

DHR/Virginia Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES: Burke's Store

DHR No. 067-0049

Purpose of Evaluation

The evaluation is a follow-up to architectural surveys conducted on the building in 1975 and 1995. On 26 September 1996, the Virginia State Review Board determined that Burke's Store appeared to meet the criteria for inclusion on the Virginian Landmarks Register and on the National Register of Historic places (DHR letter enclosed). The owner of the property did not take measures to nominate the property to list it as an historic property, thus, due to the length of time, this form updates the physical condition and description of the property since 1995 and begins the process to nominate Burke's Store for inclusion on the historic registers.

Are you interested in applying for State and/or Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits?

Yes No

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

1. General Property Information

Property name: Burke's Store

Property address: 1949 Burke's Tavern Rd

City or Town: Burkeville, VA 23922

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

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

Building Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: Building and surrounding structures occupy about one acre.

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban Suburban Town Village Hamlet Rural

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

Lying near the intersection of the old Raccoon Trail (now Burkes Tavern Rd) and Rt 607 (Orchard Rd), Burkes Store is located on Burke's Tavern Farm, comprising some 186 rural acres in western Nottoway and Prince Edward Counties. The surrounding environment is predominantly improved pasture and woodlands. Cattle and horse farming are the principle farming activities in the area. In the late 20th century, Burkes Tavern Farm was a dairy farm. Various non-historic structures and buildings survive that period, including three feed silos, hay barn, cow barn, milk house and sheds. The site maps and pictures are attached to this form. Burke's Store is co-located with Burke's Tavern.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): early 19th Century Greek Revival

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

If the builder is known, please list here: A. P. Miller and Samuel D. Burke

Date of construction: 1820

Narrative Description:

Burkes Store was assessed as being in excellent condition per the 1995 DHR/Commonwealth of Virginia survey. *There have been no significant changes to Burkes Store since the 1995 survey.* However, the building has continued to suffer from disuse, with sash, window sill/jam, trim, and soffit deterioration evident. In 2001 a car drove through the front door, pushing it into the first floor interior basement and damaging surrounding brick. The front door and surrounding brick were repaired in accordance with preservation guidelines. In the 20th century the exterior brick was partially repointed with inappropriate Portland mortar. A few modern cinder blocks were placed below the most northern window on the west side. Although the cinder blocks remain, most of the exterior Portland mortar joints have been repointed with lime mortar in accordance with preservation guidelines. Extensive repair of failing brick on the interior first floor below the east window was also completed. It is believed that the Portland mortar and cinder blocks were present during the 1995 survey. The original stairs/porch entry to the back of the first floor have long been demolished. A metal stairway from the Burkeville elementary school was added in the 1970s to gain entry to the first floor from the south side of the Store.

The owner intends to complete renovation work on Burkes Store, focusing on windows, trim, soffit, and sashes. Further work is needed to remove cinder block, replacing with old brick and lime mortar. Some old brick remains from the front door repair and can be repurposed. It is expected that the old store will serve as an equipment shed to support farming operations.

Architectural Summary: This circa 1820 five-course American Bond brick store is an excellent example of the Greek Revival style in a rural setting. The 1 and 1/2 story building comprised a general store and post office on the first floor while the raised basement, or ground floor, served as stables for the livestock for the travelers staying at Burke's Tavern directly across Raccoon Trail (Rt 621). A simple rectangle form, it has a front pediment-gable roof with molded, boxed cornice and dentil molding. Three-bay facade features a double-leaf, two-panel wood door. The windows on either side are double-hung sash with 9/9 lights.

Interior Description: The ground and first floors have open plans. The ground floor was originally used as stables for Burkes Tavern and had stalls along both sides, open barred windows, and a dirt floor. The walls are plaster over brick and the ceiling is open with exposed, pit-sawn beams. The floor was covered in 1975 with bricks donated by the railroad in preparation for the Bicentennial. The wide, single-leaf doors at the north and south ends are vertical board, with original iron, stop hinges. Interior stairs used to connect the two floors. The main first floor served as a general store and post office from 1820 to 1850. The post office was located in a separate section at the back of the building with an arched opening connecting it to the store front. A break in the plaster indicates the location of this dividing wall. Breaks and shadows in the plaster also indicate the interior originally had baseboard molding throughout and bins and shelves along one side. The walls are plaster and some early writing on the walls survive, including various dated signatures and a prediction about the coming of the railroad, dated 1851. There is a ledger from the 1840s that includes customer accounts and the Store's inventory. The ceiling is exposed pit-sawn

beams. In the mid-20th century every other beam was removed to accommodate hay storage. The floors are wide oak boarding. The door and window openings feature Greek-Revival trim with cornerbacks. The doors were originally locked with cross-bars. A mantle and a counter from the Burkeville Bank were added by the owners when the building was refurbished as a museum for the Bicentennial. With the exception of a few artifacts in a display case, the museum no longer exists. Various tools and mortar supplies supporting the ongoing mortar restoration are temporarily stored on the ground floor.

There have been no additions to Burke's Store. The majority of the alterations are related to its use as a barn in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and its refurbishment as a museum for the Bicentennial in 1976. When used as a barn, the wall separating the Post Office, the bins and shelves of the store and every other beam on the first floor were removed for hay storage. During the Bicentennial refurbishment, the original windows on the first floor were replaced with windows from the YMCA in Crewe and windows were added to the barred openings on the ground floor. The stalls on the ground floor stable were removed and the dirt floor was covered with bricks donated by the railroad. The original ground floor was used for milking and shelter for new calves. A mantle was added to the fireplace and a wood stove was added on the ground floor. The front door was replaced. A bell was added outside the rear entrance and a sign was painted over the front door. The original cedar-shake roof has been replaced with a standing-seam metal roof. Several of the original shakes survive modern alterations and are stored on the first floor.

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

There is a circa 1900 spring house located about 100 feet east of the Store, located near an old Sycamore tree.

Various non-historic structures relating to farming are in the immediate vicinity of the Store. These include a three silos, a hay barn, three sheds, a general purpose cow barn, and a milk house. A failing milking barn was recently demolished. The general purpose barn has been recently refurbished. Two cinder block sheds are in disrepair as well as a wood pole shed. Two of the silos are missing their tops and/or several layers of brick. There is an old Burke family cemetery to the west of the property. Burke family descendants cleaned out the overgrown cemetery in 2017 and added a wrought iron gate to the brick enclosure. This brick enclosure was added in 1949 to keep cows out of the cemetery.

4. Property's History and Significance

The role played by Burkes Store in the local politics, history, and development of the area is hard to distinguish from the history and role of Burkes Tavern itself. Burkes Store served as a stable and store for the Tavern. A map made by James Wood in 1820 shows four buildings in the immediate vicinity of Burkes Tavern. The area at the junction of Raccoon Trail and Route 607, originally settled by Charles Burke, Sr., has been the site of an old tavern and store since 1755. The land, store, and Tavern were deeded by Charles Burkes, Sr. to Colonel Richard Burke. The Tavern and store were operated by Anderson P. Miller and known as "Miller's Tavern" and "Miller's Store" from 1804 to circa 1820, during which time it was licensed as a stagecoach stop and post office. The present Store was built circa 1820 by Samuel D. Burke, grandson of Richard Burke. Samuel D. Burke was elected to the General Assembly in 1840 and was active in politics as a local leader of the Whig Party. In 1847 he was named commissioner and collector for the newly chartered Richmond and Danville Railroad Company and was instrumental in the location of the tracks near Burkes Tavern, at what was called Burke's Junction and later incorporated as Burkeville in 1877 in his honor. Burke's Tavern was entered into the National and Virginia registry of historic properties on July 17, 1975. Burke's Store is significant for its role with this historic property.

5. Property Ownership

Private: Public\Local Public\State Public\Federal

Current Legal Owner of the Property:

Name/title: Mrs. Emma R. Farrar
Organization: Private citizen
Street & number: 1949 Burke's Tavern Rd
City or town: Burkeville State: Virginia Zip code: 23922
Email: msfusa2002@yahoo.com
Telephone: (Home) 434-767-3315, (Cell) 703-915-1526

Legal Owner's Signature: _____

Date: _____

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

Name/title: Mr. Thomas R. King
Street & number: 2160 Burkes Tavern Rd
City: Burkeville State: VA Zip code: 23922
E-mail: tomking@centurylink.net
Telephone: (434) 767-4005

Signature: _____ Date: _____

6. Notification

County Administrator:

Name/title: Mr. Ronald E. Roark
Locality: Nottoway County
Street & number: 344 West Courthouse Rd. PO Box 92
City or town: Nottoway State: VA Zip code: 23955
Telephone: (434) 645-8696