

Department of Historic Resources

For Immediate Release

September 30, 2011

Contact: **Randy Jones**

Department of Historic Resources

(540) 578-3031 / Randy.Jones@dhr.virginia.gov

STATE ADDS 8 HISTORIC SITES TO THE VIRGINIA LANDMARKS REGISTER

—New listings cover sites in the counties of Amelia, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Rockingham, and Shenandoah; and the cities of Petersburg and Roanoke; and boundary increases to previously-listed sites in Chesterfield Co., Fairfax Co., and Richmond,—

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

RICHMOND – A 1911 fire station in Roanoke, an 1859 general store in Fairfax County, and a historic district commemorating a little-known Civil War battle that spurred President Abraham Lincoln to replace his top commanding general are among the eight new sites recently added to the Virginia Landmarks Register by the state’s Department of Historic Resources.

Stretching between the villages of Philomont and Unison in **Loudoun County** and Upperville in **Fauquier County**, the Unison Battlefield Historic District is where Union and Confederate cavalry detachments fought between November 1 and 3, 1862. As a result of the battle, Union Gen. George B. McClellan failed to execute a battle plan drawn up by President Abraham Lincoln that sought to pin down Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee’s forces in the northern Shenandoah Valley.

Lincoln’s plan directed McClellan to confine or attack Lee’s infantry in the Shenandoah Valley or block and attack Lee’s army if it marched across McClellan’s front line from the valley east toward Culpeper County. McClellan failed to carry out the plan after Confederate Gen. J. E. B. Stuart’s cavalry successfully delayed Union Brig. Gen. Alfred Pleasonton’s cavalry, which was leading McClellan’s Army of the Potomac, during the Battle of Unison.

On November 5, two days after the battle, an exasperated President Lincoln, who had failed in repeated attempts to motivate McClellan to more aggressively pursue Confederate forces, finally relieved McClellan of command and replaced him with Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside.

The Unison Battlefield Historic District, encompassing 8,000 acres, is one of the best preserved Civil War battlefields in the nation and features historic farmsteads, roads, fences, and buildings.

The Freeman General Store, in **Fairfax County**, was built as a large two-story store and residence in 1859 on six acres of land adjacent to the newly arrived Alexandria, Loudoun & Hampshire Railroad in the Town of Vienna.

In the mid-1970s, the town restored the building to resemble its appearance in two Civil War-era photographs. Today Historic Vienna, Inc., operates the first floor as a restored general store and post office with interpretive exhibits, while the second floor serves as a museum and office space. From 1906 to 1929, Leon Freeman, Fairfax County's first Republican delegate to the Virginia General Assembly after the Civil War, operated the store.

Fire Station No.5 in **Roanoke** was constructed in 1911, only five years after the city had hired its first paid firefighters. No. 5 was one of three stations constructed and opened that year in the city's expanding residential neighborhoods. All three buildings were nearly identical in their house-like designs in response to public concerns that new firehouses be architecturally compatible with neighboring houses. The design of the new stations also accommodated newly purchased fire trucks that for the first time in the city's history were powered by internal combustion engines, putting Roanoke "in the front ranks of Virginia for fire protection," according to city historian Raymond Barnes.

Station No. 5 operated as a firehouse until June 2010, after which the city granted the building to Que House, Inc., a locally-based non-profit charitable organization.

In central and Southside Virginia, the area covered by DHR's Capital Regional Preservation Office (located at DHR headquarters in Richmond), the following two sites were also approved for listing in the VLR:

- The Barrett-Chumney House, in **Amelia County**, was built in 1823 by Thomas Barrett in an elegant Federal style, with stylish architectural details, as a small tobacco plantation worked by enslaved Africans. With the exception of some Greek Revival elements added during the 1860s, the house remains little changed today and is an excellent and well-preserved example, along with its affiliated agricultural buildings, of an early plantation, which later operated as a farmstead of tenant farmers and day laborers.
- The Sutherland House is one of the most architecturally significant Civil War-era houses in **Petersburg**. The house, which features two unusual chimneys, was built circa 1860 by George Washington Sutherland, a prosperous city grocer, and his wife. An existing one-room brick dwelling built in 1838 was adapted by Sutherland to serve as an ell to the new house, and a two-story frame addition was completed by 1877.

In addition to the Unison Battlefield Historic District and the Freeman General Store, three other sites within Northern Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley, the area covered

by DHR's Northern Regional Preservation Office (located in Stephens City), were added to the VLR:

- Cave Hill Farm, consisting of about 158 acres in **Rockingham County**, centers on an impressive two-story brick residence, constructed around 1847. In 1868, the property came into the possession of Gerard T. Hopkins, a farmer, merchant, manufacturer, and proprietor of the Rockingham Springs resort located at the foot of nearby Massanutten Mountain. The Cave Hill house features Federal and Greek Revival architectural details, an entry porch supported by thick brick columns covered with stucco into which are set marble statues that were given to Hopkins to settle a hotel bill. The site also includes a circa-1870 bank barn of heavy timber-frame construction that was erected on the stone basement of an earlier barn burned down by Federal forces during the Civil War.
- The Forestville Historic District, in **Shenandoah County**, encompasses a well-preserved mill village settled initially by German settlers, located at the crossroads of Routes 42, 614, and 767. Forestville arose around a gristmill constructed about 1760 by Andrew Zirkle, and one of seven mills built in the area in response to the growing importance of commercial wheat production. Forestville took on its present layout beginning in 1838, and by 1869 it had a population of 200, two stores, and a number of artisan shops. Today, Forestville retains its early character as a 19th-century Shenandoah Valley mill village.
- The John Miley Maphis House, also in **Shenandoah County**, is a two-story, frame farm house built in 1856. Located on high ground across a creek from the village of Lantz Mill, the house was the residence of a prosperous miller and merchant, and contributed to the development of the bustling pre-Civil War milling community of Lantz Mill. The house is a nearly unaltered example of the type of "hall-and-parlor" houses that were widespread in the Shenandoah Valley in the mid- to late-19th century. In addition to the house, the property also features a circa-1870 bank barn with forebay that replaced one destroyed during the Civil War, a circa-1900 wash house, and circa-1920 chicken house.

In addition to these new nominations, DHR's Board of Historic Resources during its recent quarterly meeting on September 22 also approved boundary increases and updates for the following three sites that were previously listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register:

- Bellwood, constructed about 1804 in an Early Classical Revival style and located in **Chesterfield County**, was the center of an antebellum plantation that evolved into a nationally recognized and progressive 20th-century farm—and one of the most productive farms in Virginia prior to World War II. In 1941, the U.S. Army purchased Bellwood for use as the Quartermaster Depot, now known as the Defense Supply Center Richmond, a secure military facility. Bellwood is significant also as the home during the Civil War of Augustus Drewry, a Confederate officer who constructed Fort Darling, or Drewry's Bluff, along the James River. The house was

the site of an important meeting between Confederate Generals Braxton Bragg and P.G.T. Beauregard, and Confederate President Jefferson Davis to strategize on the defense of Richmond. Because of its proximity to the James River and established railroad lines and roads, the property was purchased by the federal government in 1941 for use as a military supply depot.

- The **City of Richmond**'s Manchester Industrial Historic District boundary increase covers 30 contributing buildings within the district that were constructed between 1910 and 1959. Several of these buildings occupy sites where dwellings previously stood, thereby illustrating the slow expansion of industrial and commercial activities into bordering residential areas.
- A boundary increase for the Woodlawn Plantation, in **Fairfax County**, incorporates a 2.82-acre parcel that was originally part of the land given by George Washington to Eleanor Parke Custis and Major Lawrence Lewis in 1799. The Woodlawn property, including the 2.82-acre boundary increase, was acquired by the Quakers in 1846 for use as a "Free Labor Colony" and played an important symbolic and physical role in linking the mansion, as the center of the property, to the Woodlawn Quaker Meetinghouse. The more than 2-acre expansion was the site of a Union Army encampment between 1861 and 1864.

These new VLR listings and boundary increases will be forwarded by the Department of Historic Resources to the National Park Service for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

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

Designating a property to the state or national register either individually or as a contributing building in a historic district does provide an owner the opportunity to pursue tax credit rehabilitation improvements to his or her property.

Such tax credit projects must comply with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. An owner of a register-listed landmark may also donate a preservation easement on the property to the Commonwealth of Virginia in return for state tax credits.

Virginia is a national leader among the 50 states in registering historic sites and districts. The state is also a national leader for the number of tax credit rehabilitation projects proposed and completed each year.

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

The nomination forms, which provide detailed information about each of the above listings, can be accessed on the DHR website at the following address:

<http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/boardPage.html>.

###