on the neighboring Middleton Farm.

1987, 2003

(*Non-contributing structure*)

20. A wood frame *outhouse*, moved in 1997 from the Middleton farm, and sheathed in board-and-batten siding, features a shed roof topped with wood shingles. A single-leaf board-and-batten door opens on the front elevation.

(*Non-contributing building*)

21. A reconstructed wood frame *dairy* sits between a smokehouse and a shed. Based on a 1920s-era building, the side-gabled dairy, topped by a metal roof and sheathed in wood siding, sits on a concrete foundation. A large, exterior, brick chimney rises on the rear elevation. Two- and three-light vertical wood windows light the building.

1920s, 1997

(*Non-contributing building*)

22. A wood frame *smokehouse*, moved from the Murphy dairy farm off Frying Pan Road in 1987, sits east of the dairy. The side-gabled structure is sheathed in board-and-batten siding and topped with a metal roof.

1987

(*Non-contributing building*)

23. A wood frame side-gabled *shed*, sheathed in wood siding, is topped by a 5V-metal roof and features a center-gabled porch.

2003

(*Non-contributing building*)

24. A wood frame animal *run-in* sheathed in board-and-batten wood siding is topped by a 5V-metal roof.

c.1993

(*Non-contributing structure*)

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25. A wood frame, shed-roofed *rabbit hutch*, sheathed in T-111 wood siding, is topped with asphalt shingles.

2008

(*Non-contributing structure*)

26. A wood frame *chicken house* is sheathed in T-111 wood siding, wood boards, and chicken wire and topped by a 5V-metal roof.

c.2001

(*Non-contributing structure*)

27. A reconstructed wood frame *chicken house*, constructed with a partial tall ceiling to allow caretakers easier access, features an exterior penned area for chickens, board-and-batten siding, and nine-light casement windows.

c.2001

(*Non-contributing structure*)

28. A wood-framed animal *run-in*, sheathed in board-and-batten wood siding, is topped by a shed roof.

1996

(*Non-contributing structure*)

29. *Turkey/duck/peacock pens* made of wood posts and boards with wire have small shed-roofed shelters within.

1998

(*Non-contributing structure*)

30. The *antique machine shed* was constructed for the park from plans dating to the historic district's period of significance to house antique machinery. The wood frame shed-roofed building is open on one side and features an enclosed center gable section. The structure is sheathed in board-and-batten wood siding and topped by a 5V-metal roof.

1997

(*Non-contributing building*)

31. A *pig furrowing pen* sits next to the antique machine shed. The small, wood frame, metal-sheathed structure is topped by a metal roof.

2001

(*Non-contributing structure*)

32. A *cell tower* rises in the woods near the upper riding ring. The non-conspicuous tower consists solely of a straight metal pole.

c.2000

(*Non-contributing structure*)

33. The *activity center* is a large gabled building with shed-roofed extensions on its sides and large dormer-like features on its roof. The building is metal-sided and roofed and rests on a concrete-block foundation. The interior consists of a large animal show area and offices along the sides. A gravel warm-up ring is located on the exterior's west elevation.

1979

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*(Non-contributing building)*

34. The *upper riding ring* is enclosed with a two-board, wood fence and features two bleachers and one booth.  
1976

*(Non-contributing structure)*

35. Wood *bee hives* are located near the activity center.  
1999

*(Non-contributing structure)*

36 & 37. Two gable-roofed, wood frame, *prefabricated sheds* are topped with asphalt shingles and sheathed in T-111, wood siding.  
c.2000

*(Two non-contributing buildings)*

38. An *equestrian course* consisting of jumps made from natural features, stone, and wood is located on land associated with the Kidwell and Ellmore Farms.  
post-1974

*(Non-contributing structure)*

39. A *blacksmith shop* (029-0275; 029-5179-0003), Frying Pan Blacksmith Shop/Moffett Blacksmith Shop, built in 1912, was moved to the park in 1975 from the nearby town of Herndon and reassembled. The frame, wood-sided, side-gabled building, topped by a corrugated metal roof, features an interior brick chimney. Six-over-six, double-hung sash, wood windows light the building and double-leaf sliding doors with six-light windows in each open on the front elevation.  
1912

*(Non-contributing building)*

**Floris Vocational Technical High School Shop (029-0274; 029-5179-0004)  
2709 West Ox Road**

40. Currently used as Frying Pan Farm Park's Country Store, the *Floris Vocational Technical High School Shop*, was constructed in 1920, at about the same time as the high school itself (no longer extant). The frame, hipped-roof building, clad in drop wood siding, sits north of the Floris School. A cupola and a brick chimney rise through the recent standing-seam metal roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. Sliding doors face West Ox Road and Kidwell Farm. A wood-paneled pedestrian door faces West Ox Road. Replacement paired wood windows with vinyl screen windows light the building. A porch that wraps around from the front elevation to a side elevation was added in the school's conversion to a store in 1961. Although the conversion to a store was done in recent years, the building's appearance continues to document its linkage to education.  
1920

*(Contributing building)*

**Floris School (029-0204; 029-5179-0005)**

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2709 West Ox Road

41. The one-story *Florin School*, constructed in the Colonial Revival style, has a hipped roof with overhanging eaves and rests on a solid, poured-concrete foundation. Two, wide, brick, interior chimneys and a pyramid-roofed cupola rise through an asphalt-shingled roof. The stretcher-bond brick building's symmetrical front elevation features a tall concrete watertable and a concrete area near the roofline. A center, double-leaf front door with a large transom is flanked by two series of three nine-over-nine, double-hung sash windows. A large arch capped by a keystone dated 1911 and multi-light windows top the door. The interior of the building retains its basic room plan and its doorways have original transoms.

1911  
(Contributing building)

42. Gable-roofed *bathrooms*, located near the Florin School, are constructed of concrete with a brick exterior.

1961, 2008  
(Non-contributing building)

43. The large *4-H building*, built to commemorate the Fairfax County 4-H Fair held on site since 1948, is a corrugated metal building with a large front-gabled center with lower side sections. The interior is divided into stalls and has a concrete floor.

c.1960  
(Contributing building)

44. A *storage box* for items related to dog shows sits near the lower riding ring.

c.1998  
(Non-contributing structure)

45. The *lower riding ring* is an oval, gravel area surrounded by a low, two-board wood fence. The ring is also surrounded by light poles, booths, and bleachers.

1976  
(Non-contributing structure)

46. A *shed*, located behind the 4-H building, is frame and covered in T-111 wood siding with a shed roof.

c.1994  
(Non-contributing building)

47. A *stone retaining wall* is found in front of the Florin School along West Ox Road.

c.1910  
(Contributing structure)

48 & 49. Two *prefabricated wood frame sheds*, located in a play area beside the school, are gable-roofed and sheathed in T-111 wood siding.

c.2000  
(Two non-contributing buildings)

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**Lee Farm Site (029-5179-0011; 44FX0862)  
2621 Centreville Road  
(within Frying Pan Farm Park)**

50. Located on the east side of Centreville Road, the site features no extant buildings or structures. An open area at the edge of the woods features domestic vegetation that seems to mark the former location of the farm. This site is the former location of the Lee Farm. The house was apparently torn down in the early 1980s. Historically associated with the African American Lee family, the house and its dependencies are no longer extant. The site, however, is still evidenced by a cleared area and domestic vegetation. A park entrance off Centreville Road is located here.

*pre-1900  
(Contributing site)*

51. A wood frame, *prefabricated gambrel-roofed shed*, located behind the 4-H building, is sheathed in T-111 wood siding and topped by an asphalt-shingled roof.

*1998  
(Non-contributing building)*

52. A *diesel tank shelter* sits behind the 4-H building. The structure consists of a gable roof supported by wood posts on a concrete base.

*c.1990  
(Non-contributing structure)*

**Frying Pan Meetinghouse (029-0015; 029-5179-0012)  
2615 Centreville Road**

53. Deeded to the Fairfax County Park Authority in 1984 and located within Frying Pan Farm Park, the individually National Register-listed *Frying Pan Meetinghouse* is also named Frying Pan Old School Baptist Church, and Frying Pan Spring Meetinghouse. Built between 1783 and 1791, the meetinghouse stands on its original site, with its cemetery,

a spring and a baptismal pond on Frying Pan Branch, at least three original stone boundary markers, and a twentieth-century outhouse. With the exception of a nineteenth-century interior balcony and stairs and a recent restoration, the

meetinghouse has not seen any major changes to its materials or design. The building's plain style matches the beliefs of

the Baptist congregation who constructed it. The rectangular Frying Pan Meetinghouse consists of a one-room, one-and-a-half-story, post-and-beam building with an exterior sheathed in lapped pine clapboards painted white. A wood-framed, side-gabled roof, which is flush on the gable ends and overhangs slightly on the front and rear elevations, is covered with wood shingles. The building rests on a stone foundation. The front elevation features a centered six-over-six double-hung sash window flanked by two doors and two, replacement, symmetrical, four-light windows on the second story. Additional windows and doors appear on the other elevations. An interior brick chimney located at the middle edge of the front elevation is a replacement. Some of the building's features, such as windows and sheathing

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materials, were replaced in-kind during the aggressive restoration effort in 2005. Other renovations are documented throughout the life of the building.

c.1785

*(Contributing building to Frying Pan Meeting House National Register nomination)*

54. A **cemetery**<sup>8</sup> adjoins the meetinghouse on its east side, with the exception of the graves of two Hutchisons, a husband and wife, located south of the church near the property boundary. The cemetery has an unordered appearance and contains a mixture of marked and unmarked graves. The cemetery site topography is relatively level near the church and descends a gentle slope eastward before rising again in elevation. Most of the gravestones are small fieldstone markers and comprise both head and footstones. Graves located on the downward slope are marked with roughly shaped stones and rocks. The portion of the cemetery near the meetinghouse is now well tended, but this has not always been the case. The level of craftsmanship ranges from initials scratched into fieldstone to professionally carved mortuary art. The initials CFI were carved on the headstone of an unidentified individual whose grave is located

beyond the downward slope. In contrast, neatly carved on the top of the granite headstone for Samuel W. Hutchison is the word "FATHER." Carved on the face of the stone at the top is a mortuary art pattern of leaves on branches with flowers. Within the center of the art is a banner with the words "PEACE BE THINE." Following historic Christian burial practices, the burial chambers in the Frying Pan Baptist Meetinghouse cemetery orient along an east-west axis. The headstones are situated towards the west, and footstones, if they exist, are situated towards the east. Also following historic Christian burial practices, the wife is buried to the left of her husband. African American graves, segregated from others, are located in the southeast corner of the original lot. This area, situated outside the current Frying Pan Baptist Meetinghouse parcel boundary as delineated on the Fairfax County tax maps, is located on the adjacent parcel also owned by the Fairfax County Park Authority. The African American burial area is currently overgrown with an understory of briars and groundcover. Several possible grave markers were identified that appear to be made of cementitious material poured into a hole. Evidence to suggest when the church began using a portion of the churchyard for burials is sparse. While many of the carvings on the gravestones have worn away, or were possibly never engraved, the earliest legible date of death is May 20, 1884 on the marker of Samuel F. Ellmore. It has been noted that Mortimer Lane, a Private in Company B of Mosby's Rangers, was buried in the cemetery in an unmarked grave. Mortimer died in 1910. The most recent date of death that can be discerned on a gravestone is November 2, 1938 on the marker for Mary Alice Hutchison. Perhaps burials were discontinued in the cemetery.

c.1884

*(Contributing site to Frying Pan Meeting House National Register nomination)*

55. A manmade **baptismal pond** is denoted by a depression in the woods behind the church, near Frying Pan Run.

c.1797

*(Contributing site to the Frying Pan Meeting House National Register nomination)*

56. Three boundary markers denoting the edges of the original meetinghouse lot appear near the church. A **small stone** with recent fencing is located near Centreville Road.

c.1847

*(Contributing object)*

57. The second marker, a very **large rock**, is located in the woods not far from the baptismal pond.

c.1797

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(Contributing object)

58. An **outhouse** is located behind the meetinghouse and cemetery within thick woods. The simple, concrete-block building is topped by a corrugated metal, shed roof. A matching outhouse nearby was torn down.

*c.1960*  
(Contributing building)

59. A **spring**, located north of the meetinghouse, is lined with dry-laid local fieldstone in an oval shape.

*c.1785*  
(Contributing structure)

60. The third marker, a **pile of stones**, marks the southeastern corner.

*c.1797*  
(Contributing object to the Frying Pan Meeting House National Register nomination)

**Additional Resources Within Frying Pan Farm Park Boundaries**

61. A **farm pond** was restored by the park and now sits in the woods at the rear between the Ellmore and Kidwell Farms.

*c.1935*  
(Contributing structure)

62. A **rock outcropping** along Frying Pan Branch at the rear of the park denotes the site of rock quarrying.

*c.1937*  
(Contributing site)

**ADJACENT PROPERTIES TO THE FRYING PAN FARM PARK**

**Higgins House (029-0267; 029-5179-0006)  
2705 West Ox Road**

63. The **Higgins House** is a wood frame, side-gabled dwelling sheathed in asbestos shingles and resting on a stone foundation with a stucco covering. A standing-seam metal roof with overhanging eaves covers the symmetrical, two-story house. A cornice board adorns the front elevation and raking cornice boards on the side elevations feature partial returns. Decorative boards adorn the corners of the main block. Two-over-two, wood, double-hung sash windows light the first floor and six-over-six windows light the second story. The one-story front porch is not original and is in severely deteriorating condition. The front door is wood-paneled and features one large light. A long shed-roofed addition is attached at the rear of the dwelling.

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c.1905  
(Contributing building)

64. A concrete-block *pump house* sits behind the dwelling. The front-gabled structure features wood siding in the gables, a board-and-batten front door, and is topped by a 5V-metal roof.

c.1950  
(Contributing structure)

65. Located behind the dwelling on the east side of the driveway, a deteriorating wood frame *outbuilding* features a metal shed roof and is sheathed in board-and-batten siding.

post-1905  
(Contributing building)

66. Behind the dwelling and other outbuildings are two horse barns and a pasture. One *barn* is a small, wood frame, side-gabled building with one-and-one-half stories that rests on a solid stone foundation.

c.1905  
(Contributing building)

67. The second *barn* is a long, modern, side-gabled building with multiple horse stalls.

c.1975  
(Non-contributing building)

68. Located behind the dwelling on the west side of the driveway, a frame *horse shelter* is topped by asphalt shingles.

c.1975  
(Non-contributing structure)

**Fox House (029-0420; 029-5179-0007)**  
**2703 West Ox Road**

69. The *Fox House*, a Colonial Revival-style, two-story, side-gabled dwelling, faces Centreville Road. Almost symmetrical, the front elevation features a center door flanked by two windows with three second-floor windows. Stone steps lead to a front porch supported by battered wood posts with an arched ceiling sheltering the front door. The wood frame building, sheathed in aluminum siding, rests on a solid, stone foundation. The roof of the main block is covered in 5V metal and features overhanging eaves. Two-over-two, double-hung sash windows with wood surrounds light the house. The south gable end of the house facing West Ox Road includes an enclosed stone porch with multi-light wood windows and an exterior flower bed. A two-story, shed-roofed addition extends to the rear, and a one-story addition is attached on the north elevation of the rear addition.

c.1900  
(Contributing building)

70. A *stone retaining wall* parallels West Ox Road.

c.1900  
(Contributing structure)

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71. A one-story, wood frame, side-gabled **outbuilding** with a corrugated metal roof and asbestos shingle siding sits north of the dwelling and rests on a solid, stone foundation. The building features two-over-two and four-over-four wood windows with wood surrounds and a paneled-wood front door.

*Post-1900*

*(Contributing building)*

72. A one-story, wood frame, front-gabled **garage** sits along West Ox Road east of the dwelling. Topped by a corrugated metal roof with exposed rafter tails, asbestos shingles cover the exterior. A gable opening appears on the rear elevation and beaded-board, double-leaf doors open on the front elevation.

*Post-1900*

*(Contributing building)*

73. A gable-roofed **well house** sits west of the dwelling. The structure features a stone base, wood posts, a concrete floor, and an asphalt-shingled roof.

*Post-1900*

*(Contributing structure)*

74. An **ornamental well house** sits along West Ox Road and features an octagonal wood frame and a wood-shingled gable roof.

*c.2000*

*(Non-contributing structure)*

**Cherok House/Cockerill-McFarland House Site (029-0419; 029-5179-0008)  
2633 Centreville Road**

75. The Cherok House, described in an architectural survey as a Victorian-style, front-gabled house with several additions, is no longer extant. The site included at least one outbuilding. Currently the site is vacant and a portion of the lot was utilized in the expansion of Centreville Road.

*c.1905*

*(Non-contributing site)*

**Floris Methodist Church (029-0263; 029-5179-0009)  
2629 Centreville Road**

76. The **Floris Methodist Church**, constructed in 1895, features several later additions and alterations at its front and rear elevations. The original wood frame block is front-gabled with an added front, centered tower and steeple. Sheathed in beveled-wood, clapboard siding, the building rests on a solid, stone rubble foundation. A standing-seam-metal roof with exposed rafter tails covers the church. Gothic windows with pink textured glass light the main block and

Colonial Revival-style detailing adorns the entrance area. An interior, brick chimney rises through the roof on the main block. The first addition at the rear features the same wood siding found on the main block and two-over-two wood windows light the section. A large rear addition features vinyl siding, vinyl windows, and two-over-two, horizontal wood windows. Multiple shed-roofed additions and a screened patio area extend to the rear. A large asphalt parking lot

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abuts the church on its south elevation, and children's play areas are located south of the church at the edge of the parking lot.

1895  
(Contributing building)

**Stover House (029-0264;029-5179-0010)**  
**2625 Centreville Road**

77. The two-story, wood frame *Stover House*, located north of the Methodist church, features a main block with two sections: a front-gabled roof on the north side and a side-gabled roof on the south side. A two-story front porch supported by simple wood posts extends the length of the front façade and the rear elevation includes a one-story, shed-roofed, enclosed porch. Standing-seam metal covers the roof and the frame house is sheathed in aluminum siding. The symmetrical side-gabled section of the front elevation features a center door with Colonial Revival-style detailing flanked by two, two-over-two windows. The second story features three, six-over-six casement windows that simulate a frieze band. Vinyl shutters adorn all windows on the first-floor front and side elevations of the main block. The front-gabled section of the front elevation features two, first-floor, two-over-two windows and a second-story window that has been bisected by the porch roofline. A corbelled brick chimney rises on the interior between the two sections of the main block, and an exterior corbelled brick chimney rises at the rear of the side-gabled section through the rear porch.

c.1895  
(Contributing building)

78. A wood frame, front-gabled *garage*, located beside the neighboring church, is sheathed in wood siding and topped by a standing-seam metal roof with overhanging eaves. A double-leaf, metal garage door opens on the front elevation and the building rests on a concrete floor.

c.1950  
(Contributing building)

79. A wood frame, front-gabled *shed* clad in wood siding is located slightly north of the garage. The building may have had a domestic use, as evidenced by a corbelled, interior, brick chimney that rises through the standing seam-metal roof with exposed rafter tails. Six-light windows light the building and a paneled door opens on the front elevation.

c.1930  
(Contributing building)

80. A wood frame, shed-roofed *shed* is located behind the dwelling in a fenced area. Topped by a standing seam-metal roof, the building features exposed rafter tails and vertical wood siding.

c.1930  
(Contributing building)

81. A frame, shed-roofed *outbuilding*, located within the fenced area appears to have been an outhouse.

c.1975  
(Contributing building)

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82-87. Approximately six *shed-roofed structures* function as horse stalls within the fenced area behind the dwelling. The frame structures appear to have been built at various times with slightly different materials. A small grazing area lies behind the stalls.

*c.1975*

*(Six non-contributing structures)*

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Floris Historic District, located in western Fairfax County, Virginia, is locally significant and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of agriculture for its representation of the development of a community based on dairy farming production in Northern Virginia from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries.<sup>9</sup> The rise of dairy farming in Virginia, and Fairfax County in particular, continues to be represented by the development patterns and architecture of Floris as the center of a vibrant dairying community. The district is also recommended eligible for listing under Criterion C for its architectural significance and features styles consistent with its period of significance, including Early Republic/Vernacular, Gothic Revival, Colonial Revival, and other vernacular forms from the late eighteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries. The district's period of significance spans from circa 1785, the construction date of the earliest building, the Frying Pan Meetinghouse, through the development of the dominant dairy farming industry and construction of Floris as a cohesive village, to circa 1960 with the creation of Frying Pan Farm Park, clearly marking the downturn in Fairfax County dairying.

**DETAILED HISTORY**

**Floris/Frying Pan**

European settlement of the Floris community, known originally as Frying Pan, began in the early eighteenth century, with large numbers of settlers arriving by the 1780s.<sup>10</sup> The Frying Pan vicinity, placed in Loudoun County with the drawing of its eastern boundary line in 1757, did not become a part of Fairfax County until 1798, when the line was redrawn to its present configuration.<sup>11</sup> Throughout the 1700s, the land now comprising Floris was owned by multiple generations of the Carter family, an extremely influential and wealthy early Virginia dynasty, with land holdings that stretched well beyond Frying Pan.<sup>12</sup> In the early years, the Carters rented their holdings at Frying Pan to tenant farmers for tobacco production and, for a short time, operated a copper mine.<sup>13</sup> As early as 1783, Robert Carter set aside land for a group of Baptists to construct a meetinghouse.<sup>14</sup> Built between 1783 and 1791, this individually listed National Register property stands at 2615 Centreville Road and is a contributing resource to the historic district (029-5179-0012, photograph 1). Today, the property includes its cemetery, a spring and the site of a baptismal pond on Frying Pan Branch, at least three original stone boundary markers, and a twentieth-century outhouse. From the group's inception, the congregation welcomed African Americans, both free and slave, and the church's cemetery includes the unmarked burials of African-American members in a separate area.<sup>15</sup>

Soon after construction of the meetinghouse, diarist John Davis wrote an account of Frying Pan, which he described as "four log huts and a meetinghouse."<sup>16</sup> With the exception of the meetinghouse property, no extant resources within the district represent the period between the late eighteenth century and the late nineteenth century. This may be illustrative of the fact that the region experienced a downturn as prominent land developers, such as the Carter family, passed away, the soil became depleted from overuse, and farmers moved south and west to new lands.<sup>17</sup> The *Frying Pan Farm Park Cultural Landscape Report* explains the Frying Pan region in the nineteenth century as growth began anew:

In the 1840s, immigrants from the North began to move into Virginia and bought up the fallow land, using white laborers to farm it. Gradually, the area began to recover, with former subsistence-level agricultural practices shifting to a more diversified and commerce-based economy. The establishment of improved

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transportation systems, including better roads and new railroad lines, spurred growth in the area during this period.<sup>18</sup>

The 1878 G.M. Hopkins map provides a snapshot of Frying Pan after the interruption of the Civil War, but just prior to its development as a major dairying center.<sup>19</sup> The road network is recognizable in much the same configuration as it is today, with West Ox Road, Centreville Road, and Monroe Street essentially forming the south, west, and east lines of the district. Within the district, only a schoolhouse, the Andrew Lee House (029-5179-0011), and the Frying Pan Meetinghouse are depicted, and of these resources only the meetinghouse remains today. The school, one in a series of buildings erected for the education of the community's white children, was most likely a one-room building constructed in 1876.<sup>20</sup> The Andrew Lee House and the later Stover/Edward Lee House (029-5179-0010, photograph 15) represent the African American presence in the farming community.<sup>21</sup> Intermixed African-American communities had also developed during the pre-Civil War period, just north and south of Frying Pan.<sup>22</sup>

The Frying Pan post office was established in 1889.<sup>23</sup> By this time, Frying Pan had become a rural vacation destination for residents of Washington, D.C. Some attribute a c.1892 change in the village's name from Frying Pan to Floris to the dissatisfaction of visitors with the settlement's original name.<sup>24</sup>

Reconstruction period legislation led to the development of separate schools for white and black children in the Floris community.<sup>25</sup> A white school was constructed on West Ox Road in 1876 and a black school was built at the corner of Centreville Road and Frying Pan Road in 1878. A two-room school replaced the one-room white school in 1900 and that was replaced in 1911 with the extant four-room, brick building (029-5179-0005, photograph 11).<sup>26</sup> The Floris School stands as a well-preserved example of early-twentieth-century, Colonial Revival-style school architecture and continues to support educational and community functions as a part of Frying Pan Farm Park. The school originally housed elementary classes and two years of high school.<sup>27</sup> The three-story Floris Vocational Technical High School for white students opened next to the 1911 Floris School in 1920 and consisted of "eight classrooms, an auditorium, a small gymnasium, a kitchen, and restrooms."<sup>28</sup> Consolidation of area high schools to nearby Herndon occurred in 1930, and with the students' removal, the three-story school elementary school, and the one-story building was used for storage.<sup>29</sup> The Fairfax County Park Authority tore down the 1920 high school building in the 1960s for development of Frying Pan Park.<sup>30</sup> At about the same time as the construction of the high school building, a wooden building was constructed for the school's agriculture classes and shop work.<sup>31</sup> This building also retains a high level of physical integrity and is used as the park's country store (029-5179-0004, photograph 12). A new elementary school opened in Floris in 1955 outside the district boundaries.<sup>32</sup>

An August 1930 map of Fairfax County depicts a quarry on Frying Pan Branch, which would have been the site of the McNair Farm, on the north side of today's Frying Pan Farm Park.<sup>33</sup> Today, a rock outcropping along Frying Pan Branch marks the rock quarry (photograph 8).

**Dairy Farming**

The market for dairy products in nearby Washington, D.C. began to grow in the late nineteenth century.<sup>34</sup> The trend has been attributed to several factors, including: 1) the concentration of the population in cities that created practical markets for specialized farm products, 2) the post-Civil War interest in scientific farming, 3) the introduction of the railroad into outlying areas, and 4) community cooperation.<sup>35</sup> As a result, outlying rural areas, such as Floris, shifted from diversified agricultural production toward a dairying specialization to meet this new demand. "A local historian and dairy farmer, Harry Middleton, has estimated that there were around 214 dairy farms in the Floris area just before

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World War II.”<sup>36</sup> Individual accounts of people who lived in Floris during the first half of the twentieth century confirm the importance of dairy farming to the community.<sup>37</sup> Cow herds of Holsteins, Guernseys, and Jerseys typically comprised the stock of Floris farms.<sup>38</sup>

Transportation conditions affected the ability of farmers to get their products to market. For Floris farmers, transporting milk from farm to market generally included two main steps: getting the milk from the farm to the train station and the rail trip from the station to market. As late as 1918, few paved roads existed in Fairfax County, but by 1930, the major roads in western Fairfax County were surfaced.<sup>39</sup> These improvements helped farmers get their products to the train station for the rest of the journey. The Washington and Old Dominion Railroad (W&OD), with a station in nearby

Herndon, ran from Bluemont in western Loudoun County to the Washington area, and served the Floris community throughout the heyday of dairying.<sup>40</sup> This line, which even ran a daily milk train, was instrumental in conveying milk to the city.<sup>41</sup> During the early years of dairy production, the milk was transported by horse and wagon to the train station, but the first half of the twentieth century saw a gradual transformation to motorized vehicles.<sup>42</sup> “More standardization occurred through the years, to the point in the 1950s where large tractor trailers would visit each dairy farm and load up the pasteurized milk products, thereby saving the farmer daily trips to the train station.”<sup>43</sup>

“From the extracurricular activities in the schools, the 4-H programs, the meetings of the Grange, the PTA, and ladies church groups, literally everyone had a stake in Floris’s success as one of the top milk producers in Fairfax County in the early to mid-twentieth century.”<sup>44</sup> Community cooperation also came through the formation of agricultural groups such as the Farmers Club and the Grange, and when “farmers banded together to finance needed improvement of Centreville Road and large dairy barns were constructed.”<sup>45</sup>

Better technology, equipment, and farming methods added to the forces behind the amazing growth of the local dairy industry. Improvements in harvesters and plows, the transition to gasoline-powered machinery, and ultimately, the introduction of the all-purpose tractor in 1924 aided in the speed with which large crops could be planted and harvested to support dairying.<sup>46</sup> “Mechanized milking equipment was developed around 1900 but not universally adopted until the 1920s.”<sup>47</sup> The electricity to run some of the new technology was not available in Floris until the 1920s, and the Lee and McNair families of Floris, for example, wired their houses in 1925.<sup>48</sup>

With increased milk production, the late nineteenth century also brought increased scrutiny from city agencies in Washington, D.C. regarding the safety of milk production and consumption. By the 1920s, Washington enacted laws to regulate the safety and quality of milk.<sup>49</sup> The regulations sought general cleanliness as well as “steam sterilization of equipment, TB testing of all dairy animals, minimum square feet of window height per stall, no non-dairy animals housed in the dairy barn, hair clipped from each cow’s flank and udder, clean ‘cow towels’ for washing and drying each udder before milking.”<sup>50</sup> As a result of the regulations, the northern Virginia region was not only a top producer, but had a high quality product.<sup>51</sup>

The shift toward dairying and the increase in wealth that came with this transition is represented today by the number and size of houses that remain in Floris that were constructed in that period.<sup>52</sup> Extant houses that remain within the district include: the Kidwell Farmhouse (029-5179-0002, photographs 2 and 3), the Ellmore Farmhouse (029-5179-0001, photograph 9), the Stover House (029-5179-0010, photograph 15), the Fox House (029-5179-0007, photograph 13), and the Higgins House (029-5179-0006). All were built during the period of increased dairy production. Today, the Kidwell Farmhouse, built c.1900, functions, with its outbuildings and fields, as the centerpiece of Frying Pan Farm

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Park’s interpretation of a functioning period dairy farm. The dwelling was meticulously restored by the park using documentary evidence and retains a high level of physical integrity.<sup>53</sup> A few of its outbuildings are original to the property, while others have been brought from neighboring farms or reconstructed from period pictures or designs. The Ellmore Farmhouse, a more recent park acquisition, built c.1896, retains its basic form and style, but has conspicuously lost its original front porch and currently features aluminum siding. The c.1895 Stover House has undergone a number of exterior changes, but continues to be recognizable as a period house. Its complement of outbuildings adds much to the integrity of this resource. The Fox House, built c.1900, was constructed in the Colonial Revival style and faces Centreville Road. The dwelling retains its basic form and style, but some exterior materials and details have noticeably changed. The Higgins House, built c.1905, is an undistinguished house, with several outbuildings, including small barns used to board horses.

The last dairy operation in Fairfax County was closed in 1997.”<sup>54</sup> While the Floris of today is a far cry from the community during the height of dairy production in the 1920 and 1930s, the remaining resources of the village within the district convey the importance of agriculture in the life of Floris residents.<sup>55</sup>

**Frying Pan Farm Park**

“A transformation of the area started in the late 50s and early 60s” and included a sharp downturn in agricultural production.<sup>56</sup> Rapid suburbanization and the opening of Dulles International Airport just to the west of the village greatly changed the landscape of the area.<sup>57</sup> This, coupled with abandonment of the early-twentieth-century school buildings due to the opening of the 1955 Floris Elementary School, gave rise to Frying Pan Park. The park’s formation represents a clear indication of the downturn of agricultural production in Floris, and thus marks the end of the period of significance.

A large portion of the district’s land area is contained within, what is today, Frying Pan Farm Park. The park, operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority, began around 1960 with the acquisition of the earlier school property.<sup>58</sup> The local 4-H chapter and the Future Farmers of America had begun using the property for fairs as early as 1948 and built a building for that purpose c.1960, just prior to the closing of the school (photograph 12).<sup>59</sup> The community wished to see these events continue and envisioned greater agricultural interpretation and recreation, including the possibility of a model farm.<sup>60</sup> Toward these goals, about 33 acres of the former Kidwell Farm was purchased by the Park Authority in 1965 (photograph 2).<sup>61</sup> Around this time, equestrian activities and facilities began at the park. After additional acreage was added to the park in the early 1970s, the Difficult Run Pony Club (later Reston Pony Club) helped to enhance equestrian facilities.<sup>62</sup> The park acquired a portion of the Ellmore Farm in 1974.<sup>63</sup> Later in the 1970s and 1980s, small additions were made to park land and buildings threatened with demolition from the vicinity of Floris were moved to the park, including the Moffett blacksmith shop (029-5179-0003) and the Murphy Farm smokehouse.<sup>64</sup> Arthur Carter, the last trustee of Frying Pan Meetinghouse, agreed to convey the church property to the Fairfax County Park Authority after residents concerned about the condition of the Frying Pan Meetinghouse approached him about turning the church over for preservation purposes.<sup>65</sup> The main parcel of the Ellmore Farm, including the house and barn were conveyed to the park in 2001.<sup>66</sup> Additional improvements, restorations, and reconstructions have occurred throughout the years, since the park’s inception, as the park’s mission became more finely tuned. In 2006, the park’s name was changed from Frying Pan Park to Frying Pan Farm Park, to capture its intended mission.<sup>67</sup>

According to the park’s website, “Today, the park preserves and interprets a 1920s through 1950s farm, agricultural process, rural community life and landscape for the educational, cultural and recreational enrichment of citizens and visitors of Fairfax County.”<sup>68</sup> While there are many non-contributing features of the park due to reconstructions and

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moved buildings, even the non-contributing resources aid in the interpretation of the extant contributing resources. Some features, including the equestrian courses, are non-contributing, but have aided in the preservation of open space within the park and are non-intrusive.

**Archaeological Potential**

Limited archaeological testing has occurred within the Floris Historic District, and there are known and potential prehistoric and historic sites within its boundaries. Testing has occurred at the Frying Pan Meetinghouse property (as recently as 2006), at the neighboring Lee House site, and a couple of other locations within Frying Pan Farm Park. Review of the documentary record, including historic accounts and nineteenth-century maps, suggests additional archaeological resources are extant. A moderate potential exists for prehistoric features in the area of Frying Pan Branch. While ground disturbance has occurred throughout much of the district via cultivation and the construction of a number of buildings in the park, there likely remain enough intact features of prehistoric and historic resources to warrant future testing, especially to shed light on the early historic occupation of the village then known as Frying Pan.

**Significance Summary**

The arrangement of historic buildings, landscapes, and other resources within Floris today represent a tight-knit farming community that nurtured the development of specialized agrarian practices in the rise, specialization, and domination of dairy farm production in Virginia from the late nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. Suburban-style development has encroached upon the district on all sides, but the most salient features remaining within the district convey the feeling of a small dairy farming community. The architectural styles of the district represent its period of significance and include styles from the late eighteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries.

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- Frying Pan Country Store (029-0274)*
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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**UTM References**

The location of the nominated historic district is shown on the accompanying location map. The location is approximately delineated by a polygon with the following UTM reference points in Zone 18, 1983 North American Datum: 1) E 290740 N 4312870 2) E 291460 N 4312790 3) E 291840 N 4312440 4) E 291970 N 4312020 5) E 291580 N 4311770 6) E 290770 N 4312330.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated Floris Historic District, Fairfax County, Virginia, is shown by the accompanying scaled map and site plan. Beginning at the northwestern corner of the district, the boundary includes the Frying Pan Meetinghouse parcel along Centreville Road and extends generally in an easterly direction on the north side of the Frying Pan Branch until a short distance from a recent residential subdivision. The boundary continues south and east around the subdivision until it reaches the tree line and park driveway located on the east side of Frying Pan Farm Park. The boundary runs along the north side of the tree line, between the tree line and the park driveway, until it reaches Monroe Street. The boundary continues southwest along Monroe Street to the corner of Monroe Street and West Ox Road. The boundary runs northwest along West Ox Road to its corner with Centreville Road. The line continues north along the east side of Centreville Road to the point of beginning at the Frying Pan Meetinghouse parcel.

Within the described boundary, extant resources are found in three discrete areas: the village core (Floris School, Floris Vocational Technical High School Shop, Stover House, Floris Methodist Church, Fox House, and Higgins House); Frying Pan Meetinghouse; and the two adjoining farms (Kidwell Farm and Ellmore Farm). Most of the land area and the following extant resources are located within Frying Pan Farm Park: Floris School, Floris Vocational Technical High School, Frying Pan Meetinghouse, Kidwell Farm, and Ellmore Farm. The sites of the non-extant Lee Farm and Cheroke House are also within the district's boundary.

**Boundary Justification**

Within the described boundary of the Floris Historic District, the extant resources convey the feeling of its historic late-eighteenth to mid-twentieth century rural setting. Outside the boundary of the district, dense, modern residential and commercial intrusions have supplanted the original resources and open spaces associated with the agricultural nature of Floris during its period of significance.

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**All photographs are common to:**

**NAME OF PROPERTY:** Floris Historic District

**LOCATION:** Fairfax County, Virginia

**VDHR FILE NUMBER:** 029-5179

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Darrell E. Cook

**DATE:** June 11 and 12, 2008

**NEGATIVES STORED:** Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia.

**VIEW OF:** Frying Pan Farm Park, Frying Pan Meetinghouse, looking northwest

**NEGATIVE NUMBER:** 24264:5

**PHOTO:** 1 of 15

**VIEW OF:** Frying Pan Farm Park, Kidwell Farm, looking north

**NEGATIVE NUMBER:** 24263:6

**PHOTO:** 2 of 15

**VIEW OF:** Frying Pan Farm Park, Kidwell Farmhouse, looking southwest

**NEGATIVE NUMBER:** 24264:24

**PHOTO:** 3 of 15

**VIEW OF:** Frying Pan Farm Park, Kidwell Farm, outbuildings, looking northwest

**NEGATIVE NUMBER:** 24264:23

**PHOTO:** 4 of 15

**VIEW OF:** Frying Pan Farm Park, landscape, looking northwest

**NEGATIVE NUMBER:** 24264:8

**PHOTO:** 5 of 15

**VIEW OF:** Frying Pan Farm Park, equestrian course, looking southeast

**NEGATIVE NUMBER:** 24264:2

**PHOTO:** 6 of 15

**VIEW OF:** Frying Pan Farm Park, farm pond

**NEGATIVE NUMBER:** 24265:24

**PHOTO:** 7 of 15

**VIEW OF:** Frying Pan Farm Park, quarry site

**NEGATIVE NUMBER:** 24265:18

**PHOTO:** 8 of 15

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**VIEW OF:** Frying Pan Farm Park, Ellmore Farmhouse, looking northwest  
**NEGATIVE NUMBER:** 24264:15  
**PHOTO:** 9 of 15

**VIEW OF:** Frying Pan Farm Park, Ellmore Farm barn (current visitor center), looking northeast  
**NEGATIVE NUMBER:** 24264:10  
**PHOTO:** 10 of 15

**VIEW OF:** Frying Pan Farm Park, Floris Schoolhouse, front perspective, looking northwest  
**NEGATIVE NUMBER:** 24263:23  
**PHOTO:** 11 of 15

**VIEW OF:** Frying Pan Farm Park, landscape, including Floris Vocational Technical High School (current park Country Store) and the 4-H building, looking north  
**NEGATIVE NUMBER:** 24263:21  
**PHOTO:** 12 of 15

**VIEW OF:** 2703 West Ox Road, dwelling, front elevation, looking southeast  
**NEGATIVE NUMBER:** 24265:8  
**PHOTO:** 13 of 15

**VIEW OF:** 2633 Centreville Road, landscape showing site of former Cherok House and Floris Methodist Church, looking north  
**NEGATIVE NUMBER:** 24265:6  
**PHOTO:** 14 of 15

**VIEW OF:** 2625 Centreville Road, dwelling and yard, including adjoining Floris Methodist Church, looking southeast  
**NEGATIVE NUMBER:** 24266:23  
**PHOTO:** 15 of 15







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