



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staff and the State Review Board based on information known at the time of preparation. Recommendations concerning PIFs are subject to change if new information becomes available.

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 216-5098

1. General Property Information

Property name: GranRu Farm

Property address: 387 River Rd

City or Town: Elkton

Zip code: 22827

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Rockingham County

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 11

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban Suburban Town Village Hamlet Rural

Briefly describe the property's overall location and setting, including any notable landscape features:

The structure is an antebellum barn dating to at least 1856 based on a carving on an external board underneath the bank barn's southside cantilever. It remains largely unchanged from its original design, except for the roof which is now standing seam in place of what was likely/originally wood shingles. It has a stone foundation, post and beam/hewn timber frame, and vertical pine siding. The original estate manor house (circa 1820s) is standing on an adjacent parcel. The farmhouse now collocated with the barn was constructed in 1906 after the farm was divided in 1899 as part of the widow's dower (wife of JGH Miller, descendant of Adam Miller – 1st permanent settler in Shenandoah Valley). The entire farm is on a hill overlooking the Shenandoah River's South Fork. The farm is located on the river's west side and River Rd lies between the farm and river. The only other notable structure is a corn crib, still standing, near the barn, which is also shown in the 1899 dower survey.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Bank Barn

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: _____

If the builder is known, please list here: Unknown

Date of construction (can be approximate): ~1856

Narrative Description (Please do not exceed one page in describing the property):

Briefly describe the property's general characteristics, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions or other major alterations.

It is a traditional Pennsylvania German bank barn measuring roughly 80 ft x 40 ft. Until about 15 years ago, the post and beam barn had been in active use as part of the farming operation. For the past 50 years it stored hay and grain, along with shelter for beef and dairy cattle. Not vastly different from its utilization as a prepping and storage barn for grain and livestock when originally constructed. Currently the barn is empty and free of remaining hay that was cleared out in 2022. It has remained largely unaltered since construction. The barn is intact and based on a structural integrity survey we had completed by Al Anderson (Timber Works of Interest, LLC) in 2023, discovered some vertical support beams on the main level are splitting at wooden peg joining points to horizontal supports due to stresses from the southside cantilever, which is pulling away. There is also powderpost beetle and termite damage to some of the beams. Facia boards, which hang vertically and are fastened with square cut nails, are missing in a few spots and one corner of the stone foundation is beginning to fail - a likely result of poor water management. The main horizontal support beams appear in good condition, solid hand-hewn logs, but several vertical supports located in the lower-level livestock pens are rotted where the wooden sill plate has contacted the ground. The wood is generally pine throughout. The main space is open with grain bays on one side. Signatures, and grain counts, written in pencil, exist on some interior boards in the barn which are from the 1800s.

In a bullet list, include any outbuildings or secondary resources or major landscape features (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

- Corn crib – Stands roughly 40’ from the barn’s south-southeast corner. It is still standing and is generally in good condition considering few alterations have been made since its construction. The construction date is unknown, but it is present in an 1899 survey. It was likely built after the manor house (1820s) around the time the barn was constructed (1850s). The standing seam roof is missing on the NE corner which has allowed water to rot fascia boards, purlins, and siding boards. The corn crib is supported by old wooden powder barrels that were filled with concrete.

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4. Property's History and Significance (Please do not exceed one page)

Briefly explain the property's historic importance, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property.

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

The barn was part of the original estate owned by Colonel Henry Miller III (10 Feb 1797 - 22 Jan 1873), the great grandson of Adam Miller (Mueller), recognized as the the first permanent European settler in the Shenandoah Valley (1703-1783 // VA Historic Landmarks Commission #JD-8). The barn and land parcel where it is located were separated from the original estate as part of a widow's dower, per Rockingham County Circuit Court records filed on 14 Sept 1899 and included in this submission.

The barn has also been featured in local papers (e.g. Valley Banner, Thursday, June 26, 2014) because it was one of only a few that survived "The Burning" of infrastructure by Union General Sheridan in Rockingham County in 1864. That year Union troops conducted a 13-day burning in Augusta, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Page Counties, after the defeat of Gen. Jubal Early's Confederate forces. Of the more than 1400 barns that were burned, this one was among only a small handful there were spared. Generally, only barns and mills owned by widows, single women and orphans were to be exempted. Since the barn was owned by Joseph George Harnesberger (JGH) Miller (1837-1899), an officer in the Confederate army's 10th Virginia under Stonewall Jackson, there would have been no reason it wouldn't have been reduced to ashes. According to the Miller's descendants, however, the barn was not destroyed because the wife of JGH Miller (1837-1899) convinced Union troops JGH was a Freemason.

Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property, such as deeds, census and tax records, and/or published articles and books. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

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-
-
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5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: _____ Public\Local _____ Public\State _____ Public\Federal _____

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: Hunter and Christie Martin

organization: _____

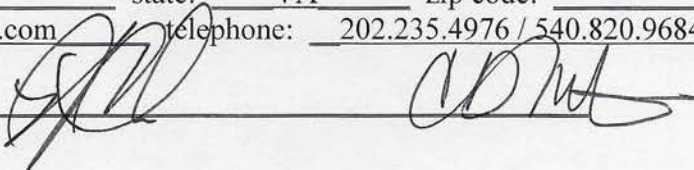
street & number: 387 River Road

city or town: Elkton state: VA zip code: _____

e-mail: HunterandChristie@gmail.com telephone: 202.235.4976 / 540.820.9684

Legal Owner's Signature: _____

Date: 5/6/2024



•• *Signature required for processing all applications.* ••

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

name/title: _____

organization: _____

street & number: _____

city or town: _____ state: _____ zip code: _____

e-mail: _____ telephone: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH CONTINUATION SHEETS TO THIS FORM. THANK YOU!

Dec. 1899.

In the Circuit Court of Rockingham County, October Term 1899.

J. G. H. Miller's Adm'r.

Complainant.

vs.

In Chancery.

J. G. H. Miller's Heirs

Defendants.

This cause came on to be further heard this 12th day of October, 1899, upon the papers heretofore read, proceedings heretofore had, upon the report of Master Commissioner, J. P. Jones, filed September 14th, 1899, and the cause was argued by counsel. Upon consideration whereof, the court, without now passing upon the said report, but it appearing therefrom that Balle P. Miller, the widow of J. G. H. Miller, deceased, is dowable in the real estate of which her husband died seized, and that she desires that the same shall be allotted to her in kind, it is therefore ordered adjudged and decreed, that M. M. Jarman, H. B. C. Gentry, B. F. Coffman, J. W. Churchill, and Jasper Hance, any three of whom may act be and they are hereby appointed Commissioners, whose duty it shall be to assign and allot to the said Balle P. Miller her dower in the real estate of which her husband, J. G. H. Miller, died seized, consisting of about 180 acres of land, situate on the Shenandoah River, near Elkton, Virginia.

Said Commissioners before acting under this order, shall first be duly sworn, and shall make a report to this term of court returning therewith a plat showing the portion of said tract, allotted as dower as aforesaid.

Commissioner's Report.

Hon. S. H. Letcher, Judge of the Circuit Court of Rockingham County. The undersigned Comrs. appointed by decree entered in the above cause on the 12th inst. to assign dower to Mrs. Balle P. Miller, wife of J. G. H. Miller dec'd. respectfully Report that we went upon the lands of said dec'd. on the 18th inst. and after a careful examination of the tract, buildings or cut off to said widow 4.2 Acres from the south west end of the tract including mansion house, garden, outbuilding, except the barn, tool house, corn crib, buggy house or perhaps some other small building on the north of the line marked on the ground. A plat of the tract cut off and assigned is herewith submitted. It follows field fences N. W. of the buildings and leaves the remainder of the farm (about 135 Acres) in compact town and good shade to farm separately from

E. 27.4 ps. to a rock; thence S. 6 W. 14 ps. to a stake in the old Rockingham Pike; thence with the same S. 76 $\frac{3}{4}$ E. 17 poles to a stake in the middle of the pike opposite a large rock; thence N. 66 E. 21.6 ps. to a stone on the South side of the pike; thence N. 87 $\frac{1}{2}$ E. 3.6 poles, to a stone & small cedar on the south side of the pike; thence N. 78 $\frac{3}{4}$ E. 53.1 ps. to a stake on the North side of the pike; thence N. 30 W. 14 ps. to a black oak; thence N. 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ E. 5.3 ps. to a stake in a lot; thence S. 71 E. 7.6 ps. to a post in a fence; thence N. 23 E. 10.1 ps. to a locust post in a fence; and thence S. 86 E. 7.6 ps. to the place of beginning containing as before stated 42 Acres be the same more or less with all its appurtenances.

This tract we think is a fair third in value of the entire tract of about 150 acres. We did not have the balance of the tract surveyed. We respectfully recommend that this assignment be confirmed by Court. We were each duly sworn by W. K. Jennings N.P. and were one day on the work. J. Hance did the surveying and made the plat. We also give said widow as part of her said dower a right of way along the fence inside the field from her line down the river road to the North side of the cattle bridge and thence under it to the race; said right of way to be used only when her water supply at the house as now supplied by the mill may be cut off or discontinued.

Respectfully Submitted.

J. W. Churchill
M. M. Jarman
H. B. C. Hentry
B. F. Coffman
J. Hance

Comrs

Virginia, Rockingham County, to wit.

J. W. K. Jennings, Notary Public for the County of Rockingham, Virginia, do certify that the Commissioners whose names are signed to the foregoing paper were all duly sworn by me before entering upon the work described above.

Given under my hand this 18th day of October, 1899.

W. K. Jennings N.P.

to said Ballie P. Miller, as her dower interest in said land, quantity and quality, and improvements duly considered, forty two acres from the Southeast end of said 180 acre tract including mansion house, and garden, more particularly described and designated by metes and bounds in said report and the plat accompanying same, and there being no objection made to said report and assignment of dower therein set out, it is accordingly adjudged, ordered and decreed that said report of the special Commissioners aforesaid, be and it is hereby in all respects ratified approved and confirmed, and the clerk of this court is directed to deliver to the Clerk of the County Court of Rockingham County, Va. a certified copy of said report and plat together with copy of this decree, to be recorded by him as required by law.

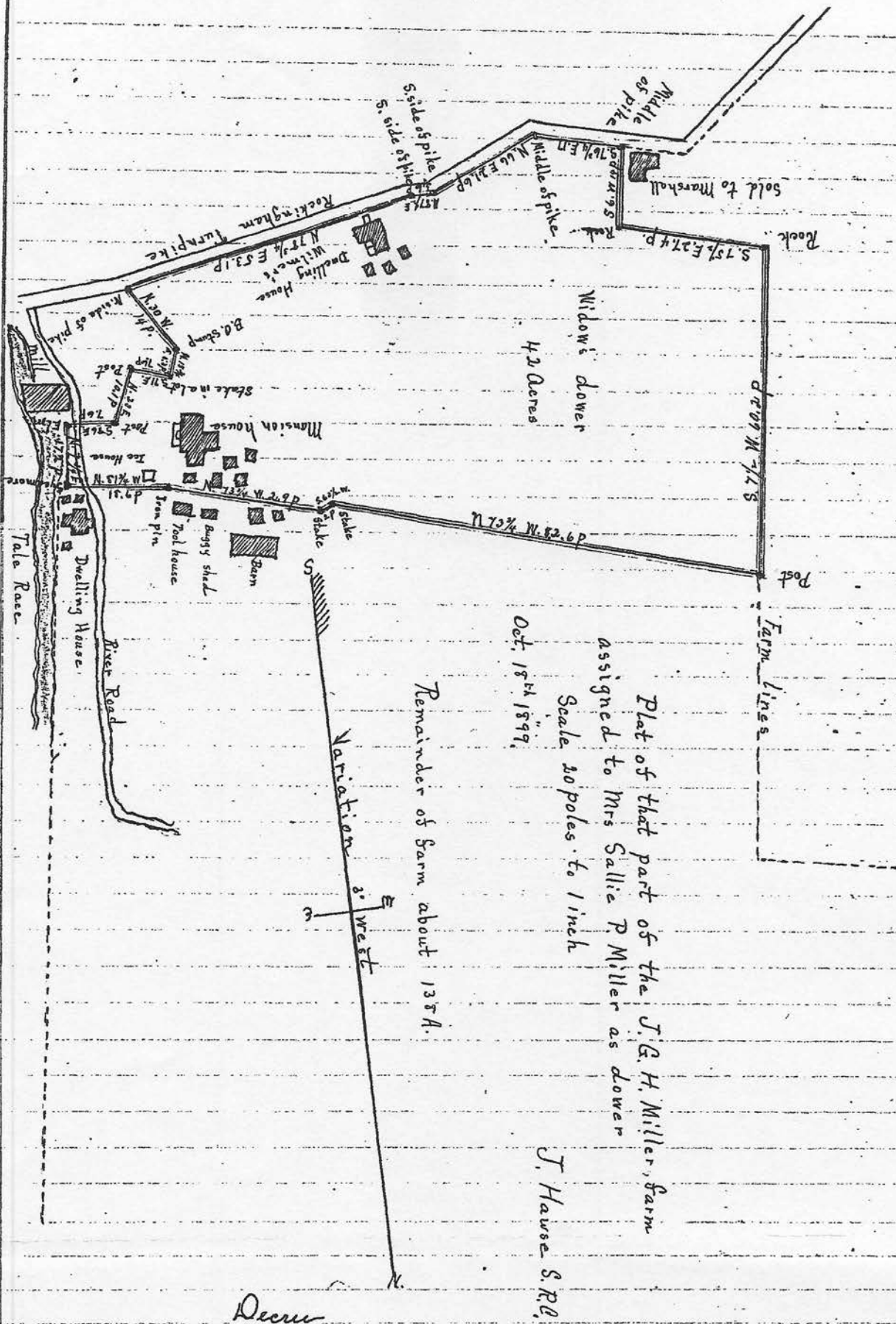
A Copy Teste
D. H. Lee Martz, Clerk.

Virginia.
In the Clerk's Office of the County Court of Rockingham County. November 13. 1899.
The foregoing assignment of Dower to Ballie P. Miller widow of J. G. H. Miller deceased, was this day presented in the office aforesaid, and is, together with the Decree of the Circuit Court of said County, admitted to record.

Teste
J. B. Messerley, Clerk.

Examined
Dec. 15/99.
Delivered to H. B.
Amesworth
May 3, 1900
J. B. Messerley
Clerk

In the Circuit Court of Rockingham County, October Term, 1899.
Bilum Peller's Heirs Complainants.
vs. In Chancery.
Defendants.
This cause came on to be heard this 11th day of October, 1899, upon the bill and exhibits filed, process duly executed the answer of the defendants by H. W. Bertram their Guardian ad litem and argument of counsel.
Upon consideration whereof, the Court doth adjudge, order and decree that D. H. Moore, Peter W. Long, Geo. W. Risher, J. Newman Eaman and B. F. Amesworth, who are hereby appointed Commissioners for the purpose, any three or more of whom may act, having been first duly sworn, do proceed to lay off and divide the real estate mentioned in said bill, of which Bilum Peller died seized and possessed into six



Decur
 This cause came on to be heard this 26th day of October, 1899, upon
 the papers formerly read and proceedings heretofore had, the
 report of Master Commissioner & R. Jones dated Oct. 29th 1899

The Applicant must read, or have read to her, every word in this Application
 PENSIONERS now on the ROLL are NOT required to make new application, but must file annual certificate.
**THIS APPLICATION must be filed with the Clerk of the Corporation Court of Your City or Circuit Court
 of Your County**

(No application will be entertained not on the printed form.)

FORM No. 5

APPLICATION of a widow of a Soldier, Sailor, or Marine of the late Confederacy under act approved February 22, 1918, as amended by act approved March 11, 1922.

I, Sallie P. Miller do hereby apply for a pension under the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of Virginia, approved February 22, 1918, relating to Confederate pensions, as amended by Act approved March 11, 1922.
 I do solemnly swear that I am a citizen of the State of Virginia, and that I have been an actual resident of the said State for two years next preceding the date of this application, and that I am the widow of Joseph George Hornsberger Miller, who was a soldier (sailor or marine) in the service of the Confederate States in the War between the States, and that I was married to him on or before May 1st, eighteen hundred and seventy-seven (May 1, 1877), and to the best of my knowledge during the said war my husband was loyal and true to his duty, and never at any time deserted his command or voluntarily abandoned his post of duty in the said service, and that I was never divorced from my said husband, and that I never voluntarily abandoned him during his life, but remained his true, lawful and lawful wife up to the time of his death, and that I am a widow at the date of making this application, and that I am now entitled to receive a pension under the provisions of said act. I do further swear that I do not hold a national, state or county office, which pays a salary or fee amounting to three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per annum, nor have I income from any source whatever which amounts to three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per annum, nor do I receive from any source whatever money, or other means of support, amounting in value to three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per annum; nor do I own in my own right, nor is there held in trust for my own benefit, estate or property either real, personal, or mixed in fee or for life of the assessed value of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) or more which yields a total income which amounts to three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per annum, or which yields an income which, added to my income from all other sources, amounts to as much as three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per annum. I do further swear that I do not receive a pension from any other State or from the United States, nor do I receive necessary aid from any source whatever. I do solemnly swear that the answers given to the questions which I am required to answer in this application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

All questions must be answered fully. Widows married after May 1, 1877, are not entitled to pensions.

1. What is your name? Sallie P. Miller
2. What is your age? 84 Years Old.
3. Where were you born? Page, Va.
4. How long have you resided in Virginia? 84
5. How long have you resided in the City or County of your present residence? 55 years.
6. Where do you reside? If in a city, give street address.
 Postoffice Edkton
 County of Rockingham Virginia
7. With whom do you reside?
Mrs. T. Miller (Daughter)
8. What was your husband's full name?
Joseph George Hornsberger Miller
9. When, where and by whom were you married?
 When? 1869
 Where? Page, Va.
 By whom? Rev. Watson
10. When and where did your husband die?
at Edkton Va. June 9, 1889
11. What was the cause of his death?
Heart failure
12. Give name and address of physician who attended your husband at the time of his death. (See Certificate "D.")
 Name Dr. J. H. Wolfe (decd)
 Address Edkton Va.
13. Have you married since the death of your husband? If yes, give full particulars.
No
14. In what branch of the army did your husband serve?
10th Virginia Regiment
1 Company

15. Who were his immediate superior officers?
 Colonel J. B. Gibbons
 Captain W. C. Covington
16. Give the names and addresses of two comrades who served in the same command with your husband during the war. (See Certificate "B")
 Name W. T. Powell
 Address Edkton Va.
 Name _____
 Address _____
17. Give the names and addresses of two persons who are familiar with the circumstances of your husband's service and death. (See Certificate "C.")
 Name W. T. Powell
 Address Edkton Va.
 Name J. H. Wolfe
 Address Edkton Va.
18. What assistance do you receive, and what income have you from all sources?
\$175.00

NOTE—By income is meant the total, gross receipts derived by you from all crops (whether sold or used), wages and other sources valued in dollars.

19. How much property do you own?
 Real Estate, \$ None
 Personal Property, \$ None
20. Was your husband on the pension roll of Virginia? If yes, in what county, or city was his pension allowed?
No
21. Have you ever applied for a pension in Virginia before? If yes, why are you not drawing one at this time?
No
22. Is there a camp of Confederate Veterans in your city or county?
Yes
23. Give here any other information you may possess relating to the service of your husband or the cause of his death which will support the justice of your claim.

A signature made by X mark is not valid unless attended by a witness.

WITNESS A. D. Gentry

Sallie P. Miller
 Signature of Applicant.

I, A. D. Gentry, Notary Public in and for the County of Rockingham, in the State of Virginia, do certify that the applicant whose name is signed to the foregoing application, personally appeared before me in my capacity aforesaid, having the aforesaid application read to her and fully explained, as well as the statements and answers herein made, that said applicant made oath before me that the said statements and answers are true.

Given under my hand this 7 day of Sept, 1927
A. D. Gentry N.P.
 Signature of Officer.

SIX GENERATION CHART

Compiled by _____

Date _____



MIDWEST
GENEALOGY
CENTER

2 Jacob Henry Miller
Father

B 9 April 1874
W
D 21 Dec 1950
W
M
W

Ancestors of:

1 Christine Ursula Miller

B
W
D
W
M
W

Spouse of Number 1

Littleton Byrd Jeffries

3 Cora D. Brill
Mother

B 16 Sept. 1879
W
D 6 April 1950
W

Key

B - When Born
W - Where Born
D - When Died
W - Where Died
M - When Married
W - Where Married

4 Joseph George Harnesberger
Grandfather, Miller

B 7 April 1837
W
D 9 June 1899
W
M
W

5 Phelonia Sallie R. Brubaker
Grandmother

B 28 Sept. 1839?
W
D 9 June 1928
W

6 John Whitfield Brill
Grandfather

B 8 Aug 1851
W
D 1 Feb 1936
W East Point Cemetery
M
W

7 Sarah Jane Moyers
Grandmother (Myers)

B
W
D
W

8 Col. Henry Miller (III)
B 10 Feb 1797
W
D 22 Jan 1873
W

9 Susan Ursula Harnesberger

B 25 Feb 1801
W
D 12 Jan 1874
W

10 Jacob Brubaker

B 25 Nov 1803
W Page Co
D 27 Jul 1872
W Page Co

11 Elizabeth Bear

B 15 Jan 1806
W Elkton
D 29 Sept 1881
W Page Co

12 Henry Brill

B
W
D
W

13 Elizabeth Myers

B
W
D
W

14

B
W
D
W

15

B
W
D
W

16 Henry Miller Sr.
B 14 9 1764
D 18 Sept 1850
17 Martha Catherine Price

18 Conrad Harnesberger

B
D
19 Anna Barbara Miller
B
D

20 John Brubaker

B
D
21 Barbara Brubaker
B
D

22 Henry Bear

B 1760
D 1851
23 Catherine Runkle
B 1772
D 1846

24
B
D

25
B
D

26
B
D

27
B
D

28
B
D

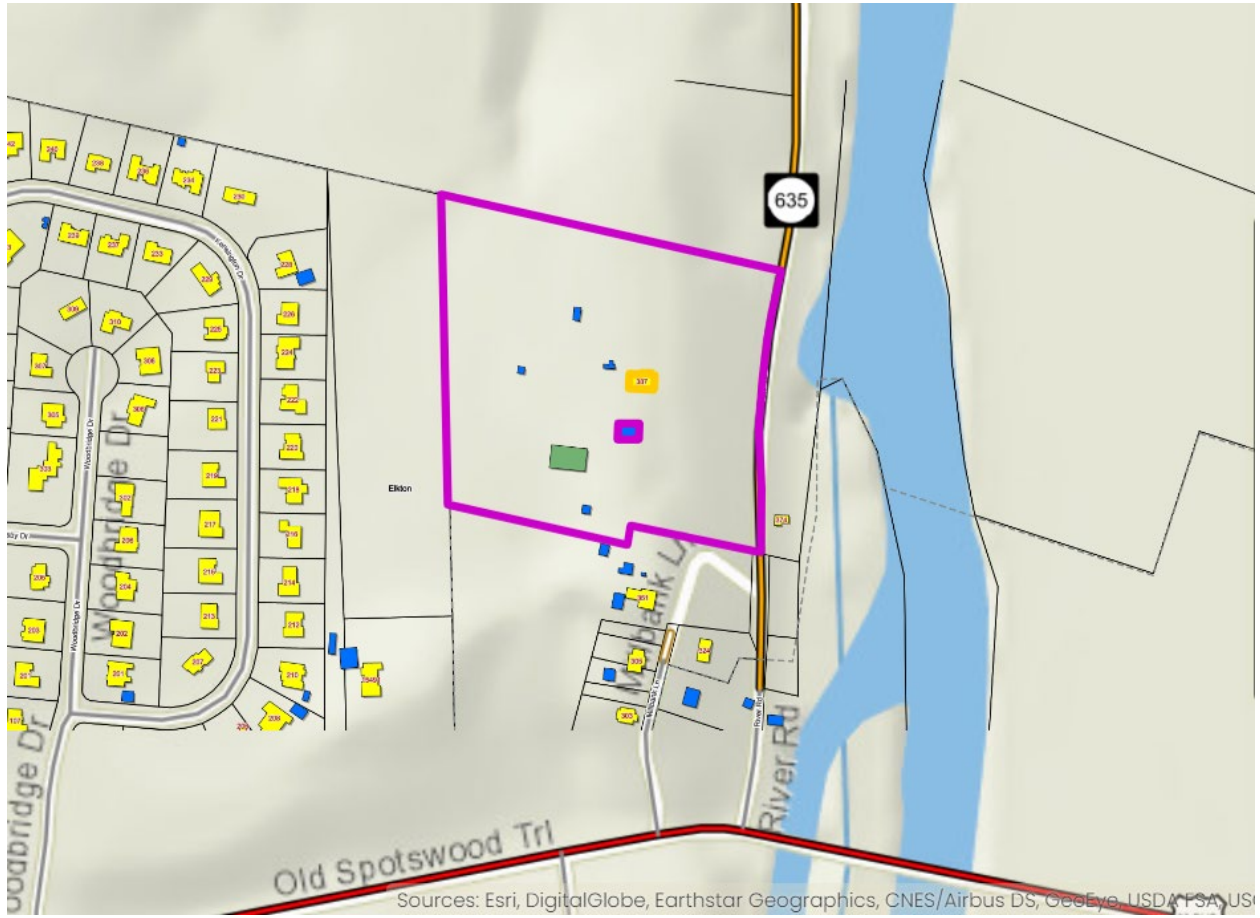
29
B
D

30
B
D

32 Henry
33 Anna E
34
35
36 Stephen
37 Ursula
38 Heinrich
39 Anna E
40 Abram
41 Barb
42 Daniel
43 Barb
44 Jacob
45 Anna
46 Peter
47 Marga
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Littleton was born in Warrenton on 30 March 1891 & died in Elkton on 9 Nov. 1967. He worked for the telephone company. His middle name may have been Brown not Byrd.

M



GranNu Farm Parcel Map
Rockingham County GIS



GranNu Farm
Aerial Map, Rockingham County GIS



GranNu Farm
Aerial Map, Google Maps

















































Herndon & Dull

N.B. [unclear]



































































