NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

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National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1042

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Ben Venue Rural Historic District

Other names/site number: DHR No. 078-5141

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: Ben Venue Road, Williams Farm Lane, Fogg Mountain Lane, the privately owned Hickerson Mountain Lane, and the privately owned Points of View Lane

City or town: Flint Hill State: VA County: Rappahannock

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: X

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___B X C ___D

12/15/15

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

Ben Venue Rural Historic District
Name of Property

Rappahannock County, VA
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

2-2-16
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	X
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	
District	X
Site	
Structure	
Object	

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
53	50	buildings
2	0	sites
10	9	structures
8	0	objects
73	59	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 10

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling; Multiple Dwelling; Secondary Structure
COMMERCE/TRADE/ Business; Warehouse
RELIGION/ Religious Facility
FUNERARY/ Cemetery
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/ Storage; Agricultural Field; Animal Facility; Agricultural Outbuilding
LANDSCAPE/ Garden
TRANSPORTATION/ Road-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling; Multiple Dwelling; Secondary Structure
COMMERCE/TRADE/ Business; Warehouse
RELIGION/ Religious Facility
FUNERARY/ Cemetery
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/ Storage; Agricultural Field; Animal Facility; Agricultural Outbuilding
LANDSCAPE/ Garden
TRANSPORTATION/ Road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
MID-19TH CENTURY/ Greek Revival
LATE VICTORIAN/ Queen Anne
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/ Colonial Revival
OTHER: Hall-parlor, Central Passage, I-House, Log

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; STONE; WOOD/ Weatherboard; Log; Shingle; METAL; STUCCO; CONCRETE ASPHALT

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Located in the northeastern portion of Rappahannock County, the Ben Venue Rural Historic District is composed of a rural landscape set in a natural valley formed by the eastern foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is a cohesive agricultural and residential community dating from the area's initial settlement period in the mid-18th century through the mid-20th century. The boundaries of the district extend along Ben Venue Road/Route 729 from the intersection of Zachary Taylor Highway/Route 522 at Flint Hill to Lee Highway/Route 211 at what was historically Gaines Crossroads. The district totals approximately 2,630 acres with 27 properties on 41 parcels. Resource types in the district include dwellings, slave quarters, barns, sheds, blacksmith shops, corncribs, privies, cemeteries, root cellars, springhouses, smokehouses, chicken houses, stables, garages, machine sheds, and kitchens. Vernacular forms and construction methods predominate the district and are represented by evolved hall-parlor dwellings and a small number of log buildings Architectural styles include vernacular interpretations of Greek Revival, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival. Stone walls and formal gardens are also important elements within the rural district. The organic settlement patterns remain consistent and the development generally follows the central transportation corridor, which is geographically defined and limited by the

surrounding landscape. With its pastoral setting and limited non-historic intrusions, the Ben Venue Rural Historic District has a high level of integrity of location, design, setting materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description

Setting

Once part of the Richmond Road Turnpike, the current Ben Venue Road extends only 3.4 miles, oriented North/South through a natural valley in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The rural district, running along Ben Venue Road/Route 729 between the late-18th-century villages of Gaines Crossroads and Flint Hill, is notable as a pristine agricultural landscape with panoramic views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Well watered by several streams and creeks, the landscape includes open rolling pastures and fields that take advantage of the area's rich agricultural soils. Large farm properties are set on hilltops with surrounding rolling fields, orchards, a vineyard and pastureland, often featuring vast panoramic views. Historic stone walls and wood fences run along the road, delineating the large farm properties, which are set against a backdrop of picturesque small mountains.

The Ben Venue Rural Historic District reflects a broad and evolving range of cultural patterns including early settlement, crossroads communities, transportation corridors, and a multitude of supporting agrarian farmsteads and orchard lands. Ben Venue Road, originally known as Richmond Road, was incorporated into one of the region's earliest turnpikes to assist the transportation of goods from the mountains to the markets in Richmond and beyond. Early development in the district included ca. 1740 claim houses, such as the one enveloped by Holly Grove (078-5141-0012), among others, and the establishment of the Battle Run Primitive Baptist Church in 1773. The dwellings constructed along this important transportation corridor were primarily built by wealthy families associated with the establishment of the nearby thriving crossroads communities. The undulating and geographically narrow landform, along with its proximity between two commercial areas, has helped to keep the area insulated from widespread development.

As a historic agricultural community, the Ben Venue Rural Historic District today is characterized by a collection of agricultural and domestic buildings as well as a single church building and a commercial orchard. The district's buildings are primarily vernacular in form and method of construction, including examples constructed of log or stone, and display little in the way of fashionable architectural styles. Despite its location on a heavily traveled thoroughfare and its close proximity to the village of Flint Hill, the district as a whole seems to have adapted more popular architectural style influences. The vernacular stone dwellings at Clifton (078-0009) and the George E. Williams property (078-0118) are also a significant architectural example that reflects the district's early vernacular stone architecture, which

draws upon the area's English heritage, using local abundant fieldstone as a building material. One exception is the circa 1844 dwelling at Ben Venue. Constructed by Jefferson builder John Leake Powers, it is an excellent example of a mid-19th-century Greek Revival manor house in Virginia, complete with intact piedmont Virginia plantation support buildings. An orchard, a vineyard, horse and cattle farms, hay production, and a small wood-splitting operation all remain active in the bucolic rural district. The organic settlement patterns remain consistent and the development generally follows the central transportation corridor, which is geographically defined and limited by the surrounding landscape.

Total individual historic resources in the district include 15 primary contributing resources and 12 non-contributing. Total contributing resource counts in the district, including the previously individually listed Ben Venue property, include fourteen single dwellings, a church, a bridge, seven garages, a log cabin, a stable, three slave quarters, thirteen sheds, nine barns, an ice house, two smokehouses, two well houses, three cemeteries, four chicken coops, five corncribs, two kitchens (one also an office/dwelling), a boxwood garden, two root cellars, two spring- houses, two privies, a pump, a tenant house, a silo, stone walls, and foundation ruins. Non-contributing resources include twelve dwellings, seven garages, two riding rings, five pools, a cattle chute, four stables, twenty-one sheds, a pump house, two animal kennels, and a duplex/secondary dwelling.

Architectural Analysis

Primary Dwellings

Early Vernacular and Stylistic Architecture

The early building stock of the northern Piedmont region that became Rappahannock County in 1833 was primarily limited to small log buildings or “claim houses.” These were built to fill terms of a land grant, in essence “seating the land” and were typically void of blatant architectural detailing or prominent stylistic references. Some of the earliest architecture in the district can be described as vernacular, some portraying popular stylistic trends, while others reflect an emphasis on the basic need for shelter using locally available materials.

Eighteenth-century log claim houses undoubtedly dotted the district’s landscape. Detailed research by the Rappahannock Historical Society dates the existing log portion of Holly Grove (078-5141-0012) to circa 1740. It is currently enveloped into a stucco-clad, two-story dwelling, but its early date marks it as a potential early claim house. A similar claim house was known to have been built at Clifton (078-0009), but is no longer extant. The Dowden Hollow Cabin, now known as Toll Gate Farm (078-0117) stands as a representative example of a later circa 1800 log dwelling. The dwelling features a log main block clad in board-and-batten-siding, a small hyphen, and a log wing. Used as a tollgate when Ben Venue Road was a turnpike, the remarkably intact property also includes a stone springhouse, a root cellar, a

secondary mid-19th-century dwelling, as well as an early-20th-century barn, and several non-historic sheds. A kitchen building burned but the stone ruins remain.

While log was an important building material used in the district, the majority of the early dwellings in the Ben Venue Rural Historic District are predominantly constructed of stone and date to the early- to mid-19th century. These dwellings also display the stone building traditions of many of the area's original settlers. The most elaborate of these dwellings is Clifton (078-0009). Clifton is located at 558 Ben Venue Road and was originally seated by William Deatherage of Clifton England. The existing stone house was later constructed by Elias Chelf, who became a prominent merchant in nearby Flint Hill. Constructed circa 1830, the three-bay-wide, two-story, side-gabled, stone dwelling features nine-over-six wood windows, large exterior-end stone chimneys, and a central wood-frame gabled portico. Set on a steep hill, the property is enhanced with stone walls and a collection of supporting agricultural buildings, including a smokehouse (now connected to the main house), a large barn, and a corncrib.

The George E. Williams House (078-0118) at 241 Ben Venue Road also stands as a representative example of mid-19th-century stone architecture in the district. Constructed circa 1852, the two-bay, two-story house features a side-gable roof, exterior-end stone chimney, six-over-nine windows, and an off-center gabled portico. A non-historic rear ell and two non-historic stone wings project from the main block. Similarly vernacular in form is the stone dwelling at the Williams Orchard (078-5141-0010). Dating to circa 1833, the one-and-a-half-story building is two bays wide with a side-gable roof and exterior-end stone chimney. Other significant detailing includes an off-center entry featuring a three-light transom. The building was enlarged circa 1900 with a wood-frame addition that extended the façade by an additional two bays. A central, steeply-pitched gable and one-story half-hipped porch with Tuscan columns unites the two halves of the house. A gable dormer is located to each side of the central gable. The property, which continues to operate as one of Rappahannock's largest commercial orchards, is enhanced with a multitude of agricultural buildings, a cemetery, a distinctive circa 1920s stone garage with a Craftsman-style influence, and numerous orchard fields set across the rolling landscape. The orchard is the only commercial property in the district.

Dating to circa 1833, the Battle Run Primitive Baptist Church (078-0005) stands as the only ecclesiastical property within the district. Originally known as the Battle Run Meeting House, the first church met in a now-demolished 1773 building located opposite the current church on the south side of Ben Venue Road. The existing circa 1833 stone building, constructed on a small parcel carved out of Ben Venue, is set on a steep lot and has a front-gable roof. It is clad in stucco with a molded wood cornice with returns. The façade, which faces northwest, features two single-leaf entries and a half-round louvered vent at the gable peak. The side elevations feature sixteen-over-sixteen, double-hung, wood-sash windows

with molded wood surrounds and lug sills. Devoid of stylistic embellishment, the church stands as a good example of rural ecclesiastical vernacular architecture showing some influence of the Greek Revival style.

Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the large plantation complex at Ben Venue was constructed circa 1844. Displaying elements of the Greek Revival style, the main dwelling stands as a quintessential Piedmont Virginia plantation house. The Greek Revival style (popular in Virginia ca. 1820-1860) adhered strictly to the systems of proportion and ornamentation demonstrated by the Greek Orders. Like the dwellings erected in the Georgian and Federal periods, Greek Revival-style domestic resources of the antebellum period primarily maintained the central-passage, single-pile plan, but incorporated distinctive proportions and applied stylistic decorations.

The two-story, Flemish-bond brick dwelling at Ben Venue was constructed by James Leake Powers (1799-1889), who reportedly worked at the University of Virginia.[1] It features a side-gable roof, stone foundation, parapet walls, interior-front chimneys, and a two-story gabled ell. The five-bay façade includes a central entry with four-light transom and sidelights. The double-hung windows feature decorative architraves. A second-generation porch with Tuscan columns and a cast-iron railing dominates the first story but the ghost of an earlier porch is seen framing the entrance. The interior also holds a plethora of Greek Revival detailing including mantels, trim, and moldings.

Civil War Period, Reconstruction and Growth

Throughout the nation, the mid- to late-19th century saw a multitude of architectural influences emerge with numerous fashionable styles and forms being constructed throughout rural areas. During this period, rapid industrialization and the growth of the railroads led to dramatic changes in house design and construction. Mass production of doors, windows, roofing, siding, and decorative detailing in large factories allowed merchandise to be shipped at relatively low costs. However, sectional hostilities greatly restricted the progress of the early Victorian trends until after the close of the Civil War. Although no major battles occurred in Rappahannock County, the area was widely used for troop movements that often included seizure of livestock, crops, and other materials and the economy declined quickly, resulting in a further lack of domestic construction. After the war, Virginia's Piedmont region and its economy gradually recovered. The repair, rebuilding, and replacement of destroyed houses, barns, fencing, and mills became the primary objective of many of the residents. Expanding on the Victorian trends that began in the Civil War period (1861-1865), the architecture of the Reconstruction and Growth period (1866-1917) throughout Virginia includes more elaborate detailing and more intricate floor plans. Often, a number of elements were taken from various styles and were applied to more vernacular house forms, such as the application of Queen Anne, Gothic Revival, and Italianate detailing to ubiquitous I-house

dwellings. Interestingly the late-19th-and early-20th-century dwellings found within the Ben Venue district do not reflect this trend and are primarily devoid of any Victorian detailing, despite several examples located in the adjacent Flint Hill Historic District. One exception is the Sutphin House (078-5141-0011) and farm complex at 374 Ben Venue Road. The main dwelling is a center-gabled I-house form with a full-width porch supported by turned posts and spindlework brackets; details that reference the Queen Anne style on an otherwise thoroughly vernacular dwelling . The farm also features a collection of agricultural and domestic outbuildings and barns set close to the main house.

An example of the more purely vernacular early-20th-century architecture in the district is the house at 509 Ben Venue Road (078-5141-0020). The two-story, wood-frame dwelling is clad in weatherboard siding and capped by a side-gabled roof. Exterior-end brick chimneys, a shed roofed, one-story, full-width porch, and a one-story, side-gabled wing further define the building. Similarly, the dwellings at 668 Ben Venue Road (078-5141-0026) and 690 Ben Venue Road (078-5141-0027) reflect a vernacular building tradition that is devoid of stylistic influence. The tenant house at Williams Orchard (078-5141-0010), including its organic succession of additions, is also constructed in this manner. A tradition of log construction was sustained in the district into the early-20th century. Log dwellings at 31 Hickerson Mountain Lane (078-5141-0016) and Points of View Farm (078-5141-0004) both stand as evidence of the continuing popularity of the building type.

The Colonial Revival Period to the Present

Following on the heels of America's Centennial celebrations in 1876, the popular Colonial Revival style emerged strongly in the early 1880s throughout the United States and lasted into the second half of the 20th century. The style, which borrowed heavily from early American architecture, was largely an outgrowth of a new nationwide pride in the past. Designs incorporated characteristic features of Colonial and Dutch Colonial buildings, including Palladian windows, gambrel roofs, pedimented porticoes, columns, and classical detailing such as swags and urns, and crisp white trim. This new building type was larger than its historic counterparts, with details also enlarged and plans laid out on a grandiose scale. As the style spread to rural as well as suburban areas, it was reinterpreted to reflect a more conservative design and scale, and was often applied to modest residences. The development of modern, non-historic domestic resources appear to follow national trends, but with some distinctions that help to define the contemporary history of the district. The use of scaled down Colonial Revival detailing proliferated building styles from the 1920s onward. This scaled down contemporary use of the style is applied to several dwellings throughout the district. The dwelling at 279 Ben Venue Road (078-5141-0005) features a Palladian-inspired window, Tuscan porch columns, and white trim. The dwelling at 68 Hickerson Mountain Lane (078-5141-0017) similarly features contemporary Colonial Revival detailing, including fluted Tuscan posts and a fluted door surround with molded

entablature. Two Cape Cod-inspired Colonial Revival dwellings are located in the district at 338 Ben Venue Road (078-5141-0009) and 309 Ben Venue Road (078-5141-0008), both featuring prominent gable dormers, while the house at 338 Ben Venue Road also features Flemish-bond brick construction. The development of non-historic domestic resources appears to follow national trends, but with some distinctions that help to define the contemporary history of the district. While there are several non-historic intrusions, they are primarily set on large lots set back from the road and do not disrupt the overall setting, feeling, or design of the historic district. Starting in the 1960s, a handful of one-story, ranch dwellings began to be constructed. Examples include 517 Ben Venue Road (078-5141-0021) and 68 Hickerson Mountain Lane (078-5141-0017), both not visible from the main road. Following suit, and continuing to the present, new, contemporary-style and Colonial Revival-style dwellings were built in the district, representing Rappahannock's development as a bedroom community and weekend retreat from Washington, D.C. Primarily any infill development is on large lots similar to those featuring historic buildings and the newer resources are, in general, consistent or smaller in massing, material, and scale with that of their historic neighbors. Several examples include 549 Ben Venue Road (078-5141-0022) and 490 Ben Venue Road (078-5141-0019), which is a well-built dwelling with vast views and some Craftsman and Colonial Revival detailing. An additional non-historic dwelling includes Standen Still (078-5141-0024), which is constructed in a high-style interpretation of the Craftsman and Shingle styles. It features stucco cladding, decorative chimney pots, wide overhanging eaves with shingled gables, casement windows, and shingled dormers.

In general, the massing, material, and scale of non-historic buildings in the Ben Venue Rural Historic District are consistent with that of their historic neighbors, including well-built, architect designed examples. Most are set on large lots, away from lots lining the road creating a cohesive village community reflective of local building trends from circa 1740 to the present.

Secondary and Agricultural Resources

Complementing the domestic buildings throughout the Ben Venue Rural Historic District are a number of supporting secondary structures that include primarily agricultural and domestic support resources. Due to the prominence of agriculture as the dominant economic force throughout the Ben Venue Rural Historic District, these buildings help to define the district's landscape and are often found as part of larger farm complexes. Several of the properties in the district contain significant collections of these buildings, including Ben Venue (078-0003), Clifton (078-0009), Williams Orchard (078-5141-0010), Toll Gate Farm (078-0117), and the Sutphin House (078-5141-0011), among others.

One of the most significant collections of outbuildings is located at Ben Venue (078-0003). Perhaps the most important of these resources are the three rare brick slave quarters that

repeat the stylistic parapet gables of the main dwelling. The historic plantation complex also includes an office/annex/kitchen, an early dwelling (now tenant house), a kitchen (now barn), a root cellar, barns, corncribs, a boxwood garden, two family cemeteries, a smokehouse, a chicken house, sheds, a privy, and high-style slave quarters. The Ben Venue complex remains in use and is important for its architectural continuity as it uses somewhat high-style Greek Revival detailing on the main house, the office/annex/kitchen, smokehouse, privy, and slave quarters to unite the property. Each is constructed of brick with a gabled roof and distinctive stylistic parapet ends. The annex is the most prominent, built circa 1842 just prior to the main house.

Barns/Stables

As would be expected of a rural historic district, barns form one of the largest groups of secondary resources. Many of the different types of barns in the district are often found clustered on the same properties, indicating the long-term use of the land in the district for agricultural purposes. Larger historic barns are located at Points of View Farm (078-5141-0004), Toll Gate Farm (078-0117), Williams Orchard(078-5141-0010), Clifton (078-0009), the Sutphin House (078-5141-0011), and at 509 Ben Venue Road (078-5141-0020). Most of these barns are wood-frame, front-gabled, 1.5-story buildings with central drive-through entries, vertical-board siding, and stone foundations. The Clifton barn, set on a stone foundation, features a side elevation sliding entry, louvered vents, and two gabled roof monitors. The Williams Orchard barn is similarly designed with vertical board siding, a front-gabled roof, and stone foundation. It also features a wide overhanging hay hoist hood. The barn at 509 Ben Venue Road is the only bank barn in the district, which is surprising based on the rolling landscape throughout the district. The 2.5-story Sutphin House barn has been expanded, but features a stone foundation, a central front-gable with wings and gable-end entries. Examples of smaller supporting barns are seen at Holly Grove (078-5141-0012), Ben Venue (078-0003), and Toll Gate Farm (078-0117). These are often capped with a gable roof and clad in vertical-board siding. One of the small barns at Ben Venue was originally used as a kitchen. More modern dwellings also feature large barns, primarily horse stables, as evidenced at the Sutphin House (078-5141-0001), 279 Ben Venue Road (078-5141-0005), and 19 Hickerson Mountain Lane (078-5141-0015) revealing the continued use of the rural land. The stable/garage at Points of View (078-5141-0004) is an award-winning Modern building featuring multi-faceted wall planes and rooflines.

Corncribs/Silo

Along with barns, corncribs are also located on properties throughout the district. Often associated with a barn and forming an animal feeding complex, these granaries vary in forms but often appear as one-story, wood-framed, gable-fronted structures with one or two open drive-through bays. The structures are covered with either horizontal or vertical skip sheathing (thin, narrow boards installed with spaces left between them) where the corn is stored or weatherboards for the grain storage areas. Historic examples are located at Ben

Venue (078-0003), Holly Grove (078-5141-0012), Clifton (078-0009), and Williams Orchard (078-5141-0010). The corncrib at Clifton appears to be a multi-purpose structure, also functioning as a root cellar and springhouse. The Williams Orchard property also features a silo.

Chicken Coops

Chicken houses/coops found in the district are wood-framed with shed roofs, and principal entrances are usually single-leaf doors found on a side elevation or pushed to the end of the longer front elevation. Sheathed with wooden weatherboards or vertical siding and often roofed with metal roofing (standing seam or corrugated metal sheeting), the small, minimally ornamented, utilitarian buildings often have unusually large windows for buildings of their size which are often paired or arranged in banks. Examples of chicken/poultry houses are found at Ben Venue (078-0003), 668 Ben Venue Road (078-5141-0026), and Williams Orchard (078-5141-0010).

Hay Sheds

Additional historic agricultural buildings include examples of open-bay machine sheds and hay storage buildings. Prominent examples are found at Ben Venue (078-0003) and Williams Orchard (078-5141-0010) and Points of View Farm (078-5141-0004). These reflect the continued use of hay production and storage and the growing use of gasoline- and diesel-powered machinery in the district starting in the second quarter of the 20th century.

Smokehouses

Smokehouses and meat houses were an essential building type for rural properties in the southern United States until the advent of refrigeration in the early-twentieth century. In Virginia, these buildings were typically wood-frame or, occasionally, masonry, featured a square plan, and often capped with a pyramidal roof. Unlighted and without chimneys, the buildings were traditionally entered through a single doorway found in the center of the facade. Smokehouses were noted at Ben Venue (078-0003) and the Sutphin House (078-5141-0011). The Ben Venue smokehouse stands one-story high with a side-gable roof and central single-leaf door. It is constructed of brick with a distinctive parapet roof that relates to several other buildings on the property. The Sutphin house example is wood-frame.

Spring Houses/Pump Houses/Well Houses

Historic examples of spring-houses and well/pump houses are found in the district. Typical of rural settings without access to urban water supplies, structures were built to protect wells, pumps, and springs. Almost all of these structures are small, often do not rise a full story, and are usually accessed by small, semi- subterranean doorways. Toll Gate Farm (078-0117) features a stone springhouse with wide front-gable roof overhang, while the Sutphin house (078-5141-0011) and Williams Orchard (078-5141-0010) preserve their early-19th-century wood-frame well houses and springhouses.

Ice Houses
Similar to smokehouses and meat houses, ice-houses were an important, if less common, building type prior to widely available refrigeration. The Sutphin property (078-5141-0011) also features what appears to have been an icehouse. The ground-level stone structure features a gable roof and ground-level entry.

Sheds and Garages
Not surprisingly one of the most common non-domestic building types found in the district is sheds. As is seen throughout Virginia's Piedmont region and beyond, historic examples of these multi-use storage buildings often fall into two categories: shed-roofed and gable-roofed. A vast majority of sheds found in the district are wood framed and covered with either vertical board or weatherboard siding. Typically the smallest buildings on the lot and sheltering only one room, sheds are also often entered by a single exterior door but may also hold one or two windows. Examples of historic sheds are found at the Sutphin property (078-5141-0011), Ben Venue (078-0003), and 690 Ben Venue Road (078-5141-0027). Non-historic sheds are also peppered throughout the district, including examples at Mountain Shadow Farm (07-5141-0018), 309 Ben Venue Road (078-5141-0008), and Toll Gate Farm (078-0117), among several others. They are small in scale and reflect the district's evolution as a rural district without distracting from its overall historic nature.

Telling of the district's rural nature, there are only a handful of garages throughout the district. Only one of the nine examples is historic. Associated with the Williams Orchard (078-5141-0010) the contributing garage structure features Craftsman detailing, dating to circa 1921. Standing 1.5-stories in height the garage is constructed of stone and features a hipped roof with wide eaves and front and rear hipped dormers. The remaining garages are associated with later infill development that speaks to the 20th century national trend of automobile use and dependence. Several one-story free-standing garages are sprinkled throughout the district on newer properties, including examples at Rock Ledge (078-5141-0006), 338 Ben Venue Road (078-5141-0009), and 490 Ben Venue Road (078-5141-0019). Attached garages are also located at a few non-historic properties, including Standen Still (078-5141-0024) and 665 Ben Venue Road (078-5141-0025). The barn at the Sutphin property (078-5141-0011) features a garage wing that was added later. Several historic properties have non-historic one-story garages at present, such as Toll Gate Farm (078-0117) and Williams Orchard (078-5141-0010). The modern stable at Points of View Farm (078-5141-0004), includes a wing currently used as a garage.

Cemeteries
Three cemeteries are located in the district. Cemeteries at Ben Venue (0-78-0003) and at Williams Orchard (078-5141-0010) feature a stone wall enclosure, while the second cemetery at Ben Venue is open in the side yard near the main house. Clifton (078-0009) and

Toll Gate Farm (078-0117) once had known cemeteries, but according to archival research they were demolished and no evidence of the sites remain visible. Most of the existing cemeteries feature grave markers that date from ca. 1880 through ca. 1930, although it is possible that the cemeteries are still in use.

Non-Historic Resource Development

The district contains a number of non-historic resources, some of which are primary resources. However, this does not detract from the district's significance as a rural landscape, as much of the new construction has been placed along major roads throughout the district, following historic trends, and is not collected together in large developments. Some of the most recent development has been located on the boundary edges and therefore omitted from the district. Most importantly the extensive and extraordinary viewscapes throughout the district remain wholly intact.

Historic District Inventory

The following inventory lists the resources within the Ben Venue Rural Historic District. It is organized alphabetically by street name and then numerically by street number. Each entry provides the address, building name (if applicable), date of construction, architectural style, current building use, VDHR File number, and the contributing status within the district as well as the type, number, and contributing status of any major secondary resources associated with the property. Whether a resource is considered contributing or non-contributing was determined based on its integrity as it supports the historic district's significance under Criterion A (Agriculture, Exploration/Settlement, and Transportation) and under Criterion C (Architecture) during the Period of Significance (ca. 1740-1965). The resources are keyed to the accompanying sketch map using the tertiary number of the DHR-assigned inventory and street address. For example, the location for 241 Ben Venue Road (DHR # 078-5141-0003) is marked as 0026 (241 Ben Venue Road) on the sketch map. This inventory was generated using the Virginia Department of Historic Resources V-CRIS database. The dates listed are those for the primary resource.

Ben Venue Road

241 Ben Venue Road **078-0118** *Other DHR Id#: 078-5141-0003*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style, 1852** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Stone Wall (Object)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

279 Ben Venue Road **078-5141-0005** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1990** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Garage (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Riding Ring (Structure)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Stable (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

296 Ben Venue Road **078-5141-0006** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1990** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Pool (Structure)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

309 A Ben Venue Road **078-5141-0007** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1960** **Contributing** *Total: 1*
Secondary Resource : **Garage (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

309 Ben Venue Road **078-5141-0008** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: No discernible style, Ca 2000** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 2
Secondary Resource : **Shed - Wood (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

338 Ben Venue Road **078-5141-0009** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 2000** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Garage (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

374 Ben Venue Road **078-5141-0011** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Queen Anne, Ca 1840** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Barn (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Ice House (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Camp Cabin (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource : **Pool (Structure)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Riding Ring (Structure)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 2
Secondary Resource : **Smoke/Meat House (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Stable (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Well House (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

38 Ben Venue Road **078-0003** *Other DHR Id#: 078-5141-0001*
Ben Venue – Individually listed in the National Register (1979)
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Greek Revival, Ca 1844** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Barn (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Cemetery (Site)** **Contributing** *Total:* 2
Secondary Resource : **Chicken House/Poultry (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Corncrib (Structure)** **Contributing** *Total:* 3
Secondary Resource : **Garden (Site)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Kitchen (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 2
Secondary Resource : **Privy (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Root Cellar (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 4
Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Single Dwelling (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Slave/Servant Quarters (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 3
Secondary Resource : **Smoke/Meat House (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Stone Wall (Object)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

392 Ben Venue Road **078-5141-0012** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1740** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Barn (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Corncrib (Structure)** **Contributing** *Total:* 3
Secondary Resource : **Shed, Machine (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Stone Wall (Object)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

423 Ben Venue Road **078-0117** *Other DHR Id#:*
078-5141-0013Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1800** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Barn (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Garage (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Root Cellar (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 2
Secondary Resource : **Single Dwelling (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Spring/Spring House (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

441 Ben Venue Road **078-5141-0014** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1980** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

490 Ben Venue Road **078-5141-0019** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 2014** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Garage (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

509 Ben Venue Road **078-5141-0020** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: , Ca 1870** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Barn (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Bridge (Structure)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Pool (Structure)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Pump House (Structure)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Shed, Machine (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Stone Wall (Object)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

517 Ben Venue Road **078-5141-0021** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1960** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

549 Ben Venue Road **078-5141-0022** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1988 Non-contributing** *Total:*

558 Ben Venue Road 078-0009 *Other DHR Id#: 078-5141-0023*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Greek Revival, Ca 1830 Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Barn (Building) Contributing** *Total:* 2
Secondary Resource : **Corncrib (Structure) Contributing** *Total: 1*
Secondary Resource : **Stone Wall (Object) Contributing** *Total:* 1

665 Ben Venue Road 078-5141-0025 *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Dutch Revival, Ca 1980 Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Stable (Building) Non-Contributing** *Total: 1*

668 Ben Venue Road 078-5141-0026 *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1940 Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Chicken House/Poultry House (Building) Contributing** *Total: 1*

690 Ben Venue Road 078-5141-0027 *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1875 Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building) Contributing** *Total:* 1

Ben Venue Road 078-0005 *Other DHR Id#: 078-5141-0002*
Primary Resource: **Church/Chapel (Building), Stories 2, Style: Greek Revival, Ca 1833 Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Privy (Building) Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Stone Wall (Object) Contributing** *Total:* 1

Fogg Mountain Lane

29 Fogg Mountain Lane **078-5141-0024** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Craftsman, Ca 1996** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Pool (Structure)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Stone Wall (Object)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Hickerson Mountain Lane (PRIVATE ROAD)

19 Hickerson Mountain Lane **078-5141-0015** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1980** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Garage (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Pool (Structure)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Riding Ring (Structure)** **Non-contributing** *Total: 1*
Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Stable (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

31 Hickerson Mountain Lane **078-5141-0016** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1860** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

68 Hickerson Mountain Lane **078-5141-0017** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1970** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Garage (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

79-90 Hickerson Mountain Lane **078-5141-0018** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1970** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Animal Shelter/Kennel (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 2
Secondary Resource : **Double/Duplex (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 2

Points of View Lane (PRIVATE ROAD)

33-40 Points of View Lane **078-5141-0004** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1920** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Agricultural Outbuildings (Building) Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Barn (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Shed, Machine (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Stable (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 2

Williams Farm Lane

3 Williams Farm Lane **078-5141-0010** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1830** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Barn (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Cemetery (Site)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Chicken House/Poultry (Building) Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Garage (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Pump (Structure)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Secondary/Tenant (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Shed (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 9
Secondary Resource : **Shed, Machine (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 2
Secondary Resource : **Shed, Machine (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Shed, Vehicle/Equipment (Building) Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Silo (Structure)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Spring House (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Well/ Well House (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource : **Stone Wall (Object)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[X] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[X] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

[ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

[ ] B. Removed from its original location

[ ] C. A birthplace or grave

[ ] D. A cemetery

[ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

[ ] F. A commemorative property

[ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance
ca. 1740-1965

Significant Dates
ca. 1740
1773
1840
1844
1921

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
James Leake Powers

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Ben Venue Rural Historic District is an intact rural landscape with historic buildings and supporting structures dating from the mid-eighteenth century to the mid-twentieth century that retain a high level of historic integrity. Pastoral farmsteads are set within an undulating landscape featuring open pastures, wooded forests, rising mountains, and vast scenic vistas. A curving, narrow, paved road transects the district and is lined by historic stone walls and wood fences. The district is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Agriculture, Exploration/Settlement, and Transportation, and locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Running along Ben Venue Road/Route 729 between the late-18th-century villages of Gaines Crossroads and Flint Hill, the district is notable for its pristine agricultural landscape with panoramic views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Ben Venue Road, originally known as Richmond Road, was incorporated into one of the region's earliest turnpikes to assist the transportation of goods from the mountains to the markets in Richmond and beyond. The dwellings constructed along this important transportation corridor were primarily built by wealthy families associated with the establishment of the nearby thriving crossroads communities. The undulating and geographically narrow landform, along with its proximity between two commercial areas, has helped to keep the area insulated from widespread development from its inception to the present. With a period of significance dating from circa 1770 to 1965, the Ben Venue Rural Historic District reflects a broad and evolving range of cultural patterns including early settlement, crossroads communities, transportation corridors, and a multitude of supporting farmsteads and orchard lands. The boundaries encompass an intact rural historic district, which retains integrity of design, workmanship, materials, location, and feeling as a diverse agrarian landscape that remains in agricultural production as evidenced by many existing pastures and orchards. The county comprehensive plan and increasing numbers of conservation easements help to insure that the preservation of this historic landscape will continue in perpetuity.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Exploration/ Settlement

The Ben Venue Historic District traces its origin to the initial European colonists who expanded into Virginia's Piedmont region from the more heavily populated eastern region of the colony during the mid-17th through mid-18th century. Westward expansion into the Piedmont was led by Colonel Alexander Spotswood (1676-1740), who envisioned the area just east of the Blue Ridge as a barrier between the east and west sides of the mountains. Soon after the establishment of Germanna in present-day Orange County in 1714, Spotswood organized a successful expedition through the Blue Ridge Mountains. The fruit of

Spotswood's exploration was born as early as 1730, with primarily English colonists from the Tidewater region beginning to permanently populate the Piedmont region. Large landholders of this region bordering the Blue Ridge included Lord Fairfax and Robert "King" Carter, as well as Colonel Francis Thornton III (1711-1749). European settlement, which usually included the mandated claim house construction of a dwelling and orchard, was slow but steady, encouraging the establishment of Orange County from Spotsylvania in 1734 and Culpeper County from Orange in 1749.

The initial colonization of what then became Rappahannock County in 1833 was initiated in 1740 by the large land patents of Francis Thornton III, a cousin of George Washington's, who settled the picturesque valley east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Choosing the area's most pristine landscape and richest soils, early patent holders established numerous successful plantations in what became Rappahannock County.

The pioneering efforts of these settlers, primarily of English descent from the Tidewater region, spurred substantial settlement of the area by the turn of the 19th century. While towns were established at nearby Washington and Flint Hill, the vast majority of the land was devoted to large plantations, spread over vast acreage and cultivated by enslaved African American workers. These properties themselves resembled small villages with numerous outbuildings supporting the main dwelling, which was often located on a hilltop. The associated outbuildings typically included kitchens, icehouses, slave quarters, granaries, smokehouses, barns, dairies, chapels, and other domestic and agricultural-related dependencies, as represented throughout the district.

The 3.4-mile portion of Ben Venue Road that extends from Flint Hill to Route 211/Lee Highway, was originally settled by William Poe. While Poe held a large claim along Battle Run Mountain, the area was also settled more locally by several other early pioneering European families. Early log land-grant claim dwellings and the first Battle Run Primitive Baptist Church (organized in 1773, moved to current location ca. 1833, 078-0005) were once located along Ben Venue Road. A survivor from this period appears to be the log portion of Holly Grove (078-5141-0012). Extensive research by the Rappahannock Historical Society indicates the original circa 1740 claim house was built on Francis Browning's circa 1735-1749 land grant and appears to have been incorporated into the current dwelling at a later date. Other early claim houses were also documented to have existed at both Clifton and Toll Gate Farms but they no longer survive. The original existence of the Battle Run Meeting House dating to circa 1773 testifies to the district's early growth as a community.

Transportation

Throughout Virginia, tobacco reigned as the dominant agricultural staple during this early period, serving as both a cash crop and as legal tender. While not a huge cash crop in

Rappahannock, the transportation of tobacco from the Rappahannock area to shipping centers in Fredericksburg, Falmouth, and Richmond was vitally important, spurring the construction of early road networks. Known as "The Richmond Road," the road connecting Chester's Road (established in 1735) at what became the village of Flint Hill (listed as an historic district on the National Register of Historic Places in 2009) with the Thornton's Gap Road at what became Gaines Crossroads, was developed into one of the area's first turnpikes by 1787.[2] The route followed the natural north/south valley through the mountainous landscape. This last section of the road is the current Ben Venue Road, which forms the spine of the district. *The Journey Through Hallowed Ground* describes the historic road as "once the main road from the mountains to the state capital." [3] Later this road became known as Ben Venue Road because of its association with the large Ben Venue plantation located nearby, but presently it also is still colloquially known as the Old Richmond Road. It is unknown when the turnpike was disbanded, but the road appears to have remained in fairly good condition and reconverted to a toll road around 1850. Lee Highway, which forms the southern boundary of the district, was also a toll road, forming part of the important Thornton Gap and Alexandria Turnpike in 1800.

An 1821 map by John Wood depicts both Flint Hill and Gaines Crossroads as established communities, with Battle Run Meeting House located on the road between the two hamlets. The Virginia Gazetteer of 1835 lists "Gaines X Roads" as a village with nine dwellings, one store, one tailor, one blacksmith, and one Baptist church. The surrounding area, including the Ben Venue Rural Historic District, is noted as "fertile country" that is "well-cultivated and densely settled."[4] Following suit, Flint Hill was listed in the 1835 Virginia Gazetteer as having twenty-six dwellings, four mercantile stores, one tavern, one flour mill, two tanyards, two saddlers, various mechanics, a population of 140, one attorney, and two physicians. *A New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia* from 1836 affirms Flint Hill's rising prosperity, listing the village with a population of 140 persons, with 26 dwellings, four mercantile stores, two taverns, a flourmill, two tanyards, two saddlers, a non-denominational house of public worship, an attorney, two physicians, and "various other mechanics."[5] Prominent nearby farm owners were often associated with the village's development, including those living near the village in the adjacent Ben Venue Rural Historic District on Richmond Road.

The need to move agricultural products to regional commercial centers prompted the establishment of five turnpikes in the Piedmont region during the 1850s. The turnpikes principally linked two waterways, the Hazel and Rappahannock Rivers, to the large shipping points of Falmouth and Fredericksburg. Throughout this period Flint Hill and Gaines Crossroads continued to grow as commercial and industrial centers, while the Richmond Road corridor remained agricultural. A further impetus to growth in Flint Hill was marked by the conversion of part of Chester's Road into the Front Royal and Gaines Crossroads Turnpike, running 16 ½ miles from Front Royal, through Flint Hill and along Richmond

Road/Ben Venue Road to Gaines Crossroads. The revived turnpike company was directed by Robert Turner, Marcus Buck, Samuel Gardner, John Petty, James Barbee, Franklin Turner, Newman Jacobs, Giles Cook, John Collins, and Mahlon Lovett. Funds were secured for the initial road construction, but tolls were imperative to its existence, so tollhouses and tollgates were needed. Lacking land or funds for their erection, the company converted so private dwellings for such purposes. An example is the Dowden Hollow house (now Toll Gate Farm, 078-0117) which was converted from a dwelling into a tollhouse. Financial reports of the turnpike company reveal that by 1855 the route was a success. "Proof" of the good road conditions was reported as

> There may be seen almost every day, wagons drawn by two ordinary sized horses, hauling to and from the Front Royal depot, heavy loads of flour and other produce…and returning with two thousand pounds weight and upwards of goods for merchants east of the mountain—crossing the Blue Ridge—where formerly ten barrels of flour or 40 or 50 bushels of wheat were good loads for the best four or six horse teams.[6]

Financial reports continued to be favorable through 1859, but by 1860 floods had damaged the road and the impending Civil War impacted it further.

Following the outbreak of the Civil War, the improved transportation routes in Rappahannock County served as major arteries for troop and supply movements. Troop movements along the Richmond Road from Gaines Crossroads at Ben Venue included marches to and from Gettysburg by the troops of Generals Robert E. Lee, James Longstreet, Richard Ewell, and A.P. Hill. Local tradition states that Clifton (078-0009) served as General Lee's headquarters during a return from either Gettysburg or Antietam. While it is known that his entire Army passed through Ben Venue on the way to Gettysburg, due to the established road systems, no evidence has been found to support the claim that Lee paused at Clifton.[7] The area at Gaines Crossroads/Ben Venue saw a significant amount of Civil War action, including a number of small skirmishes and encampments. General Pickett's division camped in the historic district in June 1863 while en route from Gettysburg, as documented by Henry Kyd Douglas in his memoir entitled *I Rode with Stonewall*.[8] It is also claimed that Ben Venue served as the headquarters of General Richard Ewell.[9]

In addition to the upheavals caused by troop movements through the historic district during the Civil War, the war's impact was heavily felt on the larger region's economy. The turnpike report from 1861 reveals that:

> The war had a blighting influence upon nearly every branch of the business throughout our country and state, and it has had much to do in reducing the amount we otherwise should have received in tolls. Our gates have been thrown open to the free passing of all wagons, vehicles, and horsemen in the service of the state, whether hauling provisions, transporting soldiers or conveying the wounded who

> nobly volunteered to defend the rights of our honored old commonwealth. While it is admitted there were many who were justly entitled to this privilege, it is to be regretted that in numerous instances advantages have been taken and impositions practiced upon our toll collectors by persons alleging they were in the service of the state. So flagrant has this become, that we have found it necessary to adopt another rule, more stringent than heretofore, which in future we hope will measurably correct the evil.[10]

Despite the turnpike company's efforts, by 1866, the financial deprivations had taken their toll and the Richmond Road turnpike was abandoned.

Agriculture

From the settlement period through the Civil War, the agricultural system in Rappahannock County was dependent on an enslaved African American workforce. The reliance on slavery-based agriculture also impacted the development of the landscape, as large plantations comprised much of the built environment. Ben Venue (078-0003) stands as a representative example of an antebellum Piedmont Virginia plantation complex. Dating to circa 1844 and featuring a Greek Revival-style main dwelling, with high-style elements used to unite the buildings throughout the property, the 1,500-acre plantation featured extensive agricultural operations made possible by use of slave labor.

The number of enslaved persons in Rappahannock County was relatively low compared with other, more densely settled Virginia counties, but the proportion of enslaved to free people was quite high Additionally, despite growth of agricultural production, the number of enslaved people remained fairly constant in the late antebellum period. For example, in 1840 the total population of Rappahannock County was 9,257 persons, including 3,663 enslaved persons and 287 free African Americans. By 1860, according to census records, there were 3,520 enslaved people and 312 free African Americans living in Rappahannock County.[11] In 1860, the census recorded 398 slave owners in the county, and these individuals held between one and thirty African Americans in bondage.[12]

Although plantations occupied much of the landscape, residents needed access to commercial services, which tended to cluster at crossroads. Crossroads villages grew as the local economy became more complex, with gristmills, taverns, schools, and churches being established. With the close proximity (3.5 miles apart) of Gaines Crossroads and Flint Hill along the aforementioned Richmond Road turnpike, extensive industrial and commercial establishments were never established within the boundaries of the Ben Venue Rural Historic District.

Agricultural census records reveal that Rappahannock County's farmers continued cultivating corn and wheat along with livestock production throughout the antebellum era, but some important changes were afoot that would continue through the late nineteenth century. In 1860, the agricultural trend continued with corn and wheat remaining the most abundant crops, while cattle farming and orcharding, both of which would become dominant after the Civil War, had been introduced as well. While manufacturing rose during the antebellum period, it merely supported the county's agricultural interests with the establishment of tanneries, saddleries, distilleries, flour mills, gristmills, plaster mills, and sawmills.

In 1880, the Virginia Gazetteer lists nine principal farmers under the listing for Gaines Crossroads. Similarly, the 1890 Virginia Gazetteer reveals that the area around Flint Hill included seventeen principal farmers.

Apple production had not been a significant source of income for Rappahannock farmers prior to the Civil War (the county ranked 25th in the state in 1840 with a value of $4,685). Orchard planting was primarily a secondary farming endeavor that originated with requirements to plant apple trees in early land grants. [13] The earliest reference found of a commercial apple orchard in Rappahannock County is a 100-acre orchard started by John Wood near the town of Washington in 1873.[14] The Wood family is credited with popularizing the area's commercial apple orcharding business just after the Civil War at their farm Sunnyside (078-0049; individually listed in the National Register, but located outside this district.

Much of the success of the late-19th-century large-scale commercial orchards in Virginia was due to the development of pesticide sprays, more effective farming methods, and better transportation techniques, all of which arose in the 1870s and 1880s. The pesticides allowed more fruit from each tree to be harvested, thereby increasing the total yield without also increasing the number of trees. Similarly, the introduction of fertilizers allowed the crop yield to increase. Finally, improved transportation techniques allowed the crops to be shipped farther and faster than ever before, opening up new and more profitable markets. By 1890, apple production was one of Rappahannock County's most important agricultural industries and by the early 1900s the commercial orchard business was fully established in Rappahannock with almost 200,000 apple trees planted.

When refrigeration and cold storage facilities were being fully utilized, the lifespan of each crop was extended; this allowed optimum profit because the apples could be sold gradually throughout the year. Within the historic district, the Williams Orchard was established circa 1921 on a property known as the "stone house tract" owned by the Chappelear family. Today, it remains in business as Rappahannock County's third oldest commercial apple orchard and is still in the Williams family.

Apple production in Virginia, when compared to the rest of the country, peaked ca. 1935, with the state ranking third in production behind Washington State (1st) and New York (2nd). Within Virginia, Rappahannock County had the sixth largest number of orchards in the state in 1937 and had the fifth highest number of apple trees. The primary market for Rappahannock's late-19th and early20th-century commercial orchards was England and northern Europe, with ninety percent of the produce being exported to England, Finland, and Sweden. With the onset of World War II this market collapsed and after WWII the primary use for Rappahannock apples switched from table fruit to juice production; 65% of the crop was processed into juice in 1950. Juice from the county's apples was sold under both the Skyline Drive and Red Creek brands. The continued impact of apples on the county after WWII is demonstrated by its share of the local farm income. In 1950 apples accounted for 22% of the agricultural income for the county, compared to only 4.34% for wheat.[15]

Significant to the prosperity of the district, nearby Flint Hill featured one of the county's most productive apple packing companies after World War II. Opened by Charles and Brue Wood, the Wood Brothers' Apple Packing House (ca. 1940; 078-5018-0041) was used to store and distribute the apples produced by the Wood family. A cold storage facility was later added, greatly expanding the lifespan of the commercial apple crop and increasing overall profits. In 1949, the largest apple shipment ever recorded in the county sent 5,600 boxes of apples by truck for use by the U. S. Navy overseas. Despite a rise in Rappahannock's ranking of apple producing counties in Virginia from 7th place in 1925 to 3rd place in 1963, by ca. 1970 apple production was in decline in the county. There were forty-two orchards in Rappahannock in 1972 and by 1987 there were only twenty-three. The decline appears to have been due to an increase in competition from apple juicing plants in other states, such as New York and Washington, as well as apples imported from China and New Zealand. Peaches appear to have undergone similar decline, with a record 28,000 trees being recorded in 1959 falling to 8,100 in just 15 years.[16] The Wood Brothers' apple packing business remained part of the Flint Hill area economy until its closure in the second half of the 20th century.

Architecture

The historic district's architectural evolution is one of its most significant features. The ability to trace the historical development of the district from 1740 to 1965 through its architecture is clearly visible, ranging from early vernacular log claim houses to large mansions with high style influences, and including agricultural outbuildings, field patterns and landscape design, road construction, slave and worker housing, and ecclesiastical design. One of the most significant influences noted in the district's architecture are the vernacular construction methods and materials, including the early log buildings and the mid-19th-century stone dwellings. Developed slowly as an agrarian community, the district was bounded by early crossroads communities, a central transportation corridor, and a multitude

of supporting agrarian farmsteads and orchard lands. Ben Venue Road, originally known as Richmond Road, was incorporated into one of the region's earliest turnpikes to assist the transportation of goods from the mountains to the markets in Richmond and beyond. Early development in the district included ca. 1740 claim houses, such as the one enveloped by Holly Grove (078-5141-0012), among others, and the establishment of the Battle Run Primitive Baptist Church in 1773. The dwellings constructed along this important transportation corridor were primarily built by wealthy families associated with the establishment of the nearby thriving crossroads communities. Several early-to-mid 19th century stone dwellings, built by such families, are present at Clifton (078-0009/078-5141-0023), the George Williams house (078-0118/078-5141-0003), and the Williams Farm (078-5141-0010). These substantially constructed, two-story stone dwellings are all vernacular in form, built using local fieldstone, but represent the architecture of the area's rural gentry. Both Clifton and the Williams Farm are supported by secondary resources that stand as a testament to their rural farming heritage, including early barns, corncribs, and springhouses. The location along the turnpike also spurred the use of the early log dwellings at Toll Gate Farm (078-0117/078-5141-0013) to be transformed into a toll house.

The most high-style dwelling in the district is the circa 1844 main house at Ben Venue. Built by John Leake Powers, who was purportedly trained in Jeffersonian Classicism at the University of Virginia under master builder Malcolm Crawford, the dwelling is constructed in the popular Greek Revival style.

Piedmont Virginia's large 18th-century farm complexes, spread over vast acreage, resembled small villages with numerous outbuildings supporting the main dwelling, which was often located on a hilltop. Although the settlement-period domestic architecture of large plantations consisted of log dwellings and simple claim houses, much more substantial architecture soon followed and reflected the owner's growing wealth. The associated outbuildings often included kitchens, icehouses, slave quarters, granaries, smokehouses, barns, dairies, and other domestic and agricultural-related dependencies. As with the main house, these resources increased in size and number as the plantations prospered.

One of the most significant collections of outbuildings is located at Ben Venue (078-0003). Perhaps the most important of these resources are the three rare, surviving brick slave quarters that repeat the stylistic parapet gables of the main dwelling. Noted architectural historian Calder Loth eloquently details the significance of Ben Venue and its slave quarters in his book, *Virginia Landmarks of Black History: Sites on the Virginia Landmarks Register*: At Ben Venue, a fifteen-hundred-acre plantation established by William V. Fletcher in 1844, the main house, service outbuildings, and slave quarters were visually unified through their architectural treatment. Like the main house, the ancillary structures are brick buildings with corbeled brick cornices and distinctive, parapet gable ends with corbelled shoulders. The three slave quarters, instead of being hidden away, are conspicuously located lining a ridge in

a field in front of the main house. Each of these compact, single-room dwellings is a solidly built structure with a stone foundation, glazed windows, and an exterior-end brick chimney. They even retain traces of original penciled (white-painted) mortar joints. Although the exteriors made for interesting eye-catchers from the main house, the interiors were still relatively spartan with rough floors and ladder stairs. Despite their simplicity, the Ben Venue slave quarters form probably the most architecturally sophisticated grouping of slave quarters surviving in Virginia. They, along with the rest of the brick buildings in the plantation complex, are attributed to James Leake Powers, a master mason whom local tradition credits with constructing numerous buildings in the area, particularly in Washington, the county seat.[17]

The Civil War significantly impacted the Ben Venue area, stymieing architectural development through the devastation of the local economy. While no major battles were fought in Rappahannock County, the road network, including Ben Venue Road, and strategic location lent itself to widespread troop movement and several skirmishes. After the conclusion of the war, the economy slowly recovered spurring architectural development as well as the repair and rebuilding of buildings and farms that had been destroyed or had fallen into disrepair. While ornamental Victorian-era trends began in the Civil War period (1861-1865) and continued into the Reconstruction and Growth period (1866-1917) throughout Virginia, these were often slow to arrive in more rural locations. The stylistic elements include more elaborate detailing, such as the use of spindlework, brackets, and more intricate floor plans. Often, a number of elements were taken from various styles and were applied to more vernacular house forms, such as the application of Queen Anne, Gothic Revival, and Italianate detailing to ubiquitous I-house dwellings. One example of the applied use of ornaments is the Sutphin House (078-5141-0011) and farm complex at 374 Ben Venue Road. The main dwelling is a center-gabled I-house form with a full-width porch supported by turned posts and spindlework brackets; details that reference the Queen Anne style on an otherwise vernacular dwelling reflecting the more rural application of the style. Other architecture of this period in the district is more wholly vernacular in design. Similarly, the Colonial Revival style, despite is widespread popularity throughout the nation, was used sparingly in the district, which clung to its more local vernacular building traditions. The large farmsteads continued to evolve, however, which is primarily documented through the evolution of outbuildings and farm support buildings throughout the district, which is particularly well represented at the Williams Farm (078-5141-0010), which includes early-20th century tenant housing and barns, including a large dairy barn, up to the late 20th century orchard barns and sheds.

By the 1920s, the growing use of automobiles began to shift Virginia's principal economic drivers away from agrarian-based activities and toward larger regional city-centers. Despite the shift, Rappahannock's commercial orchards and tourism of the Shenandoah National Park significantly aided the local economy during the early 20th century. However, the Great

Depression, World War II, and a postwar depression in land prices slowed the economy substantially by the mid-20th century. The population of Gaines Crossroads declined in the early-20th century and its post office was renamed Ben Venue in 1907. In 1927 the post office was moved to Amissville; its departure significantly affected the historic crossroads community, and today little remains of the once-thriving crossroads.

The semi-recent rise of Rappahannock County as a bedroom community and weekend retreat for Washington, D.C. area residents and as a tourist destination has revived the local economy. In conjunction with this trend, county planning conservation and local groups have worked diligently to adopt land use planning strategies, such as minimum lot size requirements, conservation easements, and agricultural-forest districts, in order to retain the community's pristine rural appearance. Although some infill development has occurred, in both the county as a whole and along Ben Venue Road, it is not widespread and has retained the historic development patterns of being sited on large tracts of land with houses set back from the road. Additionally, several of these more recently constructed examples are well-built and architect-designed, including the stable at Points of View Farm and houses such as Standen Still, which should prove to be historically architecturally significant in their own right with time. As a result of the existing growth patterns and development type, farms and field patterns have remained relatively stable and the new development that has occurred has been interwoven into the historic landscape. Large tracts of land, while not specifically involved in widespread farming operations, are maintained to raise livestock or cash crops such as hay, wood, and grapes. The Williams Orchard remains in operation as a commercial apple orchard. The result is a bucolic atmosphere of small farms and sprawling estates set in a picturesque, unspoiled natural environment that retains a strong sense of historic integrity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Works Progress Administration, Historic Sites Survey, Rappahannock County, VA, 1938. Collection of the Library of Virginia, Richmond.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

____ previously listed in the National Register
____ previously determined eligible by the National Register
____ designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:
_X__ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
_X__ Local government
_X__ University
_X__ Other
Name of repository: Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA; Rappahannock County Historical Society; University of Virginia Special Collections, Charlottesville; Library of Virginia, Richmond

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): VDHR #078-5141

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 2,630

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 38.763850 Longitude: -78.104060

2. Latitude: 38.76314 Longitude: -78.041620

3. Latitude: 38.707610 Longitude: -78.041020

4. Latitude: 38.708780 Longitude: -78.101830

Or
UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The historic boundary of the Ben Venue Rural Historic District is delineated by the polygon drawn on the accompanying Location Map, whose vertices are marked by the above referenced latitude and longitude points. The true and correct historic boundaries also are shown on the attached Tax Parcel Map. The small rural district encompasses approximately 2,630 acres, and contains 27 built properties and 41 individual parcels. The district includes the following Rappahannock County tax parcels, proceeding roughly from the northwest end of the district to the southeast end, as follows: 13 135; 13 138F; 13 136; 13 138A; 13 137; 13 138; 13 138G; 13 138C; 13 138L; 13 138E; 21 38C; 21 38B; 21 38A; 21 39A; 21 39; 21 40A; 21 37A; 21 37; 21 36; 21 1 E; 21 1A; 21 1 B; 21 1 D; 21 1C; 21 1G; 21 1F; 21 43; 22 4; 22 5; 22 8; 22 8A; 22 5C; 22 5B; 22 6; 22 7; 22 7B; 22 9; 22 9A; 22 9B; 22 12; and 22 28. Rappahannock County does not have County base maps with parcel boundaries drawn, so the included parcels are listed from available data provided to Arcadia Preservation by Rappahannock County.

The historic district is located along Ben Venue Road/Route 729 between Zachary Taylor Highway/Route 522 to the north and the intersection with Lee Highway/Route 211 to the south. The district abuts the southeast corner of the Flint Hill Historic District (078-5018). Located primarily along the 3.4-mile Ben Venue Road, the district also comprises the small lanes that extend off the central core. Generally the boundaries follow the property lines of the dwellings included in the district as well as open acreage that follows the same location pattern. The east side of the district includes properties that directly face Ben Venue Road only or include historic resources.
Private road

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The historic boundary is drawn to encompass visually representative historic resources and the variety of resource types typical of the district. The boundary generally parallels the perimeter property lines of the 27 properties on 41 parcels that are included in the district and

encompasses the entire length of Ben Venue Road, along which a concentration of historic properties is found. All of the properties and small lanes on the west side of Ben Venue Road were included due to the physical defining of the district's west side by the mountainous landscape. These include the properties along the privately owned Points of View Lane, Williams Farm Lane, the privately owned Hickerson Mountain Lane, and part of Fogg Mountain Lane. The north and south boundaries are justified by the terminus of Ben Venue Road at the intersection of Zachary Taylor Highway to the north and Lee Highway to the south. The eastern boundary generally includes all properties that are accessed from or face Ben Venue Road. The district's historic boundary includes only the portion of the individually-listed Ben Venue (078-0003) property that is north of Lee Highway/Route 211, due to the visual boundary set by the four-lane divided highway.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jennifer Hallock
organization: Arcadia Preservation, LLC
street & number: PO Box 138
city or town: Keswick state: VA zip code: 22947
e-mail: jbh@arcadiapreservation.com
telephone: 434-293-7772
date: August 3, 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo

date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

The following information is common to all photographs:
Name of Property: Ben Venue Rural Historic District
City or Vicinity: Flint Hill
County: Rappahannock State: VA
Photographer: Jennifer Hallock/Arcadia Preservation
Date Photographed: May 12, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0001
View: Secondary Dwelling at Ben Venue, 38 Ben Venue Road, NW corner, camera facing SE

Photo 2 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0002
View: Ben Venue, 38 Ben Venue Road, NW corner, camera facing SE

Photo 3 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0003
View: Ben Venue, fields 38 Ben Venue Road, camera facing West

Photo 4 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0004
View: Ben Venue, 38 Ben Venue Road, Three Slave Quarters, camera facing NW

Photo 5 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0005
View: Ben Venue, 38 Ben Venue Road, Single Slave Quarter, camera facing NW

Photo 6 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0006
View: Battle Run Primitive Baptist Church, Ben Venue Road, NW corner, camera facing SE

Photo 7 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0007
View: George E. Williams Property, 241 Ben Venue Road, camera facing SW

Photo 8 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0008
View: 3 Williams Farm Lane, Williams Orchard Garage SE corner, camera facing NW

Photo 9 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0009
View: 3 Williams Farm Lane, Williams Orchard Barns East elevation, camera facing West

Photo 10 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0010
View: 3 Williams Farm Lane, Williams Orchard complex, camera facing NW

Photo 11 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0011
View: 3 Williams Farm Lane, Williams Orchard Cemetery, camera facing NW

Photo 12 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0012
View: Sutphin House 374 Ben Venue Road, West elevation, camera facing East

Photo 13 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0013
View: Holly Grove, 392 Ben Venue Road, West elevation, camera facing East

Photo 14 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0014
View: Holly Grove Barns, 392 Ben Venue Road, NW corner, camera facing SE

Photo 15 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0015
View: Toll Gate Farm, 423 Ben Venue Road, East elevation, camera facing NW

Photo 16 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0016
View: Toll Gate Farm House and vineyard, 423 Ben Venue Road, Springhouse North Elevation, camera facing SW

Photo 17 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0017
View: Toll Gate Farm, 423 Ben Venue Road, Barn North Elevation, camera facing SW

Photo 18 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0018
View: Clifton, 558 Ben Venue Road, Barn and Corncrib, NW corner, camera facing SE

Photo 19 of 19: VA_RappahannockCounty_BenVenueRuralHistoricDistrict_0019
View: Clifton, 558 Ben Venue Road, West elevation, NW corner, camera facing East

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

ENDNOTES

[1] There is no official documentation that James Leake Powers (1799-1889) was a University of Virginia builder. However, often workers were hired by other workers and their names never made the official registers, which is probably the case with Powers. He was associated with known Jefferson builder Malcolm Crawford. The pair worked together on the Washington Virginia courthouse. Powers, who moved from Albemarle County to Washington, VA, was known to also construct several other government buildings, as well as several churches and residences. These include Trinity Episcopal Church (1857) , Washington Presbyterian Church (1856), and Jessamine Hill, among others.

[2] Elisabeth and C.E. Johnson, Jr., *Rappahannock County Virginia: A History: Fact, Fiction, Foolishness, and Fairfax Story.* (Orange, Virginia: Green Publishers, Inc., 1981), 291.

[3] www.journeythroughhallowedground.org via Google May 3, 2015.

[4] Johnson, 277-281.

[5] Joseph Martin. *A New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia and the District of Columbia*. Joseph Martin, Charlottesville, VA, 1836.

[6] Johnson, p. 319.

[7] www.civilwar.vistrappahnnoackva.com/trails.html via Google May 10, 2015.

[8] Henry Kyd Douglas. *I Rode with Stonewall*. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1940.

[9] www.civilwar.vistrappahnnoackva.com/trails.html via Google May 10, 2015.

[10] Johnson, p. 320.

[11] www.civilwar.vistrappahnnoackva.com via Google May 10, 2015.

[12] Report on the Social, Agricultural, and Manufacturing Census, Record Group 287, National Archives College Park, Department of the Interior, Census Office, Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1940-1870.

[13] Kristie Baynard (EHT Traceries, Inc.). "Sunnyside," National Register Nomination, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Archives.

[14] Baynard, "Sunnyside," National Register Nomination.

[15] Baynard, "Sunnyside," National Register Nomination.

[16] Johnson, 277-281.

[17] Loth, Calder. Virginia Landmarks of Black History: Sites of the Virginia Landmarks Register. University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville. 1995. p. 32-24. Additionally the sighting of slave quarters in view of the main house began to symbolize the slave owner's power over his slave property.

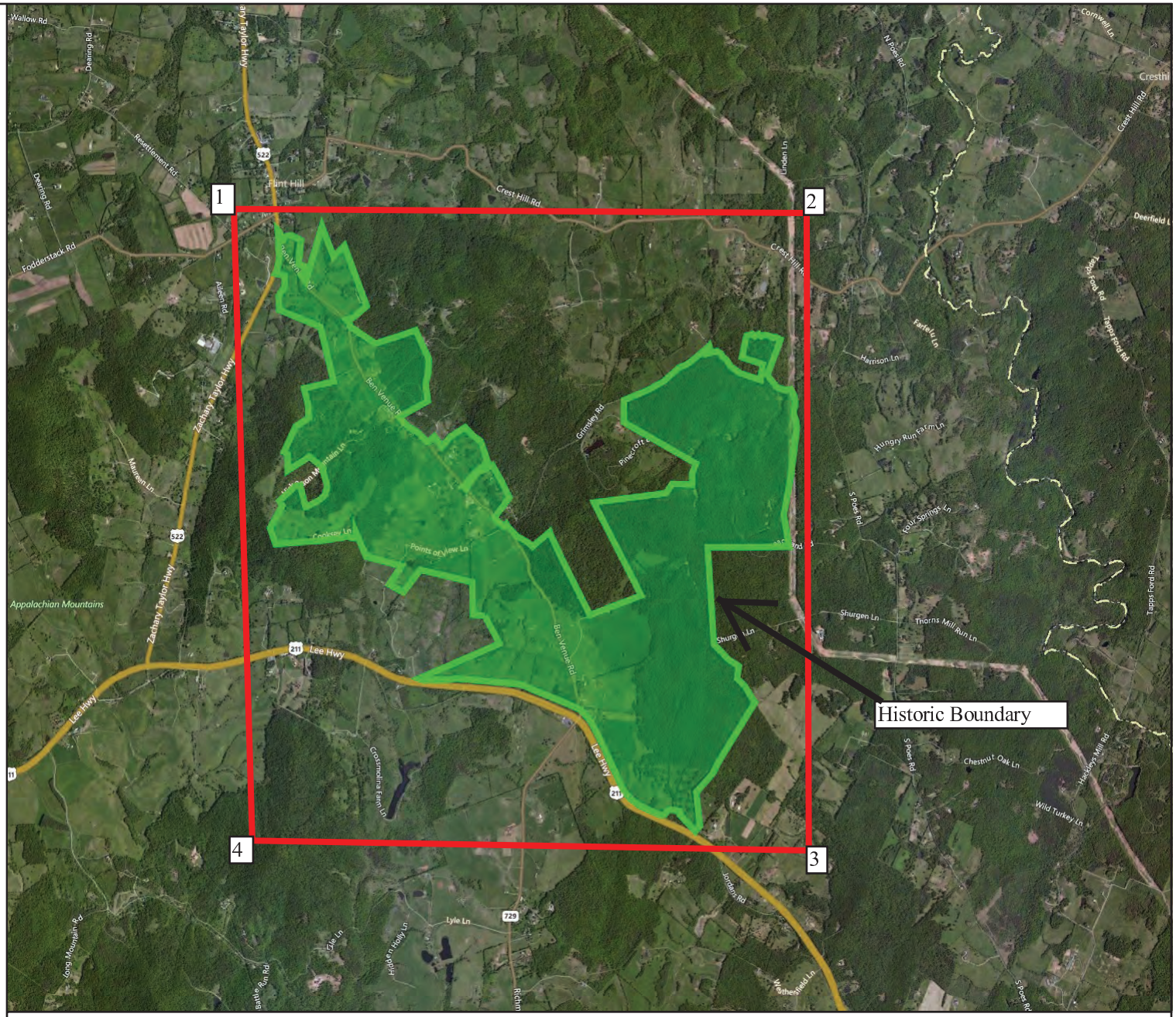
Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources

V-CRIS

Virginia Cultural Resource Information System

LOCATION MAP
Ben Venue Rural Historic District
Rappahannock County, VA
DHR No. 078-5141
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 38.763850
Longitude: -78.104060
2. Latitude: 38.76314
Longitude: -78.041620
3. Latitude: 38.707610
Longitude: -78.041020
4. Latitude: 38.708780
Longitude: -78.101830



N

Feet

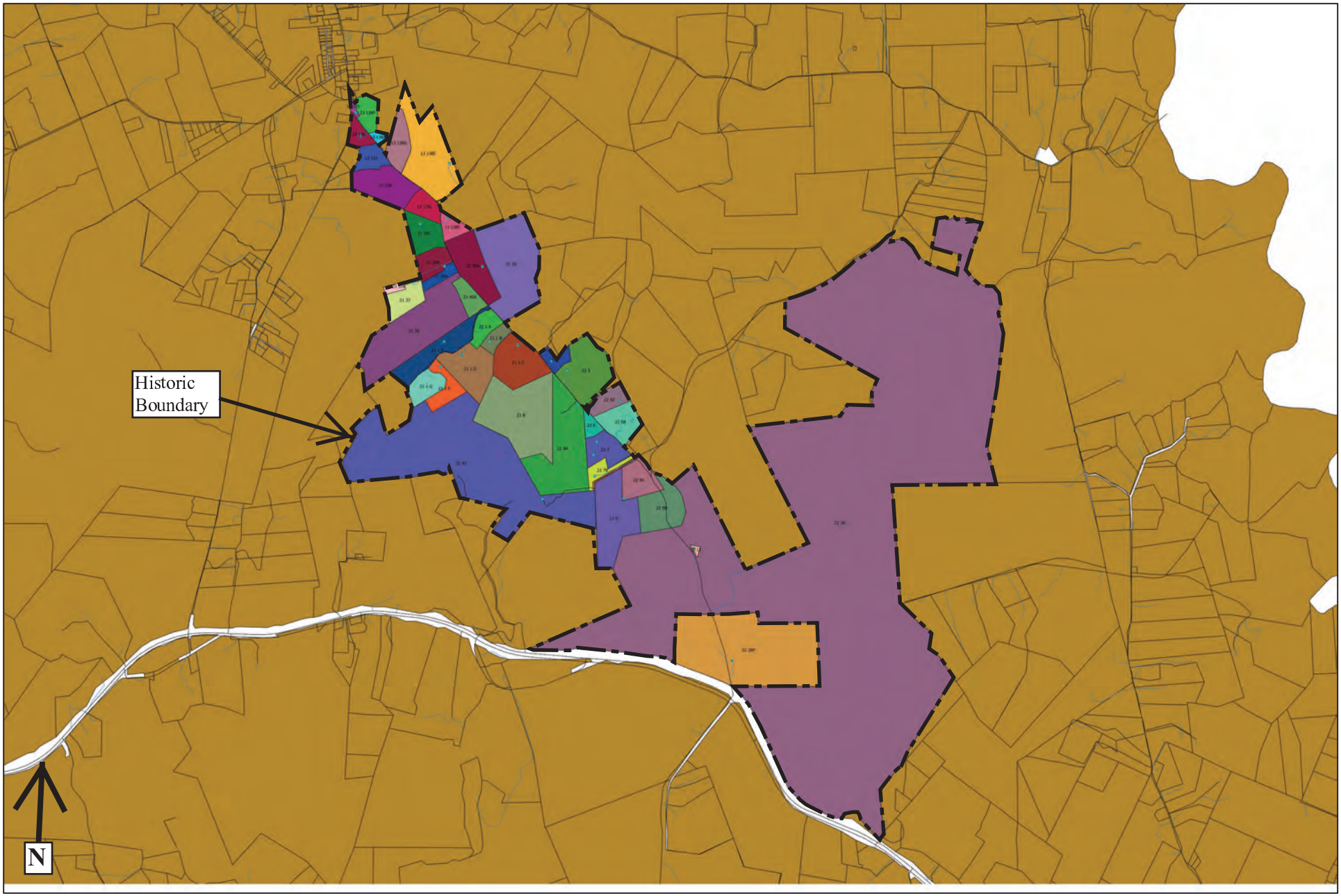
0 1200 2400 3600 4800

1:72,224 / 1"=6,019 Feet

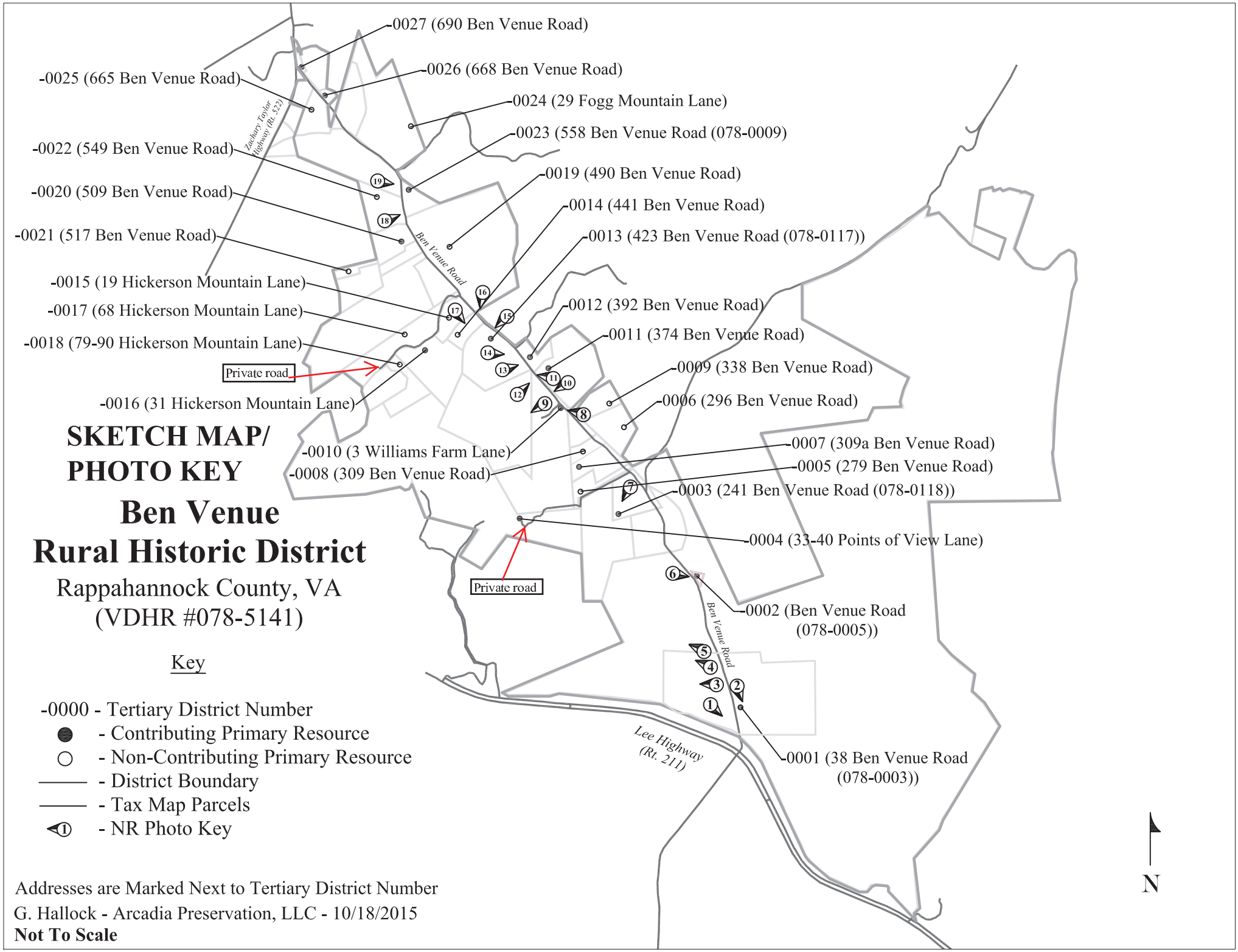
Title: Ben Venue Rural Historic District **Date: 10/20/2015**

DISCLAIMER:Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions.The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites:Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.



TAX PARCEL MAP
Ben Venue Rural Historic District
Rappahannock County, VA
DHR No. 078-5141


SKETCH MAP/
PHOTO KEY
Ben Venue
Rural Historic District
Rappahannock County, VA
(VDHR #078-5141)
Key
-0000 - Tertiary District Number
- Contributing Primary Resource
- Non-Contributing Primary Resource
- District Boundary
- Tax Map Parcels
- NR Photo Key
Addresses are Marked Next to Tertiary District Number
G. Hallock - Arcadia Preservation, LLC - 10/18/2015
Not To Scale
-0027 (690 Ben Venue Road)
-0026 (668 Ben Venue Road)
-0025 (665 Ben Venue Road)
-0024 (29 Fogg Mountain Lane)
-0023 (558 Ben Venue Road (078-0009)
-0022 (549 Ben Venue Road)
-0020 (509 Ben Venue Road)
-0019 (490 Ben Venue Road)
-0014 (441 Ben Venue Road)
-0021 (517 Ben Venue Road)
-0013 (423 Ben Venue Road (078-0117))
-0015 (19 Hickerson Mountain Lane)
-0017 (68 Hickerson Mountain Lane)
-0012 (392 Ben Venue Road)
-0018 (79-90 Hickerson Mountain Lane)
-0011 (374 Ben Venue Road)
Private road
-0009 (338 Ben Venue Road)
-0016 (31 Hickerson Mountain Lane)
-0006 (296 Ben Venue Road)
-0010 (3 Williams Farm Lane)
-0007 (309a Ben Venue Road)
-0008 (309 Ben Venue Road)
-0005 (279 Ben Venue Road)
-0003 (241 Ben Venue Road (078-0118))
-0004 (33-40 Points of View Lane)
Private road
-0002 (Ben Venue Road
(078-0005))
-0001 (38 Ben Venue Road
(078-0003))
Zachary Taylor Highway (Rt. 522)
Ben Venue Road
Ben Venue Road
Lee Highway
(Rt. 211)
N

Clifton