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: ______________Gosney Store________________
   Other names/site number: ___Warren Store; VDHR ID_071-6230_________
   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: SR 360E (Old Richmond Road) / SR 726N (Malmaison Road) intersection corner
   City or town: _____Blairs_______ State: _____VA_______ County: Pittsylvania_________
   Not For Publication: Vicinity: N/A X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  ___C  ____D

   ________________________________  ________________________________
   Signature of certifying official/Title:  Date
   __Virginia Department of Historic Resources_____________________
   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

   ________________________________
   Signature of commenting official:  Date
   Virginia Department of Historic Resources
   Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

   ___x__ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
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:) _____________________


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
Gosney Store  | Pittsylvania County, VA  
Name of Property | County and State  

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

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. **Function or Use**  
**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)  
COMMERCE/TRADE/department store

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**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)  
STORAGE
WORK IN PROGRESS

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

Gosney Store
Name of Property

Pittsylvania County, VA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
OTHER: one-room schoolhouse

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
METAL, STONE, WOOD, ASPHALT

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.)

Summary Paragraph
The Gosney Store stands on the northeast corner of the rural intersection of primary highway
State Route 360 (SR 360) and secondary road State Road 726 (SR 726) about six miles east of
Danville in Pittsylvania County, Virginia. The main storeroom portion of the one-story wood
frame building was originally constructed ca. 1898 as part of a late Victorian irregular design
one-room schoolhouse building. The schoolroom portion was detached and moved to its current
location ca. 1923 and modified into a commercial general merchandise store building. The
building features a storefront façade with entries at the east and west ends. The exterior is clad
with weatherboard sheathing. Interior features include beadboard wainscoting walls, a beadboard
ceiling, and a wood floor. The building has a metal-sheathed gable roof with a brick
chimneystack and fieldstone foundation supports. Contributing secondary resources include a ca.
1923 wood frame storage shed adjacent to the store building northeast corner and a ca. 1923 well
adjacent to the northwest corner. A ca. 1908 photograph of children by the schoolhouse and ca.
1955 and ca. 1984 photographs of the storefront provide insights to the historic appearance and
functioning of the Gosney Store. The 0.35-acre crossroads corner lot on which the store is
situated is surrounded by a rural landscape featuring bright leaf tobacco in seasonal cultivation.
Narrative Description

Inventory:

Detailed Description

Site/Setting
The Gosney Store stands on the northeast corner of the rural intersection of Old Richmond Road (Route 360) and Malmaison Road (Route 726) about six miles east of Danville in Pittsylvania County, Virginia. The building is elevated from the roadbed on its SR 360 frontage due to a ca. 2008 intersection expansion and is surrounded by grass on its south and west elevations, a gravel parking area on its north elevation, and an abandoned driveway on its east elevation. An enclosed well is located adjacent to the building’s northwest corner, a storage shed adjacent to its northeast corner, and, beyond the historic boundary, a period dwelling in the adjacent lot north of the parking area. The intersection is surrounded by a rural landscape including farm fields under active seasonal tobacco cultivation.

Exterior
The most prominent architectural feature of the Gosney Store is its storefront, facing south to SR 360. The west storefront entry includes a pair of two-panel doors that may not be original; the external locking mechanism has been removed and the location of the small cast-iron door knob has been changed. Exterior outward-swinging screen doors seen in a ca. 1955 photograph of the store have been removed. The entry has a ramp access built over a two-step cement staircase; the staircase was added after the building’s relocation from the original site ca. 1923 and the ramp added ca. 1984 after the store had closed when the building functioned as an antique shop. A transom window, painted white to presumably match the façade, is located above the doorway. Over the window projects a protective shed roof added after a ca. 1984 photograph which is supported by wood brackets mounted to reinforced door side jambs. The roof may have been added to match the existing similar shed roof over the entry to the ca. 1923 north elevation addition. An exterior shade light that illuminates the entry and the historic fueling area is mounted with a steel bar bracket to the façade above the shed roof.

About three feet east of the west entry is a nine-over-nine double-hung window extending from about one-third the height of the doorway to the building roofline. This window may have replaced the six-over-six window type shown in a ca. 1908 school photograph. The storefront window is covered by a metal grill as are all the exterior windows. The east entry of the store façade consists of a set of original three-panel internal doors sheltered by screen doors and accessed by a four-step concrete stoop. The increased number of steps of the east entry staircase is due to the downward sloping west-east grade on which the building sits. One door has a small
cast-iron knob and a padlock has replaced the original locking mechanism. One foot west of the entry is a two-over-two, four pane original window that features a narrow exterior ledge through which, it is believed, food originally may have been dispensed to schoolchildren and, later, kerosene to store customers. The façade is painted white. A ca. 1955 photograph shows green paint up to the level of the base of the entryways across the length of the façade, creating the appearance of a level, unified storefront. Scraping the paint at the entryway base reveals a light blue layer over the green layer and a red layer underneath the green layer.

Attached to the storefront above the east entry in the ca. 1955 photograph is a flat-roofed canopy mounted with signage facing US 360, advertising “H.E. GOSNEY GEN. MDSE.” and “Coca-Cola.” Extending transversely over the canopy bracketed to the roof is a light fixture and additional signage facing SR 726. Under the canopy on the ground next to the building is a pedestal air meter/pump. Snow chains were fitted under the canopy. The canopy provided shelter and weather protection for customers and their vehicles and farm equipment. It later was damaged by a Pepsi-Cola delivery truck and removed. Customers desiring hardware and garden, household maintenance, and automotive supplies would usually use the east entry near which these items were stocked.1

Located between the storefront west entry and US 360 on the asphalt lot in the ca. 1955 photograph is a fuel pump island consisting of mounted high- and low-octane gasoline pumps separated by focal pedestal lighting. Vehicle gas lanes border the island; a fuel tank is buried beneath the island. The fueling area could be monitored from the inside counter through the window next to the doorway. The storekeeper served as both counter clerk and filling station attendant in this general store with full service gas lanes. A pedestal Esso sign stands between the fuel island and the canopy, visible from either direction on US 360. If not fueling, customers usually parked on the pavement between the building and the highway, under the east entry canopy, or by the west elevation porch walkway. The SR 360/SR 726 intersection was expanded ca. 2008, which distanced the store building from the roadway driving lanes and elevated it from the road bed, effectively removing the parking area.2

The west elevation of the Gosney Store building is adjacent to SR 726 and faces toward Danville. A six-over-six double hung window is located near the south corner. The weatherboard wall shows a vertical line of cut ends, suggesting wall modification after the building’s relocation. The gable end features a circular, fitted wood vent covered with a metal form that was subsequently affixed. A post-supported shed roof covers a concrete walkway that was referred to as the “porch.”. Bundled afternoon Danville newspapers were delivered to the porch for further sorting and customers would sometimes park and congregate in the porch area. The ca. 1955 photograph shows a Quaker State Motor Oil “tombstone” sign standing on the walkway.3

The north elevation features a ca. 1923 rectangular storage room addition with novelty drop siding and a concrete block foundation. The entry includes a narrow, five-panel, bungalow-style door. A small protective roof supported by wooden brackets mounted to the wall next to the doorframe side jambs projects over the doorway. Bulk stock was delivered to and picked up from the feed room through this door, which also usually served as an entrance to the barber shop in...
the feed room. (The feed room is also accessible through a door on the north wall of the salesroom). A door to access the staircase appears to have been removed. A short driveway from SR 726 served the north elevation feed room-barber shop, the west elevation porch, the store manager’s house in the adjacent lot, and a shed adjacent to the northeast corner of the store building; the driveway continued alongside the east elevation of the building to US 360. A trace of the driveway, which currently serves the house, is visible. Beside the elevation’s northwest corner is a wood enclosure that covers a well that supplied the store and which still serves the house on the adjacent lot.4

The east elevation is notable for two paired nine-over-nine double-hung windows. The windows have simple sills, no surrounds, and metal security grills that are a post-relocation alteration for use as a commercial building. Symmetrical weatherboard wall cuts on the elevation gable suggest original placement of a gable vent. A privy and a coal pile were historically located adjacent to the east elevation. An abandoned portion of the US 360 – SR 726 connecting driveway is faintly visible along the elevation.

During the ca. 1923 relocation, the former schoolroom was reset on a fieldstone support foundation reinforced with wood leveling blocks. Corner fieldstone piers and partial exterior foundation fieldstone walls with concrete coating were used. The ca. 1923 north elevation addition has a concrete block foundation that shows damage in its northeast corner from vehicle impact. The wood joist “schoolhouse red” metal gable roof was repainted dark green sometime after the ca. 1955 photograph, most likely to match the green roof of the adjacent store manager’s house. A red brick chimney stack comparable in material, style, and condition to that of the existing vestibule portion of the schoolhouse projects from the store roof ridgeline on the east end of the building. The building exterior is in fair condition.

Store Interior
The interior of the Gosney Store is comprised of the salesroom, adapted from the Union School schoolroom, and the storeroom (“feed room”) added after the building’s relocation. The salesroom features vertical beadboard wainscoting on the lower portion of the wall and horizontal beadboard wainscoting above the wainscot cap. Affixed to the salesroom walls is varied merchandising hardware including wooden shelving, Masonite pegboards with different attachments, a 14-compartment household hardware bin, and hanging nails. Under some of the nails are prices written on tape attached to the wall or in black lettering on the wall; “straps” is written on the wall under a group of the nails.

A customer entering the west entrance of the store in 1955 saw a vegetable and fruit display to the left in the salesroom’s southwest corner and a dairy and meat refrigerator case against the west wall. Canned goods, bread, and packaged snack items were grouped on moveable shelving and vendor standing metal racks and displays on the nearby floor space. Near the north wall beside the check-out counter was a long table with a glass-enclosed candy case on one end and an electric coffee grinder (Enterprise Manufacturing Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) on the end nearest the counter. Canned goods were also located on shelving on the south wall between the entrances. After selecting items the customer would place them on the u-shaped
Gosney Store
Name of Property

check-out counter for weighing as needed (using a Toledo Scale Company, Toledo, Ohio), ringing up on the cash register (a National Cash Register, Dayton, Ohio), and bagging. Hoop cheese was for sale at the counter and the afternoon Danville Bee newspaper was available for pickup. A bottled soft drink could be pulled out of the refrigerated metal drink-box located under the window against the south wall next to the west exit.5

Patrons shopping for items other than household groceries, snacks, and sundries – or who came to socialize – usually entered the store through the canopied east entrance. A pool table sat to the right near the east wall and a pot-bellied cast iron stove and coal bucket were to the left. (The original schoolhouse pot-bellied stove [a “Parlor Glow” model, Southern Co-Operative Foundry Company, Rome, Georgia] was replaced after H. E. Gosney’s management with a stove fabricated from a 55-gallon barrel). The store manager’s executive roll-top desk, remaining from the B.S. Warren period, was placed against the far north wall. An adjacent original door opened to the feed room addition, which was stocked with bulk items such as bagged legumes, dog and livestock food, and fertilizer. (Customers were usually supplied through the feed room exterior door). The barber shop was probably to the left in the southwest corner by the wall-mounted sink. In the salesroom’s northeast corner was a large rectangular table on which overalls and work shoes were displayed. The east wall, southeast corner, and adjoining south wall displayed farm, garden, home maintenance, automotive, and hardware items and supplies. A kerosene tank and pump sat on the floor under the bracketed vertical sliding dispensary window on the north wall next to the east entrance.6

The salesroom ceiling is beadboard; several strips in the northeast corner sag. Three suspended commercial white, metal, linear, two-lamp fluorescent fixtures are suspended longitudinally on the ceiling center; two four-foot fixtures are on the east end and an eight-foot fixture is on the west end near the counter. A lower-hanging, suspended, naked lightbulb provides additional focal lighting to the counter area. Electrical wiring runs along the ceiling and walls, converging at the circuit box mounted on the west wall near the northwest salesroom corner. The circuit is live. An empty drink bottle rack is mounted to the south wall between the historic position of the drink box and the west entrance. A commercial can opener is mounted to the doorframe on the north salesroom wall. Metal stove piping exits the ceiling through an original metal bracketed square opening to the chimney. The east and west double entrance doors are fit with a late Victorian-era cast-iron slide bolt and door security is reinforced by a horizontal wood door bar secured in metal brackets attached to the interior doorframe of each set of doors. The wider east doors are also reinforced with attached vertical boards. The salesroom floor is made of finished two-inch-wide planks. Most of the salesroom interior horizontal wainscoting is painted flat white; parts of the north wall and the pegboard on the north wall are painted light blue over the white layer. Under the white paint layer is the original light green layer. Much of the wainscot cap and vertical wainscoting is painted original black. Wall shelving is painted red. The storeroom features rougher textured, wider flooring planks and has a relatively unfinished appearance with exposed framing and insulation. A small sink is mounted to the wall in the southeast corner. The building interior is in fair condition.

Shed

Section 7 page 8
Across the driveway from the northeast corner of the Gosney Store building is a one-story, timber frame shed that was historically used primarily for remote store stock storage. It was concurrently used for storage by occupants of the manager’s house in the adjacent lot and is currently used for storage by the house’s occupants. The shed is believed to have been constructed ca. 1923 when the house was constructed and the store established. The building features exterior wide weatherboard siding and a front-gable, metal-sheathed roof. The west entry elevation consists of side-hinged double doors secured by a padlock. The building is painted white. The shed is in fair condition.7

Well
Adjacent to the northeast corner of the Gosney Store building, across the driveway from the historic store manager’s house, is a well, protected by a rectangular plywood enclosure that is covered with a waterproof tarp. It is believed the well was dug ca. 1923 when the manager’s house was constructed and the store established. The wood well enclosure is in good condition. The well is fully functioning and currently serves the dwelling.8

Integrity Statement
Due to the ca. 2008 SR 360/SR 726 intersection expansion, the Gosney Store building no longer appears immediately adjacent to SR 360 but nonetheless maintains integrity of location by its general positioning at the intersection location. Still surrounded by a rural landscape, including farm fields under active seasonal tobacco cultivation, the property setting is preserved. Identifying signage and fuel pumps seen in the ca. 1955 photograph have been removed. However, surviving building exterior features, including the intact concrete entry stoop on the east end of the storefront, window security grill covers, and the storage room addition to the elevation opposite the store façade, convey the building’s identity as a general merchandise store. While addition of the protective shed roof and ramp access over the concrete staircase at the east storefront entry following use as a general store are not historically authentic, these alternations do not diminish the building’s historic use as a commercial building. Retained interior features that identify the building as a general merchandise store include the sales counter, differentiated merchandising hardware, and commercial fixtures including the mounted bottle rack and can opener.

The Gosney Store building is notable for its effective design adaptation from a portion of an earlier era educational building into a more modern functional commercial building. A rare surviving example of a general merchandise store in the area, the Gosney Store is not directly comparable with similar properties due to a lack of sufficiently intact examples in the area. Moreover, general merchandise store buildings during the period of significance display a range of physical features, given their frequent combined functional use as post offices, automotive repair garages, and residences. The existing physical features of the Gosney Store building clearly conveys the historic sense of a rural general merchandise store.
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
Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCET

Period of Significance
1923–1969

Significant Dates
N/A

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

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown
The Gosney Store is a one-story frame general merchandise store situated at a prominent rural crossroads in Pittsylvania County near the City of Danville, Virginia. The Gosney Store originated as the part of a school building built circa 1898 some 600 feet to the east. It was moved to its present location to function as a store circa 1923, after the school was replaced by a new public school in a new location. A ca. 1908 photograph of children by the schoolhouse and ca. 1955 and ca. 1984 photographs of the storefront provide insights to the historic appearance and functioning of the Gosney Store. The store served the local tobacco-farming community for about sixty years. It is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the Commerce area of significance for its integral association with the daily economic life and welfare of the surrounding rural community. The store sold most items a family might need on a daily basis, and for a time, included a barbershop and a recreational pool table. The period of significance dates from the establishment of the store circa 1923 to circa 1969 when its long-time manager and then owner, H. E. Gosney, passed away and the store continued under new management. The Gosney Store is nominated at the local level of significance. The property meets Criteria Consideration B for a resource moved from its original location because its significance is due to its historic use as a rural general store at its current location.

Historical Background

William H. Warren (1834–1903) was a Civil War veteran and prominent tobacco farmer in the Malmaison community of Pittsylvania County. In October 1893, he sold his son Benjamin S. Warren (1866–1947) a 150-acre portion of his property in the Dan River District near the headwaters of Birch Creek. Local church records suggest that B.S. Warren and his wife and young child soon moved to the property and established their tobacco farm and built a stately ca. 1895–1900 farmhouse near the northwest corner of the junction of the Richmond Road (SR 360) and Malmaison Road (SR 726).

Recognizing the need for primary school education for children in the local community, including their grandchildren and children, respectively, W. H. Warren and B.S. Warren apparently organized a community school proposal. In May 1896 W. H., Warren and his wife sold a two-acre parcel from his property adjoining that of his son for $10 to the Pittsylvania County Dan River School District for the express purpose of establishing a public school. Funding and construction of the new primary school were likely a school board-community collaboration strongly influenced by the Warrens. The new school was named Union School, which may have reflected such a public school board-private community partnership. Given their relative means and experience from building the B.S. Warren residence, the Warren Family was likely aware of current popular building design and had access to building materials, supplies, and furnishings. Local community farming families, including the Gosney family,
whose property adjoined the school property and also with school-age children, likely contributed to the construction of Union School with building expertise and labor.

The Union School building design largely reflected the preference of the sponsoring Warren family and the local community. Predating the use of standardized municipal schoolhouse designs, the late Victorian-era, irregular, one-room schoolhouse design was a fancy one-story frame building that featured a large, rectangular main schoolroom entered through a vestibule from a front porch entrance that faced a yard and the Richmond Road. The main schoolroom is thought to be represented in the ca. 1908 school photograph by the intersecting building portion adjacent to the window. The building featured a fieldstone wall foundation, exterior wood clapboard siding, and a wood joist roof covered by metal with a brick chimneystack. The building foundation consisted of hand-hewn beams with fieldstone supports overlain with intersecting beams and sub-floor joists. A 6-over-6, double hung wood sash with a wood, hinged shutter was among window designs used. A fieldstone-lined well in the schoolyard is thought to be located near where the photographer of the ca. 1908 photograph was standing.

Union School likely opened for the 1898–1899 school session and was no doubt a source of great community pride and distinction. The schoolhouse embodied the sentiment conveyed by G.W. Dame, Pittsylvania County’s first public school system superintendent, to Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction W. H. Ruffner in 1872, that among “…things required to make the free schools a decided success are neat, commodious and well-furnished school houses.” Union School likely operated until the end of the 1921–1922 school year when it is believed to have consolidated into the newly opened Dan River Combined School nearby for the 1922–1923 session. Additional information about Union School, including a profile of two of its graduates from the 1914–1915 session, may be found in the Preliminary Information Form (PIF) stored at the Department of Historic Resources.

Following the 1921–1922 session, the Pittsylvania County School Board sold the Union School parcel at public auction in January 1923 to B. S. Warren for $1000. His children, now grown and departed from home (all four likely attending Union School) and having completed his term in the Virginia House of Delegates, Mr. Warren apparently sought to consolidate his interests and envisioned a general merchandise store as part of this plan. Educational furnishings were removed from the Union School classroom and this portion of the school building was detached and pulled by horses on logs about an eighth of a mile west toward Danville, where it was reset at the northeast corner of the junction of Richmond Road and Malmaison Road. This corner was the closest corner of the intersection to the schoolhouse location and was directly across Malmaison Road from the B.S. Warren farm. The former schoolroom was oriented such that the elevation with two entries faced Richmond Road, becoming the front of the store. Concrete steps were added and modifications including addition of the storage feed room on the north elevation (back of the store) and floor plan and window alterations to facilitate functioning as a mercantile commercial building. The interior of the former schoolroom was appropriately furnished to function as a general store salesroom space. The shed on the northeast corner of the store building and the store manager’s house on the adjacent lot fronted by Malmaison Road are believed to have been built at this time. A well was dug at the northwest corner of the store.
building that supplied the store and house. The remaining portion of the original school building was modified into a dwelling. This house and the historic store manager’s house are currently inhabited.

Located at the significant junction of Richmond Road and Malmaison Road junction six miles northeast of the city of Danville, the Warren Store was well positioned to meet the general merchandise needs of the surrounding rural tobacco-based farm economy. Local farming families depended on the store for staples of daily living they could not provide themselves as well as some household and farming items. During tobacco auctioning season in Danville, one of the world’s largest bright leaf tobacco markets, local county farmers transported their crop—most still by wagon in 1923—on the modern asphalt Richmond Road to Danville. The store served as a convenient waystation. Though market prices in the Old Bright Belt along the Virginia-North Carolina border, including the Danville market, were generally poor throughout the 1920s, the general agricultural response was to plant more tobacco.24,25

Having shown himself to be an influential financial advocate of the farmer, B. S. Warren presumably extended credit to local farming families at his store on very reasonable terms.26 Besides being a respected tobacco farmer from a prominent tobacco-farming family, his recent legislative experience afforded him insight into the economic conditions and practical realities affecting field tobacco production and sale. Given his allegiance to the farmer and pride in farming, Warren assuredly shared this information advantageously with tobacco farmers at Warren Store.27 Awareness of current prices and preferred leaf quality guided the farmer on when to sell his loose leaf for higher prices, for example. Mr. Warren’s well-known extensive motor touring of the county and region exposed him to current tobacco information as well. Some of this travel was done in the performance of justice of the peace duties which were also conducted at Warren Store.28 The store to some degree served as an office from which Warren conducted his business.

William T. Boyd from Alton in neighboring Halifax County was employed at Warren Store during this period. He was likely the storekeeper, given Warren’s extensive duties and activities. The 1930 census lists W.T. Boyd as 23 years old, single, a renter, and a retail merchant by occupation.29 The census’s dwelling house order of visitation suggests that he lived a close walk from the store. Boyd’s daughter indicates her father received business training while boarding in nearby Chatham where he met her mother. Boyd left Warren Store ca. 1935 and managed a merchandise store and service station on US Route 58 east of Danville that his son Calvin later operated.30, 31

Horace E. Gosney (1907–1969) operated the store from ca. 1935 until his death in 1969. H.E. Gosney was the youngest child in a tobacco-farming family whose property adjoined the Union School parcel sold by W.H. Warren in 1896 to the school board.32 Horace most likely attended Union School and three of his older siblings, Henry, Jack and Anna, are pictured in the ca. 1908 photograph. Horace and B.S. Warren’s son Almon were close childhood friends and decided to attend Hampden-Sydney College instead of Randolph-Macon College on the outcome of a coin flip.33 In 1935 Horace married Elsie Milam who was from the nearby rural community of
Sutherland and a graduate of State Teacher’s College (Longwood University) and an elementary school teacher in the local Dan River School District. The young couple lived in the house adjacent to the store on Malmaison Road. The 1940 U.S. census indicates that Horace E. Gosney was a merchant in the retail grocery business. Their son James E. Gosney is listed as a one year old.

The general merchandise store was generally known as the Warren Store during Warren’s lifetime, after which it was affiliated by name with Gosney. A local resident recalls seeing Warren regularly at the store during the WWII era. The Danville Bee in late 1945 advertised an auction of a local “tobacco and grain farm located in Pittsylvania County near the Sam Warren or Gosney store at the intersection of US 360 and the Dan River High School Road.” Storefront canopy signage in the ca. 1955 photograph displays “H. E. Gosney General Merchandise Store.” A promotional rain gauge describes the location of the store as ”Cross Roads - Keeling, Virginia.” The store was the westernmost address on the US 360 Keeling postal route at that time. The closest comparable general store during this period was Shelton’s Store about four miles east on US 360, and also served as the Keeling post office. Store business correspondence was addressed ”Keeling” until mid-1967 when the postal designation became ”Blairs.” Henderson’s Garage and Garland Smith’s Garage were about a mile east and west, respectively, on US 360 and offered sodas, snacks, and a few basic food items.

The H. E. Gosney General Merchandise Store expense ledger from February 1950 lists a variety of local wholesalers and distributors, most located in Danville. Eggs were purchased from a local farm. Products were displayed for sale in the large salesroom as described (see Section 7, Detailed Description: Interior). Customers carried their items to the counter for checkout; some orders were pre-pulled and available at the counter for pickup. Cigarettes, shotgun shells, and .22 ammunition were dispensed from behind the counter. Catalog orders could be placed at the counter. Special seasonal items such as citrus fruit, oysters, and fireworks, were available at Christmas. Purchases were sometimes carried out to customers’ vehicles and home deliveries were made on occasion. Store credit was available on an individual basis and was generally paid with tobacco sale proceeds. Besides selling general merchandise and fuel, the store served as a Trailways bus stop, a county tax personal property listing station, and a barber shop at times. J.E. Gosney, Sr. recalls receiving his first haircut in the Gosney Store feed room barber shop.

Tobacco growing season was an especially busy time for the Gosney Store. Tobacco seed for plant beds and field fertilizer for spring planting were stocked. Summer harvesting days brought a stream of farmers and field laborers in for beverages, food, gas, and hardware to supply local field and barn operations. Tobacco news of the day, including field and weather conditions as well as labor availability and auction market trends, was discussed. H.E. Gosney, as B.S. Warren and W.T. Boyd before him, was at the center of this exchange. Regarding a local summer hailstorm he reported that “damage to fields (tobacco) on both sides of his store probably ranged from 50 to 75%.” In 1950 the Gosneys moved into a new house a mile west on US 360 toward Danville and farmed about ten acres of tobacco which well occupied time not spent with the store. J.E. Gosney, Sr., current owner of the property, recalls assisting in the store during summers and at other times during his youth. He serviced cars at the fuel pumps when his father
was with other customers, moved inventory, and participated on wholesale trips to Danville among other activities. Other persons in the community, including H.E. Gosney’s brother, Jack, filled in when needed. Fall and winter allowed more time for local farmers to gather and socialize at the store, congregating around the stove or playing a game of cards or pool. For others, picking up groceries or the afternoon newspaper was an opportunity to see neighbors.45

Respected for his moral bearing and active community involvement, Horace Gosney was appreciated as well for his good humor and personal warmth. It is told that one morning he walked from the counter back to where the farmers were gathered around the stove and remarked “I’m glad to see that you gentlemen are doing so well this morning. Just so you know, I am open for business.” He then turned around and walked back to the counter.46 A neighbor who frequented the store with her brothers after being dropped off by the afternoon school bus in the late 1930s remembers Gosney teasing her about her freckles.47 Another community member who was working at Riverside and Dan River Cotton Mill in Danville during the latter part of WWII recalls Gosney lending her gas to safely reach her parents’ home.48 Gosney was known to train fellow Masons after business hours at the store and to send local youths care packages at college.49,50 He enjoyed talking with customers, many of them friends, neighbors and fellow farmers, about their concerns.

Following H. E. Gosney’s untimely death in early 1969, Edward J. Morris relocated from Sears in Danville and operated the general store until its closing in 1984.51 Business gradually declined due to market factors, including fewer traditional rural customers and increasing competition from more modern convenience stores and chain stores. E.J. Morris departed to operate a smaller store without fuel sales closer to his residence nearby on SR 360 toward Danville, taking some of the interior store merchandising hardware and furnishings to facilitate the transition. The Gosney Store building then functioned as an antique shop until 1987. A history of eastern Pittsylvania County includes a photograph of the building during this period with a brief account of its history as a school and later as a store.52

Acknowledgements
Many persons and organizations contributed to the research represented in this nomination. Special personal recognition is given to Mildred Petty (B.S Warren’s granddaughter) and James Gosney, Sr. (H.E. Gosney’s son). Organizational credit is offered to the Pittsylvania County Clerk’s Office, Pittsylvania County Schools, Pittsylvania County History Research Center, VA-NC Genealogical Society, Library of Virginia, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Endnotes
1. James E. Gosney, Sr., personal communication.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
Gosney Store
Name of Property

Pittsylvania County, VA
County and State

4. Ibid.

5. Ibid.

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.

8. Ibid.


11. Pittsylvania County Deed Book 102, pg.229.

12. Kentuck [sic] Baptist Church Membership Records. On June 25, 1892, Sister Alice L. Warren was received by letter from Banister Church into Kentuck Baptist Church and on August 25, 1894, B. S. Warren was received as a candidate for baptism.


14. Pittsylvania County School Board Meeting minutes and/or an Annual County Superintendent Report(s) from this period, which would likely have provided details on early development of Union School, are not available. The following excerpts from the School Board’s July 1923 and August 1924 meeting minutes (available from September 1922 onwards) provide insight on policy and procedures for constructing new and modifying existing primary school buildings that may have applied to the earlier ca. 1898 construction of Union School:

   Mr. Coles and Mr. Watson reported on behalf of the Dabney House proposition that the people have put up a standard two room school building and are only asking that the Board will pay the salaries of one of the teachers. A school is much needed in that section and on motion of Mr. Coles the proposition was accepted. [July 1923]

   Dr. Bennett reported to the Board that if some action was not taken immediately on the Climax proposition the County would lose the $4000.00 appropriation from the State Board to advertise for bid on the new building. It was moved by Mr. Terry and seconded by Mr. Moses that we advertise for bid on the proposed new building at Climax. [August 1924]

   It was moved by Mr. Moses and seconded by Mr. Bennett that the Board authorize Mr. Blair to advertise for bids on the proposed addition at Mt. Hermon and to proceed with the building provided the patrons would give 1/5 of the cost and if we have available funds’. [August 1924]
15. Averett University in nearby Danville Virginia, for example, incorporated “Union” in an earlier school name, reflecting its combined financial support from three local Baptist associations (https://www.averett.edu/). It is not believed that “Union” in the case of Union School represents the consolidation of existing primary schools as was later common practice.

16. Union School is a comparatively fancy one-room schoolhouse with a relatively large main schoolroom when compared with other period one-room schoolhouses in Pittsylvania County that are included in the School Buildings Service Photographs Collection maintained in the Library of Virginia Archives. Available: https://lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01LVA_INST/1k32srg/alma9917772822305756.

17. The most definitive material dating clue for the opening of Union School is the Parlor Glow pot-bellied stove from the main schoolroom that was manufactured by the Southern Co-Operative Foundry Company of Rome, Georgia. The company made cast-iron kitchenware including stoves, ranges, grates, and hollow ware, from 1898-1970 (https://www.collectorsweekly.com/stories/275327-parlor-glow-cast-iron-wood-stove).


19. Union School’s status as a county public school is confirmed by the signature of a teacher who is listed on the Library of Virginia’s “Virginia Department of Education List of Teachers for Pittsylvania County” (Dan River District) for the 1914-1915 session, which appears on the 1915 promotion certificate of student Willie Evans. Evans is pictured in the ca. 1908 school photograph, presumably at the end of his first grade year.


23. James Gosney, Sr. personal communication.


26. In 1909, B.S. Warren was a co-founder of American National Bank in Danville, which aimed to advance the interests of local farmers. The bank introduced the installment loan in 1935 which enabled more persons to purchase farms. Dorothy Milam recalls that Warren facilitated a loan with the bank that allowed her father to purchase their family tobacco farm located further east.
on the Richmond Road. She remembers him hunting quail on their farm and dining with her family. Personal communication.

27. B.S. Warren’s loyalty to the farmer and pride in farming is expressed in this attributed quotation during his legislative term: “Nothing makes a farmer so tormented mad as to be referred to as an agriculturalist. His disgust is equaled only by that of a newspaper man who is dubbed a journalist.” *Register and Bee*, December 15, 1922.

28. *Register and Bee*, July 14, 1925.


32. Pittsylvania County Deed Book 107, pp. 355-356.

33. Thomas Warren, personal communication.

34. Jamie Krogh (Reference Archivist, Longwood University) personal communication.


36. United States Census, 1940.


38. Neal Dodson, personal communication.


40. Bill Guerrant, personal communication.


42. Gosney Store Ledger Book.

43. James E. Gosney, Sr., personal communication.


45. James E. Gosney, Sr., personal communication.
46. Jim Shields, personal communication.

47. Carolyn Daniels, personal communication.

48. Dorothy Milam, personal communication.

49. Johnnie Dodson, personal communication.

50. Martha Anne Rhodes, personal communication.


9. Major Bibliographical References

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


Daniels, Carolyn. Personal communication with the author.

Dodson, Johnnie. Personal communication with the author.

Dodson, Neal. Personal communication with the author.

Gosney Sr., James E. Personal communication with the author.


Guerrant, Bill. Personal communication with the author.

Kentuck Baptist Church membership records, Virginia Baptist Historical Society, Richmond Virginia.

Krogh, Jamie. Personal communication with the author.

Milam, Dorothy. Personal communication with the author.


Pittsylvania County deed records. Pittsylvania County Courthouse, Chatham Virginia.

*Register*. Danville, Virginia.

*Register and Bee*. Danville, Virginia.

Rhodes, Martha Anne. Personal communication with the author.

Shields, Jim. Personal communication with the author.
Shupe, Kevin. Personal communication with the author.


Warren, Thomas. Personal communication with the author.

Wilkerson, Mildred. Personal communication with the author.

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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 #__________

___ 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

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR No. 071-6230
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ______ 0.35 acre ______

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:__________
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)
1. Latitude: -79.320156 Longitude: 36.679927
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:
2. Zone: Easting: Northing:
3. Zone: Easting: Northing:
4. Zone: Easting: Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The historic boundary is coterminous with Pittsylvania County tax parcel 2440-28-4143/
Map MB2-73&74, as recorded by Pittsylvania County, Virginia. The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Tax Parcel Map, Sketch Map/Photo Key, and Location Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The selected historic boundary encompasses the property’s known historic resources and the historic setting as the parcel size has not changed since the building was moved to this
location ca. 1923.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: ____James E. Gosney, Jr.__ 
organization: _____ N/A __________ 
street & number: 767 Mainville Drive 
city or town: _Bloomsburg___ state: _____ PA______ zip code:_____17815______ 
e-mail___gosneyjr@hotmail.com___ 
telephone:____757.362.8889____ 
date:__ February, 2022 _

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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

Name of Property: Gosney Store

City or Vicinity: Danville vicinity

County: Pittsylvania County  State: Virginia

Photographer: Michael Pulice and James Gosney Jr.
Date Photographed: October and November 2021

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

1 of 9. Store exterior, looking northeast.
4 of 9. Store exterior, looking southeast.
5 of 9. Store interior, looking southwest.
7 of 9. Store interior, southeast wall, sliding interior window cover.
8 of 9. Store, shed addition interior, looking northeast.
Gosney Store
Pittsylvania County, Virginia; DHR No. 071-6230
Latitude: -79.320156  Longitude: 36.679927
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.
Gosney Store
Pittsylvania County, Virginia; DHR No. 071-6230
Latitude: -79.320156   Longitude: 36.679927
Gosney Store
Pittsylvania County, Virginia; DHR #071-6230
Latitude: -79.320156   Longitude: 36.679927

The store, shed, and well are contributing resources.
TAX PARCEL MAP
Gosney Store
Pittsylvania County, VA
DHR No. 071-6230

Parcel No. 2440-28-4143
https://parcelviewer.geodecisions.com/Pittsylvania/

Title: Date: 4/21/2022

DISCLAIMER: This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as such. The information displayed is a compilation of records, information, and data obtained from various sources, and Pittsylvania County is not responsible for its accuracy or how current it may be.