

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 #: 059-5124
District Name(s): <u>Saluda Historic District</u>	
District or Selected Building Date(s): <u>1852-1967</u> X Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post Open to the Public? X Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Main District Streets and/or Routes: <u>General Puller Highway, Gloucester Road, and Oakes Landing Road</u> City: <u>N/A</u> Zip: <u>23149</u>	
County or Ind. City: <u>Middlesex</u> USGS Quad(s): <u>SALUDA</u>	

Physical Character of General Surroundings	
Acreage: <u>111</u> Setting (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Urban X Town <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Corridor	
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features/Streetscapes: <u>The Saluda Historic District is located in southern central Middlesex County, approximately four miles inland from Urbanna and slightly east of the Route 17. The district encompasses the courthouse village at the intersection of Route US-17, General Puller Highway, Gloucester Road, and Oakes Landing Road. Throughout the district, the land is relatively level with mature trees and simple landscaping. Many of the resources are surrounded by grass lawns. Concrete sidewalks line the south side of General Puller Highway.</u>	
Ownership Categories: X Private X 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...	
<u>County Seat and commercial center</u>	
What are the current uses? (if other than the historical use)	<u>Same as historical, with additional residences, the high school for the area, several churches, and scattered businesses</u>
Architectural styles or elements of buildings within the proposed district:	<u>Colonial Revival, American Four Square, bungalow, 20th century Commercial style, Minimal Traditional</u>
Architects, builders, or original owners of buildings within the proposed district:	<u>In 1852, builders William R. Jones and John P. Hill constructed the courthouse building in Saluda</u>
Are there any known threats to this district?	<u>Sea level rise, storm surge, incompatible infill, vacancy</u>

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 Saluda Historic District encompasses the courthouse village at the intersection of Route US-17, General Puller Highway, Gloucester Road, and Oakes Landing Road. The center of the district is dominated by the brick-wall-enclosed Middlesex County Courthouse complex (059-0008), which includes the former county clerk's office, and numerous memorials. The two-story, gable-front brick courthouse is laid in a Flemish bond pattern and features an arcade on the first floor level. The courthouse complex was listed on the State and National Register in 1978.

In addition to the historic courthouse complex, the town includes notable resources from the late eighteenth through the twentieth-century including residences, commercial buildings, religious institutions, and the county high school. The proposed district encompasses the central core of the town located along General Puller Highway (Route 33) and Gloucester Road.

Many of the large homes built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries still line Saluda streets. In general, these houses are located back from the street with large, landscaped yards to the front and small outbuildings to the back. Most are of frame construction and reflect nationally popular architectural styles including Colonial Revival, American Four Square, and bungalow. Houses dating to the late-eighteenth and mid-nineteenth century also are of frame construction, and reflect a vernacular character. One of the more intact examples of this residential development is Leafwood (059-0021/059-5124-0002), a ca. 1781, central passage dwelling

Resources within the Saluda Historic District recorded as part of the Hurricane Sandy survey of Middlesex County include:

- Antioch Baptist Church and Cemetery (059-5124-0003) on Oakes Landing Road, established in 1866 one of the first African-American churches in the county. The property includes a one-room grade school moved to the site in 1870s and expanded to serve the areas African-American population until 1962.
- All Saints Anglican Catholic Church (059-5124-0004), constructed in the 1880s for the Centenary Methodist Church.
- The General Lewis Puller House (059-5124-0006), constructed in 1920 in the Colonial Revival style as the retirement home for Marine General Lewis Burwell Puller. Puller is known as the country's most decorated Marine, having received 53 decorations over his 37 years of service.

Other resources of interest within the Saluda Historic District include:

- Middlesex High School, a Colonial Revival style brick building with a mid-twentieth century modern wing.
- The Middlesex Historical Society and Museum, which occupies an early-twentieth century service station with a hip roof port-cochere.
- The Garden Club building on Gloucester Road, an early twentieth century brick commercial building with a corbeled cornice.

In total, the Saluda Historic District is estimated to contain 52 resources, including the previously listed Middlesex County Courthouse. As of 2017, six resources have been previously recorded. Most resources remain in good condition, though replacement windows, siding, and roof materials are common. The majority of the late twentieth century (non-contributing) resources are grouped along General Puller Highway on the east end of the district.

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.

In 1849, Saluda replaced the creekside town of Urbanna as the site of the Middlesex County Courthouse. The previous courthouse was located in Urbanna, though the original, Colonial era courthouse stood nearby in Stormont. The move from Urbanna to Saluda, triggered by a countywide vote in 1847, recentralized the courthouse. At that time, Saluda was a small crossroads village of a few businesses and homes located near the geographical center of the county. The first court session was held in the new courthouse on April 1, 1853.

As the new county seat, Urbanna grew steadily through the middle of the nineteenth century, slowed in the years surrounding the Civil War, and picked up again in the early twentieth century. The interior of Middlesex County did not experience much in the way of direct combat during the Civil War, although Saluda is notable as one of a few county seats that refused to send its court records to Richmond for safekeeping during the war. As a result, the records were spared the destruction of those that were being kept in the State Capitol when it burned.

Like many small county seats, Saluda developed infrastructure to meet the needs of those attending to business at the courthouse. A large inn known as the Saluda Hotel once sat directly across General Puller Highway from the courthouse complex. The building was demolished in the 1940s.

By 1917 the town contained three churches (all of which survive into the present) and a high school. Between 1920 and 1965, the town experienced gradual expansion, primarily residential in nature. While the outskirts of Saluda and much of the rest of Middlesex County has faced increased development pressures in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century, USGS maps indicate little additional development within the Saluda Historic District since the late 1960s.

The Saluda Historic District is recommended eligible for listing in the National Register on a local level for its role as the county seat since 1849, and as a significant collection of architectural resources dating from the late-eighteenth through the mid-twentieth century.

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

Mr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	_____			
		(Name)			
_____		_____	_____	_____	_____
		(Address)	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
_____			_____		
			(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: _____

Daytime Telephone: () _____

Applicant Information (Individual completing form)

Mr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/>	_____			
Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	_____		_____	_____
		(Name)	(Firm)		
_____		_____	_____	_____	_____
		(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. <input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. <input type="checkbox"/>	_____		
Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	Hon. <input type="checkbox"/>	_____		
		(Name)	(Position)		
_____		_____			
		(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.

This PIF was prepared by DHR staff to support preservation planning efforts in Middlesex County. Interest in the Saluda Historic District grew out of the Hurricane Sandy survey of Middlesex County. DHR Staff twice presented the idea of the historic district to the County Board of Supervisors over the course of the Hurricane Sandy work, and the County is interested in pursuing nomination. The district also has the support of the local historical society and the Middlesex County Planning Department.

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