

# 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.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Greenfield

Listed On

VLR: 09/21/2017

Other names/site number: DHR File Number 051-0083

NRHP: 02/14/2018

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 412 Greenfields [sic] Lane

City or town: White Stone State: VA County: Lancaster

Not for Publication:  n/a Vicinity:  X

## 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

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A             B      X C             D

Signature of certifying official>Title:

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

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

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#### 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 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

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### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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#### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

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### Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, WOOD, METAL

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Located on Lancaster County's Fleets Bay Neck, Greenfield is an antebellum house that always figured as the domestic core of a surrounding Tidewater farm. The name "Greenfield" first appears in a deed for the property in 1851 by which time the single-story core of the present house had been built in three separate campaigns that began in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Collectively this core and its augmentations demonstrate the accretive, value-added nature of successful Tidewater agriculture as it was practiced during the first half of the nineteenth century. In 1857 William H. George, a successful but not exceptionally wealthy landholder, hired local builder Henry Tapscott to increase the size of the house, thereby altering it to a regionally familiar Greek Revival architectural form that Greenfield still embodies today. It is a two-story, gable-roofed, framed and weatherboarded building with a single file of rooms and a central passage on each of the two full stories, as well as in the finished loft level under the eaves. No contributing secondary resources survive at Greenfield. A garage-and-guest house and a swimming pool with an open-sided gazebo and a small pumphouse all were constructed after 1990. A new dock and boat lift doubtless replace any number of predecessors, for during the nineteenth century, local travel and transport by water rather than by land was sometimes more convenient. The historic extent of the tract was always about 120 acres, augmented through

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acquisition of neighboring tracts throughout the nineteenth century, but the size of the farm gradually diminished after 1900. Today the house sits on a lot of 2.8 acres.

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## Narrative Description

### *Setting*

The extent of the Greenfield farm throughout the nineteenth century and until after World War II was 120 acres. The historic Greenfield house now stands on 2.8 acres amidst a scatter of new houses, mostly built on lots encompassing between one and three acres. The visual integrity of the house is maintained by Dymer Creek, which borders the southwest side of the property, and fence lines accented by clusters of trees planted elsewhere along the perimeter of the land. Greenfield may be the only surviving building or structure near Dymer Creek that was shelled during a Civil War naval skirmish on Dymer Creek. This assault on houses and agricultural buildings was in retaliation for a foraging expedition by Confederates that began with their capture of *Harriet DeFord*, a Union supply boat on April 5, 1865. Union pursuit and retaliation ensued the following day and continued episodically through April 8, 1865.

Greenfield was constructed with a north-south orientation, and its façade was always oriented toward Fleet's Bay Neck Road, an early and important thoroughfare that extended from a major colonial route through the Northern Neck (now Route 3 and Route 200), and eastward to the Chesapeake Bay.<sup>1</sup> The south side of the house overlooks a cove of Dymer Creek that was navigable to ships of comparatively deep draught at least through the 1860s. Like much of the terrain around the Bay, Greenfield rarely rises more than ten feet above sea level.

### *Primary Dwelling – Detailed Description*

The dominant section of Greenfield is of a nineteenth-century house type that until recently was whimsically known as an “I-house,” and although plain, most of its embellishment is characteristic of the Greek Revival style.<sup>2</sup> Every period of the house is set on a brick common-bond foundation barely visible above ground level; the water table was always too high to permit construction of a proper cellar level.

Greenfield began with the one-room section that now figures as its west wing. Judging from the builders’ use of hand-headed cut nails this “Period 1” was standing by about 1825.<sup>3</sup> Built to only one full story in height, it encloses beneath its gable roof a loft room that originally was unheated. This space has always been accessible from an enclosed winder stair situated in the northwest corner of the dwelling. The façade of Period 1 originally had a central doorway flanked by two windows that have never been enlarged and retain their original double-hung sash. By 1857 the doorway had been closed over, leaving the windows in awkwardly divergent proximity. The original source of heat for this one-room dwelling was located on the east gable end. The main room of Period 1 is the only part of Greenfield that was wainscotted. It is fashioned of wide beaded boards affixed horizontally to the walls below a surbase with a profile

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that consists of a rounded fillet above a beaded lower edge. All other trim—the finished-off edges of the stair enclosure and the surrounds of the original openings—is plain, with only a single beaded edge.

Sometime around 1835 or 1840, the house was doubled in size by a single-room, wood-framed, gable-roofed addition. Its offset placement was manifestly intended to impart secondary status to the Period 1 portion: not even the existing chimney was to be shared, and until 1985 there was no interior doorway between these two parts of the house. The chimney for Period 2 was built onto its west gable end and probably also offered a source of heat to the loft accessible by way of a new corner staircase. None of the openings for this part of the house are in their original locations, and only ghosts of the Period 2 staircase survive. Of the original trim in this addition, the most intact and handsome are the poplar joists with beaded lower edges. Their regular, polished presentation took the place of a plastered ceiling above smoothly plastered walls. Here and there sections of surbases survive: their only embellishment are beads at the upper and lower edges.

Period 3 had to be, in several respects, an afterthought to Period 2. Only a lower floor level confirms its discrete period of construction. For a third time, Greenfield's enlargement amounted to but one room. In this campaign, a shed roof allowed for only a low south elevation that could accommodate only windows—no exterior doorway was possible. Access to the exterior from Period 3, if it existed, was through doorways set into the east or west elevations. That it received heat by way of an alteration to the Period 1 chimney is not certain, and there was no loft space above. The recent conversion of this shed-roofed addition to a modern kitchen has concealed or obliterated all nineteenth-century finishes. Only the original worn flooring survives.

In 1857 William George, who had only acquired Greenfield farm six years earlier, hired Henry Tapscott, a local carpenter, to revise and enlarge the whole house, the result for which Tapscott presented a bill that same year was Greenfield in its present form.<sup>4</sup> Tapscott raised all of Periods 2 and 3 to two full stories, and demolished both existing chimneys, replacing them with an exterior chimney that would serve both first-and second-story west rooms. Tapscott added to the east end of this building a completely finished-off two-story section that enclosed a passage and a new room on each story as well as in the loft. A new brick chimney set within the plane of the gable end enclosed fireplaces to all three new rooms. Polishing Greenfield's entirely new character were unbroken expanses of fresh exterior weatherboarding and a new standing-seam sheet-metal roof. Double-hung-sash windows, all uniform and generous in size, new four-paneled doors and a consistent set of louvered blinds affixed to the sides of all openings underscored a new appearance of cohesive design and construction. Only the composition of façade openings continued to hint at the complexity of Greenfield's building history. The ostensibly centered doorways are actually situated twelve inches closer to the west gable end. This placement draws attention away from the asymmetrical pattern of window locations: two bays to the east of center and only one on the west side.

Inside the house, the passage staircase, rising all the way to the third story, drew distinction from a finely finished hardwood banister that is rounded in section, carried on plain square balusters,

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and punctuated at each of its several landings, with turned hardwood posts. In the passage and each of its flanking rooms, whether new or revised, windows and doorways received comparably tailored architraves. They have no actual moldings; only rectilinear fascias distinguished by fillets at the outer edges and crossettes set at the level of the lintels. All 1857 baseboards have flat surfaces with no-nonsense bevels at the top.

To underscore the importance of the new passage, as well as what clearly was intended to be the parlor or “best room,” all door and window architraves in these two spaces were set off by lintels shaped to resemble shallow Gothic arches. Each fireplace mantel has a Greek Revival design, with flat, unmolded pilasters appearing to support a completely plain frieze and mantel shelf. Altogether, Greenfield had attained a fine presentation of architectural dignity that nevertheless refrains from the use of ornament or finery beyond the means of most comfortably situated landowning farmers in antebellum Virginia.

In 1873 the first dramatic change in Greenfield’s assessed value probably signals the construction of a largely decorative but eye-catching exterior change. William George introduced a new single-story front porch with a greater level of embellishment than previously had distinguished the façade. The shallow hipped design of the roof signaled that the second-story north doorway no longer offered access to a level and perhaps sheltered surface, but would only afford the second-story passage with light and ventilation. The eye-catching qualities of this new porch involved at least six pairs of square posts. The resulting open spaces received lengths of decoratively scalloped boards. Porch railings were ostensibly supported by flat urn-shaped and decoratively cutout balusters. Where these paired posts met the base of the porch roof were sets of brackets—also shaped with a saw, instead of molding in three dimensions.

Changes within the house included a new mantel for the parlor (since replaced) and a comparably designed mantel in the west room—the principal bedroom--on the second story. The latter mantel’s design included reeded pilasters beneath a frieze punctuated with pairs of shaped brackets. A turned baluster of “Victorian” proportions replaced the slenderer and plain original newel post at the base of the staircase in the passage.

As the Tidewater agricultural economy slowly diminished during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and throughout much of the twentieth century, Greenfield endured periods of neglect and stoic “making do.” In 1966 William George III died. He was the last of three generations who had owned Greenfield, and with his departure, the era of Greenfield as an authentic Virginia farmhouse ended. The surrounding land was divided for sale as small parcels. In 1973 the house and its surviving 2.8 acres became the property of Dexter Rumsey III and his wife Bonnie H. Rumsey. Together they diligently repaired the house, taking care to preserve all original structural fabric and most decorative material. Principal among the changes made to the house since then include the two-story two-bay extension to the east gable end, a new front porch that shelters only the facade entrance, and a file of south-facing porches that offer shelter for contemplative views of Dymer Creek.

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No contributing resources survive at the site of Greenfield. A garage-and-guest house and a swimming pool with an open-sided gazebo and a small pump house all were constructed after 1990. A new dock and boat lift doubtless replace any number of predecessors, for during the nineteenth century, local travel and transport by water rather than by land was sometimes far more convenient. By 1900 the George family were supplementing their income from farming and woodcutting with harvests from nearby oyster banks.

Secondary Resources: Inventory

The secondary resources at Greenfield all were constructed after the property's period of significance and are not associated with the property's areas of significance.

Garage and guesthouse, 2001, non-contributing building  
Swimming pool, ca. 1990, non-contributing structure  
Poolside gazebo, ca. 1990, non-contributing structure  
Pump house, ca. 1990, non-contributing structure  
Dock and boat lift, ca. 1998, non-contributing structure

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## 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.)

- 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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

MILITARY

**Period of Significance**

1800-1880

**Significant Dates**

1857

1865

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Tapscott, Henry

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Greenfield derives its historical significance from the dates, forms, and circumstances of its construction, as well as from its association with a Union-Confederate conflict that occurred near the end of the Civil War. Greenfield is nominated to the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for the representative nature of its construction and for its early association with a local builder, Henry Tapscott, who was twenty-six years old when he completed his work at Greenfield. Upon his death in 1873, at the age of fifty, his occupation was listed as "house joiner." Between February and September, William H. George himself ordered most of the building materials ready-made from purveyors in Baltimore and Norfolk, including nails, shutters, locks, hinges, and window glass, as well as scantling, siding, and flooring ready-finished for transport. Although similar records have not been found concerning the house's masonry and fine interior woodwork, the existing accounts amount to a remarkable record for building a fine but plain house in rural Virginia. The property also is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Military for its association with a naval conflict during the Civil War. In March 1865, Confederate Captain Thaddeus Fitzhugh led an expedition down the Potomac River and through the Chesapeake Bay in an attempt to capture Union ships and their cargoes. On April 5, 1865, the same day Richmond fell to Union forces, Fitzhugh and his men succeeded in capturing the steamer *Harriet DeFord* and took it up Dymer Creek as far as they could before running it aground and distributing its cargo to the local home guard and others who witnessed their activities. A small fleet of Union boats pursued Fitzhugh up the creek and shelled both sides of the creek along the way with the intent of flushing the Confederates from woods or other places of concealment. Today, Greenfield likely is the last surviving building on Dymer Creek to have been damaged by Union gunboats. The property's period of significance, 1800-1880, begins with construction of the dwelling's earliest section and ends in 1880 when the last significant period of embellishment occurred.

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

The earliest part of Greenfield, likely built during the early 1820s, resulted in a one-story, one-room dwelling with a wood frame and weatherboard siding. This most common of forms and sizes for Virginia houses from early European settlement until at least 1800 manifests real stability and permanence of intent. The house originally was heated by a brick chimney, was illuminated by three or four glazed windows, and its single first-story room was always plastered and embellished by plain but carefully finished wood trim. This was the house of a country landowner who may not have had the resources to build a capacious house, or who simply may have been content with a small dwelling. In either case, quality of construction and finish outranked size for the original occupant. This was a comparatively new sort of house for small landowners who might expect to prosper, but who remained cautious about debt and suspicious

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of luxury. The second and third periods of construction manifest the logic and practicality of accretion: improvement by degrees. They are similar in shape and proportion to the original house but, through variation in placement and detail, they introduce a hierarchy to household space. The 1857 transformation of this cluster of structures imparted to Greenfield a new, more prominent, profile as well as a more capacious plan. This house form, beyond the reach of middling Virginia landowners before about 1800, became well known in eastern Virginia during the antebellum period. Greenfield's new central-passage plan and two-story height originated among the well-to-do gentry a hundred years earlier. Its proliferation in Tidewater Virginia during the decades before the Civil War manifested a new flush of economic prosperity that may have seemed impossible at the end of the Revolutionary War. Responsible for this regional economic revival was a new understanding that tobacco-worn soils could be revived, and a widespread conversion to the cultivation of grain for export to American ports on the east coast.

Greenfield is also important for sustained embodiment of a thrifty state of mind. While quite prosperous William H. George chose to occupy, rather than to replace, the Greenfield house as it stood in 1851 when he acquired the farm. Six years later he incorporated it into a major expansion that resulted in the house as it stands today. Adding still more importance to Greenfield's story is the survival of invoices that itemize the materials purchased for the 1857 building campaign. There is also a bill presented to William H. George by his carpenter, Henry Tapscott. Rarely do such documents survive, particularly for the houses of comfortable but unpretentious Virginia farmers, and far more rarely do they survive for a house that remains standing and intact.

Greenfield's most dramatic claim to significance derives from the hostile shelling it received during the Civil War. It is the only surviving building or structure on Dymer Creek known to bear the marks of this assault. On April 4, 1865, Confederate soldiers captured the Union steamer *Harriet DeFord* and sequestered it in Dymer Creek. Before they completely unloaded the steamer's cargo and weapons, Union gunboats descended, scattering the Confederates, although they may have had time to set the grounded steamer on fire. A Union gunboat either started the blaze or completed its destruction by shelling it before departing from Dymer Creek. Greenfield was one of the buildings on which the Union vessels punitively fired on their traversal up as well as down Dymer Creek. Damage from this attack, including shrapnel and broken framing members, remains embedded in the walls of the house.

#### Detailed Narrative: Criterion C (Architecture)

Greenfield is inextricably bound with the long settlement history of Fleets Bay Neck, a generous sweep of fertile land framed by saltwater creeks that flow directly into the Chesapeake Bay. This peninsula, as well as the fingers of coastal plain that end in what later became known as Mosquito and Windmill Points, attracted the acquisitive instincts of Henry Fleet, an early seventeenth-century immigrant full of swash and buckle, whose adventures among the Virginia Indians and arrangements with fellow European settlers kept him precariously ahead of official capacities to regulate the colony. Before he died in 1661 he was convicted of piracy at one

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extreme, and at the other, he was chosen to serve in both Virginia and Maryland legislatures. Between these extremes, he had initiated, dominated, or turned to his advantage almost every other venture or circumstance available during the English colonization of the Chesapeake region.<sup>5</sup>

Fleet's several patents on the coast of Lancaster County prompted contemporaries to designate the open water between Indian Creek and Mosquito Point "Fleets Bay," and his presence in Fleets Bay Neck moved others of recent arrival to patent land there as well.<sup>6</sup> These included Virginia progenitors of the Newton, Tabb, Lawson, Brent, Yerby, and Wale families. Both Brents and Wales owned the tract of land whereon the Greenfield house later stood.<sup>7</sup>

In the colonial period, Fleets Bay Neck was known for its expanses of low ground, welcoming to tobacco cultivation. Its extensive shoreline, defined by Indian Creek to the north and Dymer Creek to the south, was equally receptive to the landing of ocean-going vessels laden with English goods ready to be exchanged for hogsheads of cured tobacco.<sup>8</sup>

The importance of its geography was confirmed in May of 1742 when the General Assembly ordered establishment of an official tobacco inspection warehouse "at Dymer's upon Hadway's [sic] Creek."<sup>9</sup> A few months later, the magistrates of Lancaster County court ordered William Dymer to "build the warehouse or warehouses as appointed on his land on Haddaway's Creek in Lancaster and the wharf at the adjoining land."<sup>10</sup> Of equal importance to the emergent importance of Fleet's Bay Neck during the second quarter of the eighteenth century was the insistence of Thomas Edwards, Lancaster County's influential clerk of court that he be permitted to maintain a clerk's office at his dwelling plantation near the point of Fleets Bay Neck. From 1725 through 1746, every county resident who wanted important paperwork authenticated and recorded between sessions of court had reason to traverse this road. Obligingly, the county court made certain that road surveyors pay particular attention to the condition of the thoroughfare down the center of Fleets Bay Neck.<sup>11</sup>

The reliable quality of the road down Fleets Bay Neck no doubt facilitated attendance at a school established and maintained by members of the Wale family. The origins of the school are obscure, but it came to be well attended by sons of prosperous planters living in Richmond and Northumberland as well as in Lancaster County. The site of its purpose-built schoolhouse had lent its name to what is now Pitman Cove, a tributary of Indian Creek, as early as 1751 when it figured in a plat prepared to settle a land dispute.<sup>12</sup> Three or four generations of men named George Wale served as its principal instructor. The first George Wale [Whale] was living in Virginia by 1658 when he patented three hundred acres in Fleets Bay Neck for transporting six people to the colony.<sup>13</sup> By 1669 he was living on a sizeable tract of land on the south side of Indian Creek.<sup>14</sup> "George" was the favored given name among his progeny during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The last reference to the "school of a certain George Wale in Fleets Bay Neck" confirms that it was active through at least 1810.<sup>15</sup>

In 1815 this last George Wale, a bachelor, decided to purchase from the heirs of Vincent Brent a tract of 120 acres that extend from Fleets Bay Neck Road southward to Dymer Creek.<sup>16</sup> He

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quickly augmented this purchase with an adjacent tract, bringing the extent of his newly acquired farm to 170 acres. Before he could undertake further plans, he suddenly died. In his will he bequeathed his property, including the newly purchased tracts of land to two of his cousins. Joseph and Nathan Spriggs, who were both still “infants” in the legal language of the day, so Nathan Spriggs the elder, father to one boy and uncle to the other, became Wale’s sole executor.<sup>17</sup>

Ostensibly, Nathan Spriggs the elder rented out Wale’s land and stock and submitted dutiful reports to the chancery court for eleven years.<sup>18</sup> This was an uncharacteristically long duration for a guardianship, and it spans years when the first part of the Greenfield house likely was built. This also would have been unusual—caretakers of property do not customarily initiate more than repairs to standing structures.<sup>19</sup> Spriggs’s reports are also unusual in that no records of money spent for clothing and schooling his charges are noted, and somewhere during these years, his nephew silently disappeared from the account. Such irregularities probably explain more-than-usual level of scrutiny of Spriggs’s management of the Wale inheritance, but details remain elusive.<sup>20</sup>

In 1826 Joseph Spriggs the surviving heir took over the payment of taxes on the Fleet’s Bay Neck property, although he continued living on land “near the Kilmarnock [Methodist] meeting house.”<sup>21</sup> This was a telling detail, for the young man was indeed preparing for a life of ministry. Soon he began to travel in service to his mission. In 1834 he married Magdalene Campbell Ruff of Rockbridge County, where the couple settled after selling off all of their Lancaster County land.<sup>22</sup> Thomas Spriggs, a younger kinsman, bought the land on Fleets Bay Neck, and apparently settled there immediately.<sup>23</sup> With similar dispatch, he clearly built one or more sections of Greenfield house, for in 1840, his county land taxes indicate that the farm was improved with \$200 worth of buildings. Thomas Spriggs, a thirty-five-year-old bachelor by this time, was proud of his farm. Indeed, it was he who gave it the name “Greenfield.”<sup>24</sup> He became prosperous through his own labor as well as that of six enslaved people he owned. In 1850, his farm, which also encompassed a tract called “Cherry Hill” amounted to 270 acres and was considered worth \$5,000.<sup>25</sup>

South of Dymer Creek in Poplar Neck lay Plainfield, the farm of twenty-four-year-old William H. George and his wife Mary Jane George, age twenty-three.<sup>26</sup> Plainfield encompassed 222 acres and was worth \$1000 less than Spriggs’s farm. George also cultivated a significantly larger crop of grains, in part due to his ownership of nineteen enslaved African Americans.<sup>27</sup> For reasons of their own, in 1851, these neighbors decided to swap farms. The trade would be even, excepting a \$600 dower interest that Spriggs would pay at the death of George’s mother, who intended to remain at Plainfield. This is how William H. George came to own Greenfield.<sup>28</sup>

For their part, William and Mary Jane George were gaining a farm that was fifty acres larger than their own, and it likely had been less regularly cultivated during the past several decades. Their Greenfield house would be new but unprepossessing: built to only one full story with only two or three principal rooms. The house at Plainfield, which no longer survives, is remembered as having been spacious and venerable. For the Georges, subsequent events suggest they were

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motivated in part by the chance to establish a fresh domestic environment. Thomas Spriggs's goals may be easier to discern: Plainfield was described in one deed of exchange as bounded in part by the land of Warren Hubbard, which was worth about \$5,000.<sup>29</sup> Perhaps of greater interest to Spriggs was Warren Hubbard's younger sister Felicia, who lived with him. In fact, Thomas Spriggs and Felicia Hubbard married five months after the George-Spriggs farm swap was confirmed. Sadly, the union was brief. Felicia Hubbard Spriggs died, probably in childbirth, in May of 1852.<sup>30</sup> Spriggs kept a bachelor's household for the rest of his life. Declining land and building values suggest that Spriggs allowed Plainfield to deteriorate in his later years.<sup>31</sup>

In 1857 Henry Tapscott, who counted at least two other carpenters in previous generations of his Lancaster and Northumberland County families, charged William H. George for "building house and repairing oald part." His price—all labor, no materials—was \$248.75. Between February and September, George himself ordered most of the building materials ready-made from purveyors in Baltimore and Norfolk, including nails, shutters, locks, hinges, and window glass, as well as scantling, siding, and flooring ready-finished for transport.<sup>32</sup> Missing from these accounts are acquisition of bricks, mortar, and probably the labor of a skilled mason for the two new chimneys. The documents are similarly silent about the fine hardwood and the work of the accomplished joiner who shaped and installed the newels and banisters of the three-story staircase. Still these receipts amount to a remarkable record for building a fine but plain house in rural Virginia, and from this project, completed when Tapscott was twenty-six years old, he progressed to other and perhaps more substantial building campaigns. He married, had a family, and eventually, he could afford to buy a small farm.<sup>33</sup> When he died in 1873 at the age of fifty, he was known by the title of "house joiner."<sup>34</sup>

The Georges' striking new house, with its surrounding acres of pasture and cropland, cut a figure of distinction but not ostentation in the landscape of Fleet's Bay Neck. The twelve enslaved workers whom William George owned in 1860 doubtless kept his household as well as his farm in good order. The couple had one child, daughter Ida, who was six years old when the Civil War began. Also in residence at Greenfield was William George's younger sister, Elena, for whom he had served as guardian since she was thirteen. While she had inherited considerable property, including twelve enslaved people of her own, she appears to have been reticent about creating a household of her own, and she lived with her older brother's family at Greenfield until her death in 1902.<sup>35</sup>

When the Civil War began, William H. George was only thirty-five years old, so he enlisted in Kilmarnock with Samuel Downing. He was given the rank of lieutenant with Company B in the 92nd Regiment of the Virginia Militia. The following year, however, he reenlisted under the command of Captain William H. Henderson's Company of the Virginia Local Defense. He remained in that position until the surrender at Appomattox in 1865.<sup>36</sup> The George family of Greenfield emerged from the Civil War considerably reduced in circumstances, having lost over \$10,000 in personal property when their slaves became free men and women. Moreover, George had lost access to urban markets for his grain crops. A partial recovery in his circumstances by 1870 suggests that a familiarity with the banks as well as the merchant houses of Baltimore may have made it possible for him to conserve some of his wealth in bank stocks or bonds.<sup>37</sup> In 1873

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a modest revision in the embellishment of the Greenfield house, likely accompanied by some rebuilding of agricultural and domestic outbuildings, at last moved the county tax assessor to increase the value added to the property on account of buildings to \$900. The previous assessment for buildings at Greenfield had remained consistently \$300 since builder Henry Tapscott packed up his tools, gathered his workmen, and left the site in 1857.<sup>38</sup>

The census of 1880 found Greenfield about as populous as it ever was. He and his wife Mary Jane George, both in their mid-fifties, were still farming and keeping house. Their daughter Ida George was sixteen, their son William H George II was twelve, and Elena George was eleven years her brother's junior. Julia H. George and James Harper had apparently been at Greenfield since the end of the Civil War, as had James Carter and Charlie Campbell. The first two were white; the latter two were African American. All were around twenty years old in 1880, and while they were listed as servants in the house and on the farm, their association with Greenfield since childhood suggests a more fostered character to their status.<sup>39</sup> Even with two bedrooms on the third as well as the second story of Greenfield, even with an unheated loft available over the original section of the house, and even if the two young freedmen were expected to sleep elsewhere, there was very little living space left unoccupied in the house.

In 1888 Mary Jane George died at the age of sixty-two. William H. George, born in 1826, lived on until 1900.<sup>40</sup> By that time the couple's son and daughter, William H. George II and Ida George Harding, were grown and married. Their father's bequests represent the first significant partitioning of land since he had begun accumulating it a half-century before. Ida Harding received the smaller portion—the once autonomous fifty-acre tract known as Cherry Hill. The second William George received the Greenfield farm and family house, including its complement of furnishings *excluding* “all the furniture in my [bed] room complete.” The practical and apparently taciturn Georges left few signs of their domestic sensibility at Greenfield, but this distinction of special furniture for the principal bedroom gestures quietly toward a devoted marriage.<sup>41</sup>

The second William H. George, born in 1868, had married Lucy Jane Williams in 1892.<sup>42</sup> By the time this couple became heads of household at Greenfield in 1900, they had three sons under the age of ten: William H. George III, Lloyd E. George, and Jeter B. George. A daughter, Lucy, arrived in 1903, but she died suddenly when she was nineteen. Her mother succumbed to a paralyzing stroke only three years later.<sup>43</sup> With Lucy Williams George's departure, the Greenfield household became a domain of men.<sup>44</sup> Thereafter, no George family marriage ever invigorated, enlarged, or complicated the Greenfield household ever again.

William H. George II died in 1930. The contents of his will indicate how some Virginia conventions are held steadfast. Although primogeniture, the English custom of conveying an entire estate to the eldest son, had not crossed the Atlantic at the beginning of the seventeenth century, well into the middle of the twentieth century, firmly in place remained the convention of conveying property exceptional in extent or value to the oldest son. So it was that William George III was to receive “appurtenances such as the dwelling house and other outbuildings, all horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, and household and kitchen furniture.”<sup>45</sup> In other ways, the last

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testament of William George II revealed how much had changed, particularly how much a settled farmer's horizons and opportunities had diminished during the first quarter of the twentieth century. With three sons, William H. George II felt required to partition Greenfield into sections with internal designations such as "the upper field," "a cove on point shore," and "the big main ditch." A "twenty-acre lot [was] known as the quarter" and "the Lee field [was] said to contain a little over ten acres." All three sons were required to share the remaining woodland and oyster shore, indicating that selective timbering, fishing, and the gathering of shellfish had become part of the farm economy.<sup>46</sup>

Although their father had divided the family farm into three parts, William H. George III actually managed Greenfield as if it were entirely his own. Presumably, he shared the profits. Judging the situation correctly, both Lloyd and Jeter George determined to go to Hopewell to find factory jobs. Neither stayed long. By 1930, Lloyd George was back at Greenfield. Jeter George found work at the State Farm in Goochland County in 1932, where he managed the livestock, particularly the dairy cattle, until his death of a heart attack in 1954.<sup>47</sup> Lloyd George lived at Greenfield, working at various jobs in Kilmarnock until 1948, when he married Goldie Dudding. Thereafter they lived together in Kilmarnock.

The last William H. George kept farming Greenfield until he died of a heart attack early in 1966. By that time, his scope of domestic life had gradually contracted until it once again encompassed only the earliest one-room section of the house. A kitchen sink, bathroom, and wood stove offered a sufficiency for George's simple housekeeping. During the summer, George usually resorted to a cot situated in the first-floor passage, which caught breezes coming in from Dymer Creek. He left behind a handwritten and unwitnessed will in which he named Lloyd George both principal heir and executor. Nevertheless, most of this lengthy document details modest bequests to friends and neighbors, including Edmund [also Edmond] Lee, an African American man who lived with his family in Tower Hill, Westmoreland County, apparently to be near his church. This location was in no sense convenient for the work he continued to do with William George at Greenfield.<sup>48</sup> George's last provision was curious: he directed that if he should survive his younger brother, the bulk of his estate should go to "my closest living relative."<sup>49</sup> Her name was Mary Spriggs, and her only known connection to any documented part of Greenfield's story date back to the fourteen antebellum years when Thomas Spriggs cultivated the land with alacrity, built a house of small, tidy rooms, and gave the place its name.

Lloyd George identified the handwriting of his brother's will, and quickly signed a document intended to establish that of the several people named therein, he was the only one still living or within reach. Then he and his wife gradually had the farm subdivided into parcels for residential construction. In 1972 he and Goldie George sold twelve acres of the remaining Greenfield tract to an investment corporation formed to survey and sell lots for residential building on some of the George's land that borders Dymer Creek.<sup>50</sup> Dexter C. Rumsey III and his wife Bonnie Hoyle Rumsey purchased a total of 2.8 acres of this land, including the antebellum Greenfield house.<sup>51</sup> Here they raised a son and a daughter. They also slowly repaired and renewed long-neglected aspects of the building while installing modern conveniences. Throughout their stewardship, they

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have remained mindful of Greenfield's several historic phases of construction, insuring that evidence of this evolution has remained perceptible.

Criterion A (Military)

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the Rumseys' care of and appreciation for Greenfield is their preservation of damage sustained by the house during an unlikely sequence of events that occurred near the end of the Civil War.

In June 1864, Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and the Union Army of the Potomac converged on Petersburg, Virginia, where their relative strengths soon fostered a protracted siege. By the early months of 1865, Confederate forces were losing their capacity to fend off Union attacks as Gens. Ulysses S. Grant and George G. Meade extended the Federal lines. Fundamental provisions and ammunition dwindled. One possible, if fraught, means of obtaining supplies was to raid the Union vessels that were transporting them south through the Chesapeake Bay, west along the Potomac River, and then overland by rail to Federal troops near Richmond.<sup>52</sup> Confederate Captain Thaddeus Fitzhugh, 5th Virginia Cavalry, who led the "cut out expedition" in which Greenfield was involved, later wrote extensively about the attempt to divert supplies to the Confederates.<sup>53</sup>

In March 1865, Fitzhugh "received orders from General Robert E. Lee to endeavor to capture *Harriet DeFord* or *Highland Light*," steamers known to carry cargo from Maryland to the Union forces in Virginia.<sup>54</sup> Fitzhugh and the men whom he had selected from other companies—no doubt because they, like himself knew how to navigate the Tidewater Rivers and the Bay—marched to the shore of the Rappahannock River, arranged from among his friends and associates for the use of three open sail boats, then "started up through the narrows leading through the marshes near the shore and reached the point near the mouth of the Potomac, where we went into ambush." During reconnaissance, they learned that both *Harriet DeFord* and *Highland Light* would be landing on the following day at Fair Haven, a small port in Maryland's Herring Bay. Hence they "started before dark and . . . made good time using both oars and sails reaching Herring Bay about four o'clock in the morning, finding . . . numerous oyster boats [anchored] in the harbor." They boarded one of these vessels, surprised the sleeping crew, held them hostage while they feasted on the boat's harvest of oysters, and without indicating how they managed the crew, they then added the oyster vessel itself to their little fleet.

After sunrise, Fitzhugh and nineteen of his men disembarked, having hidden their uniforms and pistols beneath sailors' clothing. They then "procured a good wagon" and hastened to the place where, they had learned, *Highland Light* was docked. There they were disappointed to see the steamer "leaving the wharf and moving majestically down the Bay." They then hid within sight of the wharf "to await the arrival of the *DeFord* and in due time she hove into sight." Her decks were "covered with bluecoats," but Fitzhugh and his men noticed that all of their arms were stacked in a single location. Posing and dressed as woodcutters, they succeeded in boarding *Harriet DeFord*, casually situating themselves in predetermined locations. When Fitzhugh gave the signal, they revealed themselves as armed Confederate soldiers and summoned those of their

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party who were waiting aboard his four boats, Fitzhugh's capture of *Harriet DeFord* was rapid and complete. While waiting as noncombatants were transferred back to shore, Fitzhugh asked the captain "the occasion of the heavy salute [of] guns we had heard the day before, and he told me it was to celebrate the capture of Petersburg and the fall of Richmond." The date was April 5, 1865.

Despite this news, Fitzhugh and his men "started down the bay as fast as steam would carry us." Though fearful of discovery, they passed Lookout Point and the mouth of the Potomac without incident. Proceeding down the coast of Virginia, they chose Dymer Creek as a promising place to sequester the steamer while docking and unloading its cargo. "We went up as far as [we] could go and ran our boat aground, securing such valuables as we could, including a brass pivot gun and the small arms."<sup>55</sup> Likely guessing the futility of any attempt to transport weapons and goods to Richmond, they distributed much of what they could not immediately use to the home guard as well as "citizens" who apparently gathered to witness the commotion.<sup>56</sup> By the morning of April 6, Fitzhugh learned that seven Union gunboats were "steaming up the river [sic] throwing shells on either side," and although he had not completely secured possession of the useful cargo, he "furloughed my men," who immediately vanished in the direction of Mathews County. He himself "left in an oyster boat for Fredericksburg." Fitzhugh's intention was to retrieve his horse and rejoin the Confederate army, but on his way, he learned of Lee's surrender.

Union dispatches, crisscrossing by telegraph, substantially corroborate this narrative, including references to the gunboats "shelling woods and suspicious places" as they made their way up and then back down the creek. In these narratives, however, the Confederates were represented not as regulars of the Virginia 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment but instead as "pirates" and a "gang of guerrillas" whose object was to "burn and pillage generally." Whether or not the vessel was partially burned, it was so seriously foundered that, after salvaging what they could, one or more of the Union gunboats shelled *Harriet DeFord* until the fire was sufficient to destroy it.<sup>57</sup>

During the shelling, whether accidental or deliberate, some of the projectiles struck Greenfield. Betsy Brown, formerly enslaved at Greenfield, was about ten years old in 1865 and described the shelling of the house. She concentrated on the tremendous noise that frightened her when the Union boats fired their artillery, but she remembered less about the direct strikes.<sup>58</sup> Today, splintered studs located in the passage wall are still visible, as is the location where a shell passed through one of the exterior walls. Those who worked on the rehabilitation of Greenfield during the 1970s and 1980 turned up bits of shrapnel, not all of it recognized at first. A substantial section of plaster on one of the stair landings that appeared to be pockmarked was smoothed over before its origins were known. Greenfield is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion A because it likely is the last surviving structure on Dymer Creek to have been damaged by Union gunboats. Marks and shrapnel in its structural wood and plaster are testaments to its place in one of the last naval bombardments of the Civil War. Greenfield is locally significant under Criterion A for its place in Chesapeake military history.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Bibliographic References—Secondary

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Fred B. Kniffen and Henry Glassie, “Building in Wood in the Eastern United States: A Time-Place Perspective,” Geographical Review v. 56 (1966), pp. 40–66.

Landholders and Landholdings (Irvington: Historic Christ Church Heritage Books, 2004).

Eric Mills, Chesapeake Bay in the Civil War (Centerville, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1996).

Lee H. Nelson, “Nail Chronology as an Aid to Dating Old Buildings,” American Association for State and Local History Technical Leaflet 48, published in History News 24 (1968).

William A. Tidwell, April 1865: Confederate Covert Action in the American Civil War (Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1995).

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**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 #\_\_\_\_\_

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recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA;  
Lancaster County, VA; Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR File No. 051-083

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 2.8 acres

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 37.67897                          Longitude: -76.358600

2. Latitude:                                  Longitude:

3. Latitude:                                  Longitude:

4. Latitude:                                  Longitude:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The historic boundaries of Greenfield include the shores of Dymer Creek, which borders part of the west and all of the southwest sides of the property. Legal boundaries of the lot, sections of which are delineated by fence lines, form the southeast, northeast, northwest, and west limits of the 2.8-acre property. The true and correct historic boundaries are coterminous with the lots identified on a Lancaster County Tax Map as parcels #29-72D and 29-72G. The specifics of these boundaries are referenced in Lancaster County Deed Book 174, pp. 670-673 and Lancaster County Deed Book 185, pp. 645-648.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic boundaries are drawn to encompass the historic setting of the primary dwelling's curtilage and all known extant historic resources, as well as being coterminous with the legal limits of the parcels currently owned by Bonnie Hoyle Rumsey.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Camille Wells, Ph.D. Architectural Historian  
organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number: 152 Inoli Circle  
city or town: Brevard state: North Carolina zip code: 28712  
e-mail: camillewells1@gmail.com  
telephone: 434-825-3565 and 828-885-2836  
date: 7 April 2017

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### Additional Documentation

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

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

The following information is common to all photographs:

Name of Property: Greenfield

City or Vicinity: Vicinity of White Stone

County: Lancaster County      State: Virginia

Photographer: Camille Wells

Date Photographed: July 14, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

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Photo 1 of 15  
View of primary dwelling's façade from the northwest

Photo 2 of 15  
View of primary dwelling's façade from the northeast

Photo 3 of 15  
View of primary dwelling's south elevation from the southwest

Photo 4 of 15  
Primary dwelling, interior detail, Period 1 section's enclosed winder stair

Photo 5 of 15  
Primary dwelling, interior detail of Period 1 section's wainscoting, patched when original doorway was located

Photo 6 of 15  
Primary dwelling, detail of threshold between Period 2 and Period 3 sections

Photo 7 of 15  
Primary dwelling, Period 2 beaded joists with lath marks and open lap joints where corner stair was located

Photo 8 of 15  
Primary dwelling, view from 1857 passage to new doorway opening into Period 2 section

Photo 9 of 15  
Primary dwelling, details of 1857 staircase

Photo 10 of 15  
Primary dwelling's 1857 six-over-six, double-hung-sash window and surround in new parlor

Photo 11 of 15  
Primary dwelling, 1873 mantel in second-story "best" bedroom

Photo 12 of 15  
View from the north of the noncontributing garage/guesthouse

Photo 13 of 15  
View from the south of the noncontributing swimming pool, gazebo, and pump house

Photo 14 of 15

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View of walkway with noncontributing garage/guesthouse at left and primary dwelling in background

Photo 15 of 15  
View of noncontributing boat dock and boat lift

### **List of Historic Photos**

The following information is the same for the following 5 photographs:

Photographs taken by Dexter C. Rumsey III in 1973

Copied by Camille Wells in 2016

Digital versions supplied on a CD to the VDHR Archive, Richmond, Virginia.

Historic Photo 1 of 5  
View of Greenfield façade and 1873 porch

Historic Photo 2 of 5  
View of Greenfield from the southwest

Historic Photo 3 of 5  
View looking west into Period 1 room (wainscoting and enclosed stair)

Historic Photo 4 of 5  
Detail of stair landing between first and second stories: stud splintered in 1865 shelling

Historic Photo 5 of 5  
Detail of corner, second-story bedroom: damaged post and lath, hole in weatherboarding caused by 1865 shelling.

### **List of Figures**

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Figure 2. Detail of 1916 USGS map showing location of Greenfield (within red circle).

Figure 3. Aerial View of Greenfield.

Figure 4. Bill of carpenter Henry Tapscott to owner William H. George, dated 1857.

Figure 5. Receipts for building materials acquired in Baltimore, Maryland

Figure 6. Receipts for building materials acquired in Norfolk, Virginia, and Baltimore, Maryland.

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Historic Photo 1 of 5  
View of Greenfield façade and 1873 porch

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Historic Photo 2 of 5  
View of Greenfield from the southwest

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Historic Photo 3 of 5  
View looking west into Period 1 room (wainscoting and enclosed stair)

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Historic Photo 4 of 5  
Detail of stair landing between first and second stories: stud splintered in 1865 shelling

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Historic Photo 5 of 5

Detail of corner, second-story bedroom: damaged post and lath, hole in weatherboarding caused by 1865 shelling.

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Figure 1. Fleet's Bay USGS 7.5 Quad showing location of Greenfield.

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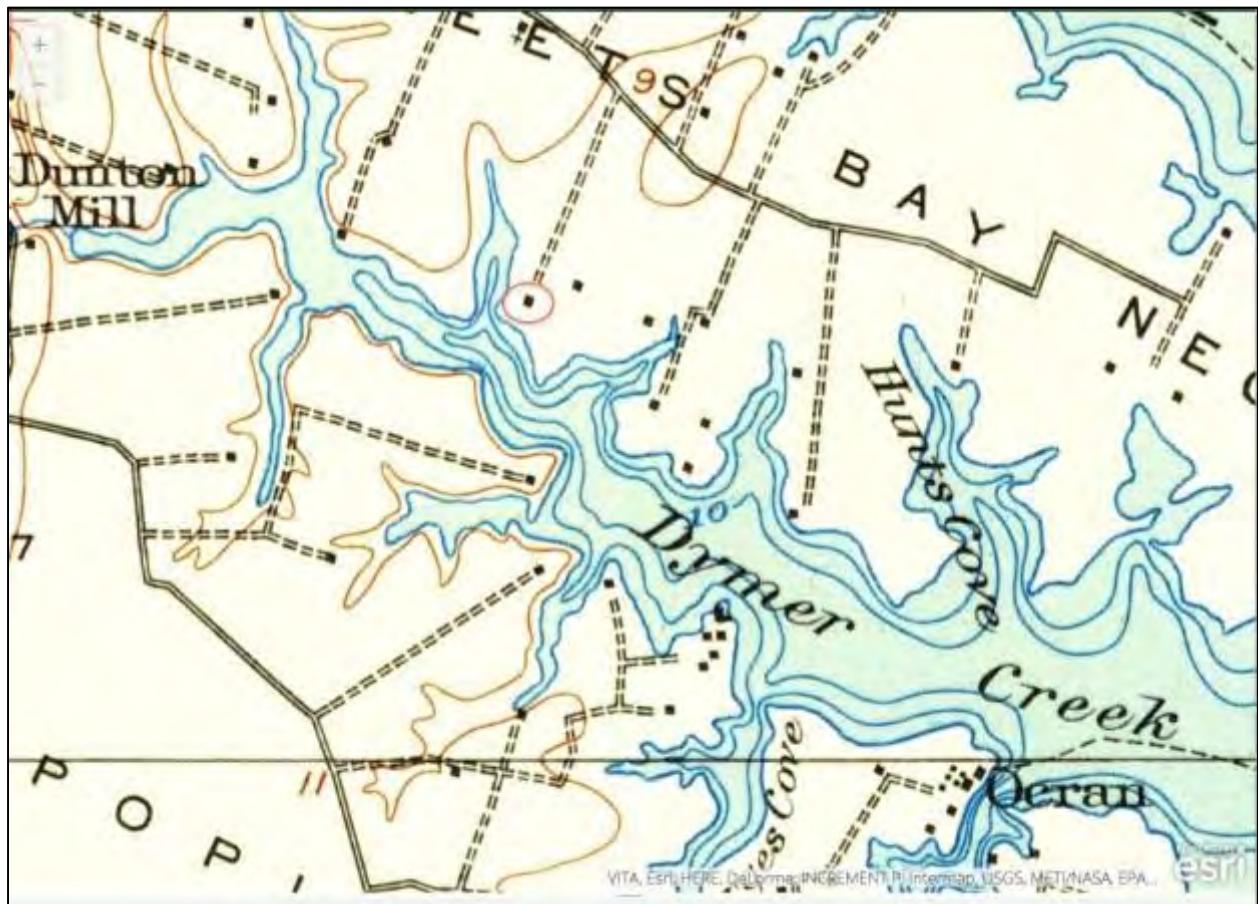


Figure 2. Detail of 1916 USGS map showing location of Greenfield (within red circle).

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Figure 3. Aerial View of Greenfield.

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William H. George	Sept 4, 1857	To Building house and Repairing old part	\$ 237.50
		To Making Door and frame for Basement wall	1.50
		To Building Closet	7.00
		To hanging <sup>spair</sup> Door Shutters 87 ft closet Lock	1 12 1/2
			25
			<u>\$ 247.37</u>
			136.00
	Oct 5	By cash	
		By Order to N. Johnson	\$ 11.37
	Dec 14	Red payment in full	30.00
			\$ 81.37 1/2
			Henry Tapscott

Figure 4. Bill of carpenter Henry Tapscott to owner William H. George, dated 1857.

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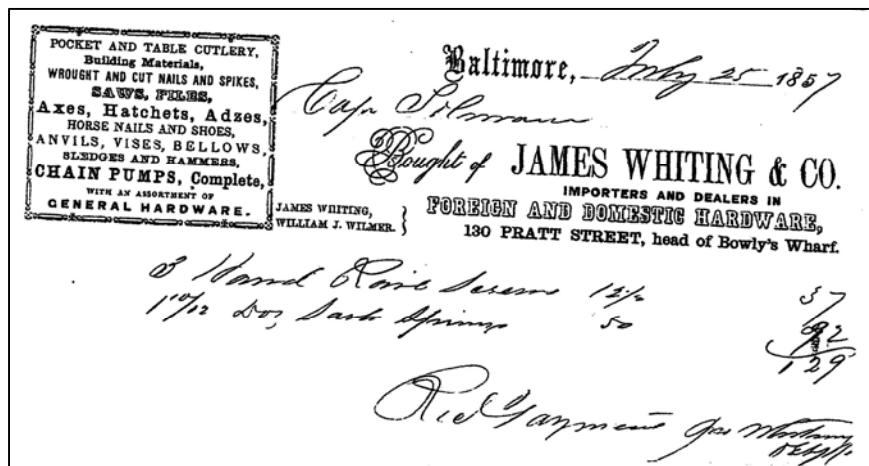
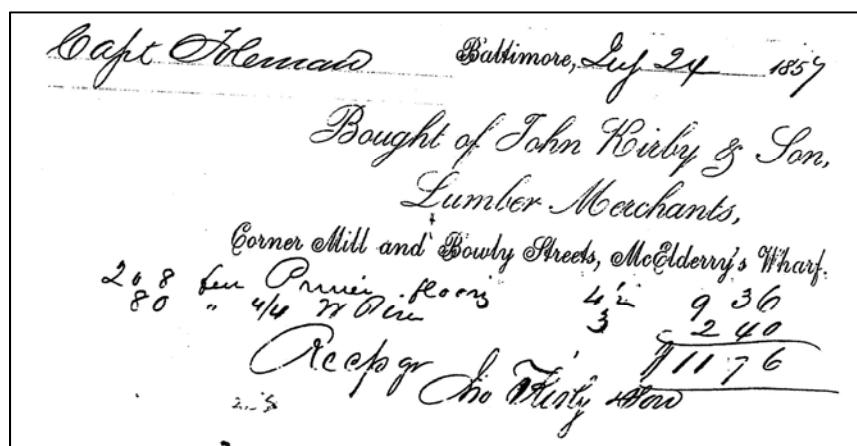
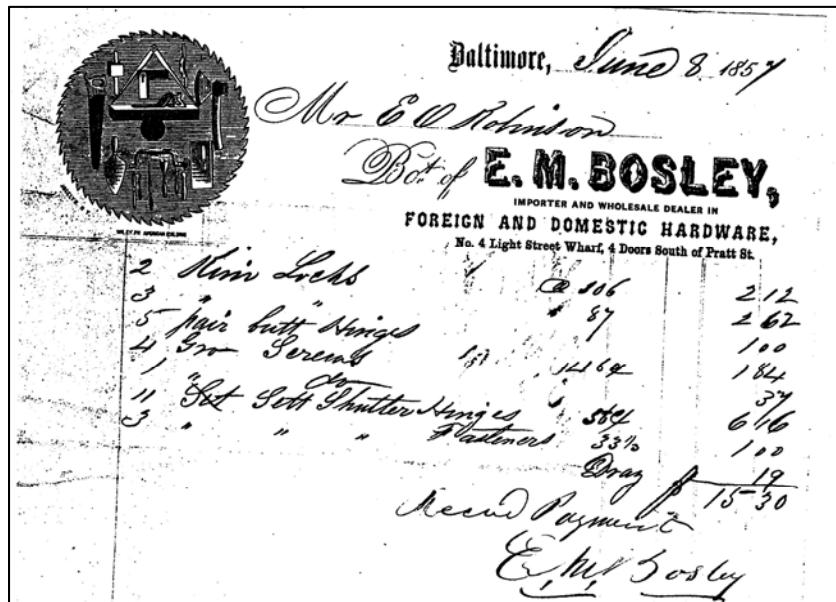


Figure 5. Receipts for building materials acquired in Baltimore, Maryland.

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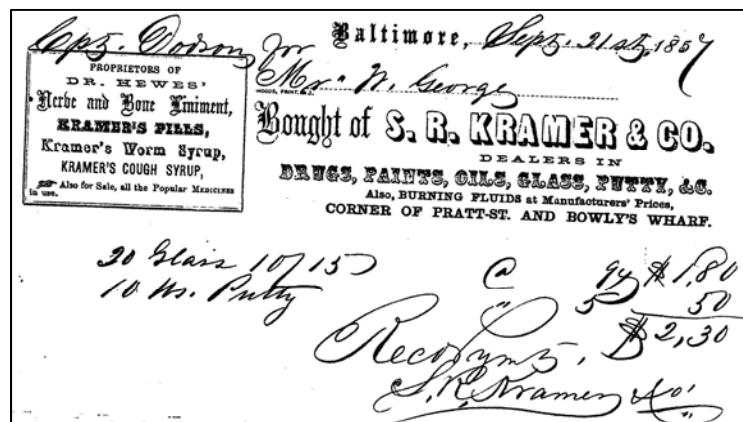
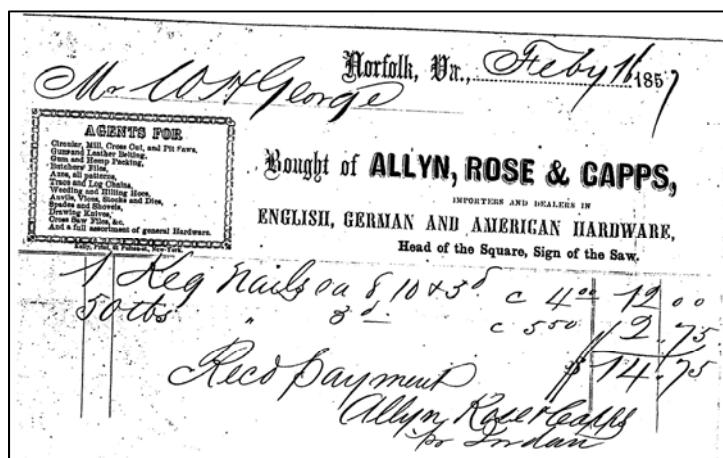
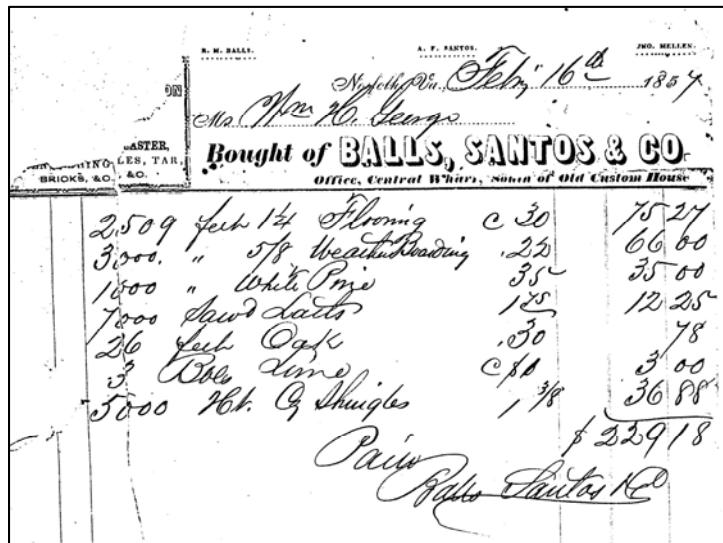


Figure 6. Receipts for building materials acquired in Norfolk, Virginia, and Baltimore, Maryland.

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

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> The early importance of the road that extends the length of Fleets Bay Neck is briefly sketched in Landholders and Landholdings (Irvington: Historic Christ Church Heritage Books, 2004) pp. 20-24.

<sup>2</sup> Traversing states in the Midwest during the 1960s, cultural geographer Fred Kniffen noted the prevalence of house forms that was two stories in height and one room deep. He began calling them “I-houses” because they seemed particularly common in the states of Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana. See Fred B. Kniffen, “Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion,” *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* v. 55 (1965), pp. 549–77 and Fred B. Kniffen and Henry Glassie, “Building in Wood in the Eastern United States: A Time-Place Perspective,” *Geographical Review* v. 56 (1966), pp. 40–66. Since the 1960s some architectural historians have explained the name as deriving from the shape of the house form: in plan, it looks like the letter I. This term was never in use during the era when this house form commonly was built.

<sup>3</sup> Lee H. Nelson, “Nail Chronology as an Aid to Dating Old Buildings,” American Association for State and Local History Technical Leaflet 48, published in *History News* 24 (1968) entire.

<sup>4</sup> Copies of Tapscott’s hand-written bill, along with several receipts for building materials that William George himself ordered in 1857, appended to this nomination.

<sup>5</sup> For a good summary of the documentary evidence pertaining to Henry Fleet’s life, see Betsy Fleet, Henry Fleete [sic]: Pioneer, Explorer, Trader, Planter, Legislator, Justice, and Peacemaker Richmond: Whittet and Shepperson Printers, 1989).

<sup>6</sup> The first reference to Fleets Bay Neck among Virginia land patents was dated May 27, 1650. Virginia Patent Book 2, p. 226.

<sup>7</sup> See numerous entries in Virginia Land Office Patent Books 1-5, abstracted in the first volume of Nell Marion Nugent, Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants (Richmond: Dietz Press, 1934; rpt.: Virginia State Library and Archives, 1992).

<sup>8</sup> Until the 1670s, Indian Creek was better known as “Corotoman Creek.” Dymer Creek appeared in land records as “Haddaway’s Creek” until the 1740s.

<sup>9</sup> William Waller Hening, The Statutes at Large: Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia, from the First Session of the Legislature in the Year 1619 (Richmond: 1819–23; reprint, Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1969), v. 5, p. 142.

<sup>10</sup> This is how Haddaway’s Creek came to be known and designated on eighteenth-century maps by its modern name “Dymers Creek.” At a session of county court dated 13 August 1742, Lancaster County Order Book 8, p. 354.

<sup>11</sup> This arrangement is summarized from Landholders and Landholdings in Christ Church Parish, Lancaster County Virginia (Irvington: Historic Christ Church Heritage Book, 2004) p. 21.

<sup>12</sup> This plat, part of a 1751 lawsuit between Charles Carter and Thomas Pinckard, is included with a microfilmed set of Lancaster County records in the collections of the Mary Ball Washington Library.

<sup>13</sup> Whale’s patent was dated 29 November 1658. Virginia Patent Book 4, p. 247. That Wale was already in the colony by 1658 is suggested by his claiming headrights for the transport of six people to Virginia, none of whom was himself. His subsequent appearances in the patent books indicate that he was deft in

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the strategy of assigning his patented acres to others who returned the favor, and of reserving some headrights [once for 10 transports] for later use. See numerous entries in Nugent, Cavaliers and Pioneers, v. 1.

<sup>14</sup> Thomas Haynie assembled several parcels of land into one tract of 1300 acres along Indian Creek and recorded his patent on 20 July 1669. Virginia Patent Book 6, p. 269.

<sup>15</sup> Deposition of Addison Hall, 31 January 1834, Chancery Case of Yerby vs. Gibson, Fredericksburg District Court, Case ID 308-1.

<sup>16</sup> Deed of Vincent Brent executors to George Wale. 16 October 1815. Lancaster County Deed Book 26, pp. 124-125.

<sup>17</sup> Will of George Wale, written 6 July 1810 and recorded 20 November 1815, Lancaster County Will Book 28, pp. 170-171.

<sup>18</sup> "The estate of John Wale" was responsible for taxes on Wale's land from 1816 through 1825. Lancaster County Land Tax Records, 1815-1825.

<sup>19</sup> When county tax collectors began separating from total each total land value a sum added on account of buildings, that of the Wale tract on Dymer creek was usually a nominal \$100. Lancaster County Land Tax Records, 1815-1825.

<sup>20</sup> Lancaster County Estate Book 30, numerous entries.

<sup>21</sup> Lancaster County Land Tax Records, 1825-1837.

<sup>22</sup> Lancaster County Deed Books list Joseph Spriggs as grantor for several instruments between 1834 and 1837. Virginia Compiled Marriages, 1740-1850, Ancestry.com. 1840 Census of the United States, Washington, D. C. National Archives and Records Administration.

<sup>23</sup> Conveyance of Joseph and Magdalene C. Spriggs to Thomas Spriggs, 120 acres of land on Fleets Bay Neck, 30 November 1837. Lancaster County Deed Book 38, p. 185.

<sup>24</sup> The name appears for the first time in the deed by which Spriggs conveyed the farm to William H. George in 1851.

<sup>25</sup> Agricultural Schedule for the 1850 United States Census.

<sup>26</sup> William H. George had been born at Plainfield in 1826. Obituary of William H. George abstracted on Find-A-Grave, Ancestry.com.

<sup>27</sup> 1850 Census of the United States; Agricultural Schedule for the 1850 United States Census; Slave Schedule, for the 1850 Census of the United States.

<sup>28</sup> Deed of Thomas Spriggs to William H. George dated 8 January 1851, the farms of Greenfield and Cherry Hill comprising a total of 270 acres and bounded in part by Dymer Creek. Lancaster County Deed Book 41, p. 169; Deed of William H. George and his wife Mary Jane George to Thomas Spriggs dated 8 January 1851, the farm known as "Plainfield" containing about 222 acres and bounded in part by Tabb Creek. Lancaster County Deed Book 41, p. 169.

<sup>29</sup> Both the value of Hubbard's farm and the presence of Felicia Hubbard in his household are drawn from 1850 Census of the United States.

<sup>30</sup> The Spriggs-Hubbard union is recorded in Virginia, Select Marriages 1785-1940, Ancestry.com. The death of Felicia H. Spriggs on 23 May 1852 is recorded on her gravestone in the cemetery of White Stone Baptist Church, White Stone, Virginia.

<sup>31</sup> Lancaster County Land Tax Records 1855-1880.

<sup>32</sup> Copies of these documents are appended to this National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.

<sup>33</sup> Tapscott's story as a carpenter, house builder, husband, and father are drawn from the U.S. Census Records of 1850 through 1880. References to earlier members of the Tapscott family who were carpenters are derived from the Craftsman Database at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

<sup>34</sup> Virginia, Deaths and Burials Index, 1853-1917. Ancestry.com.

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<sup>35</sup> The obituary of Elena [also Eleanor] George “an aged maiden lady” appeared in the Virginia Citizen on 20 June 1902. She was buried in the cemetery of White Stone Baptist Church.

<sup>36</sup> Entries for William H. George, 1861-1865, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Virginia, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

<sup>37</sup> In the Agricultural Schedule of the 1870 United Census, Greenfield was ranked as one of the most valuable farms in Lancaster County.

<sup>38</sup> Lancaster County Land Tax Records, 1850-1873.

<sup>39</sup> 1870 United States Census; 1880 United States Census.

<sup>40</sup> These dates are drawn from their gravestones in the cemetery of White Stone Baptist Church.

<sup>41</sup> Will of William H George I, written 5 April 1894 and entered into record 19 March 1900. Lancaster County Will Book 30, pp. 183-184.

<sup>42</sup> Virginia Select Marriages, 1785-1940. Ancestry.com.

<sup>43</sup> Medical Certificate of Death for Lucy George, 25 August 1920; Medical Certificate of Death for Lucy Jane Williams George, 22 November 1923.

<sup>45</sup> Will of William George II, written 1 January 1925 and entered into record 8 April 1930. Lancaster County Will Book 31, p. 51

<sup>46</sup> Will of William George II, p. 51.

<sup>47</sup> Death Certificate for Jeter Benjamin George, 7 December 1954, Virginia Death Records, 1912-2014, Ancestry.com.

<sup>48</sup> Edmund Lee’s race and birth date [31 August 1896] are stated in his U. S. Draft Registration Card for World War I, 1917-1918.

<sup>49</sup> Will of William H. George III, written 15 January 1962 and entered into record 8 February 1966. Lancaster Will Book 34, pp. 86-91.

<sup>50</sup> Deed dated 1 June 1972 between Lloyd E. George and Goldie W. George of the first part and Melvin B. Lambeth, Jr. and Mary T. Lambeth of the second part. The Georges conveyed to the Lambeths 12.3 acres, of the Greenfield farm defined by a precisely surveyed plat. Lancaster County Deed Book 170, pp. 179-183.

<sup>51</sup> Deed dated 13 February 1973 between Melvin and Mary Lambeth of the first part and Dexter C. Rumsey III and Bonnie H Rumsey of the second part, 2.1 acres of the Greenfield farm. Lancaster County Deed Book 174, pp. 670-673. A second deed, dated 18 September 1974, conveyed an adjacent 0.7 acres of Greenfield from the Lambeths to the Rumseys. Lancaster County Deed Book 185, pp. 645-648.

<sup>52</sup> Eric Mills, Chesapeake Bay in the Civil War (Centerville, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1996).

<sup>53</sup> Thaddeus Fitzhugh was a thirty-five-year-old physician practicing in Matthews County in 1860 (as shown in the 1860 Federal Census of the United States). He had been born in Gloucester County, and as his narrative makes plain, he had spent a great deal of his youth among watercraft of various sorts in and around the Chesapeake Bay. He apparently came to the attention of General Robert E. Lee because of his leadership in the capture of the tug U.S.S. Titan in 1864, which had been at work laying telegraph cable in the Bay. When Union vessels found the Titan at a landing on the Piankatank River [likely in Matthews or Middlesex County, Virginia] it had been stripped and burned to the waterline. Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1897) Series I, v. 5, pp. 398-402.

<sup>54</sup> Thaddeus Fitzhugh, “Memoir,” unpublished typescript in the collections of the American Civil War Museum/White House of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia. This and all following quotations without footnotes of their own are drawn from the Fitzhugh typescript.

<sup>55</sup> *Harriet DeFord* ran aground near the modern location of Dutton’s Mill.

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<sup>56</sup> The home guard was, of course Captain William H. Henderson's Company of the Virginia Local Defense, in which William H. George of Greenfield was serving as a lieutenant.

<sup>57</sup> Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion, Series I, v. 5, pp. 541-553.

<sup>58</sup> Brainerd Edmonds, who later wrote his own narrative concerning the capture of *Harriet DeFord*, took down a version of Betsy Brown's story concerning the Greenfield shelling in 1865, but his original version was written in an exaggerated "Uncle Remus" dialect and was not considered acceptable for publication or even wide circulation. Her colorful account contains enough firm references to make her story convincing. "Little Ida" was Ida George, who was five years old according to the 1860 Census. "Uncle Armistead," who appeared to take charge of the family's removal to a less exposed location, was Armistead Jackson, who was 55 when the 1870 census was taken in Lancaster County, and with his wife, he was head of his own household. Finally, the place to which the Greenfield residents, white and African American, removed for an overnight stay was Cherry Hill, first mentioned in William H. George's exchange of farms with Thomas Spriggs.

**LOCATION MAP**

**Greenfield**

**Lancaster County, VA**

**DHR No. 051-0083**

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Latitude: 37.67897

Longitude: -76.358600



Feet

0 200 400 600 800  
1:9,028 / 1"=752 Feet

**Title:**

**Date: 8/24/2017**

**DISCLAIMER:** Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

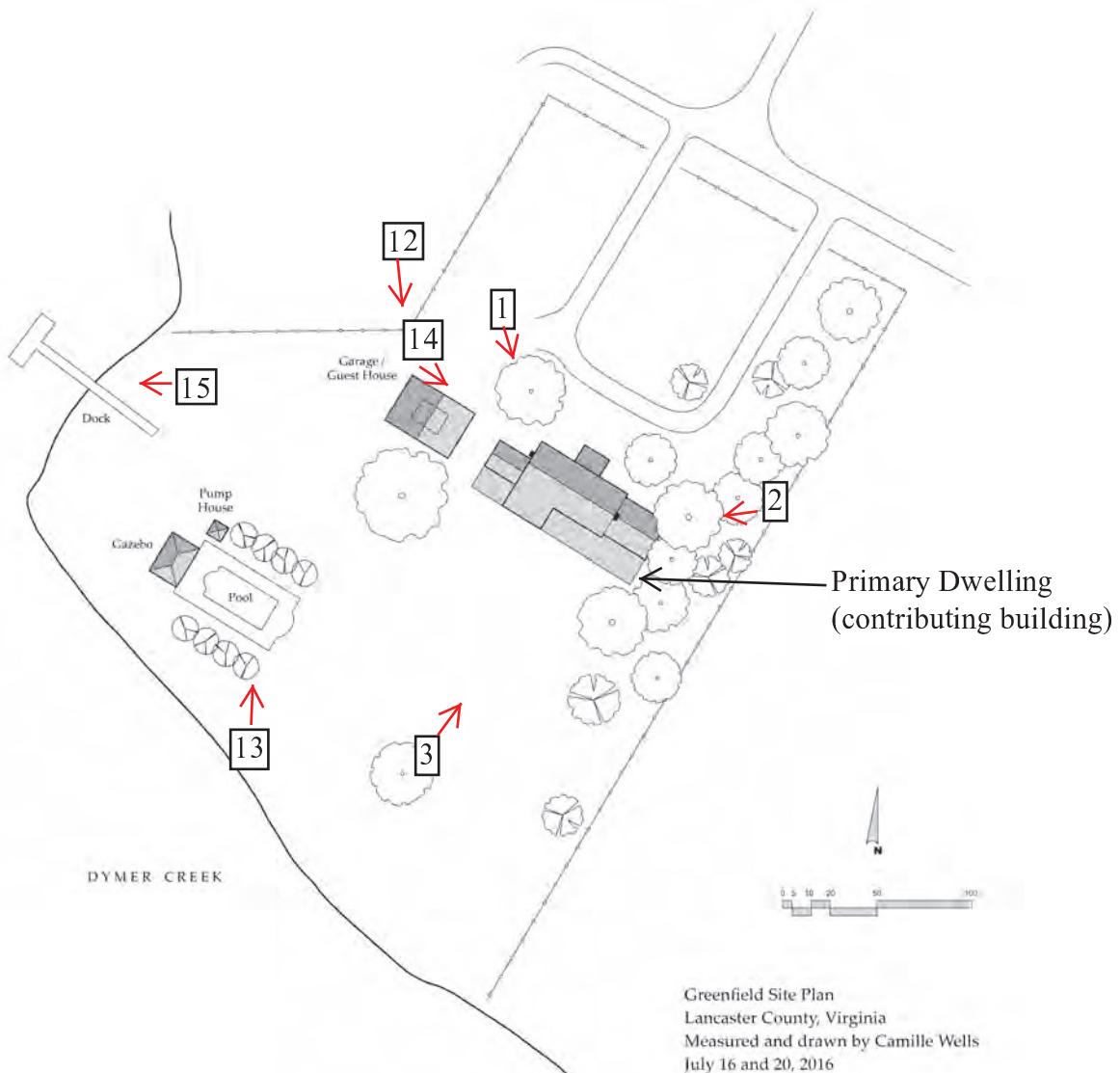
**Notice if AE sites:** Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

## SKETCH MAP/ PHOTO KEY

Greenfield

Lancaster County, VA

DHR No. 051-0083



Greenfield Site Plan  
Lancaster County, Virginia  
Measured and drawn by Camille Wells  
July 16 and 20, 2016

### Noncontributing Resources

Garage and guesthouse, 2001,  
non-contributing building

Swimming pool, ca. 1990, non-  
contributing structure

Gazebo, ca. 1990, non-  
contributing structure

Pump house, ca. 1990, non-  
contributing structure

Dock and boat lift, ca. 1998,  
non-contributing structure

## SEQUENCE OF CONSTRUCTION

Greenfield

Lancaster County, Virginia

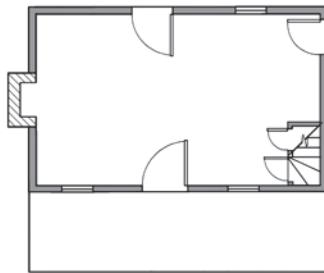
Measured and drawn by Camille Wells

DHR No. 051-0083

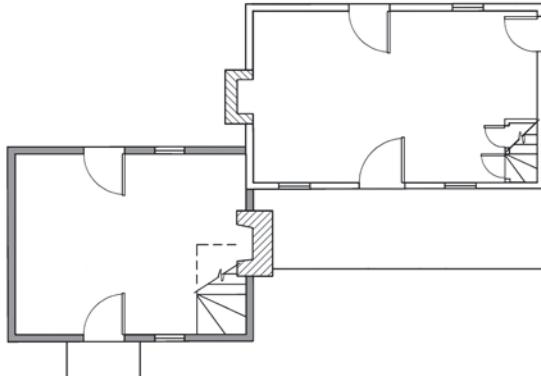
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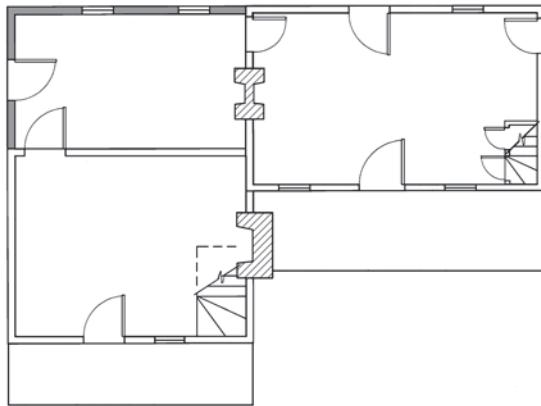
Period 1  
c. 1815 - 1830



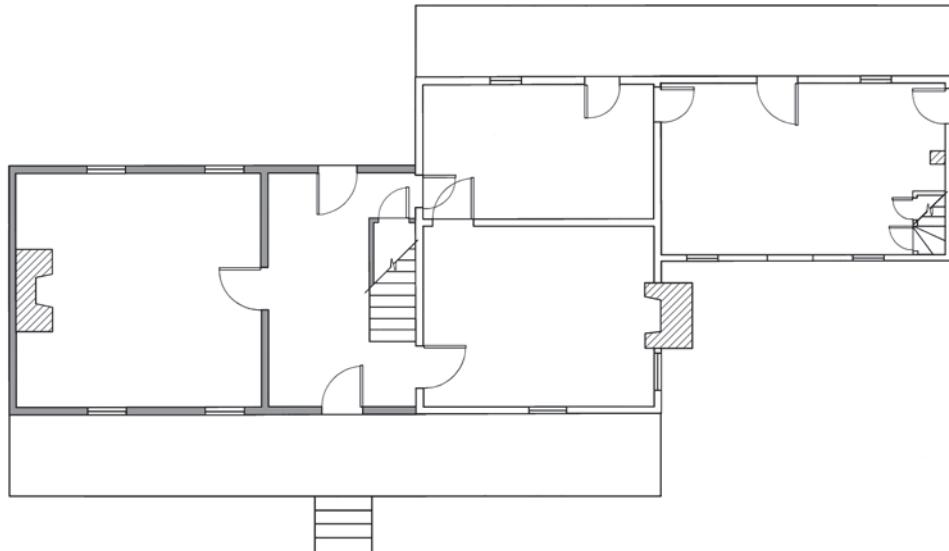
Period 2  
1830 - 1840



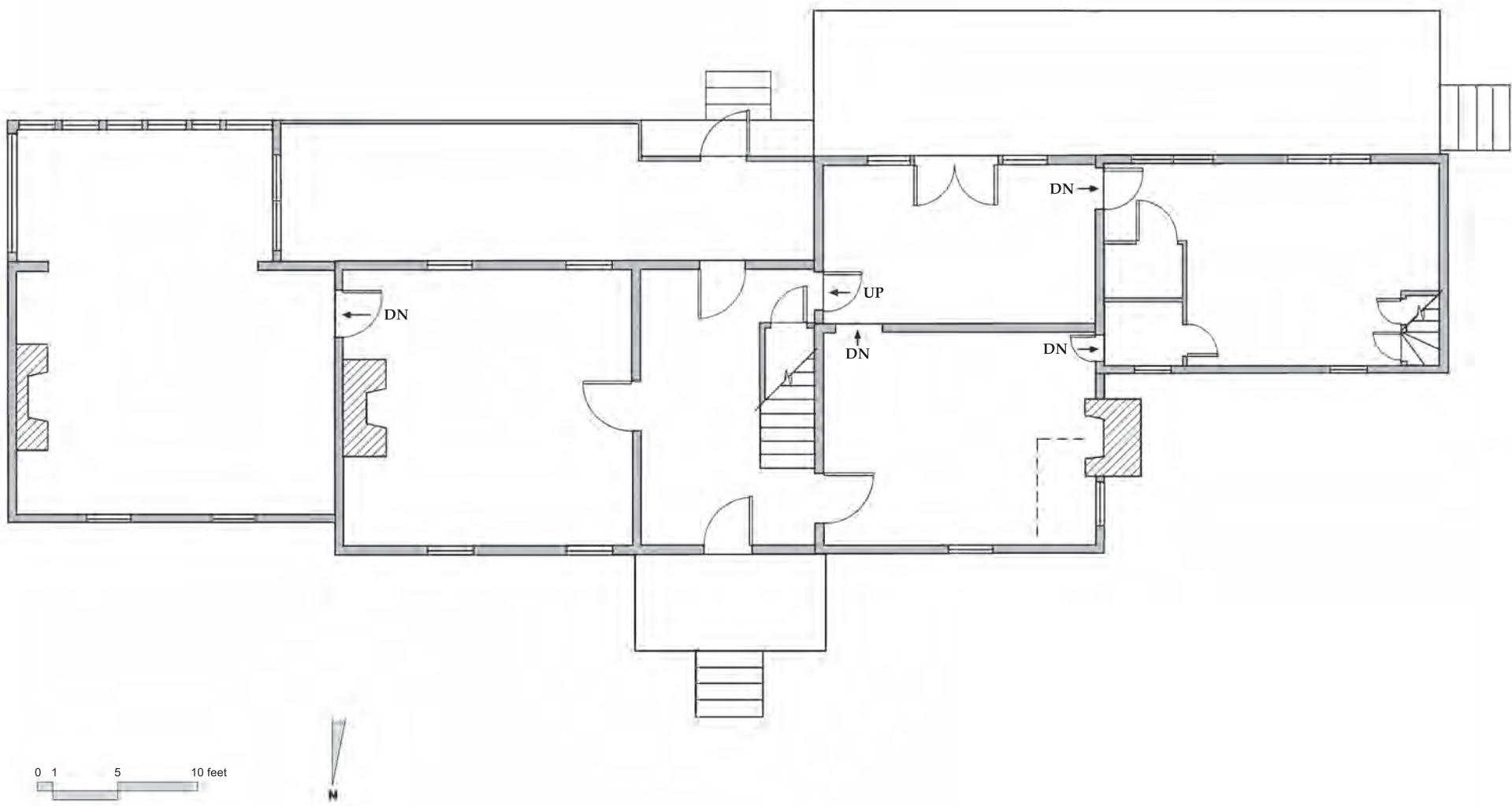
Period 3  
c. 1845



Period 4  
1857



## CURRENT FLOOR PLAN



Greenfield  
Lancaster County, Virginia  
Measured and drawn by Camille Wells  
DHR No. 051-0083