

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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VLR 12/16/2010
NRHP 03/01/2011

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name The Lane Hotel
other names/site number Hotel Mathews, The White Dog Inn, DHR File No. 057-0070

2. Location

street & number 68 Church Street not for publication
city or town Mathews vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Mathews code 115 zip code 23109

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

[Signature] _____ Date 1/2/11

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
0	0	buildings
2	1	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ hotel

COMMERCE/ restaurant (tavern)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ hotel

COMMERCE/ restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Brick, Concrete

walls: Weatherboard

Vinyl

roof: Slate, Asphalt

other: Wood (cornices, porch)

Brick (chimneys)

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

See Continuation Sheets

Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce _____

Architecture _____

Period of Significance

c.1840-1918 _____

Significant Dates

c.1840 _____

1916 _____

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Unknown _____

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins c.1840, with the construction of the Lane Hotel and detached kitchen. Because the property was continuously used commercially as a tavern or hotel, the period of significance lasts until 1918, when the hotel closed and the building became a private residence. Significant dates are c.1840 when the hotel was built, and 1916 when the hotel was moved and renovations were undertaken to keep the business competitive in the early automobile age.

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)

The Lane Hotel meets Criteria Consideration B, in that it was likely moved from its original location in the spring of 1916. According to a blurb in The Mathews Journal from May 4, 1916, "Mr. C.R. Diggs has completed the rather remarkable task of moving the largest section of the old hotel building a distance of 25 or 30 yards without damaging the house or removing the chimney."¹ In historic photos, the Lane Hotel appears to be placed directly alongside Church Street, and possibly connected to another section of the hotel via a 1-1/2-story hyphen. Charles D. Hudgins was the owner of the Lane Hotel in 1916, and had the building moved back from the road before renovating it and adding the large east and

west wings. It is uncertain whether the c.1840 kitchen building was also moved at this time and then connected to the rear of the hotel, or whether it remained in its original location with the hotel being placed alongside it. However, the move was minor and did not diminish the hotel's architectural significance. As it was moved to allow it to continue operation as a hotel, the move also did not diminish its significance in the area of commerce.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____ DHR file # 057-0070 _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.62
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>383036</u>	<u>4143856</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The property is bounded on the south by State Route 611, on the west by Put-In Creek, on the north and east by the land of Foster-Faulkner Funeral Home, and on the east by the land of Gloria Ann German. The legal boundaries of the Lane Hotel property are shown on the attached plat map from November 27, 1990.

Reference: Plat showing land being in the name of Toby Wing Merrill. November 21, 1990. Plat Book 19: 56. Mathews County Clerk's Office, Mathews, Virginia.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

These are the legal boundaries of the 1.62 acre property that contains the Lane Hotel, its contributing outbuilding, and the surrounding acreage associated with the hotel. The boundaries shown in the 1990 plat are the same as those deeded from George R. and Linda C. Pocock to Courtlandt and Tammye D. Van Clief on January 15, 2009.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laurie Whiteway
organization N/A date 8/26/10
street & number 54935 Latino St. telephone 540-908-9328
city or town White Castle state LA zip code 70788

The Lane Hotel
Name of Property

Mathews County, Virginia
County and State

e-mail whitewlp@gmail.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

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

Name of Property: Lane Hotel

City or Vicinity: Mathews

County: Mathews County

State: VA

Photographer: See below

Date Photographed: See below

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

PHOTO: 1 of 10

View: Exterior south elevation.

Photo taken by Laurie Whiteway

February 04, 2010

PHOTO: 2 of 10

View: Front porch, south elevation.

Photo taken by Laurie Whiteway

February 04, 2010

PHOTO: 3 of 10

View: Exterior south elevation of new "Portside Deck" Addition, added in 2010.

Photo taken by Allie Bridge

July 01, 2010

PHOTO: 4 of 10

View: Exterior west elevation.

Photo taken by Laurie Whiteway

February 04, 2010

PHOTO: 5 of 10

View: Exterior north elevation, showing c.1840 attached kitchen and blue lean-to bar addition.

Photo taken by Laurie Whiteway

February 04, 2010

PHOTO: 6 of 10

View: Semi-circular or demi-lune window at south gable.

Photo taken by Bruce Nelson

2009

PHOTO: 7 of 10

View: Front foyer and staircase on ground floor. Photo taken facing east.

Photo taken by Laurie Whiteway

February 04, 2010

PHOTO: 8 of 10

View: Central dining room and fireplace. Photo taken facing northwest.

Photo taken by Bruce Nelson

December 2009

PHOTO: 9 of 10

View: Detail of wooden frame construction with pegged joint.

Photo taken by Bruce Nelson

2009

PHOTO: 10 of 10

View: South elevation of contributing outbuilding to the north of the Lane Hotel.

Photo taken by Laurie Whiteway

February 04, 2010

Additional Documentation

1. Property Sketch Map, The Lane Hotel. Not to Scale.
2. Plat, November 27, 1990, showing property boundary.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

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

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The Lane Hotel

Mathews County, Virginia

N/A

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Summary Architectural Description

The Lane Hotel, built in c.1840, is a 2-1/2-story wood frame building with Greek Revival stylistic elements. Now known as The White Dog Inn, the Lane Hotel is located on Church Street in downtown Mathews, directly across from the historic Courthouse Green. The site contains three buildings: the Lane Hotel with attached kitchen, a small contributing storage building to the north of the hotel that is likely original, and a newer non-contributing vinyl-sided garage at the northeast corner of the hotel. Including the attached kitchen and a finished attic, the Lane Hotel building is approximately 3870 square feet in size. Its central section is a 2-1/2-story rectangular structure with a full attic, built in c.1840, with a prominent two-story Greek Revival front porch that was added in 1916. Under the attic gable on the front (south) façade is a half-round window which is distinctive in Mathews County architecture. To the east and west of the original building are two-story square wings which were also added in 1916. There are two modern one-story additions to the building; one added in 2010 on the east side of the east wing, and one built in 1998 on the west side of the building. On the north side of the hotel is a 1-1/2-story A-frame building that appears to be the tavern's original detached kitchen, presumably attached to the rear of the main building in 1916. Historical evidence suggests that the c.1840 section of the Lane Hotel was moved back from Church Street an approximate distance of 25 feet in 1916, prior to the addition of the east and west wings. Although it has undergone a number of additions and alterations since its construction in c.1840, the Lane Hotel retained much of its historical and architectural significance as it evolved.

Site

The Lane Hotel sits on a 1.62 acre lot that is bordered on the south by Church Street, and on the west by Put-In Creek. There is a gravel driveway and parking area to the west of the hotel, curving around to the northwest corner of the building. Attached to the entire east side of the hotel is a large wooden deck that extends almost to the eastern property line. A white-painted wooden decorative fence runs along the south side of the property near Church Street, and an unpainted wooden privacy fence runs along the east side of the property and through the backyard. A metal chain link fence delineates the property lines on the west and north sides. A brick walkway leads from Church Street through the front yard to the front porch of the hotel, turning at a right angle from the front porch to lead west to the gravel driveway. There are landscaped flowerbeds on the south side of the hotel around the front porch, as well as landscaped shrubbery on the west side of the building. A large old-growth tree stands in the southwest corner of the front yard, and there is a row of pine trees between the parking area and Put-In Creek on the west side of the property.

Exterior

The original c.1840 sections of the Lane Hotel, including the central section of the main building and the adjoining kitchen, are wood frame structures constructed of a combination of hewn square and pit sawn lumber. The wall joints are nailed with flat-headed hand and machine-cut nails, with many of the joists and window sashes joined with pegged mortise and tenon joints. The construction of the 1916 wings is likely by wooden balloon frame joined with machine-cut nails. The structure has a continuous brick foundation laid in stretcher bond. This is not the original foundation for the c.1840 building, as it was moved in 1916 and placed on a new foundation. The new one-story addition to the east of the building sits upon a wooden deck with a wood pier foundation. The exterior cladding of the building varies by section. The main

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Mathews County, Virginia

N/A

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section of the hotel, including the east and west wings, is clad in mill sawn weatherboard lap siding with corner boards. The rear 1998 addition and the c.1840 kitchen are clad in vinyl siding, and the new 2010 east addition is clad in wooden board and batten siding. The building has a slate shingle-clad hip roof with front cross gables including the east and west wings; the original structure had a front gable roof. The kitchen wing has a front gable A-frame roof clad in asphalt shingles, and the new east addition has a side gable standing-seam metal roof. The Lane Hotel has two standing chimneys; both are interior side slope chimneys located on the east and west wings, and are constructed of machine-cut brick in a stretcher bond. The original chimney in the c.1840 section of the hotel was an interior straddle ridge chimney located on the north side of the building, but it was damaged by lightning and removed during an earlier renovation, probably c.1998. The c.1840 kitchen also had an interior straddle ridge chimney on the north side that was removed sometime after 1973.

The south façade of the Lane Hotel is the front of the building, facing Church Street and the Courthouse Green beyond. Excluding the new 2010 east addition, the south façade of the building is symmetrical, as it was upon construction in c.1840 when the building consisted only of the central portion. The south façade is dominated by a large two-story Greek Revival front porch which covers the entire width of the original central portion of the hotel. The porch is made of wood, and is supported by four round columns with square bases. The porch roof is flat with a plain boxed cornice, and is capped with a turned balustrade at the attic level. The front and sides of the porch are open, and two wooden steps lead from the front walkway onto the porch between the two central columns. The porch is not original to the building, but was added during the 1916 renovation. The main entrance to the building is centered on the south façade via a four-paneled door which was constructed in 2009 as a replica of the original front door. Above the front door is a decorative transom window with tracery in a sunburst design. The central section of the façade contains a double-hung 4/4 wooden window on each side of the front door, and three double-hung 4/4 wooden windows on the second story. These five windows are flanked by operable wooden louvered shutters. At the attic level beneath the front gable and directly above the front door is a half-round window with decorative tracery that is original to the building, and appears on several other buildings in Mathews County that were constructed in the same time period. The south façades of the east and west wings are identical and symmetrical, featuring two double-hung 1/1 wooden windows on the first floor, and two double-hung 1/1 wooden windows on the second floor, all with louvered top-hinged bahama shutters. At the attic level are two front-gable dormers with diamond-patterned stained glass windows and plain boxed cornices to match the roof and porch cornices.

At the center of the south façade of the new single-story east addition is a 15-light door next to a vertical 15-light fixed wooden window. Above the door and window is a horizontal 15-light fixed transom. On either side of the entrance is a stacked set of three horizontal rectangular wooden window configurations. The top and bottom configurations consist of an eight-light rectangular casement window flanked by two fixed single-light windows. The middle configuration consists of three fixed six-light windows in a row.

The western façade of the Lane Hotel displays two 1/1 windows on the first floor of the west wing, and a single 1/1 window and a six-panel door on the second floor. All three windows have louvered top-hinge bahama shutters. A stained wooden L-shaped staircase with railings leads from the second floor doorway to the ground on the west side of the building to act as a fire escape. This doorway was originally a fourth window, but was altered in 2009 to allow for fire code. The only other opening on the west façade is a doorway on the one-story 1998 addition, with a 15-light door and a protruding L-shaped wooden handicap ramp. Originally, there were two 6/6 windows on the west façade of the c.1840

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Mathews County, Virginia

N/A

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central portion of the building; one on the first floor and one directly above it on the second floor. The first-floor window was removed in 1998 when the one-story addition was added to the exterior of the building, and the second-floor window was removed during the 2009 renovation. There was also originally a 6/6 western window on the attached kitchen that was removed at the time of the 1998 addition.

The north or rear façade of the building shows one 1/1 second-floor window on the west wing; there was originally a first-floor window below it which was removed in 1998. The east wing retains both its first- and second-floor 1/1 windows. The north façade of the c.1840 central section of the hotel has two small 4/4 windows at the attic level that originally flanked the chimney, one 4/4 window and a smaller fixed window on the second floor, and one 4/4 window on the first floor. The small fixed window was originally a full-sized 4/4 window, but was reduced when the 1998 addition heightened the roofline of the attached kitchen. There are no openings on the north façade of the kitchen building or 1998 addition. It is indeterminate whether there was originally a window or door on the north façade of the kitchen; when the 1998 addition was added, the roofline of the kitchen building was altered and the building was entirely recovered in vinyl siding.

On the east façade of the Lane Hotel is one 6/6 double-hung wooden window on the second floor of the c.1840 section, and an original doorway with a modern 15-light door directly below. The attached kitchen has a doorway on the east façade as well as a single 6/6 window, both obscured by a modern wood-paneled lean-to addition that covers the width of the kitchen's eastern side and is currently used as a covered outside bar. The lean-to addition has a plain boxed cornice, a doorway with double louvered doors, and a large rectangular window opening with no covering and a protruding bar ledge. The doorway opens to a large wooden deck that meets the entire east side of the building and is used for outdoor seating and dining. On the east façade of the east wing are two double-hung wooden 1/1 windows on the second floor, and one 1/1 window and a 15-light door on the first floor. The doorway was originally another 1/1 window, and was enlarged in the 2009 renovation. The first-floor window and doorway open into a brand new 2010 "Portside Deck" addition.

Interior

The first-floor interior of the c.1840 central section of the hotel is divided into two rooms: an entrance foyer with a staircase to the second floor on the south side, and a large main room with a fireplace on the north wall which likely served as the tavern dining room originally. A single doorway with a 15-light door opposite the front door and to the immediate left of the staircase opens from the foyer into the dining room. The east wing, composed of a single dining room with a fireplace on the east wall and a small closet under the staircase, is accessible from the foyer through a doorway to the right of the staircase. A door to the left of the fireplace opens out into the new 2010 "Portside Deck" addition, which is finished with paneled wood walls and wood plank flooring and contains a bar and seating area. The west wing, a single room used for sitting and dining with a fireplace on the west wall, is accessible from the foyer via a double doorway with modern 15-light French doors opposite the staircase. The 1998 addition along the west wall of the building is accessible from a single doorway on the north wall of the west wing, as well as two doorways on the west wall of the central dining room. This section is composed of a hallway along the east side that opens into a series of rooms along the west side of the addition. Farthest south is a bar area that is also open to the west wing via a cut-out window. To the north of the bar room are two bathrooms, then a hallway to the building's handicap entrance, and finally a small

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N/A

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food preparation area in the northwest corner of the addition. The attached kitchen building is directly to the north of the central dining room, and is accessible through a doorway from the hallway of the 1998 addition.

The turned staircase leading from the foyer to the second floor has its original c.1840 banister from the turn between the first and second floor all the way up to the attic; the first-floor section of the banister was previously replaced, probably in the 1916 renovation. During the 2009 renovation, a reproduction first-floor banister was installed to match the original banister, with a smooth curved handrail, turned newels, and plain square balusters. The staircase leads to the second-floor landing, facing a short hallway that leads to a bathroom on the south side of the building. Originally, the second floor was likely a single open room. During the 1916 renovation, a bathroom was added at the front of the building, and a bedroom was added to each new wing on the east and west sides of the building. The central portion of the building remained open on the second floor. During the 2009 renovation, a wall was added through the center of the main room to create an east-west hallway. At the east end of the hall is a doorway to a bedroom with a covered fireplace on the east wall and a small closet in the southwest corner. At the west end of the hall is a doorway to a single room currently used as a sitting area, with a covered fireplace on the west wall and a modern emergency exit opening to a fire escape to the right of the fireplace. On the north side of the hallway is an opening to a small closet, and a doorway to a third bedroom with a covered fireplace on the north wall, a private bathroom, and a closet.

The staircase continues up to the finished attic of the c.1840 central section of the building, which is entered via a doorway at the top of the staircase. The attic is currently used as an office, and is a single open room with large hewn square vertical support posts on either side of the roof ridge line in the center of the room. There is a covered fireplace at the center of the north wall, and a small bathroom was added to the northwest corner during the 2009 renovation. On the south wall is a window seat ledge and the magnificent half-round Billups window overlooking the Courthouse Green.

During the 2009 renovation, care was taken to retain as many of the original attributes and interior finishings of the Lane Hotel as possible. The original ½"-thick pine plank floors of variegated widths are still intact in the c.1840 central section of the building. The original 1916 pine plank floors are also intact in the east and west wings, and are painted in the two first-floor rooms. The flooring in the 1998 addition and the attached kitchen is composed of ceramic tile. The plaster walls are intact in the c.1840 and 1916 sections of the hotel, having been patched as needed during the 2009 renovation. The walls of the 1998 addition, as well as any new walls added during the 2009 renovation, are composed of drywall. Most of the fluted and carved door frames and baseboards from the 1916 renovation remain, and any new trim was chosen to complement the original finishings. Most of the original interior doors and all of the exterior doors have been replaced; many of the interior doors were cut into half-doors during an earlier renovation to use the building as a day care center. These half-doors were replaced with various types of new doors, including French doors on the first floor and fire-resistant paneled doors on the second-floor bedrooms. The front door was replaced with a reproduction of the original entrance door. Although none of the fireplaces in the building are still wood-burning, the first-floor fireplaces in the central dining room and the west wing have gas burning inserts. None of the fireplaces on the second floor are still in use, and have all been covered. Most of the mantles in the hotel have been replaced over the years of renovations; the mantle from the first floor central dining room was moved up to the bedroom above it on the second floor, and a replacement antique mantle for the first floor was installed during the 2009 renovation.

Outbuildings

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N/A

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The Lane Hotel has two associated outbuildings. The first is a small, one-story, front-gable frame structure that is currently used as a storage shed. This building measures approximately 72 square feet and stands on a concrete and wooden post foundation. The exterior cladding is wooden lapped siding, currently painted blue with white trim. There is a single vertical paneled door on the south side of the structure. The interior is a single small unfinished room with a concrete slab floor. The construction of the structure is similar to that of the oldest portion of the Lane Hotel and the attached kitchen, composed of combination hewn square and pit sawn lumber. This is a contributing building, as it was built contemporaneously with the original Lane Hotel and may originally have been attached to the west side of the hotel and moved in 1916.²

The other building on the Lane Hotel property is a one-story rectangular garage. The garage is also used for storage, and has three openings: a single sliding garage door and a doorway on the west façade, and a doorway on the south façade. The foundation is concrete slab, and the exterior cladding is vinyl siding. This building is noncontributing, as it was added sometime between 1973 and 1990, after the period of significance.

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Mathews County, Virginia

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Lane Hotel, now known as The White Dog Inn, originally served along with its outbuildings as a tavern, hotel, and storehouse from the time of its construction in c.1840. Although the building evolved physically and usefully over the years, serving as a residence and a day care center, it is best remembered in Mathews County as a hotel. As The White Dog Inn, the building has recently returned to its original purpose as a bed and breakfast and a café. The Lane Hotel is locally significant, meeting National Register Criterion A with significance in commerce. The hotel supplied travelers and local salesmen with lodging and dining between 1840 and 1918. As most of the interior finishes date to a 1916 renovation, much of the building's significance lies in its service as a local rural hotel during the early automobile age. The Lane Hotel also meets Criterion C in that it can be grouped with several other buildings in the county constructed in the same time period, including the county courthouse and Hyco House, which have the distinctive "Billups window," a half-round three-part window with decorative tracery. The building also meets Criteria Consideration B, as historical evidence suggests that it was moved a distance of about 25 yards in 1916.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Local Context

Mathews County is located at the eastern tip of the Middle Peninsula of Virginia. It is bounded on the north by the Piankitank River and the Chesapeake Bay, on the east by the Chesapeake Bay, and on the south by Mobjack Bay. Mathews is a rural county of 87 square miles, with a population of approximately 9,500, and is the smallest rural county in the state.³ The county seat and center of commerce in Mathews County is the village known as Mathews, or Mathews Court House. It is located in the center of the county at the intersection of Rt. 14 and Rt. 198, at the head of Put-In Creek. This downtown commercial area covers only a few blocks, with most buildings located on Main Street (Rt. 14) and a few on the intersecting Church Street. At the center of the downtown area is the Courthouse Green, which houses several county buildings including the historic courthouse.

Mathews County was originally known as Kingston Parish, and was the eastern part of Gloucester County. Kingston Parish was prosperous, and in 1704, 116 landowners were recorded with total landholdings of 46,537 acres.⁴ In 1790, Kingston Parish citizens petitioned the General Assembly to separate them from Gloucester, arguing that the size of the county made it difficult for residents of the lower section to travel the forty miles to Gloucester Court House. Speaker of the House of Delegates General Thomas Mathews supported the petition, and the county was divided on May 1, 1791. In gratitude for General Mathews' interest in their cause, the citizens named their new county Mathews.⁵

In 1792, construction began on the first of the brick county buildings located on the courthouse green at the head of Put-In Creek. By the mid-nineteenth century, several more county buildings had been erected on the green, including two jails and a clerk's office. The area surrounding the courthouse became the central marketplace of the county, and was originally known as Westville. In *A New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia and the District of Columbia*, published in 1835, Joseph Martin states that there were "about 30 houses, 4 mercantile stores, 1 tanyard, 3 boot and shoe factories,

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1 tailor, 2 blacksmiths, 1 saddler, 1 carriage maker, and 1 tavern...population 150, including 3 regular physicians.”⁶ Westville gradually evolved into the Mathews commercial district that exists today.

The economy of Mathews County has always been closely tied to the sea, with commercial fishing and shipbuilding historically being two of its largest industries. Shipbuilding was the main trade in the county from as early as the American Revolution, with timber being harvested from across the county. One-third of the ships constructed in Virginia between 1790 and 1820 were built in Mathews; by the mid-nineteenth century, the shipbuilding industry in the county had declined as sea vessel industry sprang up in the Norfolk and Baltimore areas. During the 1800s and first half of the 1900s, Mathews was a steamboat port for boats carrying both passengers and cargo. Fishing industries have also long been an important trade, with crabbing, oystering, and fishing being the main source of income for many Mathews families. The seafood industry peaked around 1920 and then declined due to a lessened market and general resource depletion in the Bay.⁷ This lack of sustaining industry resulted in little population growth within the county since the mid-nineteenth century and slow commercial growth in the downtown commercial district, which has been beneficial in preserving the rural historic character of the village.

Early History

The Lane Hotel was built in c.1840 by local townsman Walter Gardiner Lane.⁸ The Lane family had lived in Kingston Parish for three generations, beginning with Walter G. Lane's grandfather Ezekiel Lane. Walter G. Lane's father was William Lane, who served in both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.⁹ Walter Lane himself was very well-respected in the community as a colonel of the Mathews militia, a justice of the peace, and a member of various local committees including the county school commission. He also served in the Virginia Legislature for one term, representing Mathews and Middlesex Counties.¹⁰ Walter G. Lane was married to Mary Ann Henry Barkwell Lane and had eleven children, one of whom was the local Civil War Confederate hero General James Henry Lane.¹¹ James Henry Lane was a brigadier general under Robert E. Lee who fought in nearly every important battle of the Civil War, including the Battle of Chancellorsville where General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson was accidentally shot and killed by Lane's troops. Lane was with General Robert E. Lee when he surrendered at the Appomattox Courthouse in 1865.¹²

According to land tax records, Walter Gardiner Lane purchased the land upon which the Lane Hotel now sits in 1829, from the estate of Henry Diggs. The total land purchased was three acres, with a building value of \$400 already on the property. It is likely that at least one of the structures on the Diggs land was a storehouse, and that Walter G. Lane continued to operate the storehouse after he purchased the property. The 2-1/2-story hotel building appears in the land tax records in 1840, at a taxable value of \$2000.¹³ Historic photographs of the Mathews Courthouse, as well as a drawing on a plat map from 1914¹⁴, show that there was originally a second large two-story building to the east of the Lane Hotel, possibly connected to the hotel by a 1-1/2-story hyphen. Combined with various outbuildings including a detached kitchen, these structures probably served as a tavern, storehouse, and possibly a home to the Lane family. It is indeterminate what each building was specifically used for, although it seems likely that the tavern dining room and some lodging was located in the section of the hotel that remains standing today, since the detached kitchen was directly behind that building. Lodging may have been available on the upper floors of the same building, with the storehouse and further lodging available in the other two-story building. A 1973 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission survey of the

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hotel indicates that the small front-gabled shed to the north of the building was originally attached to west side of the hotel, perhaps as storage or an outhouse.¹⁵

In the mid-nineteenth century when the Lane Hotel was constructed, most small towns and villages such as Mathews had several ordinaries or taverns for the lodging of travelers. These taverns were much smaller than a modern hotel and were more comparable in size to today's bed and breakfast or inn. The tavern was also a dining establishment, and generally contained a bar where local citizens could gather. Many taverns were operated solely by the owner and his family, as is likely the case with the Lane Hotel, with Walter G. Lane's wife and children working alongside him in the tavern and storehouse daily. Typically, taverns contained a large public room with a fireplace, a dining room to the side, and sometimes a ladies' parlor. The Lane Hotel deviated from this design, having only one large room on the main floor which likely served as public room, bar, and dining room, although it is possible that the dining room was located on the second floor. Taverns varied widely in respect to their sleeping arrangements; some had private bedrooms, some had one large sleeping room that was shared by guests, and some had no separate bedroom at all, with guests sleeping on the floor of the public room.¹⁶ Since the Lane Hotel had one large room with a fireplace on the second floor, and another large room with a fireplace in the attic, these two rooms were probably both used as shared sleeping quarters.

The Lane Hotel was neither the first nor the only operating hotel in Mathews County in the second half of the nineteenth century. According to *A New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia and the District of Columbia*, published in 1835, there was already one tavern in downtown Mathews. This tavern is likely the same one that had been in place since at least as early as 1798, and was owned by Mr. Henry Respass.¹⁷ As the Lane Hotel was built in 1840, it was likely the second tavern to appear in Mathews Courthouse. By the end of the nineteenth century into the early twentieth century, the Lane Hotel was one of several hotels in downtown Mathews. The Davis Hotel, operated by Mr. Charlie Davis, may be the only other hotel located in a building that still exists today; it occupied a section of the building that now houses Hudgins Drug Store on Main Street. Other hotels that were in operation in the early twentieth century included the Marchant Hotel, destroyed by fire in 1927, and the Virginia Hotel, both located on Main Street.¹⁸ These hotels would have been relatively small, similar to the Lane Hotel in size. Elsewhere in the county, the Gwynn's Island Hotel was in business in the early twentieth century, and was perhaps the largest hotel in the county with three stories and 21 rooms. This hotel also was destroyed by fire.¹⁹ Today, there are several bed and breakfast inns operating in Mathews County, but the Lane Hotel/ White Dog Inn is the only one in the downtown commercial district.

The land tax records alternately describe the property during Lane's ownership as "Hotel Store Courthouse," "Hotel and Store," "Store Lot and Tavern," and "Tavern Lot."²⁰ Walter G. Lane and his family owned and operated the Lane Hotel until 1873, when the property was sold to Mary E. Foster after Walter Lane's death.²¹ It is not known whether the hotel was still in business under Foster's ownership. In 1887, the property transferred to Mrs. S. Virginia Sleet, who continued to operate the hotel under the name "Old Sleet Hotel."²² In 1902, the hotel was bought by G.S. Marchant and J.F. Marchant, who continued operations under the name "Hotel Mathews."²³ Between 1906 and 1915, the property changed hands several times, but it is indeterminate whether or not the hotel was still open during this time period. In 1915, the hotel was sold to Charles D. Hudgins²⁴, who seems to have kept the doors of Hotel Mathews open. In 1916, the hotel was detached from its adjoining eastern building and moved about 25 yards to the northwest, away from Church Street.²⁵ The kitchen was likely attached to the north side of the hotel at this time. Extensive renovations of the building were also undertaken in 1916, with the addition of the large two-story east and west wings and the Greek Revival front porch.²⁶ C.D.

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Hudgins operated Hotel Mathews until 1918, when it closed its doors due to a labor shortage brought on by World War I.²⁷ The property was partitioned in 1920, and the land containing the previously adjoining eastern building and hyphen was sold to J.M Pugh and R.E. Jarvis, who demolished these buildings in 1921 to build a new storehouse.²⁸

The Lane Hotel in the Early Automobile Era

With the railroad boom during the second half of the nineteenth century, taverns in many small American cities evolved into larger hotels to meet the rising demand for lodging along the new railroads. Although the village of Mathews was a steamboat port throughout the nineteenth century, it never served as a railroad hub, and was largely exempt from the increased volume of travelers associated with railroads. Local hotels continued to operate as small taverns, and no large new hotels were built to challenge their business. It was not until the first two decades of the twentieth century, which brought the beginning of the automobile age, that the Lane Hotel was altered to suit the changing travel conditions of the day.

The first modern American automobiles were designed in the early 1890s. Although this new technology garnered much attention from the American public, automobiles were very expensive and often unreliable, and remained simply toys for the very wealthy through the beginning of the twentieth century. Henry Ford changed all of this with his formation of the Ford Motor Company in 1903, and the release of his mass-produced Model T automobile in 1908. The Model T was much more reliable than earlier cars, and because it could be affordably made, it could be affordably sold on a mass scale. In the following twenty years, Ford sold over fifteen million automobiles to upper- and middle-class Americans.²⁹ By 1918, one in thirteen families owned a car, and by 1929 four out of five families were automobile owners.³⁰ This new form of travel brought about great changes in the hospitality business, both in large cities and rural areas such as Mathews.

In the early twentieth century, automobiling was seen very much as a sport, and those who could afford a car would use it for pleasure tripping beyond their home city or state in search of adventure.³¹ As more people were able to afford automobiles, vacations became more popular, and city dwellers used their cars to escape to the countryside for relaxation. In addition to vacationers, salesmen were more often travelling by automobile, as it greatly increased their sales territory and the number of sales calls they could make in a single trip.³² Many of these vacationers and salesmen were dependent on hotels, and the hotel industry was forced to adapt to the distinct needs of the motorist. Between 1910 and 1930, a new kind of hotel was opening in small cities and towns; one that was very much like the hotels of the railroad age, but larger and better equipped in order to remain comfortable to middle and upper-class motorists.³³ In addition to newly constructed hotels, by 1920 many old taverns had also been renovated to accommodate travelers who required a more luxurious lodging experience.³⁴ Particularly in the east and Midwest, many small-town hotels had previously been small stagecoach inns that were enlarged in the early twentieth century to provide a larger number of private rooms to house the increasing volume of travelers.³⁵ In 1904 William Frederick Dix predicted that "the time is coming when the roadside taverns and country inns will be revived to enjoy a new period of prosperity."³⁶ Indeed, the small-town tavern did see new prosperity, but was required to stay up to date in order to do so. Automobiles allowed travelers to choose their hotel, so the exterior appearance of the building was very important if a hotelier wanted to compete with other local establishments. In the early automobile age, hotels were often some of the most elegantly designed buildings in the downtown area.³⁷

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The Lane Hotel is not only a reflection of the evolution of the hospitality industry from the late nineteenth century through the early twentieth century; it is also architecturally significant in that the building's physical evolution embodies the national trend of small-town hotels being renovated to suit the needs of the early automobile era. In 1916, the Lane Hotel was renovated and enlarged for the new generation of travelers. The new east and west wings made the hotel more spacious, adding at least two new private bedrooms. An interior bathroom was added, and much of the interior trim was updated to appear more decorative and luxurious, including fireplace mantels, door surrounds, and the lower section of the staircase's prominent balustrade in the foyer. The exterior of the Lane Hotel was also updated to appear more elegant with the addition of a grand two-story columned porch, taking the appearance of the building from a somewhat plain and outdated frame structure to an overstated and up-to-date Greek Revival mansion. Moving the building away from the road enabled C.D. Hudgins to undertake these additions, and it may also have been a more direct response to increasing motor traffic. The hotel's previous placement alongside Church Street may have subjected guests to the new noises, dust, and smells that accompanied early automobiles. In survey photos of the Lane Hotel from 1973, there is a small frame building with double doors to the northeast of the hotel; this looks as though it would hold two cars and may have been erected in c.1916 to serve as a garage in which to house lodgers' automobiles.

By the 1920s, the golden era for small-town hotels in the early automobile age was coming to an end. Many people were moving to big cities to find jobs, and population was dropping in rural areas. As automobiles became more ubiquitous, retailing in small towns began to decline because most families could easily drive to larger cities where there was more of a shopping selection. Automobiling into the country as a sport began to lose its charm, and the number of traveling salesmen needing hotel lodging declined. Many older hotels went out of business, and the buildings stood vacant, were razed, or were adaptively reused in the 1920s.³⁸ Perhaps the Lane Hotel never reopened after World War I because the country hotel business was no longer a profitable one. The Lane Hotel stayed in the Hudgins family as a private residence until 1986 when it was sold to Hollywood starlet Toby Wing-Merrill.³⁹ Wing-Merrill was an MGM "Goldwyn Girl" actress who appeared in over thirty films in the 1920s and 1930s. Wing-Merrill was born in Virginia, and bought the Lane Hotel building for use as a residence after the death of her husband.⁴⁰ In 1994, the building was sold to the Middle Peninsula – Northern Neck Mental Health and Mental Retardation Properties.⁴¹ In 1999, it was sold to George and Linda Pocock, who used the building as a day care facility called "Bullfrogs and Butterflies."⁴² In 2009, the Lane Hotel passed to Courtlandt and Tammye Van Clief, and was carefully renovated into the White Dog Inn restaurant and bed & breakfast.

Half-Round or "Billups" Window

The Lane Hotel is also significant architecturally in that its most distinctive feature is a three-part, semi-circular window with intersecting tracery under the front gable. The hotel can be grouped with several other buildings in the county, including the county courthouse and Hyco House, which display this unusual "Billups window." These houses were all constructed within the same time period in the mid-nineteenth century, and were previously thought to have been designed by Richard Billups. The idea that Billups designed the half-round window came from the evidence that he designed and built the county courthouse in 1792. However, a public document entitled "Proceedings of A Meeting of Inhabitants of Matthews County, in relation to the Public Deposites" from 1834 states that "... On Saturday, the 15th inst. (according to adjournment,) the citizens met at the court-house, to take up the subject of the deposits and the Bank. In consequence of the interest which had been excited on the subject, the assemblage was much greater than on Monday, the new and spacious court-house being crowded to excess. ..."⁴³ This shows that a new courthouse was built on the

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court green in c.1834; therefore, Billups could not have designed the courthouse that still stands today, or the "Billups window," as he died on September 30, 1822.⁴⁴ It has not been determined who actually designed the decorative half-round window or whether all of the houses displaying this window were constructed by the same builder, but the window is an important and architecturally significant characteristic within Mathews County.

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Sketch Map - The Lane Hotel

Mathews, VA

(Not to Scale)

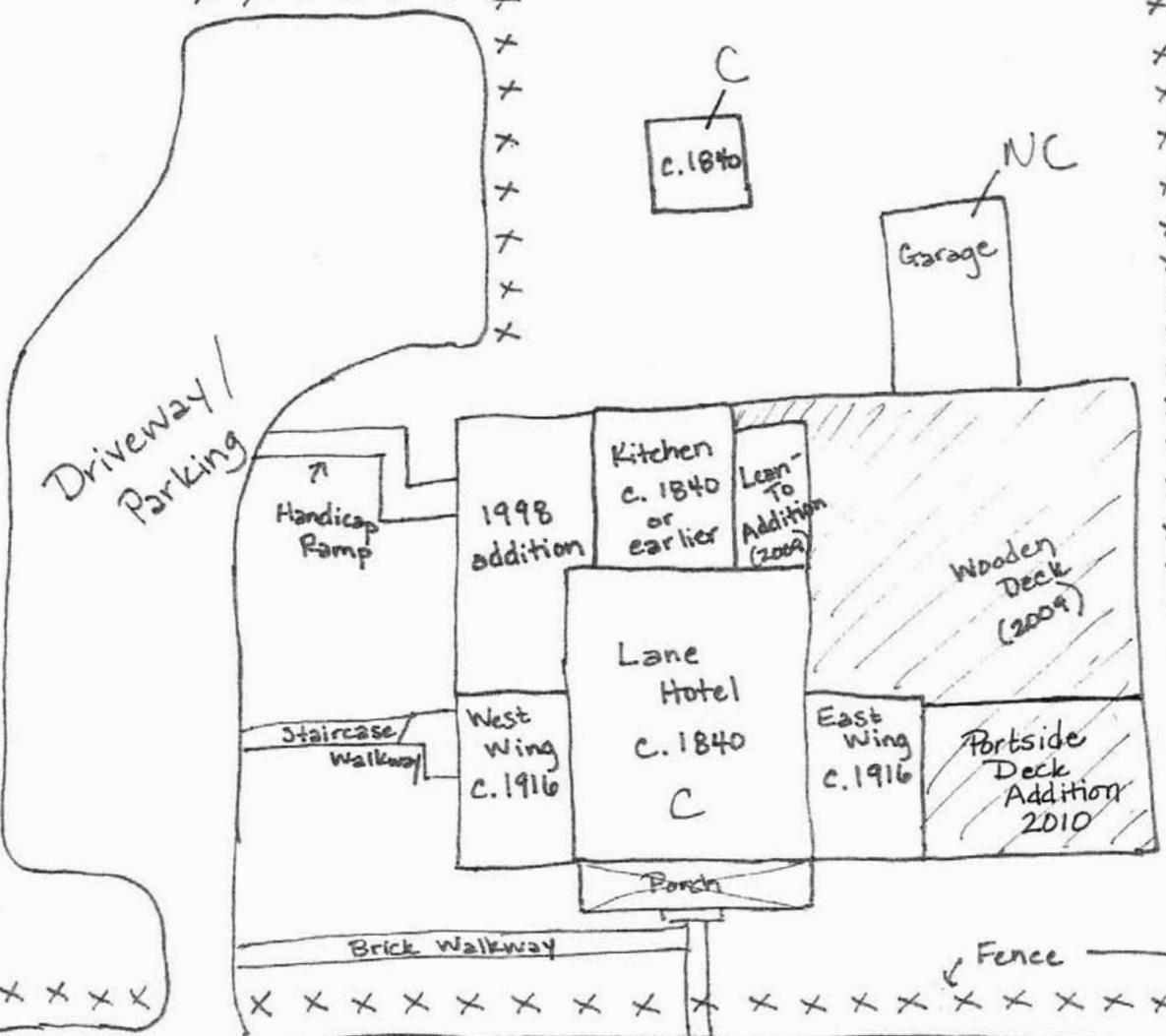
C - Contributing

NC - Non-contributing



Chain Link Fence

Wood Fence



50 Church St.

Church Street (VA-Rt. 611)

Lane Hotel
Mathews County, VA
Property Boundary

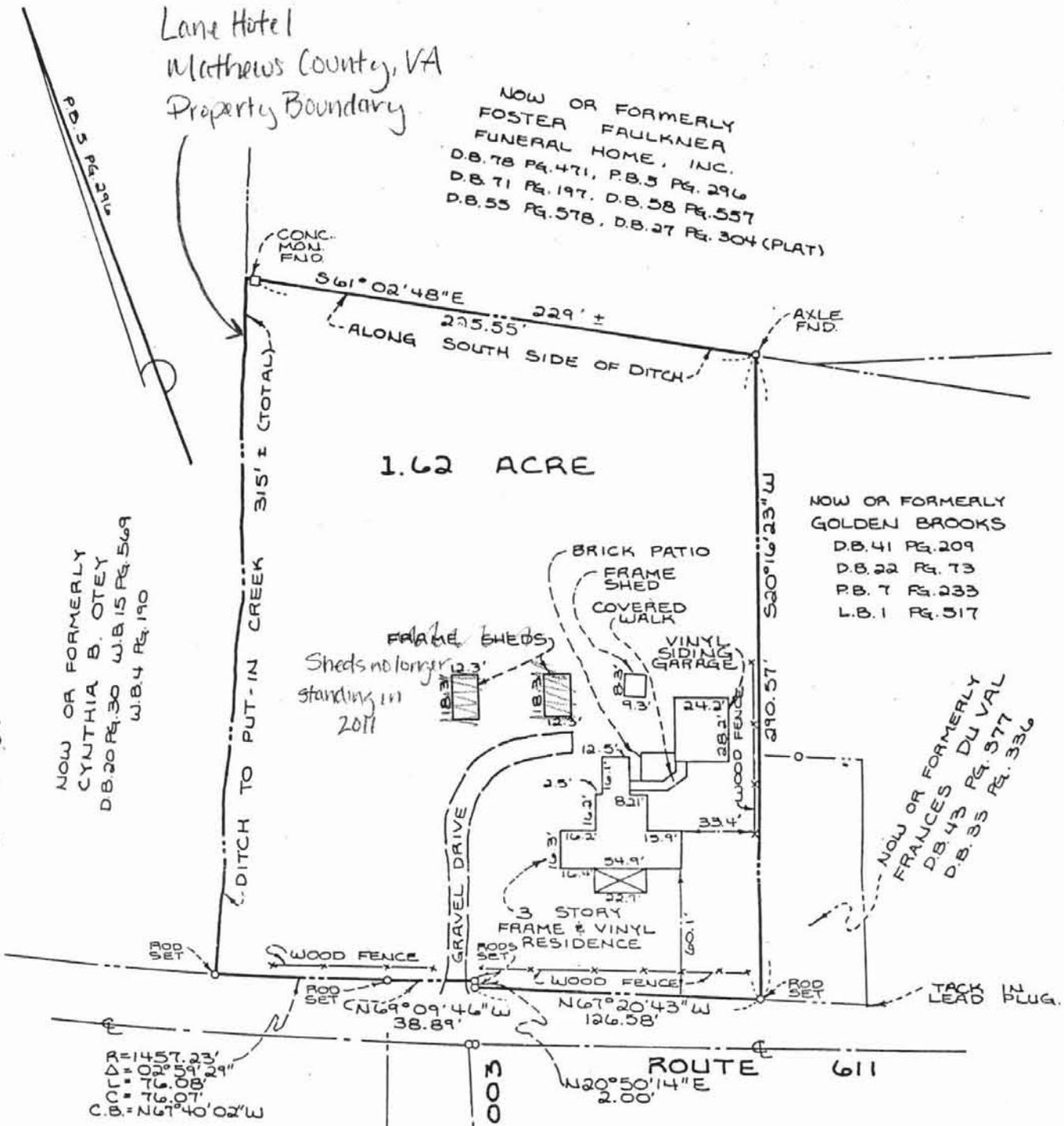
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FUNERAL HOME, INC.
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D.B. 71 PG. 197, D.B. 58 PG. 557
D.B. 55 PG. 578, D.B. 27 PG. 304 (PLAT)

NOW OR FORMERLY
GOLDEN BROOKS
D.B. 41 PG. 209
D.B. 22 PG. 73
P.B. 7 PG. 233
L.B. 1 PG. 517

NOW OR FORMERLY
FRANCES DU VAL
D.B. 43 PG. 377
D.B. 35 PG. 336

NOW OR FORMERLY
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D.B. 20 PG. 30, W.B. 15 PG. 569
W.B. 4 PG. 190

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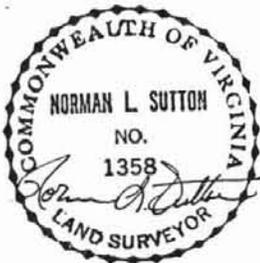


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C.L.=76.08'
C.B.=76.07'
C.B.=N67°40'02\"W

NOTES:

- REFERENCES:
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D.B. 65 PG. 207, S.H. P.B. 2 PG. 237
D.B. 47 PG. 303, L.B. 1 PG. 450
D.B. 19 PG. 533
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SOURCE: FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY - FLOOD
INSURANCE RATE MAP DATED
FEB. 4, 1987 - COMMUNITY PANEL
NO. 51 0096 00098
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ZONE AE IS ELEV. 7
ZONE X IS OUTSIDE 100 YR.
FLOOD ZONE.

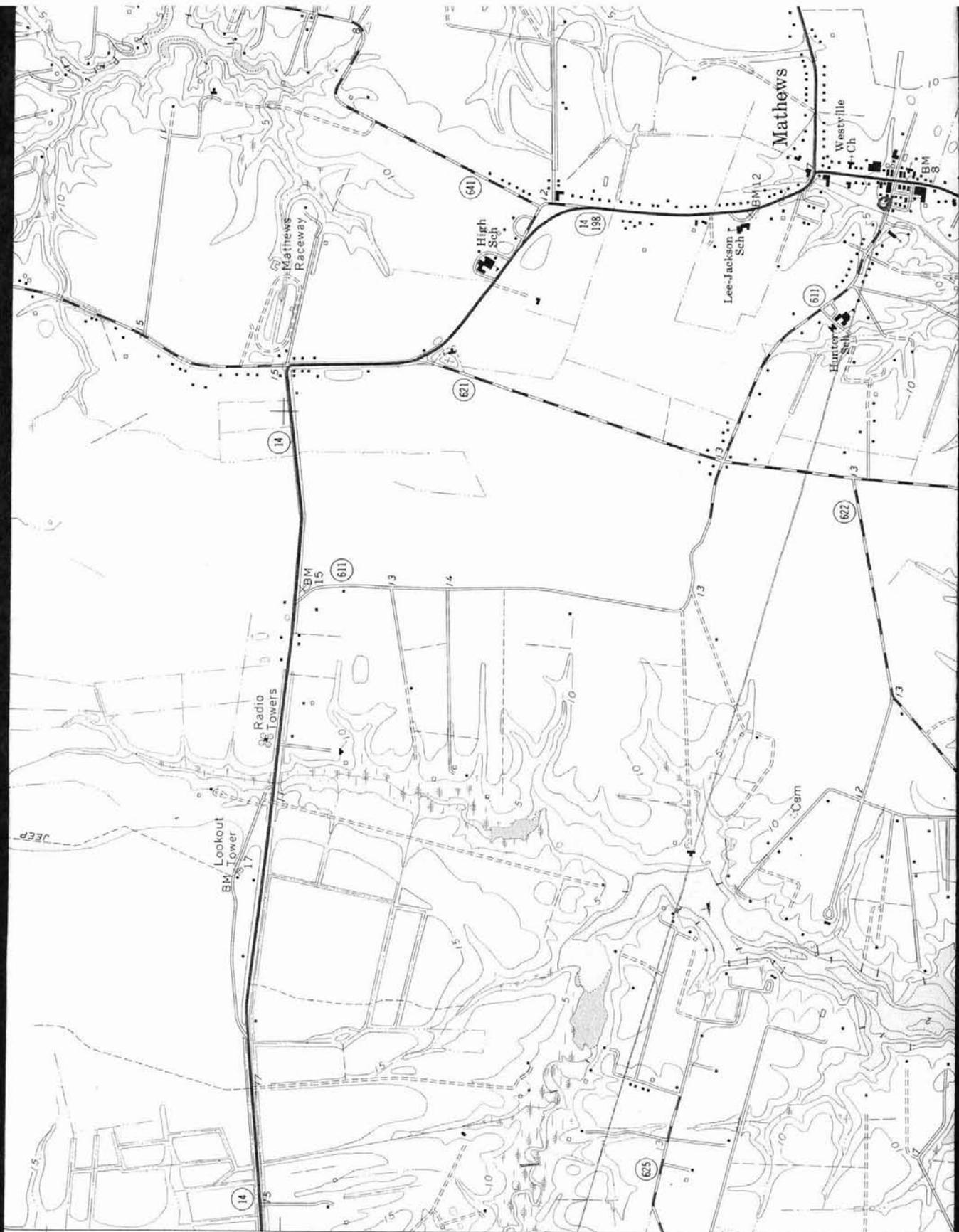
PLAT SHOWING LAND
BEING IN THE NAME OF
TOBY WING MERRILL
WESTVILLE DISTRICT
MATHEWS COUNTY, VIRGINIA
NOVEMBER 27, 1990
SCALE: 1" = 50'



SUTTON & JAMES, P.C.
Land Surveying & Civil Engineering
P.O. Box 1596
Gloucester, VA 23061
PH: (804) 693-4450

VIRGINIA: IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MATHEWS COUNTY,
NOVEMBER 30, 1990. This plat attached to and made part of a deed of trust
from Toby Wing Merrill to Douglas B. Merritt, Jr. & C. F. Hicks, Trustees, recorded





GLoucester 13 MI.
NORTH 2.4 MI.

27'30"

⁴¹⁴⁶
The Lane Hotel
Mathews Co.,
VA

68 Church St
VDHR # 057-0070

UTM Reference: ⁴¹⁴⁵

18 E 383036
N 4143856

5758 IV NW
(WARE NECK)

TAP 11-20-05 TOPO
10 27 11 P 7

Spradley-Kurowski, Kelly (DHR)

From: Wagner, Marc (DHR)
Sent: Friday, December 03, 2010 3:10 PM
To: Steve Whiteway
Cc: Spradley-Kurowski, Kelly (DHR); Schenian, Pam (DHR); Warner, Caroline (DHR)
Subject: RE: Lane Hotel, Mathews County

Dear Mr. Whiteway:

We appreciate your comment! I will make sure our Board Members will have a copy of your email in their meeting folders.

Sincerely,

Marc C. Wagner
Designation Manager/Architectural Historian
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221
P: 804-367-2323 X-115
F: 804-367-2391
Web: <http://www.dhr.virginia.gov>

From: Steve Whiteway [<mailto:swhiteway@co.mathews.va.us>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 30, 2010 9:47 AM
To: Wagner, Marc (DHR)
Subject: Lane Hotel, Mathews County

Dear Mr. Wagner:

With this email, the Mathews County Board of Supervisors extends its support to the inclusion of the Lane Hotel on both the National Register of Historic Places as well as the Virginia Landmarks Register.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Regards,

Steve Whiteway

County Administrator
County of Mathews
P.O. Box 839, Mathews, VA 23109
804-725-7172
swhiteway@co.mathews.va.us