

Highway Marker Replacement Project 2016

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) maintains state highway markers in its right of way. The General Assembly has allocated \$2 million to VDOT for the next two state fiscal years for, among other projects, replacing damaged and deteriorated highway markers. VDOT has determined that more than 200 markers—many from the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s—have reached the end of their lifespans owing to cracks, rust, peeling paint, and other problems.

Replacing these aging markers will result in a substantial aesthetic improvement, and the project will also allow DHR to expand the texts of old markers and to correct factual errors. We have the opportunity to provide more historical context, draw on modern scholarship, and generally enhance the educational value of our marker system.

The first set of replacement texts appears below. For each of the 46 markers, I have included the VDOT district, county, original text, proposed replacement text, and word/character count. The Marker Editorial Committee approved these texts at its meeting on September 6, 2016.

1. Bristol VDOT District; Bland County

One of the “Big Four” KC-3

Here is the home of S. H. Newberry, who, with three others, composed the "Big Four" in the Virginia Senate. These four men united to defeat objectionable measures of the Readjuster movement.

One of the “Big Four” KC-3

Samuel H. Newberry, a captain in the Confederate army who represented Bland and Pulaski Counties in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1865 to 1867, lived here at Eagle Oak. Newberry served in the Senate of Virginia during the 1870s and 1880s and joined the Readjuster Party, a biracial coalition that sought to repudiate a portion of Virginia’s antebellum debt. In 1882 he and three other senators, known as the “Big Four,” broke with party leader William Mahone. The Readjusters nevertheless passed their legislative agenda, but the party dissolved in 1885. Newberry left office in 1884, published a book of poetry later in life, and died in 1916.

(108/651)

2. Bristol VDOT District; Grayson County

First County Seat U-25

Here at Old Town, in 1794, was built the first courthouse of Grayson County. The land was donated by Flower Swift. A second courthouse was built in 1838. The county seat was removed to Independence about 1850.

Old County Seat U-25

Grayson County, formed in 1792 from Wythe County, was named for William Grayson, one of Virginia's first two United States senators. Its court initially met at William Bourne's farm near present-day Fries. Here at Old Town, earlier known as Greenville, the county erected its first courthouse ca. 1794. That log structure was replaced in 1834 with a brick Federal-style courthouse constructed by James Toncray, builder of several other courthouses in Southwest Virginia. The clerk's office here dates from 1810. After Carroll County split off in 1842, Grayson County shifted its seat westward to present-day Independence, where the court began meeting in 1851.

(102/660)

3. Bristol VDOT District; Scott County

McConnell's Birthplace K-14

Eight miles north was born John Preston McConnell, noted educator. He taught in Milligan College, the University of Virginia and Emory and Henry College. He was president of the Radford State Teachers' College, 1913-1937. Dr. McConnell was president of Southwestern Virginia, Incorporated, and was associated with many cultural agencies. He was active in every phase of educational work, writing several books and many articles.

McConnell's Birthplace K-14

John P. McConnell (1866-1941), educator, was born about eight miles north of here. He served as acting president of Milligan College in Tennessee and later taught history and economics at Emory and Henry College. An advocate of higher education for women, McConnell became the founding president of the State Normal and Industrial School for Women at Radford in 1911. He hired faculty and designed curricula before students arrived in 1913. The school, later known as Radford University, became coeducational in 1972. McConnell was president of the Southern Educational Society, the Anti-Saloon League of Virginia, and Southwest Virginia, Inc., which promoted economic development.

(102/681)

4. Bristol VDOT District; Scott County

Big Moccasin Gap K-15

In March, 1775, Daniel Boone made a road through this gap to Boonesboro, Kentucky. It followed the original Indian path and was known as the Wilderness Road. For a long time it was the main route to Kentucky from the East.

Moccasin Gap K-15

Moccasin Gap in Clinch Mountain links the valleys of the Holston and Clinch Rivers. Through here passed the main trail between Cherokee territory to the south and Shawnee lands in present-day Ohio. Hunters and explorers of European descent were using the gap by the mid-18th century. In 1775 Richard Henderson, a land speculator, hired Daniel Boone to clear a route to Kentucky. Boone and 30 men widened the existing Indian path to create the Wilderness Road, over which thousands of settlers later passed. The arrival of the railroad in the 1880s and the construction of U.S. highways in the 20th century ensured that Moccasin Gap would remain a significant transportation route.

(111/680)

5. Bristol VDOT District; Tazewell County

Big Crab Orchard or Witten's Fort XY-14

On the hillside to the south stood Big Crab Orchard Fort, also known as Witten's Fort. Thomas Witten obtained land here in 1771 and built the fort as a neighborhood place of refuge. It was garrisoned in Dunmore's War, 1774.

Big Crab Orchard or Witten's Fort XY-14

Native Americans established a palisaded town nearby as early as ca. AD 1400. Thomas Witten and John Greenup built cabins here ca. 1771. Conflict between settlers and Indians intensified early in the 1770s as Native Americans of the Ohio Country resisted white occupation. Lord Dunmore, royal governor of Virginia, recommended the construction of a line of fortifications in June 1774. Witten's Fort, built on the hillside to the south, was garrisoned later that year by militia troops under Capt. Daniel Smith. No attack on Witten's Fort was recorded. A replica of the fort was built in 1926.

(97/593)

6. Bristol VDOT District; Wythe County

Fincastle County KD-5

Fincastle County, established in 1772, was formed from Botetourt County. The Fincastle County seat was located opposite the lead mines on the north side of the New River in the western end of present-day Austinville. In 1775, the Fincastle County Committee of Safety filed its resolutions with the Continental Congress supporting other American colonies' efforts for self-determination. The resolutions suggested the citizens were supportive of King George III, but they were not willing to be subjected to the possible loss of liberty and property. The county became extinct in 1776 when it was split into Montgomery, Washington, and Kentucky (now the state of Kentucky) Counties.

Fincastle County KD-5

Fincastle County, formed in 1772 from Botetourt County, became extinct in 1776 when it was split into Montgomery, Washington, and Kentucky (now the state of Kentucky) Counties. Col. William Christian commanded a militia battalion of Fincastle men during Dunmore's War against Indians of the Ohio Country in 1774. Fincastle surveyors under Col. William Preston laid off more than 200,000 acres of land in the future state of Kentucky. In 1775, responding to a call from the First Continental Congress, a county committee of 15 freeholders wrote resolutions expressing loyalty to King George III while vowing to defend the liberty and property rights they enjoyed as Virginians.

(106/676)

7. Bristol VDOT District; Wythe County

Austin's Birthplace KD-8

Near Austinville, five miles west, was born Stephen F. Austin, "Father of Texas," November, 1793. He began his colonization work in 1821.

Austin's Birthplace KD-8

Stephen F. Austin (1793-1836) was born near Austinville, three miles west of here. His father, Moses Austin, operated a substantial lead mine and smelting business nearby before moving the family to what is now Missouri in 1798. Moses Austin won permission in 1821 to establish the first large-scale Anglo-American colony in Spanish Texas but died that year. Stephen took over, brought thousands of people to Texas (by then part of Mexico), and negotiated with Mexican officials to promote the colonists' interests. During Texas's war for independence from Mexico (1835-1836) he was a commissioner to the United States, and he became the first secretary of state of the Republic of Texas in 1836.

(112/696)

8. Culpeper VDOT District; Albemarle County

Clark's Birthplace W-199

A mile north was born George Rogers Clark, defender of Kentucky and conqueror of the Northwest, November 19, 1752.

Birthplace of George Rogers Clark W-199

George Rogers Clark was born a mile northeast of here on 19 Nov. 1752. He grew up on a farm in Caroline County. Clark explored the Ohio River Valley, fought in Dunmore's War in 1774, and helped convince the General Assembly to organize Kentucky as a county of Virginia. As a militia officer during the Revolutionary War, he allied with French communities on the Mississippi River, defeated the British at Fort Sackville in present-day Indiana, and fought Shawnee Indians in the Ohio Country, strengthening Virginia's claim to the Old Northwest. His younger brother, William, and Meriwether Lewis led the 1803-1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition to the Pacific Ocean.

(108/662)

9. Culpeper VDOT District; Albemarle County

Edgehill W-203

The land was patented in 1735. The old house was built in 1790; the new in 1828. Here lived Thomas Mann Randolph, Governor of Virginia, 1819-1822, who married Martha, daughter of Thomas Jefferson.

Edgehill W-203

The Edgehill plantation, just to the north, was patented by William Randolph in 1735. His grandson, Thomas Mann Randolph, married Thomas Jefferson's daughter Martha in 1790 and acquired the property two years later. The couple built a frame house ca. 1799 but resided mainly at nearby Monticello. Their son, Thomas Jefferson Randolph, erected a brick residence at Edgehill in 1828. Martha Jefferson Randolph and her family operated a school for girls here; its successor, established after the Civil War, was a highly regarded women's academy. Edgehill left the Randolph family in 1902. The main house burned in 1916 but was rebuilt using the original walls.

(105/658)

10. Culpeper VDOT District; Albemarle County

Jackson's Valley Campaign W-162

Late in April 1862, Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson marched his army out of the Shenandoah Valley through the Blue Ridge Mountains to deceive Union Maj. Gen. John C. Frémont into thinking he was headed for Richmond. On 3 May, Jackson bivouacked at nearby Mechum's Station on the Virginia Central Railroad. The next day, part of the army entrained for the Valley while the rest followed on foot. At the Battle of McDowell on 8 May, Jackson defeated the advance of Frémont's army under Brig. Gen. Robert H. Milroy and Brig. Gen. Robert C. Schenck. Thus began Jackson's 1862 Shenandoah Valley Campaign.

Jackson's Valley Campaign W-162

During the Shenandoah Valley Campaign (March-June 1862) Confederate Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson used deceptive maneuvers and sharp attacks to divert Union forces from the Peninsula Campaign against Richmond. Late in April, Jackson's men began an eastward march over the Blue Ridge Mountains, convincing the Federals that they were bound for Richmond. On 3 May, Jackson bivouacked at nearby Mechum's River Station on the Virginia Central Railroad. The next day, part of his army returned to the Valley by train while the rest followed on foot. At the Battle of McDowell in the Allegheny Mountains on 8 May, Jackson defeated the vanguard of Union Maj. Gen. John C. Frémont's army.

(111/690)

11. Culpeper VDOT District; Orange County

Barboursville D-22

A short distance south are the ruins of Barboursville, built, 1814-1822, by James Barbour partly after plans made by Jefferson. It was burned, December 25, 1884. James Barbour, buried here, was Governor of Virginia, 1812-1815, United States Senator, Secretary of War, Minister to England.

Barboursville D-22

The ruins of Barboursville, the home of James Barbour (1775-1842), are just to the south. The house was designed by Thomas Jefferson and completed ca. 1822. Barbour, who owned about 5,000 acres here, was governor of Virginia (1812-1814), U.S. senator (1815-1825), secretary of war (1825-1828), and minister to Great Britain (1828-1829). A proponent of scientific farming, he conducted experiments on his land and published the results in agricultural journals. More than 100 enslaved African Americans worked on his plantation. Barboursville burned in 1884. Barboursville Vineyards was established here in 1976.

(90/611)

12. Fredericksburg VDOT District; Caroline County

Jackson's Headquarters N-11

In an outhouse here at Moss Neck, Stonewall Jackson had his headquarters, December, 1862-March, 1863. He was engaged in guarding the line of the Rappahannock with his corps of Lee's army.

Jackson's Headquarters N-11

Moss Neck Manor, just south of here, was the headquarters of Confederate Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson during the winter of 1862-1863. Jackson arrived in mid-December, shortly after the First Battle of Fredericksburg. He declined an offer to stay in the Greek Revival mansion, built ca. 1856, and resided instead in an office outbuilding in the yard. More than 35,000 men of his Second Corps, Army of Northern Virginia, encamped nearby. Here Jackson received many visitors and ate Christmas dinner with Gen. Robert E. Lee and Maj. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart. Jackson departed on 17 Mar. 1863. He was accidentally shot by his own men at the Battle of Chancellorsville on 2 May and died on 10 May.

(120/699)

13. Fredericksburg VDOT District; Caroline County

Lee and Grant E-23

Lee and Grant faced each other on the North Anna, May 23-26, 1864. Union forces crossed here and four miles to the west but found they could not dislodge Lee's center, which rested on the stream. Grant then turned east to Cold Harbor.

Lee and Grant E-23

Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia faced Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Potomac across the North Anna River, 23-26 May 1864. Union troops moved south across the river near here at the Chesterfield Bridge, on Lee's right flank. Federals also crossed the river about four miles west at Jericho Mill, on Lee's left flank. Lee repulsed Union attacks at the center of his line at Ox Ford. Grant, determining that Lee's position was impregnable, withdrew on the night of 26-27 May and moved his army around the Confederates to the east. Each army sustained about 2,000 casualties at the Battle of North Anna.

(113/648)

14. Fredericksburg VDOT District; Gloucester County

Gloucester Courthouse NA-1

The courthouse was built in 1766. The debtors prison is also old. A skirmish occurred near here between Confederate and Union cavalry, January 29, 1864.

Gloucester Courthouse NA-1

Gloucester County was formed from York County in 1651. Its first brick courthouse, one of Virginia's earliest, was erected by 1685. The county built a new courthouse in 1766, and the Virginia General Assembly established Botetourt Town around it in 1769. John New's Ordinary (later the Botetourt Hotel), built ca. 1770, featured dining rooms, a billiards room, and a ballroom. A debtor's prison and clerk's office were built by 1824, followed by a new jail (1873) and clerk's office (1896). Excavations have located other houses and taverns in the village. Union forces occupied the county seat at various times during the Civil War, and Union and Confederate troops skirmished here on 29 Jan. 1864.

(114/699)

15. Fredericksburg VDOT District; Stafford County

Historic Falmouth E-47

Founded in 1727 as a trading center for the Northern Neck. Hunter's iron works here were an objective in the Virginia campaign of 1781. The Army of the Potomac camped here from November, 1862 to June, 1863 and moved hence to Chancellorsville and Gettysburg.

Historic Falmouth E-47

The town of Falmouth was established here in 1727 at the falls of the Rappahannock River. One of Virginia's busiest ports during the 18th and early 19th centuries, the town offered a tobacco inspection station, tobacco and cotton warehouses, flour mills, a ferry, and stores. Hunter's Iron Works nearby provided crucial supplies to the Continental army during the American Revolution. Union forces arrived in Falmouth in April 1862 and returned to camp here during the winter of 1862-1863, after the First Battle of Fredericksburg. Thousands of enslaved African Americans fled to Union lines and freedom. Prominent residents have included abolitionist Moncure Daniel Conway and artist Gari Melchers.

(107/699)

16. Hampton Roads VDOT District; James City County

Spencer's Ordinary W-35

On this road, four miles south, the action of Spencer's Ordinary was fought, June 24, 1781, between detachments from Lafayette's and Cornwallis's armies.

Spencer's Ordinary W-35

During the spring of 1781, outnumbered American troops under the Marquis de Lafayette monitored Lt. Gen. Charles Cornwallis's British forces as they raided central Virginia. In mid-June Cornwallis turned toward Williamsburg. Lafayette, reinforced, sent a detachment under Col. Richard Butler to attack British Lt. Col. John G. Simcoe, who had left Cornwallis's main column to conduct a raid along the Chickahominy River. On 26 June, Butler's men found

Simcoe's rangers resting at Spencer's Ordinary, three miles southwest of here. After a sharp but inconclusive skirmish, the two sides disengaged rather than risk a larger battle.

(95/630)

17. Hampton Roads VDOT District; Northampton County

Old Courthouse WY-10

The courthouse was moved to Eastville in 1677, and court has been held here ever since. The old courthouse was built about 1731; from its door the Declaration of Independence was read, August 13, 1776. Militia Barracks were here during the Revolution. Just behind the courthouse is the debtors' prison.

Old Courthouse WY-10

Northampton County was one of Virginia's eight original shires formed by 1634. It encompassed the entire peninsula south of Maryland and was known as Accomac until the General Assembly changed its name in 1643. Present-day Accomack County broke off in 1663. Northampton's court was moved from Town Fields to what is now Eastville in 1690. The 1731 courthouse, the third built here, was relocated to the north edge of the green to save it from demolition in 1913. From its door the Declaration of Independence was read on 13 Aug. 1776. The two-story Romanesque Revival courthouse was built in 1899.

(100/597)

18. Hampton Roads VDOT District; Southampton County

William Mahone's Birthplace US-3

Three and a half miles southwest, at Monroe, Major-General William Mahone was born, December 1, 1826. He served brilliantly in the Confederate army throughout the war, and won the title, "Hero of the Crater," at Petersburg, July 30, 1864. He was United States Senator, 1881-1887. Mahone died in Washington, October 8, 1895.

William Mahone's Birthplace US-3

William Mahone was born about four miles southwest of here on 1 Dec. 1826. As chief engineer of the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad, he oversaw construction of the line between the two cities. He became the railroad's president in 1860. Mahone served in the Confederate army and was promoted to major general after leading a counterattack at the Battle of the Crater near Petersburg in July 1864. In 1879 he helped found the Readjuster Party, a biracial coalition that favored strong state support of public schools and opposed full payment of Virginia's antebellum state debt. He served in the U.S. Senate (1881-1887) and died in 1895.

(107/636)

19. Lynchburg VDOT District; Charlotte County

Cub Creek Church FR-14

Six miles south is Cub Creek Presbyterian Church, the oldest church in this section. The neighborhood was known as the Caldwell Settlement for John Caldwell, grandfather of John C. Calhoun of South Carolina. About 1738 he brought here a colony of Scotch-Irish and obtained permission to establish a church.

Cub Creek Church FR-14

Cub Creek Presbyterian Church, the oldest church in this area, stood four miles southwest of here. The neighborhood was known as the Caldwell Settlement for John Caldwell, great-grandfather of U.S. senator and vice president John C. Calhoun, of South Carolina. Caldwell, born in Ireland, obtained permission to establish a dissenting church in Virginia in 1738 and led a group of Scots-Irish immigrants here several years later. Among Cub Creek's visiting preachers were John Blair, Samuel Davies, and Samuel Stanhope Smith. Meeting here in Oct. 1774, the Hanover Presbytery established schools that later became Washington and Lee University and Hampden-Sydney College. The church burned in 1937.

(105/697)

20. Lynchburg VDOT District; Charlotte County

Staunton Bridge Action F-82

The railroad bridge over Staunton River, nine miles west, was held by a body of Confederate reserves and citizens from Halifax, Charlotte and Mecklenburg counties against Union cavalry raiding to destroy railroads, June 25, 1864. When the Unionists attempted to burn the bridge,

they were repulsed. Meanwhile Confederate cavalry attacked from the rear. Thereupon the raiders retreated to Grant's army at Petersburg.

Staunton Bridge Action F-82

On 22 June 1864, more than 5,000 Union cavalrymen under Brig. Gens. James Wilson and August Kautz left Petersburg, newly under siege, to cut Confederate supply lines. Moving along the South Side and Richmond & Danville Railroads, they tore up track and burned stations. On 25 June they tried to destroy the railroad bridge over the Staunton (Roanoke) River, about six miles west of here. Confederate troops under Capt. Benjamin Farinholt, reinforced by local men and boys, repulsed four Union assaults. The Federals retreated toward Petersburg with the bridge intact. The Confederates quickly repaired the damaged railroad track and reopened supply lines to the city.

(105/667)

21. Lynchburg VDOT District; Charlotte County

Roanoke Plantation F-80

Nine miles west is Roanoke, home of John Randolph, a member of the House of Representatives for many years, and Senator. Randolph at first was Jefferson's lieutenant and later on an opponent and critic, but he never lost the love of his constituents. He died in Philadelphia, May 24, 1833, and was buried here; later his remains were removed to Richmond.

Roanoke Plantation F-80

Roanoke, about eight miles west of here, was the home of John Randolph (1773-1833), member of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, delegate to Virginia's Constitutional Convention of 1829-1830, and minister to Russia. A talented orator, Randolph defended states' rights during his three decades in public office. At Roanoke, primarily a tobacco plantation, Randolph bred celebrated racehorses. Hundreds of enslaved African Americans worked on his land. Randolph freed his slaves in his will and provided for their resettlement in Ohio. Widely known during his adult life as "John Randolph of Roanoke," he died in Philadelphia and is buried in Richmond.

(101/661)

22. Lynchburg VDOT District; Halifax County

Staunton River State Park U-48

This park was developed by the National Park Service, Interior Department, through the Civilian Conservation Corps, in conjunction with the Virginia Conservation Commission. It covers 1200 acres and was opened, June 15, 1936. Near by is Occaneechee Island where Nathaniel Bacon defeated the Indians in 1676.

Staunton River State Park U-48

Staunton River State Park, about nine miles southeast of here, opened on 15 June 1936. One of Virginia's six original state parks, it was planned by the Virginia Commission on Conservation and Development in consultation with the National Park Service. Members of the federal Civilian Conservation Corps, a New Deal program created to employ young men during the Great Depression, arrived in 1933 and built roadways, trails, cabins, picnic areas, and other facilities before leaving in 1938. The park, located at the confluence of the Dan and Staunton (Roanoke) Rivers, was reduced by about 300 acres with the completion of Buggs Island Lake in 1953.

(105/648)

23. Northern Virginia VDOT District; Fairfax County

First Battle of Manassas C-20

McDowell gathered his forces here, July 18, 1861, to attack Beauregard, who lay west of Bull Run. From here a part of the Union army moved north to cross Bull Run and turn the Confederate left wing, July 21, 1861. This movement brought on the battle.

First Battle of Manassas C-20

Union Brig. Gen. Irvin McDowell and his 35,000-man army left Washington, D.C., on 16 July 1861 and moved toward Manassas Junction, a strategically important railroad intersection defended by Confederate Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard. The Union vanguard reached Centreville on 18 July, advanced southward to Blackburn's Ford on Bull Run, and retreated after a sharp skirmish. McDowell, headquartered at Centreville, revised his battle plan and on 21 July moved northwest to attack the Confederate left flank. After a day of intense fighting,

Confederate reinforcements arrived on the field and repulsed the Federals, who, along with civilian observers, fled back through Centreville toward Washington.

(102/699)

24. Northern Virginia VDOT District; Fairfax County

Second Battle of Manassas C-22

Here Pope gathered his forces, August 30-31, 1862. From this point he detached troops to check Jackson at Ox Hill while the Union army retreated to the defenses at Alexandria.

Second Battle of Manassas C-22

After the Second Battle of Manassas, fought about six miles west of here on 28-30 Aug. 1862, Union Maj. Gen. John Pope and his defeated Army of Virginia withdrew to Centreville. From here Pope sent troops to block an attempt by Confederate Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson to get between Centreville and Washington. The resulting battle at Chantilly (Ox Hill), four miles north of here, stopped Jackson's advance on 1 Sept. Pope led his army back toward Washington but was relieved of his command several days later. Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee seized the initiative and moved his army into Maryland, where the Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg) took place on 17 Sept.

(113/675)

25. Richmond VDOT District; Brunswick County

Old Brunswick Courthouse S-65

Here the first courthouse of Brunswick County was built about 1732. In 1746, when the county was divided, the county seat was moved east near Thomasburg. In 1783, after Greensville County had been formed, the courthouse was moved to Lawrenceville.

Old Brunswick Courthouse S-65

The Virginia General Assembly established Brunswick County in 1720 to encourage English settlement between the fall line and French outposts west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Until 1732, when Brunswick's court was constituted, residents attended court in Prince George

County. The first Brunswick County courthouse was built near here ca. 1732. When county boundaries shifted, the court was moved about eight miles to the east in 1746. In 1783 the court's location was again moved, and the town of Lawrenceville, still the county seat, grew up around it.

(88/554)

26. Richmond VDOT District; Charles City County

Shirley V-6

The house is a short distance south. Shirley was first occupied in 1613 and was known as West-and-Shirley Hundred. In 1664, Edward Hill patented the place, which was left by the third Edward Hill to his sister, Elizabeth Carter, in 1720. Here was born Anne Hill Carter, mother of Robert E. Lee, who often visited Shirley. The present house was built about 1740.

Shirley V-6

West and Shirley Hundred, one of Virginia's earliest English settlements, was established along the James River just to the south ca. 1613. Edward Hill purchased land here in 1656 and acquired about 2,500 acres by 1660. The property passed to his great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Hill, who married John Carter, son of Robert "King" Carter, in 1723. The mansion, dependencies, and barns were built for them ca. 1738. Their son, Charles, remodeled the interior of the house and enlarged the porticoes during the 1770s. Ann Hill Carter, mother of Robert E. Lee, grew up at Shirley and married Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee here in 1793. Shirley is a National Historic Landmark.

(109/672)

27. Richmond VDOT District; Charles City County

Greenway V-10

This was the home of John Tyler, Governor of Virginia, 1808-1811. His son, John Tyler, President of the United States, was born here, March 29, 1790.

Greenway V-10

John Tyler, tenth president of the United States, was born here at Greenway on 29 March 1790. The frame plantation house was built ca. 1776 for his father, John Tyler, a noted jurist and governor of Virginia (1808-1811), who is buried on the property. The future president grew up at Greenway and lived here again during the 1820s while serving in the Virginia House of Delegates, as governor of Virginia, and in the United States Senate. He and his wife, Letitia Christian, moved to Gloucester County at the end of the decade. In 1842, during his presidential term, Tyler bought Sherwood Forest, about three miles east of here.

(108/628)

28. Richmond VDOT District; Charles City County

Charles City C. H. V-11

In 1702 Charles City County, which then included both sides of James River, was divided; the courthouse here was built about 1730. Here Simcoe's British cavalry surprised a party of militia, January 8, 1781. Here Grant's army passed on its way to the river, June, 1864.

Charles City Court House V-11

Charles City County, named for King Charles I, was one of Virginia's eight original shires formed by 1634. It encompassed land south of the James River until 1702, when Prince George County was established. The courthouse was completed here in 1757. On 8 Jan. 1781, during the Revolutionary War, a British detachment under Lt. Col. John G. Simcoe surprised and dispersed an American militia unit stationed here. During the Civil War, Union forces passed through in 1862, 1863, and 1864, and many county records were destroyed. On 13 Dec. 1863 Union cavalrymen captured dozens of Confederates garrisoned here.

(98/608)

29. Richmond VDOT District; Charles City County

Berkeley Plantation or Harrison's Landing V-7

A short distance south. It was first settled in 1619, when the first Thanksgiving was held here. The present mansion, built in 1726, was the birthplace of Benjamin Harrison, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and President William Henry Harrison. During July and August, 1862, it was the headquarters of General McClellan. The bugle call "Taps" was composed here then by General Butterfield.

Berkeley Plantation or Harrison's Landing V-7

English settlers established Berkeley Hundred just south of here in 1619. Benjamin Harrison III, a merchant and planter, purchased the property in 1691. The Georgian plantation house was built in 1726 for Benjamin Harrison IV and his wife, Anne Carter, a daughter of Robert "King" Carter. Born here were Benjamin Harrison V, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and his son, William Henry Harrison, ninth president of the United States. British forces under Benedict Arnold ransacked Berkeley during the Revolutionary War. Union Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac camped here in the summer of 1862. The bugle call "Taps" was composed then by Brig. Gen. Daniel Butterfield.

(110/695)

30. Richmond VDOT District; Charles City County

President Tyler's Home V-21

Just to the south is Sherwood Forest, where President John Tyler lived after his retirement from the presidency until his death in 1862. He bought the place in 1842 and came to it as his home in March, 1845. Here Tyler, with his young second wife, entertained much and raised another large family. The house, well-furnished, was damaged in the war period, 1862-65.

President Tyler's Home V-21

Just to the south is Sherwood Forest, where John Tyler lived after his retirement from the presidency until his death in 1862. He bought the plantation in 1842, during his presidency, and moved in after his term ended in March 1845. Here Tyler and his second wife, Julia Gardiner, raised a large family. Among their children were David Gardiner Tyler, member of the U.S. House of Representatives in the 1890s, and Lyon Gardiner Tyler, a prominent historian and president of the College of William and Mary from 1888 to 1919.

(91/525)

31. Richmond VDOT District; Chesterfield County

Eppington M-8

Two and one-third miles south stands Eppington, built in the late 1760s by Francis Eppes and his wife Elizabeth Wayles Eppes, half-sister to Martha Wayles Jefferson. Thomas Jefferson frequently visited Eppington. Lucy Jefferson, his daughter, died and was presumably buried at Eppington in 1786. Mary Jefferson, another daughter, was married to John Wayles Eppes, the son of Francis and Elizabeth Wayles Eppes, in 1797, and subsequently resided at Eppington.

Eppington M-8

Eppington, about two miles south of here, was built ca. 1770 for Francis Eppes and his wife, Elizabeth Wayles, half-sister of Martha Wayles Jefferson. Two wings were added to the wood-frame house about 1790. More than 100 enslaved African Americans worked on the 4,000-acre plantation. Two of Thomas Jefferson's daughters, Lucy and Mary (later known as Maria), lived here while he served as minister to France. Lucy died here at age two. Maria married John Wayles Eppes, son of Francis and Elizabeth, in 1797 and made Eppington her home. During a visit to Eppington in 1789, Thomas Jefferson received word from Pres. George Washington of his nomination as secretary of state.

(111/675)

32. Richmond VDOT District; Dinwiddie County

Colonel John Banister K-308

One mile to the south is the site of Hatcher's Run Plantation and the grave site of Col. John Banister (D. 1787), first mayor of Petersburg and prosperous entrepreneur. Banister represented Dinwiddie County in the House of Burgesses (1765-1775) and the conventions of 1775 and 1776. He was a member of the Continental Congress, a framer and signer of the Articles of Confederation, and a cavalry officer during the Revolution.

Col. John Banister (1734-1788) K-308

John Banister, Revolutionary leader, is buried one mile to the south. A tobacco planter and entrepreneur, Banister operated sawmills and flour mills near Petersburg. He lived at Battersea, an architecturally distinguished house about 10 miles east of here, and served in the Virginia House of Burgesses. During the 1770s Banister attended Virginia's Revolutionary Conventions and sat on the committee that produced the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the state's first constitution. He was later elected to the House of Delegates and the Continental Congress. Banister signed the Articles of Confederation, served as a militia colonel during the Revolution, and was the first mayor of Petersburg.

(105/700)

33. Richmond VDOT District; Dinwiddie County

Central State Hospital I-6

Established in 1869 in temporary quarters at Howard's Grove near Richmond. In 1870 it came under control of the State. In 1885 it was moved to the present location, the site of "Mayfield Plantation", which was purchased and donated to the State by the City of Petersburg. The first hospital in America exclusively for the treatment of mental disease in the Negro.

Central State Hospital I-6

Central State Hospital traces its origins to a mental health hospital for African Americans established ca. 1866 by the Freedmen's Bureau at Howard's Grove, near Richmond. The Commonwealth of Virginia assumed control of the facility in 1870. In 1882 the City of Petersburg purchased the Mayfield plantation here for \$15,000 and transferred the property to the hospital's board of directors. The hospital relocated in 1885 on completion of the new physical plant, which continued to expand during the 20th century. The facility provided mental health care to nonwhite Virginians until it was desegregated in the mid-1960s.

(96/621)

34. Richmond VDOT District; Goochland County

Elk Hill SA-5

Two miles south is Elk Hill, once owned by Thomas Jefferson. Lord Cornwallis made his headquarters there, June 7-15, 1781; this was the western limit of his invasion. On June 15 he turned eastward, leaving the place pillaged and carrying off slaves.

Elk Hill SA-5

About a mile southwest is Elk Hill, once owned by Thomas Jefferson. The land was patented by John Woodson in 1715 and was later acquired by John Wayles, father of Martha Wayles. Martha lived here with her first husband, Bathurst Skelton, who left her a widow in 1768 at the age of 19. Martha married Thomas Jefferson in 1772. Her sister inherited Elk Hill, but Martha and Thomas Jefferson purchased it in 1778. During the Revolutionary War, British Lt. Gen. Charles

Cornwallis made Elk Hill his headquarters for several days in June 1781. His troops destroyed the barns, and a number of enslaved African Americans left with the army. Jefferson sold Elk Hill in 1799.

(115/666)

35. Richmond VDOT District; Hanover County

Clay's Birthplace ND-6

Three miles northwest is Clay Spring, where Henry Clay was born, April 12, 1777. He passed most of his early life in Richmond, removing to Kentucky in 1797. His career as a public man and as a peacemaker between North and South is an important part of American history.

Henry Clay's Birthplace ND-6

Henry Clay was born on 12 Apr. 1777 about two miles northwest of here. His family's house, built in the mid-18th century, burned in 1870. Clay studied law in Richmond and moved to Kentucky in 1797. During half a century in public life, he served as speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senator, and Secretary of State. He championed the American System, a plan for national economic development, and negotiated the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850 in an attempt to defuse conflict between North and South. Clay, a three-time candidate for the presidency of the United States and a leader of the Whig Party, died in 1852 and is buried in Lexington, Kentucky.

(117/685)

36. Richmond VDOT District; Hanover County

Seven Days' Battles--Gaines's Mill PA-16

This is the site of Gaines's Mill, which gave its name to the battle of June 27, 1862. Here A. P. Hill's advance guard, following Porter, came in contact with the Union rear guard. After a short action the Unionists withdrew to a position on Boatswain Creek, closely pursued by the Confederates.

Seven Days' Battles--Gaines's Mill PA-16

Here stood Gaines's Mill, a multistory grist mill that burned during the Civil War. Confederate forces under Maj. Gen. A. P. Hill encountered light Federal resistance here early on the afternoon of 27 June 1862. Heavy fighting took place later in the day at Boatswain Creek, just to the southeast. There Union Brig. Gen. Fitz John Porter's V Corps established a defensive line to protect the rest of Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac as it moved toward the James River. Confederates under Gen. Robert E. Lee attacked in waves, sustaining heavy casualties. Reinforcements broke through the Union line just before sunset, and the Federals retreated across the Chickahominy River.

(113/695)

37. Richmond VDOT District; Hanover County

Patrick Henry's Birthplace ND-4

Seven miles east, at Studley, May 29, 1736, was born Patrick Henry, the orator of the Revolution.

Patrick Henry's Birthplace ND-4

Patrick Henry was born at Studley, just southeast of here, on 29 May 1736. The two-story brick manor house burned in 1807. Henry gained fame as a lawyer in the Parsons' Cause case of 1763 by challenging British authority to interfere with laws passed in Virginia. While serving in the House of Burgesses, he denounced the Stamp Act in 1765. Furthering his reputation for passionate oratory, he proclaimed "Give me liberty or give me death!" at the Virginia Convention of 1775 in Richmond. Henry was elected first governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1776. He opposed ratification of the U.S. Constitution on states' rights grounds in 1788. Henry died at Red Hill in Charlotte County in 1799.

(118/698)

(Move marker from Route 301 to Studley)

38. Richmond VDOT District; Henrico County

Wilton V-1

Five miles southwest. The house was built by William Randolph, son of William Randolph of Turkey Island, early in the eighteenth century. It was Lafayette's headquarters, May 15-20, 1781, just before Cornwallis crossed the James in pursuit of him.

Wilton V-1

Wilton, a Georgian manor house built ca. 1753 for William Randolph III and his wife, Anne Harrison, stood on the banks of the James River three and a half miles southwest of here. Enslaved African Americans grew tobacco on the 2,500-acre plantation. In May 1781, during the Revolutionary War, Wilton served as the Marquis de Lafayette's headquarters. The house, sold out of the Randolph family in 1859, went into foreclosure early in the 1930s. To ensure the building's preservation, The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Virginia purchased it in 1932. The house was dismantled and rebuilt in what is now the west end of Richmond in 1934.

(114/677)

39. Richmond VDOT District; Henrico County

Curles Neck and Bremono V-3

Curles Neck may take its name from the curls of the river or a family of that name. Richard Cocke, the Immigrant, patented land along the James River on the eastern side of the neck in 1636. There he built Bremono, the seat of the Cocke family for six generations. A descendant, John Hartwell Cocke, relocated the family seat to Upper Bremono, in Fluvanna County, early in the 19th century. In 1674 Nathaniel Bacon, Jr., the Rebel, settled on Curles Neck. In 1676 Bacon led a rebellion against the royal governor, Sir William Berkeley. With the failure of Bacon's Rebellion, some of his land was seized by the Crown to defray the costs of suppressing the rebellion. William Randolph purchased 480 acres of Bacon's land on Curles Neck in 1700.

Curles Neck and Bremono V-3

The Curles Neck peninsula was named for the curls of the James River or for a family of that name. Richard Cocke patented land on the eastern side of the neck in 1636 and built Bremono, where his descendants lived for many generations. Nathaniel Bacon settled on the western side of Curles Neck in 1674. Two years later he led an unsuccessful rebellion against Virginia's royal governor, Sir William Berkeley. William Randolph acquired Bacon's former property ca. 1700, and several generations of his politically prominent family lived there. In the 20th century Curles Neck Dairy became one of the largest commercial dairies on the East Coast.

(106/642)

40. Salem VDOT District; Bedford County

St. Stephen's Church K-140

Half a mile north is St. Stephen's Church, built about 1825 under Rev. Nicholas Cobb, later Bishop of Alabama. In the old cemetery here many members of early families of the community are buried.

St. Stephen's Church K-140

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, about a mile northwest of here, was established by the Rev. Nicholas Hamner Cobbs in 1824. Cobbs, later the first Episcopal Bishop of Alabama, is credited with revitalizing that denomination in western Virginia. The St. Stephen's congregation erected its first sanctuary ca. 1825 on land that had been part of Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest tract. This building was replaced in 1844 with the present brick Greek Revival-style sanctuary on the same site. The church's cemetery, with grave markers dating to the 1840s, reflects a variety of styles of funerary art.

(94/596)

41. Salem VDOT District; Botetourt County

Cartmill's Gap A-92

This gap, just west, is named for Henry Cartmill who acquired land nearby on Purgatory Creek. During the French and Indian War (1754-1763), conflicts between Indians and settlers increased in this area. In 1757, Indians laid waste to several nearby farmsteads, including the Robert Renick settlement a few miles north near present-day Natural Bridge. Renick was killed, while his wife and children (William, Robert, Thomas, Joshua, and Betsy) were taken captive. A neighbor, Hannah Dennis, also was made prisoner; Joseph Dennis, her husband, and their child were among those killed. The Indians escaped south through Cartmill's Gap.

Cartmill's (Cartmell) Gap A-92

Cartmill's Gap, just northwest, is named for Henry Cartmill, who acquired land nearby on Purgatory Creek. During the Seven Years' War (1756-1763), conflicts between Indians and settlers increased in this area. In July 1757, Shawnee Indians attacked several nearby farmsteads, including the Robert Renick settlement a few miles north of here. Renick was killed, while his wife and children were captured and taken to the Ohio Country. A neighbor, Hannah Dennis,

was also captured; her husband, Joseph, and their child were among those killed. A party of settlers pursued the Shawnee and killed at least nine of them in a skirmish before the Shawnee escaped through Cartmill's Gap.

(108/679)

42. Staunton VDOT District; Clarke County

Old Chapel T-2

Lord Fairfax worshipped here in the "Old Chapel" of Colonial Frederick Parish, established 1738. This stone building dates from 1790 and witnessed the early ministry (1810-1835) of Bishop Meade. Governor Edmund Randolph and Col. Nathaniel Burwell lie in this burying ground with relatives, friends, and neighbors.

Old Chapel T-2

The Virginia General Assembly established Frederick Parish in 1738, and a log sanctuary was built here ca. 1747. A stone church, later known as Old Chapel, replaced the log building ca. 1793. The Rev. William Meade served the congregation for about 25 years early in the 19th century. A founder of what is now the Virginia Theological Seminary, he became Episcopal Bishop of Virginia in 1841. Buried in Old Chapel's cemetery is Edmund Randolph (1753-1813), governor of Virginia, first U.S. attorney general, and U.S. secretary of state. Also interred here are enslaved African Americans, Union and Confederate veterans, author John Esten Cooke, and Nathaniel Burwell, builder of nearby Carter Hall.

(110/698)

43. Staunton VDOT District; Rockbridge County

New Providence Church A-39

This church, seven and a half miles west, was organized by John Blair in 1746. Five successive church buildings have been erected. The first pastor was John Brown. Samuel Brown, second pastor, had as wife Mary Moore, captured in youth by Indians and known as "The Captive of Abb's Valley." The synod of Virginia was organized here, 1788.

New Providence Church A-39

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.

(103/653)

44. Staunton VDOT District; Rockbridge County

Birthplace of Sam Houston A-52

In a cabin on the hilltop to the east Sam Houston was born, March 2, 1793. As commander-in-chief of the Texas army, he won the battle of San Jacinto, which secured Texan independence, April 21, 1836. He was President of Texas, 1836-1838, 1841-1844; United States Senator, 1846-1859; Governor, 1860-1861. He died, July, 1863.

Birthplace of Sam Houston A-52

Sam Houston was born in a log house just east of here on 2 March 1793. His family moved to Tennessee in 1807. After serving in the U.S. Army during the War of 1812, Houston studied law, was twice elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and became governor of Tennessee in 1827. For several years he lived with Cherokee Indians in present-day Oklahoma. He moved to Texas in 1832, led the fight for independence from Mexico, and served two terms as president of the Republic of Texas. He represented Texas in the U.S. Senate from 1846 to 1859. A slave-owning Unionist, he was removed as governor of Texas in 1861 after refusing to swear allegiance to the Confederacy. Houston died in 1863.

(123/693)

45. Staunton VDOT District; Rockingham County

Cavalry Engagement A-29

Here, at Lacey's Springs, Rosser's Confederate cavalry attacked Custer's camp, December 20, 1864. Rosser and Custer (of Indian fame) had been roommates at West Point.

Cavalry Engagement A-29

Union Brig. Gen. George Custer and Confederate Brig. Gen. Thomas Rosser, classmates and close friends at West Point, led their cavalry divisions against one another several times during the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864. Custer bested Rosser at Tom's Brook on 9 Oct. and again at Cedar Creek on 19 Oct. On the night of 20 Dec., Custer's division camped here at Lacey Spring while on its way to Staunton. Rosser, by then a major general, launched a surprise attack early the next morning. Following a sharp skirmish, Custer withdrew to the north. In 1873 Custer, commanding the 7th U.S. Cavalry, and Rosser, a railroad engineer, renewed their friendship in the Dakota Territory.

(113/682)

46. Staunton VDOT District; Rockingham County

Bridgewater College I-13-a

Founded near this site in 1880, the college is now located 4.3 miles east in the town of Bridgewater. This liberal arts college is affiliated with the Church of the Brethren. It grew out of the Spring Creek Normal School and Collegiate Institute and became Bridgewater College nine years later. It has been coeducational from its founding.

Bridgewater College I-13-a

Bridgewater College traces its origins to 1880, when Daniel C. Flory established the coeducational Spring Creek Normal School near this site. The school moved to the town of Bridgewater, about four miles east of here, in 1882, and became known as Bridgewater College after receiving a charter from the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1889. The core of its historic campus, constructed between 1890 and 1910, is included in the Bridgewater Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The private liberal arts college is affiliated with the Church of the Brethren.

(95/594)