

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the proposed district for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the district could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

General Property Information	For Staff Use Only
	DHR ID #:
District Name(s): Bruington Rural Historic District	
District or Selected Building Date(s):	1727-1967 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post Open to the Public? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Main District Streets and/or Routes:	The Trail (Route 14), Bruington Road (Route 621), Norwood Road (Route 631), Pea Ridge Road (Route 636) City: Bruington Zip: 23023
County or Ind. City:	King and Queen County USGS Quad(s): Aylett, Millers Tavern

Physical Character of General Surroundings	
Acreage: 2038	Approx. Setting (choose one): City Urban Town Suburban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural Transportation Corridor
<p>Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features/Streetscapes: The proposed Bruington Rural Historic District sits on the southern edge of the northernmost third of King and Queen County. It is bounded to the north by Dogwood Fork and to the east by Dickeys Swamp. The west boundary follows property lines defined by both the upper part of Clark's Swamp and the a high ridge. The southern boundary follows a natural ravine that coincides with property lines of resources. The Trail (Route 14) serves as the main access road to the district and consequently the spine of it. Secondary roads offer access to resources integral to the development of the Bruington community, but built off the main road. The general topography of the district includes gentle hills and ravines that shape the natural and the cultural landscape of the Bruington area.</p>	
Ownership Categories: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/> Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	

General District Information
What were the historical uses of the resources within the proposed district? Examples include: Dwelling, Store, Barn, etc...

Church, Dwelling, Barn	
What are the current uses? (if other than the historical use)	Church, Dwelling, Barn
Architectural styles or elements of buildings within the proposed district:	Colonial, Greek Revival, Vernacular
Architects, builders, or original owners of buildings within the proposed district:	Owners: William T. Fleet, Thomas Henley, Robert Baylor Hill, Samuel Peachy Ryland
Are there any known threats to this district?	None known

General Description of District: (Please describe building patterns, types, features, and the general architectural quality of the proposed district. Include prominent materials and noteworthy building details within the district and a general setting and/or streetscape description.)

The proposed Bruington Rural Historic District, located approximately twelve miles northwest of King and Queen Courthouse, is bounded by Dogwood Fork to the north, Dickeys Swamp to the east, and Clark Swamp and a high ridge to the west. These natural resources historically defined settlement patterns in the Bruington area and continue to shape the cultural geography of Bruington into the present day. The southern boundary follows a natural ravine that correlates with the southern property lines of two architectural resources. The ravine also marks the geographical half-way point between Bruington Baptist Church, the centerpiece of the proposed district, and Henley's Fork, the next closest man-made landmark, at the intersection of The Trail (Route 14; 049-5007) and Walkerton Landing Road (Route 629). While natural geography defines the boundaries of the district, man-made infrastructure defines how people move through it. The Trail (Route 14) is the central traffic artery, running north/south through the district. Secondary roads, including Norwood Road (Route 631) and Pea Ridge Road (Route 636) radiate from The Trail, facilitating east/west travel and providing access to additional Bruington historic resources. The orientation of several architectural resources to these roads indicate their long-standing centrality to the movement of people through the Bruington area.

Thomas Brereton is the earliest known European landowner the Bruington area. He patented 1500 acres on the north side of the Mattaponi River and the east side of Horecock Swamp in King and Queen County on 25 May 1661.¹ In 1668, he expanded his holdings to include “3000 acres on Ashiamanscock als Worecock Swamp.”² How, or if, Brereton used or developed the land remains unknown.

The first known occupant of the area, Captain Whittaker Campbell (1727-1814), left a more enduring impression on the historical landscape. By the mid-18th century, he was living on the property today known as Brewington (049-0007). While many of the structures dating to his occupation have disappeared, the collective memory of the Bruington community preserved the location of a house site, the Campbell graveyard, and the association with the Campbell family. Local histories, preserved in the Hutchinson Collection of the King and Queen County Historical Society, describe “an old house site back nearer the

¹ King and Queen County Historical Society, Hutchinson Collection.

² Beverly Fleet, *Virginia Colonial Abstracts*, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1961, vol 7, 1.

swamp - there are graves associated with this site.”³ In an interview, Mrs. Ann Griggs Ball, who grew up at Brewington, recalled the presence of a house site and a cemetery. The authors confirmed the presence of foundations visible on the ground surface that may be contemporary with the Campbell occupation, as they consisted of hand-made brick and shell mortar (archaeological site number pending).⁴ This archaeological site could yield valuable information regarding the earliest development of the Bruington area.

Two architectural resources, Brewington (049-0007) and Locust Hill (049-0040), may represent an early phase of Bruington’s development. Neither has a known construction date, though local histories record that Captain Campbell and Martha DeShazo Campbell, his second wife, lived there in 1812 when their daughter Sally married Captain Robert Courtney and Locust Hill was sold as part of a larger tract in 1846.⁵ Both have similar architectural styles (frame structures on brick foundations, external end chimneys, and gambrel roofs with shed dormers) and multiple building episodes. Brewington started as a three-bay structure before two bays were added to the south, while Locust Hill started with two bays before the addition of a northern bay, which may date to 1854 when the property’s assessed value increased to \$400 “for new improvements.”⁶ More recent additions have been put on both resources to accommodate modern kitchens and other conveniences, but have been done with an eye toward preserving or complimenting as much as possible the original architecture.

During the first half of the 19th century, Bruington underwent substantial development that continues to shape the landscape. Robert Baylor Hill built The Vineyard (049-0078) in 1816 or 1817.⁷ The three-bay, two-story, frame dwelling sits on a brick foundation, with a side gable roof and two exterior end chimneys, one of which has been encapsulated by a 10-foot annex dating to the 1930s.⁸ As first built, the house had a central passage, flanked by rooms on either side. This plan has been largely preserved, as 20th-century additions to accommodate a modern kitchen and bathrooms were added to the rear, maintaining the appearance of an Early Republic plantation dwelling from the front.

The next major addition to the Bruington landscape came in 1827, when Samuel Peachy Ryland and Catherine Gaines Hill Ryland built Norwood (049-0052).⁹ This two-story, five-bay, frame dwelling has exterior end chimneys and a gambrel roof with shed dormers. Though it shares its form with Locust Hill and Brewington, thus creating a thematic harmony among the architectural resources in the area, Norwood was built with five-bays in a center-passage plan, and this part of the house was never expanded. A subsequent generation of the Rylands did expand Norwood circa 1848, but they did so by building, or potentially moving onto the plantation a previously constructed, two-story addition to the rear of the original house and connecting the two via a “dog trot.” The property was sold out of the Ryland family after the Civil War, and passed through a series of owners before being purchased by Dr. Augustine W. Lewis in 1912. The Lewis family lived at Norwood until 1927 and rented the property until the 1960s. When Dr. A. W. Lewis purchased the property from family members in 1974, he undertook a careful restoration of the building which had been empty for over a decade. While this work required replacing aged elements of the building’s original fabric, such as the poplar weatherboards, he used appropriate new materials to preserve the original appearance of the building and maintain its structural integrity.¹⁰

Marlboro (049-0044) is another Ryland house, built circa 1835 for Joseph and Priscilla Bagby Ryland. The original home looked much like Norwood: a frame structure on a brick foundation, with a gambrel roof and shed dormers. The Ryland family quickly outgrew the five room house, and in the early 1850s added three

³ King and Queen County Historical Society, Hutchinson Collection.

⁴ Interview with Mrs. Ann Griggs Ball, February 15, 2017.

⁵ Virginia D. Cox and Willie T. Weathers, *Old Houses of King and Queen County, Virginia* (The King and Queen County Historical Society, 1973), 107, 305.

⁶ Cox and Weathers, 305.

⁷ King and Queen County Historical Society, Hutchinson Collection.

⁸ Site visit, 10 February 2017.

⁹ King and Queen County Historical Society, Cox Collection.

¹⁰ Site visit, 15 February 2017.

more rooms, a large hall and two large porches to the front of the house.¹¹ This facade remains intact today, with the exception of the removal of the upper porch. Additions to the east and west elevations of the house, built at various points in the 20th century, accommodate modern conveniences while maintaining the general symmetry of the building. Marlboro is also notable for its progressive architectural features. When the Rylands added their hall and three rooms in the 1850s, they installed a coal furnace to heat the new spaces. Several of the grates remain intact in the house, though they have been floored over.¹² Marlboro was also the first building in the area to have wallpaper, which hung until the early 20th century when the building underwent its first renovation.¹³

The 1850s brought other significant developments to Bruington's landscape as well. In that decade, Erin (049-0010) was built, Dr. Thomas M. Henley built Cloverly (049-5026), and the Bruington Baptist Church constructed its third and current church (049-0009). Little is known about the construction and evolution of Erin. Either by Robert Brumley or Dr. William T. Fleet built the house circa 1857, when Brumley sold the property to Fleet.¹⁴ The two-story house has a side-passage plan and Greek Revival details.¹⁵ The rarity of Erin's brick construction is paralleled by the brick of Bruington Baptist Church (049-0009). This visual connection between the two may have served as a rationale for the purchase and use of Erin as the Bruington Church parsonage from 1880 until the 1960s.¹⁶

Bruington Baptist Church functions as the centerpoint for both the Bruington community and the proposed Bruington Rural Historic District. Though religious meetings were documented in Bruington as early as 1772, when Baptist ministers John Lovall and James Greenwood were arrested for preaching, the first formal Bruington Church was not built until 1790.¹⁷ A small frame structure stood on the east side of The Trail (Route 14), approximately 100 yards north of the current location.¹⁸ While this building no longer stands, the site may retain potential for archaeological research. The first church built on the site of the present Bruington Baptist Church was erected in 1820. This was a substantial brick structure, built to accommodate the ever-growing congregation, which numbered 440 by 1831.¹⁹ Unfortunately, this structure proved unstable and was deconstructed in 1850. The third and final church building was erected on the site of the second church in 1851. Today, Bruington Baptist Church retains many of its Classical Revival elements, including an elaborate pediment with dentils and scrolled brackets, and an elaborate cornice that extends the around the building on all but the west side. The addition of a Fellowship Hall in 1953 was done in such a way that does not detract from the original church structure, but is visually distinct as a 20th-century addition.

Cloverly (049-5026) is the final surviving large antebellum home in the proposed historic district. This five-bay, two-story, frame dwelling was erected by Dr. Thomas M. Henley in the late 1850s. Local sources hold that the Civil War cut construction short, accounting for the flat roof which adorned it for over 120 years, empty slots for window weights that were never installed, primed doors that never got their decorative graining, and an unfinished second floor porch.²⁰ While the building is notable for including Dr. Henley's dental office on the first floor, today it only partially retains its historic appearance.²¹ Second floor spaces have been added to both wings and a side gable roof to the central portion of the house. While these renovations do not fall within the period of significance, they have also not significantly harmed the character of the resource.

¹¹ King and Queen County Historical Society, Hutchinson Collection.

¹² Site visit, 22 April 2017.

¹³ King and Queen County Historical Society, Hutchinson Collection.

¹⁴ King and Queen County Historical Society, Hutchinson Collection; Cox and Weathers, 124-125.

¹⁵ Site visit, 15 February 2017.

¹⁶ *The Bulletin of the King and Queen Historical Society of Virginia*, #73 (July 1992), 1-2.

¹⁷ Kaplan, *Land and Heritage in the Virginia Tidewater: A History of King and Queen County*, 54

¹⁸ *The Bulletin of the King and Queen Historical Society of Virginia*, # 21 (July 1966), 3-7; Kaplan, 94.

¹⁹ Kaplan, 93-94.

²⁰ King and Queen County Historical Society, Hutchinson Collection.

²¹ King and Queen County Historical Society, Hutchinson Collection.

While Erin and Cloverly mark the end of a period of large-scale residential construction in Bruington, resources like The Grange, The Institute, and Greenview mark the beginning of a shift toward smaller residences. Built in 1845, The Grange (049-5027) is a two-story, two-bay, frame structure with a single central chimney and a front gable roof. While likely constructed as a residence, by 1876 it was converted into a meeting space for local members of The Grange organization.²² By 1918, its purpose shifted again as it was transformed into a two-room schoolhouse.²³ Despite the resource serving multiple functions over the course of its life, it retains its historical appearance as a mid-19th century vernacular farm house. Similarly, the Bruington Female Institute was operating on the site today known as The Institute by 1850 in what was likely a converted residential structure.²⁴ The construction date on this resource remains uncertain, and may have been as early as 1820. It was described circa 1855, when Joseph R. Garlick opened the Rappahannock Female Institute in the building, as a two-and-a-half story, frame structure with a full basement and a large chimney on either end.²⁵ Unfortunately, this building burned down in 1905. The current building was built atop part of the old foundations in 1959.²⁶ Greenview (049-5064), built in 1851, was the smallest of these resources. The frame, one-and-a-half story building, had two rooms on the first floor and a single room above.²⁷ Several additions throughout the 19th and 20th centuries have altered the footprint of this resource substantially. However, the original structure stands proud of the additions, is easily identifiable, and continues to define the overall character of the resource. The house at 4998 The Trail (049-5052), built circa 1845, similarly follows the form and shape of a mid-19th century vernacular residence, with a partially parged brick foundation, frame structure, and internal chimneys.

The trend toward smaller vernacular dwellings continued through the late 19th century. A farm house built in 1895 (049-5036) exhibits the same reduced footprint as The Institute and The Grange. This two-story, two-bay, frame structure sits on a brick foundation with two interior end chimneys and a side gable roof. The continued use of this form was likely due to changing economic circumstances throughout the latter half of the 19th century. Post-Civil War economics, shifting labor resources, and changing agricultural technology (among other reasons) led to smaller scale buildings and made the accumulation or cultivation of vast tracts less feasible.

As residents began to shift toward smaller agricultural holdings, the first store opened in Bruington. The construction date for what is locally known as McGeorge's Store (049-5059) is unknown, though it was standing by 1860, when John Walker went to "Wm. Courtney's store house, a little below Bruington Church."²⁸ William T. McGeorge came into ownership of the building by the 1920s, and operated both a store and the local post office there.²⁹ Mrs. Ann Griggs Ball recalled the centrality of the store to the community - and to its children. The first sign that Christmas was coming was when toys began to appear the windows of McGeorge's Store.³⁰ At present, the building is used for storage, as Bruington's mail is now processed through the St. Stephen's post office and local residents drive further afield to purchase goods.

The decreasing size of architectural resources also captures increasingly specialized uses of the resources, such as at [BethlehemBethlehem](#) Church (049-5041). Formed by African Americans who separated from Bruington Church in 1871, the Bethlehem congregation initially held services in a meeting house on land given by Samuel P. Ryland, a deacon of Bruington. The structure that stands today as Bethlehem Church is likely the second, or even third, incarnation of the church building. Local records indicate an 1895 construction date for the building, but a cornerstone on the church itself describes the church as "rebuilt" in

²² Kaplan, 176-179.

²³ King and Queen County Historical Society, Hutchinson Collection.

²⁴ King and Queen County Historical Society, Hutchinson Collection.

²⁵ *The Bulletin of the King and Queen Historical Society of Virginia*, #6 (January 1959), 2-3.

²⁶ *The Bulletin of the King and Queen Historical Society of Virginia*, #6 (January 1959), 2-3.

²⁷ Site visit, 22 April 2017.

²⁸ *The Bulletin of the King and Queen Historical Society of Virginia*, #19 (July 1965), 3.

²⁹ *The Bulletin of the King and Queen Historical Society of Virginia*, #73 (July 1992), 2. McGeorge was installed as postmaster 8 September 1919.

³⁰ Interview with Mrs. Ann Griggs Ball, February 15, 2017.

1920.³¹ Even with its multiple additions and potential rebuilding phases, Bethlehem Church has a smaller footprint than its mother church, Bruington. This likely reflected the more limited resources available to the African-American community during the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Virginia. Though small, Bethlehem Church nevertheless retains several historical features, including a double entrance in the front, gothic arched windows and tin roof tiles on its spire.

The 20th century brought relatively little change to Bruington, and the next significant building phase did not occur until the mid-1930s when several bungalows were built throughout the area (049-5034, 049-5050, 049-5053). These are one- or one-and-a-half-story, three- or four-bay, frame structures with internal chimneys and side gable roofs. Two of the three (049-5050, 049-5053) have front gable dormer windows. Given their lot sizes, these resources likely reflect a shift in this predominantly agrarian economy toward one that prioritized separation of residential and work spaces. That three such dwellings should be built in the midst of the Great Depression may indicate that particular residents of King and Queen County found themselves better able to weather trying financial times than others.

Construction of smaller, strictly residential properties defined the development of Bruington throughout the remainder of the 20th century. Bungalows (049-5035, 049-5039) dot the landscape along with mid-century ranchers (049-5030, 049-5031), highlighting the movement away from large agricultural landholdings and toward a commuter culture which separates home and work spaces. Where late-20th century resources have been built, they sit on substantial lots that maintain the impression of rural space.

One architectural resource merits special mention for its uniqueness within Bruington's landscape. Locally known as Mrs. Prince's House (049-5029), this one-room plus lean-to structure stands as a remarkable surviving example of a vernacular Virginia dwelling. Raised on brick piers, this frame structure has undergone some preservation work in order to stabilize it, but remains largely intact to its circa 1840 construction date.³² Throughout the 20th century, this building served as home to Mrs. Martha Hall and her family, and then Mrs. Loula Greenstreet Prince and her family. Continued occupation likely served to preserve this dwelling, which was once a ubiquitous form on the Virginia landscape.

Overall, the resources contained in the proposed Bruington Rural Historic District capture the changing dynamics of the Virginia economy. Where large homes and even larger agricultural holdings once dominated the landscape, smaller farms and homes became more prominent, before gradually giving way to residential structures associated with lots meant for leisure rather than cultivation. The interspersed nature of Bruington's architectural resources, which blends buildings of all periods in and amongst one another, gives the area an impression of organic growth, following the natural shape of the land just as the first settlement did.

³¹ Site visit, 1 March 2017.

³² In 2012, architectural historian Calder Loth examined the Prince house and estimated the construction date to be circa 1840, based on the evidence from nails, rafter saw marks, rafter joins, and the chimney. His comments were recorded by Jack Spain and those notes are currently held by the King and Queen Historical Society.

Significance Statement: Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the proposed district. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Please list all sources of information. Normally, only information contained on this form is forwarded to the State Review Board.

The proposed Bruington Rural Historic District has undergone relatively little development since its founding in the 17th century. This preserved the agrarian landscape that once dominated Virginia, and the cultural landscape of the Bruington area, as well as the individual architectural resources that constitute the proposed district. The rural location belies Bruington's connections to significant individuals and events at the national, regional, and local levels. Initial studies conducted using historic maps from 1853 onward have generated several potential archaeological sites from the 19th and 20th centuries, although earlier sites are highly likely. While these sites have not yet been fully explored, they hold significant information regarding the development of the Bruington community, including the African American community. Given the significant events and individuals associated with the proposed Bruington Historic District, as well as its architectural integrity, it fulfills the requirements of Criteria A, B, and C. Further research may identify significant archaeological sites, which could make the proposed district eligible under Criteria D.

Arguably, the most significant individual associated with Bruington was Reverend Robert Baylor Semple. Semple was born at Rose Mount, just outside the proposed historic district, on January 20, 1769. As a young man, he briefly studied law before a dramatic conversion experience brought him to the Baptist faith. Semple preached his first sermon in 1789. The following year, he was ordained and became pastor of the newly constituted Bruington Baptist Church, where he remained until his death in 1831.³³

During his forty-year career in the pastorate, Semple became a leader of the Baptist faith in Virginia, often mixing administrative duties with an interest in religious education.³⁴ To the latter end, he not only taught school for many years, but also authored "Catechism for Children" (1809), served as the financial agent of Columbian College (now George Washington University) and as president of its board of trustees.³⁵ His administrative undertakings included constituting churches throughout the Tidewater, ordaining ministers, and promoting charitable causes such as the Richmond Female Orphan School, the Richmond African Mission Society, the Bible Society of Virginia, and the Virginia Temperance Society.³⁶ His greatest contribution to the development of the Baptist faith in Virginia was as a proponent of centralization in Baptist life and the development of Baptist institutions. He served as the treasurer of the Dover Baptist Association for thirteen years, and as its moderator for ten. He also served as a moderator for the General Meeting of Correspondence and the General Association of Baptists in Virginia. In addition, Semple was one of thirty-three delegates from eleven states that met in 1814 to form the "General Missionary Convention of the Baptist Denomination in the United States of America, for Foreign Missions," for which he served first as an officer and later as president from 1820 until his death in 1831.³⁷

Semple served as a prominent figure and centralizing force in a faith that began as a decentralized collection of somewhat informal congregations in the 18th century. While this offered its practitioners freedom from the prescribed state religion of Anglicanism, its lack of a central governing body and insistence of equality among its members made the faith suspect among the entrenched leadership of the late colonial period. Though religious freedom accompanied American independence, broad acceptance of the Baptist faith came only when governing associations began to develop in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Semple played a significant role in the formation of several of these governing associations, working to forge connections among Baptist congregations throughout the young United States.

The proposed Bruington Rural Historic District is also connected to significant events at the local and the national level. In February 1864, Colonel Ulric Dahlgren was to cross the James River west of Richmond and

³³ George T. Kurian and Mark A. Lamport, eds., *The Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, Rowman & Littlefield, V: 2069.

³⁴ J. T. White, ed., *The Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, New York: James T. White & Company, 12: 483.

³⁵ J. T. White, ed., *The Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, New York: James T. White & Company, 12: 483; Kaplan, 99-100.

³⁶ George T. Kurian and Mark A. Lamport, eds., *The Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, Rowman & Littlefield, V: 2069.

³⁷ George T. Kurian and Mark A. Lamport, eds., *The Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, Rowman & Littlefield, V: 2069.

enter the city from the south to bolster Brigadier General H. Judson Kilpatrick's attack on the city from the north. Dahlgren's men made it to the James River at Dover Mills but were unable to cross. Routed to the east, Dahlgren and his forces encountered Confederate resistance two and a half miles outside of Richmond. Dahlgren retreated, with the goal of reaching safety at Gloucester Point. Unfortunately, word had spread and defensive forces began assembling as Dahlgren crossed the Pamunkey River into King William County. The Union forces continued, crossing the Mattaponi on March 2. As Dahlgren and his men traveled through King and Queen County, the 9th Virginia Cavalry, under the command of Lieutenant James Pollard, engaged the Union troops' rear guard near Bruington Church (049-5007). Skirmishes between the two sides continued for several miles down what is today The Trail (Route 14). That night, while Dahlgren and his men rested near Mantapike, Pollard's forces ambushed them, killing Dahlgren. When he learned of his colleague's death after reaching Fort Monroe, General Kilpatrick sent a large detachment up from Gloucester Point on March 10. These men burned the courthouse, the clerk's office, the jail, and several stores and homes in the village. While Bruington saw only the opening salvos of the battle between Pollard and Dahlgren, it nevertheless witnessed an action that significantly shaped the history of King and Queen County, as the residents had to contend with the loss of their court records, which continues to cause consternation to the present day.³⁸

The Bruington community also participated in the agrarian movement known as the Grange. Established in 1867, the Grange was a fraternal order dedicated to helping farmers learn new farming methods. By 1876, the Grange in Virginia had 18,000 members in 685 local chapters. That same year, King and Queen County organized a local Grange in Bruington (049-5027).³⁹ Here, members met to discuss new farming methods and technological advances, organize lobbies for tax relief and legislation for limits on railroad freight rates, and work cooperatively to stabilize the agrarian economy still being rebuilt following the Civil War. While meetings at the Bruington Grange were effectively local, the formation of a local Grange chapter put Bruington's and King and Queen County's farmers into a national conversation about best agricultural practices. While the organization's collective bargaining attempts often accomplished little at the national level, the Grange offered a way for farmers across the United States to build a community and defend their interests in the face of growing industrialization. On the local level, the fraternal aspect of the Grange created a way to ensure that members could be taken care of in times of crisis, including providing funeral services for its members.⁴⁰

Because of its relatively remote location, few nationally or state-wide significant events have taken place in Bruington. Those that have, however, tie the proposed historic district to events that had significant repercussions at multiple levels. The county felt the loss of 170 years of records when the courthouse burned, just as the county benefitted from the actions of the Grange. Both reveal how major events played out in the microcosm of small rural communities, as well as how members of those communities reconciled changes at the national level with the dictates of their own lives.

Bruington's geographic location, four miles inland from the Mattaponi River and five miles below Route 360, helped preserve the integrity of both the landscape and the architectural resources upon it. A trip through the proposed historic district reveals the evolution of the built environment there. Large dwellings, once associated with large agricultural landholdings, many of which are now substantially reduced in size, serve as the anchor points for the perimeter of the district. Smaller dwellings, built beginning in the mid-19th century, act as counterpoints to the larger plantation houses. These resources reflect a shift to smaller agricultural holdings, better adapted to the challenging economics of the Reconstruction period. Bungalows and ranchers represent 20th-century residential development in the area. Since 1970, several additional dwellings have been built in the proposed historic district. While these fall outside the period of significance, this modern in-fill has followed the general pattern of building in the area: single dwellings sit on large lots with additional

³⁸ Kaplan, 138-141; Peter Luebke, "Kilpatrick-Dahlgren Raid," *Encyclopedia Virginia*, accessed 10 April 2017, http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Kilpatrick-Dahlgren_Raid

³⁹ Kaplan, 176-179.

⁴⁰ Kaplan, 179.

structures, such as sheds or workshops, located behind. This maintains the appearance of a rural landscape, as well as the sense that the community has sought to preserve the visual openness of the area in which they live.

The individual resources also maintain a great deal of their architectural integrity. Those that have undergone extensive preservation work, such as Norwood (049-0052), retain their historic appearance and character, due largely to the care with which the work was undertaken. Nearly all the 18th- and 19th-century resources have had additions put on throughout the 19th and 20th centuries to accommodate changing standards of living. These additions usually have been constructed on the rear of the buildings, maintaining their historic facades and the overall integrity of the district.

The Bruington area may also contain several archaeological resources. An initial study using historic maps indicates that at least a dozen buildings are no longer part of the extant built environment of Bruington. Additional survey work is needed to ascertain the condition and the research potential of these sites, which range at least as old as the period 1863 to 1953, which represents the years of the cartographic resources used to project them. Additionally, the 18th and 19th-century plantations around which Bruington developed are missing the extensive complexes of agricultural buildings, workshops and slave quarters that allowed them to thrive. If field verified, such resources could not only reveal additional information about how Bruington developed during that period, but may also yield additional insights into the African-American community in the area, which was numerous enough to support two African-American Baptist churches: New Mount Zion and Bethlehem. Few architectural resources associated with this community survive, and the only way to recover their place in the physical and cultural landscape of Bruington may be through archaeological research combined with in-depth oral history outreach to the local community and systematic research into surviving county and family records.

The resources encompassed by the proposed Bruington Rural Historic District encapsulate the changing relationship of Virginians to the agrarian landscape. The boundaries of the oldest resources followed the natural topography of the landscape, skirting swamps and ravines. As large plantations became difficult to sustain, smaller farms appeared on the landscape. Eventually, these gave way to strictly residential properties that, while set amongst cultivated fields, had owners that did not engage in agricultural production. Though the landscape is arguably Bruington's greatest asset, it is not the only element that defines the district. As home to Reverend Robert B. Semple, Bruington Church and the surrounding community supported his work to build connections among Baptists and supported charitable organizations. The Bruington community itself also took part in significant events that tied the community to national movements, first during the Civil War and then as part of the Grange. Collectively, the history of and the resources within the proposed Bruington Rural Historic District capture not only microcosmic change within a Virginia community, but also reveal how the small communities that dominated Virginia's landscape for much of its history engaged with changes at the national level.

Sponsor (Individual and/or organization, with contact information. For more than one sponsor, please use a separate sheet.)

Mr. Ms. Thomas J. Swartzwelder King and Queen County
(Name) (Firm)

242 Allens Circle, Suite L
(Address)

King and Queen Court House VA 23085
(City) (State) (Zip Code)

tswartzwelder@kingandqueenco.net 804-785-5975
(Email Address) (Daytime telephone including area code)

In the event of organization sponsorship, you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.
Contact person: Thomas J. Swartzwelder, King and Queen County Administrator

Daytime Telephone: 804-785-5975

Applicant Information (Individual completing form)

Mr. Mrs. Dr. Elizabeth Cook, Dr. David A. Brown, and DATA Investigations LLC
Ms. Miss Thane H. Harpole

1759 Tyndall Point Lane Gloucester Point VA 23062
(Name) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

fairfield@fairfieldfoundation.org 804-815-4467
(Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

(Email Address) (Daytime telephone including area code)

Applicant's Signature:

Date:

Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

Mr. Mrs. Dr. Thomas J. Swartzwelder County Administrator
Miss Ms. Hon.

King and Queen County 242 Allens Circle, Suite L
(Name) (Position)

King and Queen Courthouse VA 23085 (804) 785-5975
(Locality) (Address)

(City) (State) (Zip Code) (Daytime telephone including area code)

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this district.

We hope to formally recognize the important architectural, archaeological, and historical significance of the Bruington area.

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes No

Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes No