

Department of Historic Resources

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STATE ADDS SEVEN HISTORIC SITES TO THE VIRGINIA LANDMARKS REGISTER

—New listings cover sites in the counties of Arlington, Henrico, and Loudoun; the cities of Charlottesville, Lynchburg, and Norfolk; and at Virginia Tech (Montgomery Co.)—

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—VLR listings will be forwarded for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places—

RICHMOND – The first dormitory built at Virginia Tech, an early Charlottesville suburb, a cut-flower greenhouse complex in Lynchburg, and a modernist-style house of worship in Arlington County are among the seven new listings added to the Virginia Landmarks Register by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources earlier this month.

Constructed in 1888 for the Corps of Cadets, Barracks No. 1, today's Lane Hall, was the first dormitory built at the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, now known as Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, or more familiarly, **Virginia Tech**. Barracks No. 1 is one of the oldest buildings associated with Virginia's premier land grant college, whose mission was to provide practical, industrial, and agricultural education as Virginia slowly recovered from the Civil War.

Barracks No. 1 is also important as the original home of the Corps of Cadets at VPI, where military training and drills were an important part of the school's original curriculum and remain so for the current growing body of cadets. The building retains a high degree of integrity, as well as its distinctive original design in the Second Empire style, featuring a mansard roof and central tower. Its unusual plan of five separate entrances and non-connecting bays, each with its own staircase, is also preserved with very few changes to that plan. Located at the center of the Upper Quad at VPI, the barracks building stands at the heart of the original college campus and the current university.

Situated in the southwest portion of **Charlottesville**, the Fry's Spring Historic District derives its name from the 18th- and 19th-century Fry family, landowners in the area and proprietors of the two abundant natural springs that carry the Fry family name. With its convenient access to the city's center, the district emerged initially as a recreational, then later, residential area, after S. Price Maury purchased 170 acres of land in 1890 surrounding

Fry's Spring and created the Jefferson Park (later Fry's Springs) Hotel and Land Improvement Company centered on the open space of Jefferson Park.

In 1913 the hotel was demolished and during the 20th century the Fry's Spring district's rolling topography, winding streets, generous tree cover, and particularly its distinctive Jefferson Park Avenue corridor served by trolleys and electric street cars, made the area a notable landmark neighborhood for residents of Charlottesville. In 1920, the Jefferson Park property was purchased and developed as the Fry's Spring Clubhouse, which boasted an enormous swimming pool and affiliated recreational structures in a park-like setting, making it a focus of the emerging neighborhood. Today the district contains 387 character-defining sites and buildings—including houses, recreational facilities, and churches—that contribute to the district's look and feel.

The Doyle Florist Inc. / H. R. Schenkel Inc. Greenhouse Range in **Lynchburg** represents 80 years of activity in the cut-flower industry in the U.S. That industry originated in the 17th century and became an important part of agricultural commerce in the U.S. during the 20th century. The U.S.-based industry peaked in the in 1990, and then nearly collapsed in later years due to competition from international markets. The Doyle-Schenkel Greenhouse Range reflects the industry's modern period of expansion, success, and decline nationally.

Beginning in the 1920s, the Dolye family established the original greenhouses, power plant (to heat the greenhouses), root cellar, and farmhouse, creating a complex that typified the historical production process and culture of the national industry. During the 1950s, when the Schenkel family operated the business, more greenhouses were built to accommodate the industry's growth in the U.S. during the post-World War II period. Later buildings were added to continue operations during the 1960s and 1980s. The property, now open to the public, was purchased in 2004 by Lynchburg Grows in order to preserve its historical significance and to provide horticultural educational opportunities and products year round.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington (UUCA), completed in 1964 as the new Sanctuary building for **Arlington**'s rapidly growing congregation, was designed by master modernist architect Charles M. Goodman. The two-story Sanctuary features pre-cast concrete construction, a prominent overhanging canopy roof and wrapping clerestory windows. Suggesting traditional meeting halls and temples in its form, the building has character-defining features of the Brutalist architectural style in the Modern Movement.

An excellent example of a Modern Movement church building, the UUCA Sanctuary embodies many of Goodman's signature design ideals and the architect's interpretation of a modern aesthetic for ecclesiastical architecture. It is one of only three ecclesiastical buildings Goodman designed and is the only one of his church buildings constructed in Virginia. An addition constructed in 1993-94 realized Goodman's original vision for a

multi-purpose administrative and social wing to be located on the south side of the Sanctuary, and a second addition completed in 2013 further provided for these functions. Both additions are complementary in their design and form to the original block, and fulfill Goodman's original vision for an expandable meeting space.

Other sites approved for listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register by DHR's Board of Historic Resources during its quarterly meeting on September 18 are—

- Farmer's Rest, an early- to mid-19th century rural Greek Revival house built circa 1835 in **Henrico County** by the prominent and wealthy landowner, Henry Cox. The house features a transverse front hall plan and two semi-exposed rear chimneys, making it one of only a few surviving pre-Civil War dwellings with this type of layout in the county. Considering that the house was within a few miles of Civil War battle lines and that it fronted a major transportation route, Varina Road, and had a temporary military road passing across the rear of the property, it is fortunate that the house survived the war. It appears to have been used by Union troops at various periods, but most intensively in 1864-1865. Although the house has undergone a moderate evolution of architectural materials since its construction, the current house is in the process of rehabilitation to reveal its original high-quality features such as its 1830s weatherboard, formerly concealed by aluminum siding.
- Murray Hill, a 56-acre property in **Loudoun County**, is important for its association with the Civil War Battle of Ball's Bluff and for its 1930s Colonial Revival-style house. Located on bluffs overlooking the Potomac River, the property during the 19th century was known for its river landing and crossing; it was the site of at least one 19th-century era warehouse along the river. Edwards Ferry Road, which extends along the property's southern boundary, was first mentioned in the historic record in 1791. The road and river landing made Murray Hill a strategic location during the Civil War. Soldiers traveled the road going to and from the Battle of Ball's Bluff on October 21-22, 1861. Located within the core area of the Ball's Bluff Battlefield, Murray Hill also features an exceptional and grand example of Colonial Revival-style architecture in the stone house Stirling Murray Rust built there in 1938-39. Rust, a native of Loudoun County, incorporated into the house features modeled after elements of his boyhood home of Rockland, also located in Loudoun. Contributing as well to Murray Hill's historic importance are an early-19th-century log dwelling, a late-19th-century smokehouse, a circa-1900 tenant house, and a boat house, carriage house/garage, four sheds, saw mill, and a chicken/poultry house, all built around 1940.

- **Norfolk's Security Storage & Safe Deposit Company Warehouse**, constructed in 1916, is today one of only two intact large-scale industrial buildings remaining in the downtown and Atlantic City areas of Norfolk's waterfront, where scores of warehouses and manufacturing buildings once stood. Largely intact, the warehouse retains most of its historic features, including subtle architectural and decorative elements which distinguish it from other often non-descript concrete-and-brick warehouse construction. The warehouse was used for its intended purpose from its construction through the late 20th century, providing secure storage for a variety of goods ranging from tobacco to furniture to grocery products. In 1948 it was converted from a Sears, Roebuck & Co. warehouse to the E.F. Drews & Co., Inc.--Wholesale Chemists storage facility, at which time the original window openings were partially closed up. The building will be renovated and repurposed by its current owner using rehabilitation tax credits and its original window sashes will be replicated.

All of these listings in the state register will be forwarded to the National Park Service for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The complete nomination forms and photographs of each of these sites can be accessed on the Department of Historic Resources' Website at <http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/register/boardPage.html>.

Listing a property in the state or national registers places no restrictions on what a property owner may do with his or her property.

Designating a property to the state or national registers—either individually or as a contributing building in a historic district—provides an owner the opportunity to pursue historic rehabilitation tax credit improvements to the building. Such tax credit projects must comply with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The tax credit program is voluntary, however, and not a requirement when owners work on their listed properties.

Virginia is a national leader among states in listing historic sites and districts in the National Register of Historic Places. The state is also a national leader for the number of federal tax credit rehabilitation projects proposed and completed each year.

Together the register and tax credit rehabilitation programs have played significant roles in promoting the conservation of the Commonwealth's historic places and in spurring economic revitalization and tourism in many towns and communities.