

**Board of Historic Resources Quarterly Meeting  
16 March 2023**

**Sponsor Markers – Diversity**

**1.) Sunnyside School, ca. 1870-1908**

**Sponsor:** Sunnyside Sisters Bed & Breakfast

**Locality:** Mecklenburg County

**Proposed Location:** 104 Shiney Rock Road, Clarksville

**Sponsor Contact:** Eveline Broeders-Wilke, [eveline@sunnysidesisters.com](mailto:eveline@sunnysidesisters.com)

**Original text:**

**Sunnyside School for Young Ladies, 1872-1908**

The late 19th century saw a growth of female institutes intended to broaden educational opportunities for young southern women. Among them was Sunnyside, founded in 1872 by the four Carrington sisters at their old home near Clarksville, Virginia. The “Ladies Carrington” taught not only academics, but also etiquette, morals, and religion to both boarding and day students. The sisters were a constant source of strength, encouragement, and hospitality in the community and the local Presbyterian church, leaving an indelible impression upon the girls in their care. When the school closed in 1908, after 36 years of operation, they continued to live at Sunnyside until the last sister died in 1926.

**110 words/ 698 characters**

**Edited text:**

**Sunnyside School, ca. 1870-1908**

Educational opportunities for White women in Virginia expanded during the 19th century as female institutes taught academic subjects as well as the arts. Some women supported themselves by opening schools. After the Civil War, when demand for education was high, sisters Agnes, Emily, Isabella, and Mildred Carrington established the Sunnyside School for young women here at their residence. Day students and boarders from Virginia and beyond studied subjects including algebra, chemistry, Latin, deportment, and religion. The sisters, highly regarded in the community, were longtime supporters of Clarksville Presbyterian Church. Sunnyside School closed in 1908 after more than 35 years of operation.

**101 words/ 701 characters**

**Sources:**

J.D. Eggleston, "The Misses Carrington's Sunny Side School for Young Ladies, 1872-1908," typescript, 1946.

*Central Presbyterian*, 31 July 1872, 12 Aug. 1874, 18 Aug. 1875.

U.S. Census, 1870, 1880, 1920.

Sunnyside NRHP nomination (1996).

Leigh Lambert, "Sunnyside": [http://sovahomefront.org/site\\_sunnyside.php](http://sovahomefront.org/site_sunnyside.php)

Susan L. Bracey, *Life by the Roaring Roanoke: A History of Mecklenburg County, Virginia* (Mecklenburg County Bicentennial Commission, 1977).

Cynthia A. Kierner, Jennifer R. Loux, and Megan Taylor Shockley, *Changing History: Virginia Women Through Four Centuries* (Richmond: Library of Virginia, 2013).

## 2.) Key Road School

**Sponsor:** African American Historical Society of Portsmouth

**Locality:** Portsmouth

**Proposed Location:** 3235 Portsmouth Blvd.

**Sponsor Contact:** Mae Breckenridge-Haywood, [maebreckenridge456@gmail.com](mailto:maebreckenridge456@gmail.com)

**Original text:**

### Key Road School

Key Road School was built in 1926-27 by the creativity of Booker T. Washington and the construction of Julius Rosenwald, the owner of Sears Roebuck, for African American children who lived in the Douglass Park section of Norfolk County, Virginia. Building a better, more accessible Key Road School was an initiative intended to narrow racial schooling gaps in the county. Key Road School was a two teacher school that cost \$8,911, located on two acres of land, had a partition between the classrooms, heated by two wood burning stoves, and had outdoor toilets and a playground outside. Mrs. M.P. Burley was the first principal who planned graduation and other activities. In 1946 the City of Portsmouth annexed the area and reimbursed Norfolk County \$8,302 for the building. In 1955 Key Road School closed and was renamed I.C. Norcom High School Booster Club. In 1957 it was renamed the Olympian Sports Club to promote sports and recognize the achievements of local individuals in athletics.

**163 words/ 991 characters**

**Edited text:**

## **Key Road School**

Key Road School, which had opened by 1921 and served African American children in grades 1-7, moved into a new building here ca. 1926-27. Financial contributions for the two-teacher school came from the Black community, Norfolk County, and the Rosenwald Fund. This fund, which emerged from a partnership between philanthropist Julius Rosenwald and educator Booker T. Washington, helped construct about 5,000 schools for African Americans across the South. The City of Portsmouth annexed this area in 1948, and the school closed in 1965. In 1972 the Olympian Sports Club moved its headquarters here. This organization, established in 1955, has supported young athletes in the region.

**105 words/ 682 characters**

### **Sources:**

Fisk University Rosenwald Database

Mary Ruffin Hanbury, Olympian Sports Club (former Key Road Rosenwald School),  
Preliminary Information Form

*Norfolk Journal and Guide*, 20 May 1922, 31 Oct. 1942, 12 Jan., 15 June 1957, 27 April 1974.

### **3.) Lexington and the *Green Book***

**Sponsor:** The Historic Lexington Foundation

**Locality:** Lexington

**Proposed Location:** 106 E. Washington St.

**Sponsor Contact:** Charles Rappold, [crwahoo@gmail.com](mailto:crwahoo@gmail.com)

### **Original text:**

#### **Lexington and the Negro Motorist Green Book**

The Negro Motorist Green-Book was published from 1936 to 1966 during a time, prior to passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, when many “public accommodations” particularly in the South would not admit Blacks. The Green-Book listed lodgings and other businesses open to Black travelers. In Lexington, the current building at 9 Tucker Street was listed as the “Franklin Colored Tourist Home.” The building was constructed in 1897, remodeled frequently, and operated for at least three decades by Zach Franklin and, then his widow Arlena Franklin, both African Americans, as a lodging for Black travelers. Washington & Lee professor Dr. Theodore DeLaney – a neighbor of 9 Tucker Street as a child – recalls that the home was very elegant and

that most guests were black chauffeurs for wealthy whites who could stay in one of the three main hotels in town.

**140 words/ 852 characters**

**Edited text:**

### **Lexington and the *Green Book***

The *Negro Motorist Green Book*, published from 1936 to 1966, was a guide to lodgings, restaurants, and other public accommodations that welcomed Black travelers during the segregation era, when many roadside businesses refused to admit Black people or served them on an unequal basis. Listed in the guide for many years was the elegant Franklin Tourist Home, operated by Zack and Arleana Franklin just east of here at 9 Tucker St. Chauffeurs whose wealthy employers were staying at one of the town's hotels were frequent guests. Other Lexington businesses that appeared in the *Green Book* were the Rose Inn and Washington Café on N. Main St. and the J. M. Wood Tourist Home on Massie St.

**116 words/ 685 characters**

**Sources:**

Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, University of Virginia, "The Architecture of the Negro Travelers' Green Book":

<http://community.village.virginia.edu/greenbooks/content/franklin-tourist-house>

*The Negro Motorist Green Book*, 1939-1966.

Alice Longobardo, Vernacular Architecture term paper, Washington and Lee University, 2011.

Arleana Franklin death certificate, 1952.

Zack Franklin death certificate, 1946.

*Lexington Gazette*, 19 May 1920, 13 May 1953.

*Rockbridge County News*, 9 Dec. 1954.

### **Sponsor Markers**

#### **1.) Colonizing "Carolana"**

**Sponsor:** Jorja K. Jean

**Locality:** Virginia Beach

**Proposed Location:** 4300 Shore Drive

**Sponsor Contact:** Jorja Jean, [jorja.jean1954@gmail.com](mailto:jorja.jean1954@gmail.com)

**Original text:**

### **Colonizing “Carolana”**

In 1653, Virginia Burgess, Francis Yeardley, sponsored an expedition to the Albemarle in “Carolana.” The explorers returned with King Kiscutanewh, chief of the Yeopim Indians. Kiscutanewh negotiated with Yeardley to trade for a large tract of land. In exchange, Yeardley and his wife, Sarah, agreed to foster and educate Kiscutanewh’s son and build and furnish an English house for the chief in the Albemarle. In May 1654, Kiscutanewh returned with a party of Yeopim and Tuscarora Indians who witnessed the baptism of his son at the Lynnhaven Parish Church. Yeardley related his colonization efforts at a cost of £300 in a letter to John Ferrar, former treasurer of the Virginia Company.

**111 words/ 691 characters**

**Edited text:**

### **Colonizing “Carolana”**

Virginia Burgess Francis Yeardley sponsored an expedition to the Albemarle region of present-day North Carolina in 1653. This party returned with several Native Americans including a chief, possibly Kiscutanewh of the Weapemeoc (Yeopim), who lodged for a week at Yeardley’s residence near here. Yeardley agreed to build an English house in the Albemarle for the chief and to foster, educate, and baptize his son. Yeardley also purchased a large tract of land in “Carolana” from the chief and had a house built ca. 1655 near Albemarle Sound for fur trader Nathaniel Batts, North Carolina’s first documented permanent English resident. Other settlers began arriving in the region soon thereafter.

**108 words/ 694 characters**

**Sources:**

Francis Yeardley to John Ferrar, May 1654, in Alexander Samuel Salley, ed., *Narratives of Early Carolina, 1650-1708* (New York: C. Scribner’s Sons, 1911).

Nicholas Comberford, Map of the South Part of Virginia, 1657 (New York Public Library Digital Gallery).

John Frederick Dorman, *Adventurers of Purse and Person: Virginia, 1607-1624*, vol. 3 (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2007, 4th ed.)

Thomas C. Parramore, "Batts House," *NCPedia* (<https://www.ncpedia.org/batts-house>)

Michael T. Southern, "Bodnam, Robert (fl. 1650s)," *North Carolina Architects and Builders: A Biographical Dictionary*, <https://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000484>.

Lindley S. Butler, "The Early Settlement of Carolina: Virginia's Southern Frontier," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 79, no. 1 (Jan. 1971).

Wesley D. Taukchiray and Helen C. Rountree, "Merging in the Other Direction," in H. C. Rountree, ed., *Manteo's World: Native American Life in Carolina's Sound Country Before and After the Lost Colony* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2021).

Elizabeth Gregory McPherson, "Nathaniell Batts, Landholder on Pasquotank River, 1660," *North Carolina Historical Review*, vol. 43, no. 1 (Jan. 1966).

## 2.) Virginia Western Community College

**Sponsor:** Nelson Harris

**Locality:** City of Roanoke

**Proposed Location:** 3000 block of Colonial Ave. SW

**Sponsor Contact:** Nelson Harris, [nharris@heightschurch.info](mailto:nharris@heightschurch.info)

**Original text:**

### Virginia Western Community College

From 1954 to 1959 Virginia adopted Massive Resistance in opposition to the US Supreme Court's *Brown* decision desegregating public education. In 1958, influential business leaders created the Virginia Industrialization Group to oppose Massive Resistance and reverse its damage to education and the economy. Their efforts helped establish the Virginia Technical College System in 1965. Roanoke Technical Institute, opened in 1961, was one of two schools to originally affiliate. In 1966, when VTCS became the Virginia Community College System, the renamed Community College of Roanoke was the first community college to begin classes that fall. The school became Virginia Western Community College in 1967.

**103 words/ 704 characters**

**Edited text:**

### Virginia Western Community College

From 1956 to 1959 Virginia mandated Massive Resistance against the U.S. Supreme Court's *Brown* decision desegregating public education. In 1958, business leaders from around the state

created the Virginia Industrialization Group to oppose Massive Resistance and reverse the damage it had done to education and the economy. Their efforts helped establish a system of technical colleges in 1964 that evolved into the Virginia Community College System in 1966. Roanoke Technical Institute, a branch of Virginia Tech, was combined with the University of Virginia's Roanoke Center to form what became Virginia Western Community College. This was the first community college to open under the new system.

**105 words/ 697 characters**

**Sources:**

Virginia Industrialization Group papers

“The Founding of the Virginia Technical College System,” *Encyclopedia Virginia*,  
<https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/the-founding-of-the-virginia-technical-college-system/>

Charles H. Ford and Jeffrey L. Littlejohn, “Reconstructing the Old Dominion: Lewis F. Powell, Stuart T. Saunders, and the Virginia Industrialization Group, 1958-65,” *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 121, no. 2 (2013).

Richard A. Hodges, “Massive Resistance and the Origins of the Virginia Technical College System,” *Inquiry: The Journal of the Virginia Community Colleges*, vol. 22, issue 2 (2019).

*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 26 Dec. 1965, 12 Feb. 1967, 21 Jan. 1968.

*Roanoke Times*, 21, 22, 23 Sept. 1966.

*Virginia Western: Celebrating 50 Years of Educational Excellence, 1966-2016* (2016).

**Replacement Markers**

**1.) Christ Church N-48**

**Sponsor:** VDOT

**Locality:** Middlesex County

**Proposed Location:** 56 Christchurch Lane, Saluda

**Original Text:**

**Christ Church**

Half a mile east is Christ Church, Middlesex. The first building was erected about 1666; the present one in 1712. About 1840 the church was restored. The colonial governor, Sir Henry Chicheley, is buried there.

**35 words/ 210 characters**

**Edited Text:**

**Christ Church**

Christ Church Parish of the Church of England was created in 1666 when two earlier parishes merged. Middlesex County, established in 1669, shared its boundaries. A wooden sanctuary built here ca. 1667 was replaced by a brick church in 1712-1714, and two chapels served distant parts of the parish. Anglican parishes in Virginia, supported by taxes, were responsible for worship, public morality, and care for widows, orphans, the poor, and the sick until the American Revolution led to Disestablishment and the seizure of some church assets. Abandoned early in the 19th century, this church was revived in the 1840s and has since been an active parish of the Episcopal Church.

**110 words/ 676 characters**

**Sources:**

Christ Church NRHP nomination (1972).

John K. Nelson, *A Blessed Company: Parishes, Parsons, and Parishioners in Anglican Virginia, 1690-1776* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2002).

Gordon Eliot White, *Christ Church Parish: Middlesex County, Virginia* (Urbanna, VA: Rappahannock Press, Incorporated, 2016).

Robert W. Prichard, *A History of the Episcopal Church*, 3rd ed. (New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2016).

Darrett B. Rutman and Anita H. Rutman, *A Place in Time: Middlesex County, Virginia, 1650-1750* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1984).

**2.) New Providence Church A-39**

**Sponsor:** VDOT

**Locality:** Rockbridge County

**Proposed Location:** 1208 New Providence Rd, Raphine

**Original Text:**



## **New Providence Church**

The Rev. John Blair, a minister influenced by the Great Awakening, organized New Providence Presbyterian Church about 1746. The congregation moved to a site seven miles west of here about 1760, and the present Greek Revival-style sanctuary was completed in 1859. The Rev. John Brown, the congregation's first permanent minister, served for four decades. His successor, the Rev. Samuel Brown, was married to Mary Moore, famous as a former captive of Shawnee Indians. In Oct. 1788, New Providence hosted the first meeting of the Synod of Virginia. In 1819 the Female Benevolent Society, an early women's missionary organization, was founded at the church.

**103 words/ 653 characters**

## **Edited Text**

### **New Providence Church**

The Rev. John Blair, a minister influenced by the Great Awakening, organized New Providence Presbyterian Church about four miles east of here in 1746. The congregation moved to this site about 1760. The Rev. John Brown, the congregation's first permanent minister, served for four decades. His successor, the Rev. Samuel Brown, was married to Mary Moore, famous as a former captive of the Shawnee. In Oct. 1788, New Providence hosted the first meeting of the Synod of Virginia. The Female Benevolent Society, an early women's missionary organization, was founded at the church in 1819. The congregation began worshipping in the present Greek Revival sanctuary in 1857.

**106 words/ 667 characters**

## **Sources:**

Synod of Virginia minutes, 1788.

E. D. Junkin, *A History of the Church and Congregation of New Providence* (1871).

Katharine L. Brown, *New Providence Church, 1746-1996: A History* (Raphine, VA: New Providence Presbyterian Church, 1996).

Howard McKnight Wilson, *The Lexington Presbytery Heritage* (McClure Press, 1971).

Roy K. Patteson Jr., "New Providence Presbyterian Church, 1746-1856," *Proceedings of the Rockbridge Historical Society*, vol. 8 (1970-1974).

New Providence Presbyterian Church NRHP nomination (1980).

*Lexington Gazette*, 28 June 1911.

### **3.) Greenfield FR-7**

**Sponsor:** Charlotte County

**Locality:** Charlotte County

**Proposed Location:** George Washington Highway (Route 40) at intersection with Greenfield Road

#### **Original Text:**

##### **Greenfield**

Half a mile north is Greenfield, built in 1771 by Isaac Read. Read was a member of the House of Burgesses, 1769-1771, and of the Virginia conventions of 1774 and 1775. He served as an officer in the Revolutionary War, dying of wounds in 1777.

**45 words/ 242 characters**

#### **Edited Text:**

##### **Greenfield**

Half a mile north is Greenfield, built ca. 1771 for Isaac Read and his wife, Sarah Embra. Read was a member of the House of Burgesses (1769-1771) and of Virginia's second, third, and fourth Revolutionary Conventions, which met in 1775-1776 to provide for the colony's government and defense as relations with Great Britain soured. During the Revolutionary War, Read served as a colonel in the Virginia Continental Line. Wounded in the fall of 1776, he suffered a long illness and died in Philadelphia, where he was buried in Aug. 1777. Greenfield was built and sustained with the labor of enslaved African Americans. The house is one of the oldest-surviving, two-story frame dwellings in the county.

**115 words/ 699 characters**

#### **Sources:**

Robert L. Scribner and Brent Tarter, comps., *Revolutionary Virginia: The Road to Independence*, vols. 1-7.

Greenfield, NRHP nomination (1973)

Alice Read Rouse, *The Reads and Their Relatives* (Cincinnati, 1930):

<https://archive.org/details/readstheirrelati00rous>

*Virginia Gazette*, 12 Sept. 1777.

John W. Jordan, "The Military Hospitals at Bethlehem and Lititz During the Revolution," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 20, no. 2 (1896).

*The Captives of Abb's Valley* (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Education and Sabbath-School Work, 1909).

The 1842-1871 Diary of Henry Boswell Jones

William Henry Foote, *Sketches of Virginia Historical and Biographical* (Philadelphia: William S. Martien, 1850).

Nancy T. Sorrells, Katharine L. Brown, and J. Susanne Simmons, *The History of Old Providence Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, 1742-2001*.

#### **4.) York (born ca. 1770) E-99-a**

**Sponsor:** Virginia Lewis & Clark Legacy Trail

**Locality:** Caroline County

**Proposed Location:** 3461 Ladysmith Road, Ruther Glen

**Original Text:**

##### **York: Lewis and Clark Expedition**

Born in Caroline County in 1770, York was a slave of the William Clark family and the only African American on the 1803-1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition. Approximately 34 years old at the time, York was one of the hunters and also accompanied groups of soldiers on scouting missions. Other members of the expedition received money and land for their services, but York did not because of his slave status and Clark's refusal to manumit him. York may have escaped from Clark and returned to Wyoming, where according to tradition, he lived out his life with the Crow Indians.

**99 words/ 572 characters**

**Edited Text:**

##### **York (born ca. 1770)**

York was the only African American on the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the Pacific Ocean (1803-1806). Enslaved at birth, he grew up near here in the household of William Clark's parents, moved to Kentucky with the family, and came under Clark's ownership in 1799. His hunting and bartering skills, care for the sick, dependability, and reception by Native Americans were important contributions to the success of the Expedition. A group of islands in the Missouri River was named for him. Unlike the other members of the Expedition, York received no money or land for his services. He remained enslaved by Clark through at least 1815 and reportedly was freed before 1832.

**112 words/ 672 characters**

**Sources:**

Robert B. Betts, *In Search of York: The Slave Who Went to the Pacific with Lewis and Clark* (Boulder, CO: Colorado Associated University Press), 1985, rev. ed. 2000.

“York,” National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/jeff/learn/historyculture/york.htm>

Darrell Millner, “York of the Corps of Discovery: Interpretations of York’s Character and His Role in the Lewis and Clark Expedition,” *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, 104 (3) 2003.

James J. Holmberg, ed., *Dear Brother: Letters of William Clark to Jonathan Clark* (New Haven: Yale University Press), 1993.

**5.) Lunenburg County Z-41, Z-42, Z-45, Z-46**

**Sponsor:** Lunenburg County Historical Society

**Locality:** Lunenburg County

**Proposed Location:** Lunenburg County line at Route 40 (2), Route 49, Route 138

**Original Text:**

**Lunenburg County**

Lunenburg County was formed in 1746 from Brunswick County. Named for King George II, Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg, a German possession of England's Hanoverian kings, Lunenburg County's territory originally included the counties of Bedford, Campbell, Charlotte, Franklin, Halifax, Henry, Mecklenburg, Patrick, Pittsylvania, & a part of Appomattox County. During the Revolutionary War, British cavalry commander Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's troops conducted raids here and throughout Southside Virginia in Jul. 1781. The county seat is Lunenburg. In 1827, William A. Howard and Dabney Cosby, Sr., completed the county's Roman Revival courthouse, which was modeled after a Thomas Jefferson design.

**97 words/ 692 characters**

**Edited Text:**

**Lunenburg County**

Lunenburg County, organized in 1746, was named for King George II, Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg. Nine counties were later formed from this “Mother of Counties.” British Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton raided here during the Revolutionary War, as did Union Brig. Gens. James H. Wilson and August V. Kautz during the Civil War. Tobacco was transported to auction on plank

roads, and later railroads, making Kenbridge a major market town. Bright leaf tobacco was a staple throughout the 20th century. After 1909, Victoria became a hub on the Virginian Railway, which transported coal from West Virginia to Tidewater. The 1827 courthouse in Lunenburg village reflects Thomas Jefferson's architectural influence.

**107 words/ 700 characters**

**Sources:**

Landon C. Bell, *The Old Free State, A Contribution to the History of Lunenburg County and Southside Virginia*, Vol. I (Richmond, VA: William Byrd Press, Inc., 1927).

Gay Weeks Neale, *The Lunenburg Legacy* (Lawrenceville, VA: Brunswick Publishing Corp, 2005).

Eanes, Greg, *Destroy the Junction: The Wilson-Kautz Raid and Battle of the Staunton River Bridge*, H. E. Howard Press, Richmond, VA. 1999.

Richard R. Beeman, *Evolution of the Southern Backcountry: A Case Study of Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1746-1832* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1984).

John O. Allen, "Tobacco, Slavery, and Secession: Southside Virginia on the Brink of the Great Rebellion," Ph.D. diss., Catholic University, 2002.

H. Reid, *The Virginian Railway* (Waukesha, WI: Kalmbach Books, 1980).

*Free State News*, 3 November 1938.

Burns, Adam, *Virginian Railway: Appalachian Coal Hauler*, <https://www.american-rails.com/virginian.html#History>

*Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*, 1 April 1909.

*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 8 May 1908, 1 March 1987.

Lunenburg Court House Historic District, NRHP nomination 1972.

**6.) Mecklenburg County Z-41, Z-42**

**Sponsor:** Lunenburg County Historical Society and Mecklenburg County

**Locality:** Mecklenburg County

**Proposed Location:** Lunenburg/Mecklenburg line on Route 49 and Route 138

**Original Text:****Mecklenburg County**

Formed in 1764 from Lunenburg, and named for Princess Charlotte, of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, queen of George III. Bacon, the Rebel, defeated the Indians near the present town of Clarksville, 1676.

**29 words/ 193 characters**

**Edited Text:****Mecklenburg County**

Formed from Lunenburg County in 1764, Mecklenburg County is named for Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, consort of King George III. Randolph-Macon College opened here in 1832 and moved to Ashland in 1868. The John H. Kerr Dam and much of its 50,000-acre reservoir, known as Buggs Island Lake, as well as part of Lake Gaston, lie within the county. Occoneechee State Park, near Clarksville, was established in 1968. Boydton is the county seat. The Roman Revival courthouse there, which reflects elements of Thomas Jefferson's architectural style in its design, was completed in 1842.

**92 words/ 583 characters**

**Sources:**

Mecklenburg County Courthouse NRHP nomination (1975).

Emily J. Salmon and Edward D.C. Campbell, eds., *The Hornbook of Virginia History* (Richmond: Library of Virginia, 1994).

**7.) Nottoway County Z-45**

**Sponsor:** Lunenburg County Historical Society and Nottoway County

**Locality:** Nottoway County

**Proposed Location:** Lunenburg/Nottoway county line on Route 40

**Original Text:****Nottoway County**

Nottoway County was formed from Amelia County by the General Assembly in 1788. In July 1781, legendary American Revolutionary soldier Peter Francisco encountered about nine of British Lt. Gen. Banastre Tarleton's dragoons at Ward's Tavern. Using his legendary strength and cunning, Francisco single-handedly bested his enemies. The county seat is Nottoway. The Roman Revival courthouse there was completed in 1843 by Branch H. Ellington to replace a 1798 courthouse. The new structure included elements of Thomas Jefferson's architectural style in its design. Former Virginia Governor William Hodges Mann (1843-1927) lived in the county.

**93 words/ 637 characters**

### **Edited Text:**

#### **Nottoway County**

Nottoway County was formed from Amelia County by the General Assembly in 1788. In July 1781, American Revolutionary soldier Peter Francisco reportedly encountered about nine men from British Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's command at West Creek, the home of Benjamin Ward. Using his legendary strength and cunning, Francisco single-handedly bested his enemies. The county seat is Nottoway. The Roman Revival courthouse there was completed in 1843 by Branch H. Ellington to replace a 1793 courthouse. The new structure included elements of Thomas Jefferson's architectural style in its design. Former Virginia Governor William Hodges Mann (1843-1927) lived in the county.

**99 words/ 667 characters**

### **Sources:**

Nottoway County Court House NRHP nomination (1973).

Emily J. Salmon and Edward D.C. Campbell, eds., *The Hornbook of Virginia History* (Richmond: Library of Virginia, 1994).

John O. and Margaret T. Peters, *Virginia's Historic Courthouses* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1995).

*Richmond Enquirer*, 2 March, 25 May 1813.

### **Applications Under Consideration For June Board Cycle**

Below are summaries of the 16 marker proposals received by the last application deadline.

#### **1.) Belleville Community (Suffolk):**

The Church of God and Saints of Christ, an African American Judaic community founded by Prophet William Saunders Crowdy and incorporated in 1896, began purchasing land in Suffolk

in 1903 and established a self-sufficient community in the 1920s, including a worship tabernacle, school, stores, an electric plant, sawmill, music hall, and athletic facilities. Belleville hosted musical performances by nationally known artists and fielded a baseball team that competed against teams in the Negro Leagues. In 1921 the site became the international headquarters of the church, which has thousands of members in the U.S., Jamaica, and Africa.

## 2.) Lucyville (Cumberland County):

The Rev. Reuben T. Coleman, enslaved at birth, became an entrepreneur and local official after the Civil War. At Lucyville he established the Colemanville Mineral Springs Resort, which featured restaurants, cottages, a bank, and a hotel, and its spring water was shipped to major cities. His brother-in-law and neighbor, Shed Dungee, born enslaved, represented Cumberland and Buckingham counties in the House of Delegates from 1879 to 1882 as a Readjuster. Many in the following generations left the area with the Great Migration.

## 3.) Stephen Bates (1842-1907) (Charles City County):

Bates, the earliest known Black sheriff and police chief in Vermont, was enslaved at birth at Shirley and self-emancipated when he went to work for a Union officer at Harrison's Landing in 1862, during the Peninsula Campaign. After the Civil War he became a coachman for Vermont Congressman Frederick E. Woodbridge in Washington, D.C., and then moved to Vergennes, VT, where the overwhelmingly White electorate chose him to be sheriff. Likely the first Black sheriff in the North, he was regularly elected sheriff and often appointed chief of police until his death in 1907.

## 4.) Luther H. Foster High School (Nottoway County):

Luther H. Foster High School served Black students in Nottoway County from 1950 to 1970. The school was built in part as a response to federal court decisions favoring the plaintiffs in equalization lawsuits initiated by the NAACP. Its namesake Foster was president of Virginia State College, president of the Association of Presidents of Negro Land Grant Colleges, and was a consultant for the General Education Board and the Julius Rosenwald Fund.

## 5.) Washington Park Community (City of Richmond):

Washington Park was settled by African Americans after the Civil War. St. John Baptist Church was organized ca. 1870. The Market Inn, a nationally known venue listed in the *Green Book*, held performances by Duke Ellington, Sam Cooke, Count Basie, Redd Foxx, Fats Domino, and Little Richard. The City of Richmond annexed the neighborhood in 1942. Dr. Roy West, Richmond's second Black mayor, grew up there.



6.) Black Exodus from Gwynn's Island (Mathews County):

After the Civil War about 200 African Americans lived on Gwynn's Island, where they bought land and built houses, a church, and a school. A fight between Black and White watermen in Dec. 1915 led to the arrest and near lynching of James Henry Smith, who was later convicted of assault by an all-White jury. In the aftermath, the fear of further violence sparked a Black exodus from Gwynn's Island. In 1910, 17 percent of the Island's population had been Black, and by Sept. 1920 the last Black family had departed.

7.) Dixie Three (Hampton):

Three female African American nurses sat in the Whites-only cafeteria of Dixie Hospital in 1963, which resulted in their being fired. The U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in 1966 that they must be returned to employment and compensated for lost wages.

8.) Brunswick 15: "A Journey from Division to Diversity" (Brunswick County):

The Brunswick County Chapter of the NAACP encouraged Black students to apply to the State Pupil Placement Board to attend the all-White schools in the county. Thirty-eight students were assigned to previously all-White schools, and on 9 Sept. 1964 15 African Americans desegregated Brunswick High School.

9.) Edge Hill School (King and Queen County):

Dickies' Hill School (ca. 1882) and Church Hill School (ca. 1895) served Black children until community activism led to their closure. The school board approved a new school in 1936 provided that the Black community would build it using discarded materials from closed White schools. Edge Hill School was opened in 1937 for grades 1-7 and closed in 1963.

10.) Hill Mansion (Culpeper):

Built in 1857, the Hill Mansion was the home of Edward Baptist Hill, whose brother General A.P. Hill was a frequent visitor during the American Civil War. It served as a Confederate hospital and later as a Union headquarters. Visitors included Gen. Robert E. Lee and Col. John Singleton Mosby.

11.) Gerald Butler Harris (1893-1976) (Middlesex County):

Gerald Butler Harris was an African American educator, activist, politician, and entrepreneur. He was a school teacher and principal, a founding member and long-time secretary of the Middlesex NAACP, published a local newspaper for two years, and was an insurance agent, radio salesman, farmer, ballpark owner, and movie-theatre operator.

12.) Log Cabin Beach (James City County):

In 1944 three businessmen from the community of Grove opened Log Cabin Beach on the James River for African Americans, who were denied admission to recreational facilities for Whites. The beach, music hall, athletic fields, and amusement park drew church groups, scouting organizations, and others from throughout the region. The park was on the “Chitlin’ Circuit” and hosted performances by Ray Charles, James Brown, and Little Richard.

13.) John Thomas West School (Norfolk):

The brick John T. West School was built in 1906 to serve African American children in the predominantly Black neighborhood of Huntersville, which the City of Norfolk annexed in 1911. As a result of local Black activism, high school classes began in 1911, making West the first school to offer public high-school level courses for Black students in Norfolk. The high school moved out in 1916, and John T. West continued to hold elementary classes until 1980.

14.) Cedar Grove Mills (Rockbridge County):

Cedar Grove Mills on the Maury (North) River developed into a transportation hub, boatyard, and market center ca. 1800. Rockbridge County was the center of a major iron industry. Iron and grain were transported to Cedar Grove Mills, the “Head of Navigation” for the North River, and then brought to Lexington and Richmond by enslaved and free boatmen on batteaux. By the 1880s Cedar Grove Mills was abandoned.

15.) Buckroe Amusement Park (Hampton):

Buckroe Beach Amusement Park opened in 1900. The park featured an arcade, Ferris wheel, swings, tilt-a-whirl, bumper cars, rollercoaster, and 48-horse carousel. Buckroe Beach, for Whites only, was divided from Bayshore Beach for African Americans by a fence until integration following the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The park remained popular until the 1970s when new Virginia theme parks drew patrons from Buckroe.

16.) Petersburg USO (Petersburg):

This building was constructed under the supervision of the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps in 1942 as the Byrne Street USO Club for African American troops during World War II, primarily those stationed at nearby Camp Lee. Events here included social gatherings, musical performances, spiritual counseling, and scholarly presentations. The USO closed in 1963, and by 1965 the building had become the headquarters of the Beaux Twenty Club, an organization founded by Black businessmen.