

VLR ✓ 6-13-01  
NRHP 5-22-02

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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

1. Name of Property

historic name **HARRIS-POINDEXTER HOUSE AND STORE**

other names/site number

VDHR File No.

House, #54-389; Store, #54-388

2. Location

street & number **81 Tavern Road**

city or town **Mineral**

vicinity **N/A** state **Virginia**

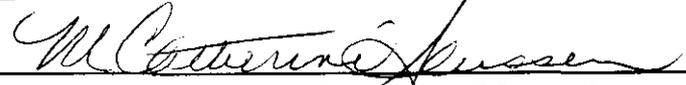
code **VA** county **Louisa**

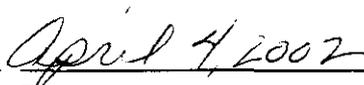
code **109**

zip code **23117**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
Signature of certifying official/Title

  
Date

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official 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>  15  </u> | <u>  0  </u> buildings  |
| <u>  0  </u>  | <u>  0  </u> sites      |
| <u>  0  </u>  | <u>  0  </u> structures |
| <u>  0  </u>  | <u>  0  </u> objects    |
| <u>  15  </u> | <u>  0  </u> Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

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

=====  
**6. Function or Use**  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- |                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Cat: <b>DOMESTIC</b> | Sub: <b>SINGLE DWELLING</b>          |
| <b>COMMERCE</b>      | Sub: <b>STORE</b>                    |
| <b>DOMESTIC</b>      | Sub: <b>SECONDARY STRUCTURE</b>      |
| <b>AGRICULTURE</b>   | Sub: <b>AGRICULTURAL OUTBUILDING</b> |
| <b>INDUSTRY</b>      | Sub: <b>MILL</b>                     |

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- |                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Cat: <b>DOMESTIC</b> | Sub: <b>SINGLE DWELLING</b>          |
| <b>COMMERCE</b>      | Sub: <b>VACANT</b>                   |
| <b>DOMESTIC</b>      | Sub: <b>SECONDARY STRUCTURE</b>      |
| <b>AGRICULTURE</b>   | Sub: <b>AGRICULTURAL OUTBUILDING</b> |
| <b>INDUSTRY</b>      | Sub: <b>VACANT</b>                   |

=====  
**7. Description**  
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

**Greek Revival/Commercial Vernacular**

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation    **stone; brick**  
walls            **wood; weatherboard**  
roof            **metal; asphalt shingles**  
other

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

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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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

**ARCHITECTURE**

**COMMERCE**

Period of Significance

**1837-1945**

Significant Dates  
**ca. 1837; ca. 1865**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

**unknown**

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, objection structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data  
 State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: **Louisa County Court House; Louisa County Public Library; The Virginia State Library; Virginia Historical Society**

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**10. Geographical Data**  
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**Acreage of Property**            **36.162 acres**

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

|                                      | Zone Easting | Northing | Zone Easting | Northing |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| 1                                    |              |          | 2            |          |
| 3                                    |              |          | 4            |          |
| <u>  X  </u> See continuation sheet. |              |          |              |          |

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

=====  
**11. Form Prepared By**  
=====

|                 |                               |           |                          |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| name/title      | <b>Nancy Kraus, historian</b> |           |                          |
| organization    | <b>First &amp; Main, LLC</b>  | date      | <b>February 20, 2000</b> |
| street & number | <b>6224 New Harvard Lane</b>  | telephone | <b>(804) 360-4716</b>    |
| city or town    | <b>Glen Allen</b>             | state     | <b>VA</b>                |
|                 |                               | zip code  | <b>23059</b>             |

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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)

=====  
**Property Owner**  
=====

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

|                 |  |           |                       |
|-----------------|--|-----------|-----------------------|
| name/title      | <b>Kenneth D. and Melody S. Bowers</b> |           |                       |
| street & number | <b>81 Tavern Road</b>                  | telephone | <b>(540) 872-4334</b> |
| city or town    | <b>Mineral</b>                         | state     | <b>VA</b>             |
|                 |  | zip code  | <b>23117</b>          |

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

**Harris-Poindexter House and Store  
Louisa County, Virginia**

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

The Harris-Poindexter House and Store and related outbuildings represent the historic core of an agricultural complex initially constructed ca. 1837 by Frederick Harris, Jr. The house-and-store complex is located in a predominantly rural section of Louisa County, Virginia, in the village of Fredericks Hall. Situated close to the tracks of the CSX Railroad, the farm occupies approximately 36 acres of gently rolling farmland. Once part of a 1500-acre tract patented in 1725 by Frederick Harris of Hanover County, the buildings are remarkably well preserved and are representative of the mid-nineteenth century vernacular architecture that developed in the primarily agricultural economy of Louisa County. The complex includes the two-story, three-bay, frame, antebellum farmhouse (ca. 1837) which is little altered since the time of construction and the one-story, frame store (ca. 1865). The property also contains a collection of thirteen contributing outbuildings dating from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century, including two heavy-timber barns, a one-story frame tenant cabin, a smokehouse, a stable, a corn crib, a timber-frame grain mill, several sheds, a well and pump house, and a milk house. The grain mill, ca. 1880, was constructed and operated by Horatio Hancock who was co-owner of the store between 1861 and 1868. The agricultural outbuildings were constructed by Edward Poindexter who acquired the property in 1893 and operated the farm and store with his family for more than 60 years.

**Harris-Poindexter House and Store Inventory**

|      |                           |                    |                       |
|------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| (1)  | Harris-Poindexter Store   | Ca. 1865           | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING |
| (2)  | Harris-Poindexter House   | Ca. 1837           | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING |
| (3)  | Smokehouse                | Ca. 1893           | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING |
| (4)  | Tenant House (Doll House) | Ca. 1930           | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING |
| (5)  | Well & Pump House         | Mid-20th century   | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING |
| (6)  | Shed                      | Mid-20th century   | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING |
| (7)  | Stable                    | Early 20th century | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING |
| (8)  | Shed                      | Mid-20th century   | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING |
| (9)  | Corn Crib                 | Early 20th century | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING |
| (10) | Barn                      | Early 20th century | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING |
| (11) | Barn                      | Early 20th century | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING |
| (12) | Wood Shed                 | Mid-20th century   | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING |
| (13) | Milk House                | Mid-20th century   | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING |
| (14) | Shed                      | Mid-20th century   | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING |
| (15) | Mill                      | Late 19th century  | CONTRIBUTING BUILDING |

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**Harris-Poindexter House and Store  
Louisa County, Virginia**

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## ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

**The Harris-Poindexter House**, situated on the north side of Route 618 fewer than 10 yards from the railroad track, is a well preserved example of the Greek Revival style popular in Virginia during the first half of the nineteenth century. It is typical, in its simplicity, of its rural setting in Louisa County, Virginia. The house and its related outbuildings are sited in an open space dotted with massive old oak trees and mature boxwoods, with farmland and woods beyond. The property lies just north and east of state route 684, with a "Y"-shaped drive way that leads past the store to a parking area on the west side of the house. Essentially "L"-shaped, the main block of the ca. 1837 dwelling is a two-story, three-bay frame building with stone and brick foundation, weatherboard siding, and low-pitched, hipped, standing-seam metal roof. The main block is distinguished by two double-shouldered, red brick exterior-end chimneys, a box cornice, and a four-panel entrance door with a two-light transom above. Centered on the front elevation, the entrance door is sheltered by a one-story wood porch with gable roof, paired square wood columns, and dentil trim. Fenestration on the front elevation consists of six-over-six double-hung windows. On the north elevation, the main block of the house was extended by a shallow, two-story addition. The rear ell of the dwelling has two distinct parts. The middle portion is of two-story frame construction with gable roof, brick chimney, and rubble stone pier foundation with brick infill. A two-story (screened) porch with a fancy Victorian-style sawn-work railing extends along the west elevation of the middle addition. The rearmost extension of the dwelling is a one-story frame addition with gable roof, random-rubble stone foundation and one interior brick chimney. The entire rear ell has narrow weatherboard siding and two-over-two double-hung windows. The rear addition has a single-pile, side passage plan with a shed room on the end.

On the interior, the ca. 1837 farmhouse features a narrow center passage flanked on each side by two rooms. The front entrance door opens into the narrow stair hall that leads straight through to a corresponding and identically detailed rear door. The open-well stair features a plain newel post, delicate heart pine balusters, rounded pine handrail, and scalloped stair brackets. On the west side of the central passage is a spacious bedroom with fireplace. A modern bathroom is located in the rear space. The rooms on the east side of the stair hall are composed of a parlor in the front and a dining room to the back. Both formal rooms have plain, pilastered Greek Revival-style mantels. The house retains random-width heart pine floors throughout, five-panel doors with brass and cast-iron box locks, original mantels, and finely crafted millwork, including baseboards, window and door frames, crown molding, and chair rail in the dining room and entrance hall. Windows and doors throughout the house have asymmetrical, stepped molded surrounds. In the dining room a matched pair of wood-and-glass cupboards flank the fireplace. Walls and ceilings are lath and plaster throughout, except in the rear addition where the walls are sheathed with dark stained tongue-and-groove paneling, nearly identical to the paneling found on the walls and ceilings throughout the adjacent store. The second floor of the main block of the farmhouse is similar in plan to the first floor with one bedroom to the west and inter-connected bedrooms to the east. Pine flooring on the second floor is original, as are the paneled doors, fireplace surrounds, and woodwork. Although simple in design, the mantels in the bedrooms are prominent architectural features, nearly identical in design to those found in the formal rooms on the first floor. The rooms in the rear ell retain their high ceilings. The kitchen, game room, and utility room are now located in this part of the house.

**The Harris-Poindexter Store** was re-constructed ca. 1865 on the foundation of an older store, ca. 1837, that burned near the end of the Civil War. The main block of the store is a one-story, three-bay rectangular frame building with low-pitched gable roof. A high, boxed parapet extends above the entrance porch on the south elevation. The main

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**Harris-Poindexter House and Store  
Louisa County, Virginia**

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block of the store rests upon a basement foundation constructed of parged red brick, but the rear one-story extension to the north and the one-story wing addition on the west are supported by a combination of rubble stone piers and stacked stone foundation. Most of the original wood siding is in good condition. Historic fenestration is minimal, with two large, symmetrical, double-hung windows at porch level on the south elevation and several other irregularly placed double-hung windows on other elevations. Three four-light windows survive at the basement level. The front entrance is distinguished by a pair of paneled doors. Although some interior areas of the now vacant store are heavily deteriorated, much of the store's historic fabric survives. Heart pine flooring, tongue-and-groove beaded paneling and ceilings, and finely crafted counters and turned stair balusters are notable historic elements. On one side of the essentially one-room building open shelving lines the walls. In the basement are heavy mortise-and-tenon, hewn, and straight-sawn framing members. Just to the east of the store is a stone foundation that shows the perimeter of the original stable.

Located off the northwest corner of the dwelling is the **Tenant House**, also known as the Doll House. Among the smaller outbuildings, it was originally built in the 1930s by Emmett Poindexter as a playhouse for his daughter Martha Ann.<sup>1</sup> It is known as the Tenant House because it was occupied for many years by Alex Minor, a beloved friend and employee of the Poindexter family who "worked together (with Edward Poindexter) for many years operating the farm and caring for the livestock, always hollering back and forth to each other."<sup>2</sup> Resting on stone piers, the tiny one-story, two-bay frame building has a steeply pitched gable roof with asphalt shingles, five-panel entrance door, weatherboard siding, and four-over-four double-hung windows. It has a one-room plan and a storage loft.

The **smoke house** is located directly behind the Harris-Poindexter House. Approximately 12 feet by 15 feet, the smoke house has a stone foundation, steep gable roof with composition shingles, weatherboard siding, and brick chimney. On the interior, the heavy timber mortise-and-tenon construction is exposed, and the posts, hooks and ropes used for hanging meat are intact. The large central, brick fireplace is still operational.

**Two barns** with gable roofs and vertical sheathing are located approximately 300 yards behind the house. Both barns are constructed with heavy timbers. The smaller barn features a long line of stalls and numerous period details including strap-hinged doors, latches, and a corn grinder. The larger barn has a substantial second-story hayloft and similar period details.

The **stable** and the **corncrib** are simple, one-story frame buildings with gable roofs. The corncrib retains its historic standing-seam metal roof. Both buildings are typically functional in design and lack significant distinguishing architectural features.

The **grain mill** is the only contributing resource situated to the south of the house and store just across the railroad track. Records dating to the 1880s indicate that Horatio Hancock farmed and operated a corn and flour mill at Fredericks Hall.<sup>3</sup> This mill subsequently became the Gibson's Flour Mill.<sup>4</sup> Local residents remember that the flour processed at the mill had a slightly burned taste and odor because the mill wheels were powered by a Delco generator. The two-story mill features heavy timber framing, gable roof, and thick, rough-hewn oak flooring. What remains of the exterior siding is heavily deteriorated, and the building is mostly clad in a patterned pressed tin sheathing. Interior historic fabric, though primitive, is in good condition, and a portion of the original grinding apparatus survives on the interior. The mill is situated within a few feet of the railroad tracks.

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The **well and pump house** (springhouse) is of frame construction with a poured concrete foundation and apron, and a *standing-seam metal roof*. A modern well of poured concrete with a cap, is located adjacent to the building.

There are **four sheds** on the property. The first is of concrete block construction with a poured concrete floor and roof, vertical plank doors, and wood window frames without sash. An exhaust stack through the roof is from a wood stove used for heating the building. The former use of this building is unknown. The second shed, a wood shed features vertical plank construction, a shed roof covered with corrugated metal sheathing and four open bays. The shed is used for equipment storage. The third shed is of concrete block and frame construction with a hipped roof with standing-seam metal sheathing. A concrete block pen, used for pigs, is adjacent. The fourth shed, now used for storage, was formerly used as the **Milk Parlor**. The one-story, five-bay long and two-bay wide building is of concrete block construction with a poured concrete floor and a corrugated metal roof. Wood frames surround masonry openings, but there are no doors or windows.

The **Milk House** is of concrete block and frame construction with wooden doors and four-light wood windows. The building has a poured concrete foundation and floor and a corrugated metal roof. This structure was formerly used for storing milk before it was sent to market.

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**Harris-Poindexter House and Store  
Louisa County, Virginia**

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Situated on gently rolling farmland in Louisa County, Virginia, near the intersection of State Route 618 and the CSX Railroad, the Harris-Poindexter House and Store are part of a well preserved family complex with a period of significance from 1837 to 1945. The house and store are intertwined with the history of Louisa County and are representative of the evolution of the county's predominantly agricultural economy. Louisa County was first settled in the 1720s by families moving north and west from present-day Hanover and New Kent Counties. The Harris-Poindexter House and Store are part of the historic village of Fredericks Hall, developed and associated with the Harris family for more than a century. Patented in 1725, the original 1500-acre tract of land was owned by William Harris, Jr., of Cedar Hill in Hanover County. A portion of the patent, including the house and store lot, was inherited by his son Frederick Harris, an officer in the Revolutionary War and a county justice. His son Frederick Harris, Jr., a graduate of the College of William and Mary, an attorney, an officer in the War of 1812, and a member of the Virginia General Assembly, inherited the Fredericks Hall property when his father died in 1800. Although he is most closely associated with the nearby Fredericks Hall mansion, Frederick Harris, Jr. may have been responsible for the building of the house and store in 1837 during the construction of the Virginia Central Railroad that ran from Doswell to Fredericks Hall.<sup>5</sup> Following a succession of owners, the store, the house, and the nearby outbuildings were acquired by Edward Poindexter in 1893. Poindexter and his family occupied the premises and operated the store for more than sixty years. Although the store has been neglected in recent years, it is an important surviving example of nineteenth-century vernacular commercial architecture.

The house-and-store complex qualifies for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Commerce. The property also meets National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The house and related outbuildings are representative of typical farms that provided the economic basis of rural counties like Louisa, and also because the store is characteristic in design and function of early commercial establishments that evolved in tandem with a growing rural population. The Harris-Poindexter Store played an important role in the lives of the inhabitants of the once-thriving village of Fredericks Hall.

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**Harris-Poindexter House and Store  
Louisa County, Virginia**

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**HISTORICAL ANALYSIS**

The Harris-Poindexter House and Store are part of the historic village of Fredericks Hall, established by members of the Harris family.<sup>6</sup> Patented in 1725, the original 1500-acre tract of land that includes the village was owned first by William Harris, Jr., of Cedar Hill in Hanover County. A portion of the patent was inherited by his son Frederick Harris, an officer in the Revolutionary War and a county justice. Frederick's son, Frederick Harris, Jr., a graduate of the College of William and Mary, an attorney, an officer in the War of 1812, and a member of the Virginia General Assembly, inherited the Fredericks Hall property when his father died in 1800. A promoter of the development of canals and railroads in Virginia, Frederick Harris, Jr. played a significant role in the construction of the Virginia Central Railroad that ran from Doswell to Fredericks Hall.<sup>7</sup>

Frederick Harris, Jr. is most closely associated with Fredericks Hall, the grand, brick mansion located directly south of the Poindexter House and Store complex (and visible from the front porch of each building). And, as the developer of the village of Fredericks Hall, it can be reasonably assumed that he was involved in the construction and leasing of the house and the first store building. His will of 1842 refers to the "store at the depot".<sup>8</sup> Prior to 1842, the store was under the management of his son Nathaniel W. Harris, although the will specified that the store and other property were to convey first to his wife Catherine Snelson Harris and then to another of his sons, Frederick L. Harris upon her death. In 1847, Nathaniel W. Harris purchased 1,240 acres from his father's estate, including the village of Fredericks Hall. The store, the house, and various outbuildings were part of Nathaniel's purchase.<sup>9</sup> It is likely that Nathaniel continued to operate the store for a number of years, but in the 1850s, he leased the store to the William A. Talley and Co. and then to Peyton G. Talley and Horatio P. Hancock, who purchased the house and store lot in 1861.<sup>10</sup> The Louisa County Deed Book FF, pp. 282-283, states "...Nathaniel W. Harris and Ellen, his wife...to Peyton G. Talley and Horatio P. Hancock all of Louisa... for \$2,500...lot near Fredericks Hall Depot on the Virginia Central Rail Road...it being the same lot on which stands and which together with the dwelling, garden, smoke house and other improvements heretofore occupied by Mrs. Lucy Harris." The William A. Kuper survey map of 1866 shows the location of five buildings on the property, including the house, store, and three additional buildings.<sup>11</sup> The Kuper Survey of April, 1866, also clearly identifies the house-and-store lot as owned by "Hancock and Talley."<sup>12</sup> Nathaniel Harris was opposed to the sale of alcoholic beverages during the time that he managed the store, but Talley and Hancock purchased the store, in part, because they believed the sale of liquor would enhance the business.<sup>13</sup>

Following the purchase of the property, Peyton Talley and his family moved into the house.<sup>14</sup> Talley and Hancock were active in the village of Fredericks Hall, both serving as justices of the peace<sup>15</sup> and also as postmasters in the tiny post office building still located on an adjacent lot, approximately fifteen yards from the store. Their success as business partners appears to have been short-lived; the store was burned by raiding Federal troops toward the end of the Civil War.<sup>16</sup> There is evidence that Peyton Talley was responsible for the rebuilding of the store on the old foundation in 1865.<sup>17</sup> Peyton Talley was evidently joined by his brother-in-law John Terrill Boston in operating the store. After the premature death of Talley, the property, including the house and store, was sold after a period of litigation to John T. Boston, Talley's brother-in-law. Boston leased the store to numerous businessmen over a period of more than twenty years.<sup>18</sup> A spirits license issued to a partnership that included Frederick Harris is evidence that the store was probably operated for a time by a descendant of the original Harris family. After John Boston's death in 1890, his wife Texasia Dickinson Boston rented the store to Edward Hawkins Poindexter who had come to Fredericks Hall in 1884 to marry Susan Ann Richardson of Walbrook.<sup>19</sup> While he continued to lease the store,

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**Harris-Poindexter House and Store  
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Poindexter purchased lots and acreage in the vicinity of the house and store throughout the last decade of the nineteenth century.<sup>20</sup> In March of 1893, he wrote to Texasia Boston with an offer to purchase the house and store: "Now I think my last offer for the property of thirty-one hundred and fifty dollars is a big price for the property in its present condition but as it would take about one hundred dollars to repara (sic) my house. I will give you thirty two hundred and fifty dollars cash for the property this of course includes the property I occupy and the Sasafra (sic) Mill lot. E.H. Poindexter".<sup>21</sup> The offer was accepted, and Edward Poindexter thus acquired the house and store lot on March 30, 1893. Operated by Edward and his son Emmett, the mercantile store was thereafter known as E.H. Poindexter and Son.

Numerous colorful biographical stories of well-known personages in Louisa County are recorded in a series of books authored by Dr. Charles Turner, professor of history at Washington and Lee University and native of the county. In his book *Straw in the Wind*, he offers this vignette: "E.H. Poindexter and Son were my father's competitor and they were our best friends as well. The older was already semi-retired and had made a fortune in the business. He had the only bar for miles where he sold from the counter whiskey in cups. Often he would bring it in a tin water bucket. His customers called it 'white lightning'. It was said that Mr. 'Dexter' weighed his hand along with the meat when he sold it, always talking very fast and loud as he did." For more than sixty years, the Poindexter family resided in the house and operated the store selling meats and produce, seeds, groceries and dry goods to the nearby families and farms.

Edward Poindexter and his family were responsible for the development of an agricultural enterprise that included livestock, poultry, and crops, and the operation of a store as a public commercial establishment between 1884 and 1945. After the death of Edward Poindexter (1853-1942), his son Emmett continued to operate the store and farm until his death in 1945. The property was sub-divided in subsequent years and the parcels were sold to various owners until the current owners, Melody and Kenneth Bowers, reassembled the historic core of Edward Poindexter's property, including the store, the house, the mill, and outbuildings, through individual parcel purchases. Although the store and mill have deteriorated, the house and most of the outbuildings have been well maintained. The current owners, who live in the house, have begun to stabilize and rebuild the store. They also plan to restore the mill. The successful restoration and operation of the Harris-Poindexter Store may help to ensure the survival of the once-thriving village of Fredericks Hall.

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**Harris-Poindexter House and Store  
Louisa County, Virginia**

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**Endnotes for Sections 7 and 8:**

1. Chisholm, Claudia A. "The Village of Fredericks Hall: The Poindexters and Other Merchants of Fredericks Hall". *The Louisa County Historical Magazine*, Vol. 24 (No. 1, Spring, 1993), 41.
2. Chisholm, Claudia A. "The Village of Fredericks Hall: The Poindexters and Other Merchants of Fredericks Hall". *The Louisa County Historical Magazine*, Vol. 24 (No. 1, Spring, 1993), 40.
3. *Kuper Geneology*; Louisa County Chancery File 38.
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5. Louisa County Chancery File no. 138.
6. Chisholm, Claudia A. "The Village of Fredericks Hall: The Poindexters and Other Merchants of Fredericks Hall". *The Louisa County Historical Magazine*, Vol. 24 (No. 1, Spring, 1993), 31.
7. Louisa County Chancery File no. 138.
8. Louisa County Will Book 10, pp. 500-502.
9. Chisholm, Claudia A. "The Village of Fredericks Hall: The Poindexters and Other Merchants of Fredericks Hall". *The Louisa County Historical Magazine*, Vol. 24 (No. 1, Spring, 1993), 32.
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12. Louisa County Deed Book 17, p. 202.
13. Chisholm, Claudia A. "The Village of Fredericks Hall: The Poindexters and Other Merchants of Fredericks Hall". *The Louisa County Historical Magazine*, Vol. 24 (No. 1, Spring, 1993), 34.
14. Louisa County Chancery File 167.
15. Louisa County Minute Book 1856-60, p. 380; Minute Book 1856-67, pp. 118-9, 284-5.

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Louisa County, Virginia**

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16. Swank, Walbrook D. The War & Louisa County. Charlottesville, VA Papercraft Printing and Design Co., 1986, pp. 18-22.
17. Louisa County Chancery Files 138 and 56.
18. Louisa County Deed Book 3, p. 546. (See Chisholm, Claudia A. "The Village of Fredericks Hall: The Poindexters and Other Merchants of Fredericks Hall". *The Louisa County Historical Magazine*, Vol. 24 (No. 1, Spring, 1993), p. 36, for a detailed accounting of the transactions regarding the store property during the late nineteenth century).
19. Louisa County Marriage Bond 3, p. 25.
20. Chisholm, Claudia A. "The Village of Fredericks Hall: The Poindexters and Other Merchants of Fredericks Hall". *The Louisa County Historical Magazine*, Vol. 24 (No. 1, Spring, 1993), p. 37.
21. Louisa County Chancery File 167.

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*Louisa County Marriage Bond 3.*

Swank, Walbrook D. The War & Louisa County. Charlottesville, VA Papercraft Printing and Design Co., 1986.

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Section 10 Page 11

**Harris-Poindexter House and Store  
Louisa County, Virginia**

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**UTM References**

|   |              |           |    |             |           |
|---|--------------|-----------|----|-------------|-----------|
| 1 | 4.207.740 N  | 252.110 E | 8  | 4.207.736 N | 252.403 E |
| 2 | 4.207.775 N  | 252.169 E | 9  | 4.207.605 N | 252.358 E |
| 3 | 4.207.703 N  | 252.206 E | 10 | 4.207.678 N | 252.209 E |
| 4 | 4.208.061 N  | 252.436 E | 11 | 4.207.653 N | 252.192 E |
| 5 | 4.208.960 N  | 252.556 E | 12 | 4.207.658 N | 252.178 E |
| 6 | 4.207.923. N | 252.530 E | 13 | 4.207.685 N | 252.190 E |
| 7 | 4.207.893 N  | 252.563 E |    |             |           |

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Harris-Poindexter House and Store property is identified as **Parcel A2 ; Parcel DB 45-105; Parcel D ; and Parcel E1** on the tax parcel maps for Louisa County, Virginia.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries were drawn to encompass the historic core of the farmland, dwelling, and store originally owned by members of the Harris family and subsequently owned by Edward Poindexter.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

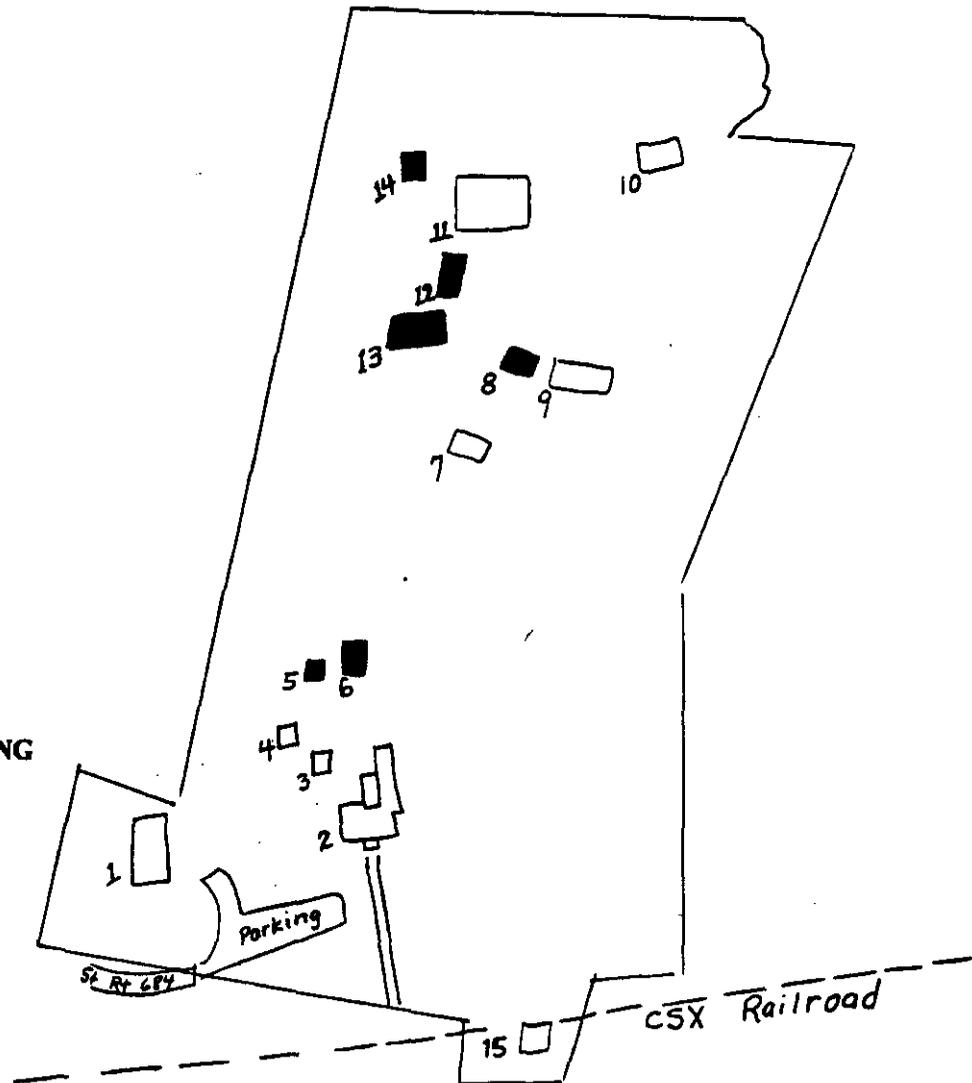
Section    Sketch    Page  
          Map        11

**Harris-Poindexter House and Store  
Louisa County, Virginia**

**HARRIS-POINDEXTER  
HOUSE AND STORE  
LOUISA COUNTY, VA**

- (1) Harris-Poindexter Store.
- (2) Harris-Poindexter House.
- (3) Smokehouse.
- (4) Doll (tenant) House.
- (5) Well & Pump House.
- (6) Shed.
- (7) Stable.
- (8) Shed.
- (9) Corn Crib.
- (10) Barn.
- (11) Barn.
- (12) Wood Shed.
- (13) Milk House.
- (14) Shed.
- (15) Mill.

■ NON-CONTRIBUTING



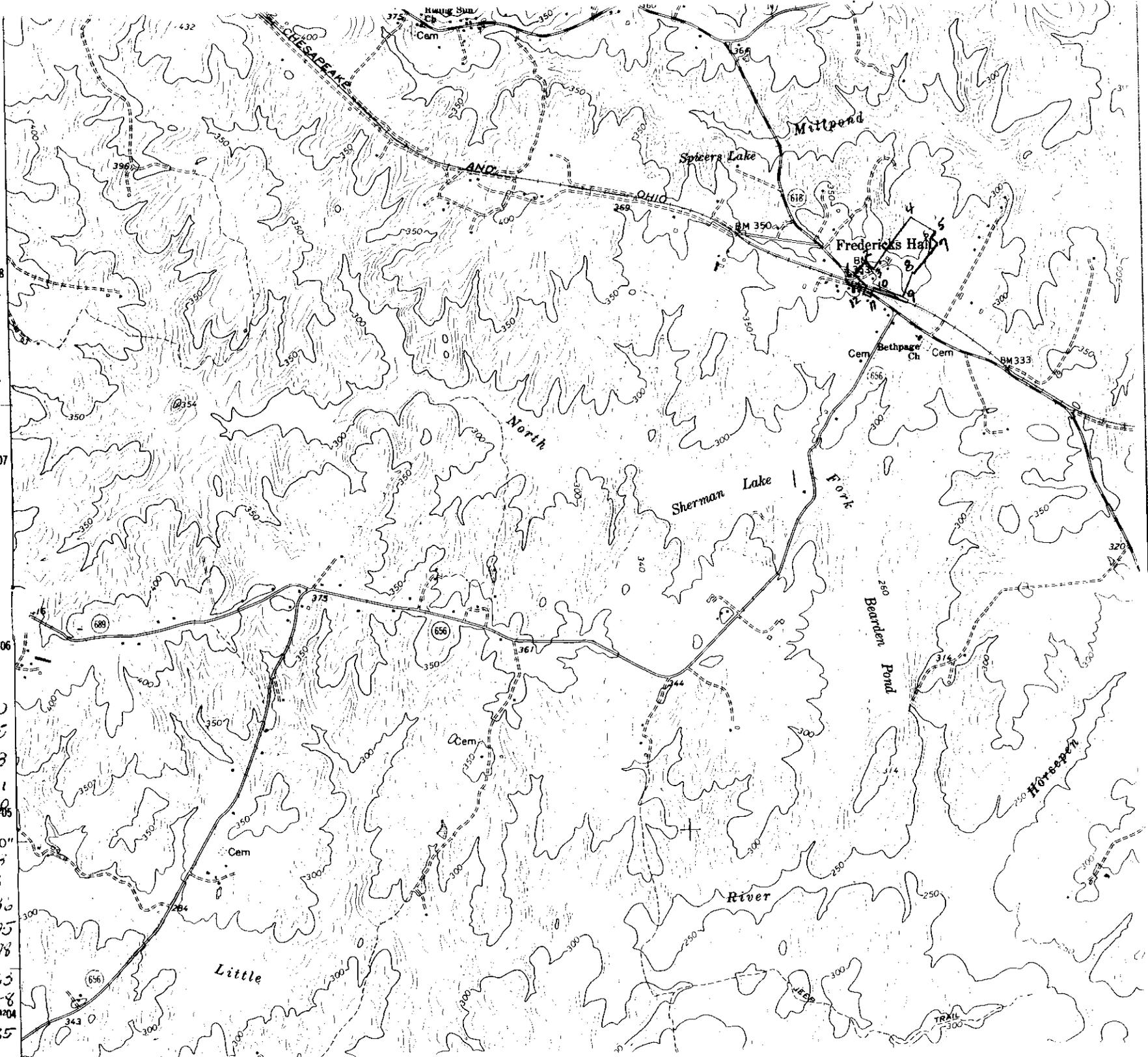
- Not to scale -

Harris-Poindeuter  
House and site  
LOUISA COUNTY, VA  
VA 054-388/389

BUCKNER  
AND

UTM References

|    | <u>E</u> | <u>N</u>  |
|----|----------|-----------|
| 1  | 252.110  | 4.207.140 |
| 2  | 252.169  | 4.207.115 |
| 3  | 252.206  | 4.207.123 |
| 4  | 252.436  | 4.207.401 |
| 5  | 252.556  | 4.208.948 |
| 6  | 252.530  | 4.207.113 |
| 7  | 252.503  | 4.207.893 |
| 8  | 252.403  | 4.207.130 |
| 9  | 252.358  | 4.207.005 |
| 10 | 252.304  | 4.207.678 |
| 11 | 252.192  | 4.207.433 |
| 12 | 252.178  | 4.207.658 |
| 13 | 252.190  | 4.207.685 |



MINERAL  
US SURV

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES  
JAMES L. CALVER, STATE GEOLOGIST  
5460 III SE  
(CONTRARY CREEK)

77°52'30"  
38°00'

2480000 E.

MINERAL I U S 5221 2.8 MI.

751 50'

752

754

Harris-Poindeuter  
House and Steer  
Louisiana county 4,  
VA  
Zone 1B

UTM References

|    | E       | N         |
|----|---------|-----------|
| 1  | 252.110 | 4.207.140 |
| 2  | 252.169 | 4.207.115 |
| 3  | 252.206 | 4.207.103 |
| 4  | 252.436 | 4.208.061 |
| 5  | 252.556 | 4.208.948 |
|    |         | 57'30"    |
| 6  | 252.530 | 4.207.923 |
| 7  | 252.563 | 4.207.893 |
| 8  | 252.403 | 4.207.736 |
| 9  | 252.358 | 4.207.605 |
| 10 | 252.209 | 4.207.678 |
| 11 | 252.192 | 4.207.653 |
| 12 | 252.178 | 4.207.658 |
| 13 | 252.190 | 4.207.685 |

