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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.

RECEIVED 2280
APR 01 2016
Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: The Tavern at Old Church

Other names/site number: Old Church Tavern; Old Church Hotel; DHR No. 042-0041

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: 3350 - 3360 Old Church Rd

City or town: Mechanicsville State: VA County: Hanover

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: X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

Stephanie B. Williams 3.22.16

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**

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:) _____

Lou Edson R. Beall 5.16.16

Signature of the Keeper 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)	X
District	☐
Site	☐
Structure	☐
Object	☐

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	2	buildings
0	0	sites
4	0	structures
0	0	objects
8	2	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC: Hotel: Tavern
DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure: Smokehouse; Garage
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Storage: Corn Crib
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Animal Facility: Barn; Chicken Coop
GOVERNMENT: Post Office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure: Storage
VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; WOOD

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
The 27.3-acre property known as The Tavern at Old Church, located in eastern Hanover County, Virginia, along State Route 606 is made up of two side-gabled, single-pile buildings, one frame and the other brick, constructed side-by-side and connected by a narrow breezeway, as well as a diverse collection of outbuildings. Dating to c. 1820, the frame building is the oldest resource and is an excellent example of Federal style architecture. The c. 1820-1830 brick building, also featuring Federal style, was built in a separate campaign. Interior door openings are present on the first and second floors of the two buildings, indicating their historic use as a single commercial enterprise. Indicative of the property's assorted commercial and agricultural uses over time are the property's other contributing resources: an 1890 tenant house, an 1840 smokehouse, an 1870 post office, an 1880 corn crib, an 1880 smokehouse, an 1890 chicken coop, and an 1890 corn crib. An 1880 barn with a 1995 addition and an 1890 garage are noncontributing resources due to loss of integrity.

Narrative Description
The Tavern at Old Church is located in the eastern part of Hanover County, Virginia, on the north side of State Route 606 (Old Church Road) at Route 606's T-intersection with State Route 628 (McClellan Road) and is about .29 mile west of the intersection of Route 606 and Immanuel Trail/Old Coach Trail. This crossroads community, still known today as Old Church after a colonial-era church, is approximately .83 mile (as the crow flies) south of U.S. Route 360 (Mechanicsville Turnpike) and approximately 2 miles southwest of the nearest bend of the

meandering Pamunkey River. Old Church is located along the route of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, which extends along a portion of Route 606. The National Historic Trail was designated by Congress in 2009 to commemorate over 680 miles of land and water trails followed by the allied armies under Generals Washington and Rochambeau through nine states and Washington, D.C.

The community of Old Church today is in a largely rural setting. In addition to the tavern complex, the hamlet includes a small cluster of buildings along about 500 feet of Route 606 between Route 628 (McClellan Road) and Immanuel Trail (a dead-end road directly east of Immanuel Episcopal Church). In addition to the Tavern at Old Church, historic resources include the National Register-listed Immanuel Episcopal Church (NRHP 1996), a house originally located in the vanished Hanovertown settlement, a c. 1837 dwelling, and a c. 1900 frame building historically known as the Old Church Store.

The Tavern at Old Church complex stands along the north side of Route 606. The buildings are clustered close to the road and north of Route 628 (McClellan Road), while the property's remaining acreage is open space. Driveways are located on the east and west sides of the tavern building, with the outbuildings and dependencies grouped to the rear of the tavern. In addition to the tavern, the property includes a c. 1890 tenant house, a c. 1840 smokehouse, a c. 1870 post office, a c. 1880 corn crib, a c. 1880 smokehouse, a c. 1890 chicken coop, and a c. 1890 corn crib (all contributing) as well as two non-contributing resources, a c. 1880 barn with a 1995 addition and an altered garage originally built c. 1890.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION – TAVERN (contributing building)

FRAME BUILDING: c. 1820 or later, Federal Style

The tavern building has undergone remarkably few changes over the past 115 years, as documented in historic photographs (see Figures 1-5 at the end of the nomination). The original, three-bay, single pile frame building was constructed c. 1820 on a brick foundation. The foundation and chimneys are 1:3 American bond brickwork. The gabled roof is clad with non-historic asphalt shingles. The exterior walls are clad with cement-board siding, beneath which the historic weatherboard siding has been documented to remain. The front (south) elevation has a full-width, two-story porch. Most of the extant porch columns reportedly were salvaged from a nearby property, likely built between 1900 and 1910. Two examples of the original tapered columns with beaded corners still remain on each floor of the porch, as do original louvered shutters with offset strap hinges. Other exterior appointments include early crown and bed moldings and corner posts under cement fiber shingles. On the first story, the fenestration is composed of a centered entry flanked by windows, while the second story has an entry at the east (right) end with two windows to the left of the entry. The first-story entry has an original raised panel door with six panels. Window sash on the first story have six-over-six lights and on the second floor nine-over-six. There are dormer windows with six-over-six sash to light the building's attic level. Gutters and aluminum storm window sash were added to the frame building during the 1970s or 1980s, likely due to the need for better window integrity.

On the frame building's east gabled end wall, the first story is devoid of fenestration. The second story has two windows, each with nine-over-six wood sash.

A one-story rear wing housing a kitchen was added to the frame building in early 1830, however, its roof was raised and the pitch changed sometime after 1865 to make the wing two full stories. A two-flue external chimney is centered on the wing's north (rear) wall. Immediately adjacent to the right is a shed-roofed porch with simple square support posts and accessed via four wood steps shelters a rear entry, which has an aluminum storm door. Piercing the rear wing's west wall is a single window on the first and second stories; these are located close to the wing's north end. During the 1960s, a one-story, shed-roofed addition was appended to the remainder of the wing's west wall. A now-enclosed exterior entrance to the wing's full basement is located between the main block's rear wall and 1960s addition. The entrance stairway and original doors remain within this enclosure.

A formally external, three-flue, brick chimney is centered on the frame building's west gable end wall, and sandwiched between the frame building and the slightly later brick building. A narrow frame breezeway is adjacent to the chimney's south side and historically provided interior access between the two buildings.

The frame building's interior features a side passage plan with raised panel doors. The interior rooms on the first floor have had some modifications but the majority of the old woodwork survives. The first floor includes a living room, kitchen, and office or tavern room. In the living room the heart pine flooring noted in a 1938 survey has been replaced with narrow board oak flooring. The interior retains Neoclassical wood trim. The base molding is beaded and no chair rail exists. One original raised panel door with six panels and original iron rim lock and cast iron butt hinges remains and is similar to the front exterior door. The fireplace opening is currently bricked up. The shelf of the mantle is molded and bowed in the center. Molding is applied on the shelf with vertical fluting. The entablature has a central raised panel with an oval sunburst. The pilasters are molded and have a recessed panel flanked by four small fans. The office (and possible tap room) is beneath the stairs. The heart pine flooring in this room has also been replaced with narrow board oak flooring. There is horizontal beaded sheathing on the lower walls. Evidence of an original staircase to the basement, (no longer present) exists beneath the present stairs. The small hallway still has the original heart pine flooring.

The kitchen is located in the c. 1830 rear wing. This room also has a bricked-up fireplace. The mantle is a simple, molded mantle with molded pilasters with recessed panels and stepped square molding beneath the plain shelf. Other moldings in the room date to between 1840 and 1860. A staircase without railings was built along with this addition and goes only to the second floor. The kitchen was upgraded in the 1960s and the only existing bathroom, off the kitchen, was added around the same time.

The upper level's original floor plan and finishes remain mostly intact with some original doors, windows, molding and the original heart pine flooring. The second floor has two bedrooms with a large hall with beaded baseboard. The second-floor bedroom over the living room has a

bricked-up fireplace. The mantle is simple with turned columns and a simple shelf with Grecian ovolo moldings underneath. This mantle is similar to a c. 1825 mantle documented in the nearby property known as "Hilly Farm" (DHR #042-0275), a c. 1800 hall-parlor dwelling which stood along Route 651 before its demolition in the late twentieth century. There is a beaded chair rail with a small molded shelf. The nine-over-six windows have simple two step molding. The plaster ceiling is secured by hand-split plaster lath.

In the rear wing, the second-floor bedroom over the kitchen also has a very simple mantle on the bricked over fireplace. The roof pitch was changed after 1865 with evidence that the original rafters were reused in the new roof and some sheathing boards were reused. Window moldings are plain boards.

The hall with the stairs has the original nine-over-six sash with two-step molding and beaded chair rail with a small molded shelf. The newel posts are square with a chamfered cap. The hand rail is an unmolded oval handrail with rectangular balusters. There is a winding stair to the original frame section's third floor which has two rooms (single-pile) with a beaded batten door with H-L hinges in the wall between. The door frame has double step molding. There is a beaded chair rail with shelf on both sides of the dividing wall. Both rooms were heated by one fireplace which is bricked up, and the mantle is missing. The windows are dormer windows, six-over-six, with beaded trim inside the dormer.

The basement space was heated with a square opening fireplace with no mantle, the ceiling was plastered (now missing) and there were originally two rooms. The partition is missing and a concrete slab covers the old brick floor. The walls are bare brick. Two windows survive under the front porch with intact wood bars. Evidence of water intrusion in the basement, as well as need for masonry repair has been noted.

The frame building currently has no central heat or air conditioning, and minimal plumbing and electrical service. Recently a small, two-story addition above the rear 1960s bathroom extension was built to provide space for a heat unit and ductwork, air conditioning, up-to-date electrical service, and a bathrooms on each level.

BRICK BUILDING: c. 1820-1830, Federal Style

Built a short time after and directly adjacent to the frame building, the brick building is a 2.5-story, three-bay, single-pile, side-gabled edifice with a full basement. The road front, or southern elevation, of the brick portion is done in Flemish bond with no water table and has a brick cornice. The gable ends and rear wall are done in American bond, 1:5 configuration. Exterior doors and windows have original ovolo molded and beaded surfaces. Pegs (visible) in the frames secure mortise and tenon joints. There are segmental brick arches over the windows. The number of panes in the double hung sash windows varies from 9/6, 6/6, to 2/2 lights.

Pintles (hooks) remain in place for strap hinged louvered shutters, although the shutters themselves have been removed (a number of these shutters survive in outbuildings). There is an interior chimney with 4 flues on the west gable end. Modern updates on the exterior include

aluminum storm windows on the rear, metal gutters and downspouts and new composite shingles. Removal of the roofing materials in 2013 confirmed the original roof was shingles.

The south façade's fenestration is symmetrically arranged, with three small 2/2 window openings along the basement level, an entry at the façade's east end with two 2/2 windows to the left (west) on the first story, three 9/6 windows across the second story, and two widely spaced dormers with 6/6 sash to light the attic level. The primary entry is sheltered by a one-bay porch fronted by a simple flight of wood steps. The porch features square columns, a wide frieze, and hipped roof covered with composite shingles. The entry retains three-panel, double-leaf wood doors topped with a five-light transom. On their exterior faces, the doors are flush paneled with bead moldings delineating the rectangular panels. They have recessed panels on their interior faces.

The west gable end wall is devoid of fenestration but for a historic small, projecting, gable-roofed entry bay situated at the north corner. The bay's walls are clad with weatherboard siding and the single entry door is accented with reverse Z bracing. The roof is now clad with composite shingles.

The brick building's north (rear) wall has a single basement window, two windows apiece on the first and second stories, and a single dormer that lights the attic level.

The brick building's interior is a side passage plan with two-and-a-half finished floors over a raised English basement with a four-story interior staircase. The original heart pine flooring exists throughout, as do the baseboard, chair rails, door and window moldings, and plaster-and-lath walls. In the hall, the four-story staircase is located on the east interior wall (beyond which is the frame building). Nearby a six-panel wood door on the hall's east wall leads to the frame building. The staircase from the basement to first floor is enclosed and has no railing. From the first floor to the second story, the stairs have a late nineteenth century railing with a turned newel post, turned oak balusters, and molded hand rail. This staircase is not quite aligned with the staircase above and one 1"-by-6" piece of flooring was removed to accommodate the slightly larger newel post. It is believed that this change is the result of a mid- to late-nineteenth-century renovation project. The second-to-third-floor staircase has a Federal-style, pegged railing with square newels with molded caps, molded rail, and rectangular balusters.

The basement is one large room. The floor is newer brick tile over a concrete slab. The walls are brick and are painted white. There are two-over-two window sash with a wide complex molding of molded ovolo and cove with astragal stepped down to a bead. The fireplace has a rectangular opening, is bare brick, and has no mantle.

A large parlor, or living room, is located off the side passage on the first floor. The original heart pine floors remain intact. The baseboard is molded with an astragal above a simple Grecian ovolo. The chair rail is horizontally reeded with cove and astragal bead above and a simple bead below. There is no crown molding. The architectural moldings around the doors and windows are a wide complex of molded ovolo and cove with astragal, stepped down to a bead. The

window sash have two-over-two lights. The six-panel, raised panel door from the stair hall has quirk ovolo and bead molding surrounding the panels. There is also a c. 1820-1830 iron rim lock.

The parlor mantel has a beaded, rectangular opening for the firebox. Dating to c. 1820-1830, the simple mantle with the shelf bowed to the center has two levels of Grecian ovolo molding, flanking Tuscan pilasters with ogee moldings and a central panel. Flanking the fireplace opening and mantel are paired, recessed, arched alcoves with headers. The arches are decorated with raised stars on either side of a fluted keystone. The crown molding on the architraves are carved with a pointed-end scalloped pattern. Rectangular two-light sidelights above single wood panels are in the center and on both sides of the recessed arches.

From the second-story staircase landing, a door with two vertical, recessed panels leads from the brick building to the frame building. The aforementioned early square newel posts with chamfered cap, rectangular balusters, and ovolo hand rail are intact on the second floor and up to the third floor. The baseboard and window trim is consistent with the first floor though the chair rail is not and is beaded above and below. All window sash on the second floor have nine-over-six lights. The second floor contains two bedrooms of different sizes but with very similar finishes. The larger bedroom has a fireplace mantle similar to the first floor, with flanking Tuscan pilasters with central recessed rectangular front panels. Impost blocks with recessed elliptical panels occur at the frieze. Stepped out over the pilasters are a drill and dentil cornice and projecting Grecian ovolo shelf with a pair of ogee brackets supporting the mantel. The mantel has been stripped to a pine finish. The smaller bedroom is identical though would have been heated by the fireplace in the larger bedroom.

The third floor has two adjoining rooms off the side passage stairs. The door opening connecting the rooms has a beaded batten door with H-L hinges. The original flooring remains, there is beaded trim inside the dormer windows, and the baseboard is beaded but narrower than found elsewhere in the dwelling. The fireplace has an arched box with simple shelf mantle which heated both rooms.

Rehabilitation of the brick building took place between 1993 and 2014 utilizing “The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.” Moreover, a two-and-one-half story wing was constructed on the brick building’s north (rear) side. The wing spans slightly more than one-third of the brick building’s rear wall. Also built on a raised basement, the rear wing’s walls are clad with horizontal composite siding and the gabled roof is clad with composite shingles to match the brick building’s roofing. A two-bay entry porch is located on the wing’s west side wall and is accessed via a flight of wood steps. This was the brick building’s original rear porch and it was removed, preserved and placed in its current location as part of the rehabilitation project. The gabled porch roof is supported by unadorned square posts. The entry consists of a centered door flanked by large rectangular sidelights. A window with six-over-six lights is to the south (right) of the entry. The second story has a window with six-over-six lights at each end and a small, centered, window with six-light sash. The attic level is pierced by dormers with six-over-six window sash. The wing’s north gable end wall has a paired window on the first story, a centered window on the second story, and a window centered beneath the gable peak. Each window has

six-over-six sash. At the basement level on the north and west sides, there are eight-light awning sash with wood bars in a style similar to the frame building's basement windows. The east wall of the rear wing has a six-over-six sash window on the first floor and a six-over-six sash on the second floor to the left of this window and below one of the two dormers on the third floor. The rear wing includes a kitchen, bathrooms, bedroom, and mechanical equipment for electrical systems, heating, air-conditioning, and plumbing systems that previously were absent from the brick building. The brick building's original three-panel, double-leaf rear doors with five-light transom were preserved in place as the interior entrance to the addition; this original rear entry matches the front entry on the brick building's south facade.

OUTBUILDINGS:

The property's outbuildings consist of an 1890 tenant house, an 1840 smokehouse, an 1870 post office, an 1880 corn crib, an 1880 smokehouse, an 1890 chicken coop, and an 1890 corn crib, all of which are contributing to the property's historic and architectural significance. An 1880 barn with a 1995 addition and an 1890 garage also are present but have lost the integrity necessary to contribute to the property.

The two smokehouses, tenant house, chicken coop, two corn cribs, and the former Old Church Post Office, all of wood construction with metal roofs, survive in varying condition from good to fair condition. The smoke houses, chicken coop, and corn cribs were used to support the operations of a tavern and farm during the nineteenth century. The former post office building was moved to its current location sometime after 1943, when the U.S. Postal Service closed the post office in Old Church, and is associated with the tavern property owner's long-time service as postmaster.

INVENTORY

Photo Number	Resource	Approx. construction date	Details
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0001	Tavern	c. 1820; c. 1820-1830	The tavern consists of a Federal-style c. 1820 frame building and c. 1820-1830 brick building, constructed side-by-side and connected by a narrow breezeway. *Contributing building.*
VA Hanover County Old Church Tavern 0006	Tenant house	C. 1890	This is a two-story, frame dwelling supported on brick footers, with weatherboard siding and metal roofing. During earlier restoration the tenant house required significant work to prevent total destruction and loss. Rotting sills and supports were replaced, weatherboard siding repaired and replaced as needed, and the metal roof replaced. The chimney could not be saved. Six-over-six double hung windows have been replaced with replicas and one new door added (not visible from the front or street). The façade's doors are original. The original first-floor flooring was removed and saved, while the second floor flooring remains intact. *Contributing building.*
VA Hanover County Old Church Tavern 0007	Smokehouse (tan)	C. 1840	This is a frame structure with weatherboard siding and metal roofing. There is foundation and weatherboard deterioration and it has had wood braces applied. Its historic use as a smoke house is still apparent on the interior overhead beams. *Contributing structure.*
VA Hanover County Old Church Tavern 0008	Post Office	C. 1870	This frame building, originally with weatherboard siding, has metal sheets and plywood boards in place of the 2 side windows. The original single door remains. Some of the

Photo Number	Resource	Approx. construction date	Details
			weatherboard siding has been replaced with plywood. It sits on six brick pillars. The metal roof is in severe disrepair. All indications of its use as a post office have been removed from the interior. Numerous holes are in the flooring. Chains and boards have been applied as interior bracing. It was relocated from the road front to the property's field at an unknown date after 1940. *Contributing building.*
VA Hanover County Old Church Tavern 0009	Corn Crib (red)	C. 1880	The exterior of this wood structure is showing deterioration. The single door and hinges remain. The interior remains intact, with corn cobs still stuck between the boards. *Contributing structure.*
VA Hanover County Old Church Tavern 0010	Barn	C. 1880 addition 1995	The one-story, gable-roofed barn has vertical-board siding and metal roofing. A pair of Dutch doors is left-of-center on one longitudinal wall. The barn has an attached, enclosed tractor shed. *Non-contributing building.*
VA Hanover County Old Church Tavern 0011	Smokehouse (white)	C. 1880	This is a frame structure with weatherboard siding and metal roof. The original door remains, as does much of the weatherboard siding. The roof is metal. Use as a smoke house is evident on the interior. Original flooring remains. *Contributing structure.*
VA Hanover County Old Church Tavern 0011	Garage	C. 1890	This is a simple frame building with weatherboard siding and metal roofing. The east side is open with no doors, there is no flooring and some of the siding has been replaced. Although used as a garage in the past, it is unknown what its original use would have been. *Non-*

Photo Number	Resource	Approx. construction date	Details
			contributing building.
VA Hanover County Old Church Tavern 0012	Chicken Coop	C. 1890	This is a wood building with metal roof. The original siding has been replaced by particle board and the roof is now covered with metal. Window openings are screened and original doors and interior walls remain. This structure still has original nesting boxes and perches in place. *Contributing building.*
VA Hanover County Old Church Tavern 0013	Corn Crib (white)	C. 1890	This is a wood structure with weatherboard siding and a metal roof. It is placed on six concrete pillars. The original door remains. *Contributing structure.*

Archeological potential is also present here as Civil War encampments and a blacksmith shop are documented in historic documents, photographs, and some visible features in the soil. An eighteenth-century church also is known to have been somewhere on the property, but no documents have been discovered to indicate its location (Lohr 2015). To date, the property has not been subject to professional archaeological testing.

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.)
COMMERCE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
c. 1820 – 1893

Significant Dates
c. 1870

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

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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.)

An increasingly rare example of a once-common resource type in rural Virginia, the Tavern at Old Church is locally significant as a rural tavern complex with most of its support buildings intact. The property was the nucleus of the crossroads community of "Old Church" in Hanover County. A number of historic houses and churches remain within sight of the tavern, giving it a pleasing context and intact historic setting. The Tavern at Old Church is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Commerce for its historic use as a tavern from c. 1820 to c. 1890. During this period, the tavern's owners also often served as postmasters and, c. 1870, a frame post office building was constructed on the property for this purpose. The property also is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for the fine Federal style architecture of the c. 1820 frame building and c. 1820-1830 brick building that together historically functioned as a tavern. The period of significance begins c. 1820 with construction of the frame building and ends in 1893, when the tavern building was divided to function as two private dwellings.

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

Historical Overview

European settlement in present-day Hanover County began during the seventeenth century as British colonial settlement expanded westward from tidewater Virginia. The county's first communities of note were the tobacco shipping ports of Hanovertown (also known as Page's Warehouse) and New Castle along the west bank of the Pamunkey River. Both were established by the 1670s by plantation owners to serve as shipping points for their tobacco. Each consisted of just a handful of buildings. Hanover County was organized in 1720 and originally was within the Anglican Church's Saint Paul's Parish, which similarly had been set off from St. Peter's Parish in New Kent County. The "Old Church" by which the Tavern at Old Church has long been known is believed to have been a colonial-era Anglican church originally in the vicinity of New Castle, which was located approximately 1.5 miles away from the subject property. Hanovertown was about 3.5 miles from the Tavern at Old Church.

Hanover County's economy relied heavily on agricultural production from the colonial era through the early nineteenth century, with tobacco the principal cash crop. The first principal transportation route was the Pamunkey River, by which agricultural goods could be shipped to the York River and onward to established market centers at Williamsburg. As soil exhaustion reduced tobacco yields, by the early nineteenth century, farmers switched to growing corn and wheat. Consequently, with the loss of tobacco shipping business, both Hanovertown and New Castle declined during the eighteenth century and had largely vanished by the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The site of Hanovertown was listed in the National Register in 1974, and that of New Castle was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register in 1975.

This area of Hanover County remained rather sparsely settled through the eighteenth century. By the mid- to late eighteenth century, a road extended from Williamsburg northwest through New Kent and Hanover counties. During the American Revolution, along this road armies under the command of General George Washington and General Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur de Rochambeau traveled from the northern colonies down to Yorktown, passing through both New Castle and Hanovertown along the way. Today's Route 606, as it passes the Tavern at Old Church, follows a portion of this route and is part of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, which was designated by Congress in 2009.

By the early nineteenth century, as Hanover County's agricultural economy transitioned from tobacco cultivation to corn and wheat, gristmills sprang up to process harvests prior to transport to market centers. The water-powered mills typically were located along tributaries of the Chickahominy and Pamunkey rivers, making for a more widely dispersed array of processing operations than had been present during the heyday of New Castle and Hanovertown. Consequently, reliance on river-borne transportation waned and a more extensive road network developed to connect farms, mills, ferry crossings, taverns, and small communities with one another and, eventually, to lead to Richmond, which emerged as Hanover County's principal marketplace by the early nineteenth century.

In addition to such "farm-to-market" roads, building and improving major roads throughout Virginia was a priority of the General Assembly during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Traffic and weather often rendered dirt roads impassable, especially in winter, stymying commercial traffic and making it difficult to conduct ordinary social, religious, political, and other activities. Turnpikes were the first solution attempted to build a network of hard-surface roads. Such roads were to be constructed by chartered private companies that would then recoup their costs by charging tolls. Between 1802 and1818, eight turnpike companies were incorporated to establish roads out of Richmond: Manchester Turnpike (1802) to Falling Creek; Richmond Turnpike (1804) running by the Deep Run Coal Pits to the Three Notched Road at Short Pump; Richmond and Columbia Turnpike to Goochland Courthouse; Brook Turnpike (1812) to Williamson's Tavern (now Solomon's Store); Westham Turnpike (1816) from Richmond to Leonard's Tavern near Westham; Manchester and Petersburg Turnpike (1816) laid out by Claude Crozet; Mechanicsville Turnpike (1817) through Hanover County; and the Richmond and Osborne's Turnpike (1818), running to a ferry that crossed the James to Osborne's Wharf.[1] The Mechanicsville Turnpike ultimately was extended through northeastern Hanover County, and, during the early twentieth century, ultimately became part of U.S. Route 360. Its current alignment is approximately .83 mile north of Old Church.

Although turnpikes were initially considered the most viable option to improve overland transportation in nineteenth-century Virginia, by the 1830s, roads began to be supplanted by the

[1] Workers of the Writer's Program of the Works Project Administration in the State of Virginia, comp., "Transportation," in *Virginia: A Guide to the Old Dominion* (Original: New York: Oxford University Press, 1940; Reprint: Richmond, VA: The Library Board, 1992), n.p. This guide is published online at http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/VAGuide/frame.html by the American Studies program at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

new technology of railroads. Railroads had the advantage of being easier to construct and could travel at much faster speeds than horse-drawn or river-borne transport. In 1834, construction of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad began to reshape settlement patterns in Hanover County again, as the town of Ashland became an important shipping point. By 1860, the Virginia Central Railroad had been constructed from Richmond through Atlee and Hanover Court House. Rail service bypassed Old Church entirely, leaving the tiny community well away from the county's rapidly growing population centers.

The onset of the Civil War, however, stunted further growth in Hanover County for years. Three major battles took place in the county, at Gaines Mill, Mechanicsville, and Cold Harbor, as well as numerous other engagements at Hanover Court House, Ashland, Totopotomy Creek, and Hanover Junction, among others. Extensive physical damage to infrastructure and agricultural lands caused property values to drop precipitously. Economic recovery required decades, with the county remaining a primarily rural and agricultural place well into the twentieth century. A brief boom in timbering boosted some farmers' fortunes between 1905 and 1915. In the eastern part of Hanover County, where Old Church is located, truck crops began to replace tobacco, corn, and wheat, and dairy farming and livestock and poultry production also increased. During the 1920s, the advent of broad-based automobile transportation finally began to weave the county's rural areas more closely together with growing urban centers such as Ashland, Mechanicsville, Fredericksburg, and Richmond. During the mid- to late twentieth century, rapid suburban development sprawled into Hanover County from the Richmond metropolitan area. Although more recent development has spread closer to the county's northeastern reaches where Old Church is located, this area remains predominately rural in character.

Old Church Crossroads Community

Steven A. Colvin's *On Deep Water* discusses the local lore about New Castle's decline and the resultant founding of the Old Church crossroads village. The origins of the crossroads community's appellation, "Old Church," apparently is derived from local understanding of the relocation of the colonial-era church from New Castle along the Pamunkey River up to the crossroads. As tobacco shipping decreased on the river, by about 1710 the landowners reportedly began moving their houses away from the marshes to avoid malaria. A long-vanished road once led from New Castle's riverside location up to this higher ground, and Colvin reported that a tavern was built here as early as 1719. Colvin's description of the tavern, however, clearly is that of the extant Tavern at Old Church, which actually dates to c. 1820.[2] While it is possible that a tavern stood here as early as 1719, it was not the extant building.

While it is not known with certainty if a tavern was at the crossroads hamlet during the first quarter of the eighteenth century, more substantial documentation exists concerning the colonial era-church originally at New Castle. According to at least two local historians, with the formation of St. Paul's Parish, the old Upper Church of St. Peter's Parish had become the Lower Church of St. Paul's Parish. That church's original building had been replaced in 1690 with a church in New Castle. Around 1718, the congregation abandoned the 1690 building and built a

[2] Colvin, *On Deep Water,* 9-10.

church in the crossroads community of Old Church.[3] The Reverend Patrick Henry (uncle of Founding Father Patrick Henry) is known to have served as the minister in St. Paul's Parish for several decades during the mid-eighteenth century.[4] Local tradition has long suggested that the 1718 church was located somewhere on the property of the Tavern at Old Church. No historic records ever have been located to document this supposition and, although the Tavern at Old Church's acreage is believed to have high potential for archaeology, no professional testing has yet taken place to identify a possible church location. According to the National Register nomination for Immanuel Episcopal Church (NRHP 1996; DHR #042-0125), the 1718 church remained in use until 1853. The congregation's membership had declined substantially after the Revolutionary War, when the Anglican Church was disestablished and, in the United States, became the Episcopal denomination. In 1853, George Washington Bassett donated money for a new church that, when it was built, was named Immanuel Episcopal Church. This National Register-listed building, located on the south side of Route 606, stands less than .25 mile from the Tavern at Old Church.[5]

The crossroads village that included the "old church" and the tavern property that is the subject of this current nomination received its first post office on March 24, 1829, and was given the official name of Old Church, again in recognition of the church that had been at the crossroads since about 1718 (and prior to that had been in New Castle along the Pamunkey River). All available records indicate that, from its inception, the post office was located either at or very close to the same property as the Tavern at Old Church. The last building constructed to house the post office, dating to 1870, originally stood adjacent to the north side of Route 606 (Old Church Road), near the tavern building, and is shown in this location in a c. 1920 photograph (Figure 2). The building was moved to its current location sometime after December 31, 1943, when the local post office closed and mail processing moved to the nearby community of Tunstall.[6]

Old Church appears to have seen little growth during the nineteenth century. Among the index to land forms, water courses, local place names, and other terms that are found in the 1835 *Martin's Gazetteer of Virginia*, "Old Church" is listed on page 187, but no other information is provided.

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[3] Robert Bolling Lancaster, *A Sketch of the Early History of Hanover County, Virginia and Its Large and Important Contributions to the American Revolution* (Richmond, VA: Whittet & Shepperson, 1976), 16-17. This book was produced for the Bicentennial Committee for Hanover County as part of local commemoration of the nation's bicentennial. Lancaster provided no citations for his assertions. Also see Steven A. Colvin, *On Deep Water* (Verona, VA: McClure Publishing Company, Inc., 1983), 59 and p. 144, notes 2-5 in which Colvin referenced a "Sketch of Immanuel Church" from 1953 and statements of the late D. Dillard Williams (1903-1973). Also see B. Meade, *Old Churches: Ministers and Families of Virginia* (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1861), who stated that Henry served as minister in St. Paul's Parish from 1737 until his death in 1777.

[4] "The Will of The Reverend Patrick Henry, of Hanover County," from Leon M. Bazile, "Wills of Rev. Patrick Henry and Walter Coles of Hanover County, VA", in *Virginia Will Records,* p. 144, as quoted at http://gilliamsofvirginia.org/Hanover/Rev%20Patrick%20Henry/RevPatrickHenry.html.

[5] Ann Lee Dulevitz, National Register nomination for Immanuel Episcopal Church, 1996.

[6] Colvin, *On Deep Water*, 127, note 35. The note references "a letter, under date 29 November 1971, National Archives and Records Service." Colvin referenced the letter again on p. 121, and added that the post office operated from a small building at the Tavern at Old Church for 30 years before being moved to a place called Booker's Store, where it was until the end of 1943. Colvin reproduced the letter's contents on p. 123.

Prior to the Civil War, the Tavern at Old Church served as a stagecoach stop and a place for drivers to obtain fresh horses. At this time, the trip to Richmond required most of a day. During the Civil War, the handful of buildings within Old Church appear to have suffered little physical damage from military battles. The village and neighboring plantations experienced deprivations typical of the war, such as loss of food supplies, crops, and livestock. Additionally, Union Major General Philip Sheridan used the Tavern at Old Church as his headquarters from May 30 to June 4, 1864. Due to Sheridan's stay and the military engagements that took place in the village's immediate vicinity, Old Church is today within the study boundaries of the Cold Harbor Battlefield.

As in the larger Hanover County, the village of Old Church saw little growth or improvement in the decades immediately after the war. In 1881, the Reverend Sewell Stavely Hepburn, who had newly been appointed to head St. Paul's Parish, described Old Church as a fairly isolated place, reachable only by horse on roads that were at times almost impassable. Without providing specific locations, Hepburn noted that the community included "the only store for miles and miles around," a combined blacksmith and wheelwright shop, and two elderly doctors.[7] By this time, the Tavern at Old Church was a largely derelict business, not believed to have housed a guest since 1865 when James Lipscomb had operated the building as the Old Church Hotel. A store run by Charles Y. Booker stood on the corner across from the Tavern at Old Church. In 1879, Booker closed the building due to his failing health and sold his merchandise to Charles F. Tayler & Company. The goods included the assortment of wares then typical of a small country store, such as dry good, groceries, boots, shoes, hardware, cutlery, crockery, whiskeys, and ready-made clothing. Around 1885, however, Booker's widow, Eva Neal Booker, reopened the store and it continued to operate through at least the first quarter of the twentieth century.[8]

Although Hanover County experienced considerable growth and economic development throughout the twentieth century, Old Church appears to have been largely removed from these trends until the late twentieth century. Aerial photographs of Old Church demonstrate that its surroundings are still largely rural and undeveloped, although low-density housing and commercial developments have begun to extend from the Route 360 corridor into the adjacent farmland. Limited newer residential development also is occurring along Route 606 (Old Church Road). The hamlet now includes a small cluster of buildings along about 500 feet of Route 606 between Route 628 (McClellan Road) and Immanuel Trail (a dead-end road directly east of Immanuel Episcopal Church). In addition to the Tavern at Old Church, historic resources include the National Register-listed Immanuel Episcopal Church (DHR #042-0125), a house that was relocated at an unknown date from the vanished Hanovertown settlement (DHR #042-0040), a c. 1837 dwelling that also may have been used for commercial purposes at different times in its history (DHR #042-0482), and a c. 1900 frame building historically known as the Old Church Store (DHR #042-0821).

The Tavern at Old Church

[7] As quoted in Colvin, *On Deep Water*, 103.
[8] Colvin, *On Deep Water,* 104-105.

The Tavern at Old Church is believed to have been constructed in two campaigns, with the earlier, frame section built c. 1820 and the slightly later brick section built c. 1820-1830. Attempts to narrow down the construction date are complicated by the fact that Hanover County's early courthouse records were destroyed during the Civil War and later records were damaged in a separate incident around 1910. Both buildings' Federal style suggests they date to the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The Federal style was most popular in Virginia between 1780 and 1825; due to cultural lag, in rural areas such as Old Church, it is not unusual to see later examples. Greek Revival, however, became increasingly popular throughout Virginia after 1820 and remained so until 1860. Had the tavern been constructed later than c. 1820-1830, it is less likely to have been done in the Federal style. As documented in historic photographs, the building has seen remarkably few changes since c. 1900 (See Figures 1-5 at the end of this nomination).

About 1994, staff at the Department of Historic Resources researched the property's history with some success. The earliest known probably owner of the Tavern at Old Church was Churchill Hodges, who was listed in 1833 Hanover County land tax lists as the owner of two, two-lot parcels of 20 and 2 acres, with the land and buildings having combined values of $700 and $35.33 respectively. The frame portion of the tavern building is believed to be reflected in the valuation. The land records did not indicate if the property served a business purpose, such as for a tavern, but according to the National Archives, Hodges also was the postmaster of Old Church from October 1831 through October 1834, and again from July 1835 until April 1837. National Archives records indicate that John W. C. Phillips was postmaster of Old Church in 1829-1831, but no records have been identified to date showing that he also owned the Tavern at Old Church. In rural areas, tavern owners frequently served as postmasters as well, both because their buildings were open to the public and because access to mail service had the potential to draw paying customers. By 1834, Hodges' two tracts had been combined and $1,684.77 added to their value due to a new building. This may represent the construction of the brick portion of the tavern building. The following year, two more buildings were noted, raising the property's value by $154. It is not known if the c. 1840 smokehouse at the property is one of these two buildings. By this time, Hodges' land holdings had increased to 144¾ acres and 58 acres on two lots.[9]

In 1837, Charles A. Hodges was listed as the owner of the acreage that included the tavern and its outbuildings. In 1838, county tax records listed Orville Jeffries as the owner of 58 and 22 acres, respectively, that were "transferred from C. A. Hodges." Although the Hodges were native to Hanover County, Jeffries was noted as being from Essex County. Jeffries also served as postmaster of Old Church from April 1837 to January 1840. In 1840, the land records noted another increase in value of $4,000 for buildings with the total acreage holding steady at 80 acres. In 1842, the two tracts owned by Jeffries were combined and transferred to James D. Ellet, at which time a resurvey resulted in increasing the acreage total to 82. Ellet served as the village's postmaster from November 1841 until May 1853. Land records from 1853 indicate that Lewis Johnson was now the owner, that he paid for a license to run an ordinary, and that he paid

[9] Jarl Jackson (for John Salmon) to Calder Loth, Re: The Tavern at Old Church (VDHR #42-41), no date; Colvin, *On Deep Water*, 123.

taxes on 99 ½ acres of land.[10] Johnson also served as postmaster of Old Church from May 1853 until April 1857.[11]

James A. Lipscomb, a merchant from nearby King William County, purchased the tavern from Johnson in 1858 and is listed as a "Hotel Keeper" in the 1860 census.[12] Available land tax records continued listing Lipscomb as the owner until at least 1863. Lipscomb apparently operated the tavern as the Old Church Hotel. A local history indicates that his last paying customer stayed at the property in 1865. He also served as Old Church's postmaster from April 1857 to January 1866, when Lewis Johnson resumed the role (it is not known if Johnson also reacquired the Tavern at Old Church).[13] At an unknown date, Thomas Granger acquired the property. According to Colvin, in 1873, Thomas Fielding Dillard had purchased the tavern and 81 acres around it. Upon his death in 1893, he willed the brick portion to his son, John Dillard, and the frame portion to his daughter, Sallie Dillard, who later married B. Brooks Williams.[14] Thereafter, the tavern building was used as two separate dwellings. It is not known if either Granger or Dillard used the property as a tavern, but the post office is known to have remained operable in the c. 1870 frame building that stood on the property until it was closed in 1943.

A c. 1900 photo of the building shows an assortment of unknown individuals standing in front of both buildings; there is no obvious sign of commercial use at the building (Figure 1). The frame portion remained in the Dillard-Williams family until March 2014. In 1904 Levi Z. Condon of Baltimore purchased the brick portion. He in turn sold it to Miss Jane Ruffin and it was used as the rectory for nearby Immanuel Episcopal Church. In 1925 Ruffin and the Vestry of Immanuel Episcopal Church sold it to St. George and Maria Eubank Tucker. Their daughter, Mary Jane Tucker Trimmer, provided a 1922 photo of the property to the current owners, who acquired the property in 1993 (Figure 2).[15] The tavern next was recorded in 1938 by the Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory (Figure 3). A snapshot of unknown origin, but with the date "1947" written on the back, arrived in the files of the Department of Historic Resources, possibly when the building was surveyed in 1968 for inclusion in Virginia's historic architecture inventory (Figures 4-5). Other than the removal of some fencing and vegetation in the front lawn, very few exterior changes to the building are recorded in these photos.

The Tavern at Old Church during the Civil War

The Tavern at Old Church (known as Old Church Hotel at the time) was occupied by Major General Phillip Sheridan and his troops from May 30 through June 5, 1864. General Sheridan was the Commander of the Cavalry Corp of the Army of the Potomac under General Ulysses S.

[10] Jackson; Colvin, *On Deep Water*, 123.
[11] Colvin, *On Deep Water*, 123.
[12] Hanover Historical Society, *Old Homes of Hanover County, Virginia* (Salen, WV: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1983); National Archives Administration 1860.
[13] Colvin, *On Deep Water*, 105, 123
[14] Colvin, *On Deep Water*, 105, 123, and on p. 158 , notes 3 and 4. Note 3 references a "deed, under date of 27 November 1873, James A. Lipscomb to Thomas Fielding Dillard, recorded in Hanover County Deed Book 6, p. 688. Note 4 refers to "references to these bequests found in Hanover County Deed Book 27, p. 356."
[15] Hanover Historical Society, *Old Homes of Hanover County.*

Grant and played a key role in Grant's Overland Campaign.[16] Engagements in the vicinity of Old Church, Haws Shop, Totopotomy Creek, and Cold Harbor took place during Sheridan's use of Old Church Hotel as his headquarters. On May 30, 1864, at 7 pm Sheridan set up his headquarters at the Tavern at Old Church. Prior to their departure from the property, a June 4, 1864, photograph by Timothy O'Sullivan photograph, now in the Library of Congress collection and The U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, was taken that shows Sheridan and other command staff standing on the front porch with soldiers and horses surrounding them.

June 4, 1864, Photo of Major General Philip Sheridan and Command Staff at the Old Church Hotel (Tavern at Old Church). Original Image on file at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

[16] J. M. Gabbert, J. M., *Military Operations in Hanover County Virginia 1861 – 1865* (Roanoke, Virginia: Gurtner Graphics and Printing, 1989); G. P. Sheridan, *Personal Memoirs of P.H. Sheridan, General United States Army* (New York: Charles L. Webster & Company Sheridan, 1888). In the article "Battlefield Preservation in Central Virginia," *Blue and Grey Magazine* stated regarding Old Church Hotel, "Phil Sheridan, commander of the Union cavalry corps, had his headquarters here as early as May 30."

What Sheridan referred to in his memoirs as "the Battle of Old Church" took place .25 mile down the road from the tavern at the Matadequin Creek.[17]

In her diary entry of June 4, 1864, Ella More Bassett Washington (who lived at the nearby plantation Clover Lea), wrote about Sheridan's presence, as well as General George Armstrong Custer's encampment at the tavern.[18] "When Sheridan moved out on June 5th, the hamlet of Old Church was occupied by Edward Ferrero's division of [United States Colored Troops] from the Ninth Corps, so presumably Ferrero also visited the Old Church Hotel."[19] This later assertion regarding Ferrero and his troops is likewise mentioned in Washington's diary. Currently the *Virginia Civil War Trails* program describes Old Church as follows: "Parts of the Union army, shipped to the scene from south of the James River, passed through here to Cold Harbor May 31. Old tavern here was a Union cavalry headquarters early in the battle. Civil War Trails interpretation planned."[20] The Hanover Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities placed a historical marker at the Tavern at Old Church in 1932 that commemorates Sheridan's brief occupation of the building.[21]

Additional research is needed to establish if the Tavern at Old Church may be significant in the area of Military due to the Civil War events that took place in Old Church and/or due to Sheridan's six-day occupation of the building in mid-1864. For example, research may be able to establish that Sheridan planned important aspects of the Battle at Cold Harbor Battle while occupying the tavern. Some historic accounts indicate that the Immanuel Episcopal Church served as a hospital for troops wounded in the nearby battles. The tavern also may have been put to this purpose, as well as other buildings in Old Church. Ella Washington's diary and O'Sullivan's photographic documentation of Sheridan's presence at the Tavern at Old Church provide important starting places for future research endeavors.

COMMERCE

From the colonial era through the late nineteenth century, taverns played an important role in communities of all sizes, from tiny rural crossroad hamlets to urban centers. Indicative of their significance in community life is that town and colonial governments often required that a newly established community include a tavern so that travelers would have a means of accommodation. A "tavern" was broadly understood to include a variety of commercial enterprises aside from or in addition to taverns, including inns, ordinaries, public houses, tippling houses, victualling houses, and grog shops. In addition to being located within settlements, taverns were placed along important travel routes and at key intersections, such as a river crossing, which may or may not have been served with a ferry. Although rivers and streams provided the first primary

[17] Sheridan, *Personal Memoirs*.
[18] J. O. Hall, "'An Army of Devils': The Diary of Ella Washington," *Civil War Times* (1978), 18-25.
[19] Robert J. Bluford, "Battlefield in Central Virginia," *Blue & Gray* (April 1994), 61-63.
[20] D. Pierce, *Virginia Civil War Trails* (March 19, 2015), retrieved October 7, 2015, from www.civilwartraveler.com.
[21] B. Fisher, *The Historical Marker Database: "The Old Church"* (February 5, 2009), retrieved November 10, 2015, from www.hmbd.org/marler.asp?marker=15886.

travel routes, as settlement dispersed from coastal Virginia, a road network began to develop to connect the Tidewater region to the Piedmont and places farther west. As transportation routes matured, the amount of traffic increased and, accordingly so did the number of taverns and inns.[22]

Especially in colonial America and the early republic, a tavern often was the only public, non-religious building of substantial size in a community. A tavern served both formal and informal secular purposes, such as auctions, political meetings, dinners, balls, picnics, turkey shoots, as well as family dinners and posting and sharing of newspapers. In urban areas, taverns also could host meetings for occupational groups, such as merchants, seamen, and tradesmen. Importantly, during the colonial and early republic eras, keeping a tavern was one of the few respectable jobs a woman could hold, although the majority of tavern keepers were men.[23]

During the 17th and 18th century in colonial Virginia, taverns were scarce, especially as a traveler ventured away from the established settlement in the Tidewater region. Thus, both law and social custom compelled property owners to open their dwellings to travelers in need regardless of their ability to pay for accommodation. Socioeconomic status, however, also influenced offers that were made, with planters generally willing and eager to offer hospitality to travelers who matched their social standing.[24]

As Euro-American settlement in Virginia became better established across the Commonwealth, the number of taverns increased along with other community amenities such as stores, stables, artisan shops, and social halls. The Tavern at Old Church is representative of the commercial significance taverns still enjoyed in rural Hanover County during the nineteenth century. Its operations included the tavern itself, as well as a blacksmith shop and a post office. As one of the largest, most commodious public buildings in the vicinity, the tavern also served as a venue for community meetings and special events.

ARCHITECTURE

Taverns once were a common resource type in both urban and rural settings across Virginia. As a type, taverns demonstrated wide variations in size and architectural sophistication, in part dependent on where and when they were constructed and the opportunity for business development. As a group, taverns were distinguished as places that served travelers in need of lodging, food, drink, and stables. Other diversions, such as assemblies, balls, concerts, business meetings, dinners, and horse races, were commonly held at taverns.[25] These combined to require that a successful tavern include a complex of buildings, including the tavern itself, a barn or stable for horses, support structures for food production, such as corn cribs, chicken coops,

[22] Diana Diz. Rockman and Nan A. Rothschild, "City Tavern, Country Tavern: An Analysis of Four Colonial Sites," *Historical Archeology: The Journal of the Society for Historical Archaeology,* Vol. 18, No. 2 (1984), 113; Patricia Ann Gibbs, "Taverns in Tidewater Virginia, 1700-1774," M.A. Thesis, College of William and Mary (1968), 1-2, 8.
[23] Rickman and Rothschild, "City Tavern, Country Tavern," 113; Gibbs, "Taverns in Tidewater Virginia," 2.
[24] Gibbs, "Taverns in Tidewater Virginia," 2-7.
[25] Bryan Clark Green, Calder Loth, and William M. S. Rasmussen, *Lost Virginia: Vanished Architecture of the Old Dominion* (Charlottesville, VA: Howell Press, 2001), 166.

smokehouses, and either acreage for the tavern owner to raise his own produce or a source for acquiring steady supplies from local farmers. A blacksmith shop also was a common feature at a tavern, so that both travelers and local residents in need of repairs to their equipment could soon be on their way. Inclusion of an official government office, typically a post office, within the tavern property also assured steady local traffic. The tavern itself had to be large enough to accommodate at least a few overnight guests with a kitchen for preparing food, a dining room, and rooms for sleeping. Some taverns were as small as three or four rooms.[26] Those in more heavily trafficked areas often grew over time as demand for space exceeded existing capacity, often leading to a rambling footprint as additions were constructed as needs and means dictated.

The Tavern at Old Church is an outstanding example of an intact tavern complex that includes the tavern building, which was constructed in stages, as well as two smokehouses, two corn cribs, a chicken coop, a tenant house, and a former post office. A blacksmith shop also is known to have been located on the property, although its site has not been tested for archaeological integrity. The property's two non-contributing resources, a barn and a garage, also are in keeping with the tavern's historic operation, but no longer have integrity to convey that association.

The tavern building is an excellent example of the tavern resource type, having been built in two major stages and retaining an interior plan that reflects it historic use. Additionally, the building has a high level of architectural integrity, with its Federal-style exterior elements and retention of a high percentage of interior finishes, including flooring, moldings, window sash and trim, doors and casing, hinges, and fireplace mantles, making for a high level of integrity. The quality of workmanship and materials is evident as well. As a whole, the Tavern at Old Church has excellent integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

Today, the Tavern at Old Church is one of just six historic taverns that remain in Hanover County. The most famous of these is Hanover Tavern (DHR #042-0035), which is associated with Founding Father Patrick Henry, who married the daughter of tavern owner John Shelton in 1754. A tavern is known to have stood at this location since 1738-1740, but according to dendrochronology testing, the earliest section of the extant Hanover Tavern dates to 1791. The building originally was constructed as a private residence and, in 1822, was converted to a tavern when an L-shaped wing was added. Today, the tavern is a rambling building with at least five historic-period additions that today encompass more than 12,000 square feet, with three stories and 27 rooms. Hanover Tavern is located at Hanover Court House and is in close proximity to the county's original courthouse complex. Its location at the county seat and along a well-traveled stage route assured steady traffic. During the American Revolution, troops under the command of Generals Washington and Rochambeau passed through Hanover Court House.[27] Since 1953, the tavern has housed the Barksdale Theatre, a local dinner theater that remains operational today. The tavern is located within the NRHP-listed Hanover County Court House Historic District, which was designated in 1971.

[26] Gibbs, Taverns in Tidewater Virginia," 40.
[27] Camille Wells, *Preliminary Historic Structures Report for Periods 1 and 2 of Hanover Tavern, Hanover County, Virginia* (Charlottesville: School of Architecture, University of Virginia: 2002), 1-5.

More comparable to the Tavern at Old Church in terms of scale and historic use is the c. 1810 French Hay Tavern (DHR #042-0256), which is located on State Route 656. The frame tavern building has an asymmetrical six-bay (originally five-bay), gabled, I-house form and features modest Federal stylistic elements. A one-story, two-bay, shed-roofed porch shelters the primary entry, which has a six-panel door and transom. The interior plan is single pile with a center passage. Interior end brick chimneys are located at each gable end. Federal-style interior elements include mantels, a wainscot with a painted geometric pattern, chair rails, and a staircase with rectangular balusters and a tall, square, pegged newel with pyramidal cap. The building was renovated during the 1970s, at which time an addition was added to one end, creating the current six-bay façade. The tavern sits on a 2-acre lot and there are no extant outbuildings associated with the tavern. In 2008, the property was recommended eligible for the NRHP by staff at the Department of Historic Resources, but a nomination has never been prepared.

Also similar to the Tavern at Old Church is Denton's Tavern (DHR #042-0382) off State Route 620. Dating to c. 1790, the tavern originally consisted of a Federal-style frame building on a brick raised basement featuring Flemish bond with painted pencil joints. The original tap room, built of stone, is located on the rear elevation. A one-room, frame addition was constructed sometime between 1820 and 1840. A one-story frame porch with square chamfered posts and denticulated cornice shelters the primary entry. The windows have nine-over-six wood sash and the exterior end chimney is constructed of brick laid in three-course American bond. The property's seven acres also include the ruins of a c. 1820 kitchen built into a hill. The thick stone walls remain, as well as remnants of a stone chimney. The two-room interior has remnants of plaster-covered stone walls scored to resemble ashlar. A small building of unknown construction date and used as an antiques store also was on the property at the time it was identified during a countywide survey of Hanover County in the early 1990s. The tavern was recommended eligible for the NRHP by staff at the Department of Historic Resources, but a nomination has never been prepared.

The Taylor House (DHR #042-0122), off of State Route 725, is a c. 1830, two-story, single-pile frame tavern with exterior end chimneys and six-over-six wood sash. A one-story, one-bay porch shelters the primary entry. The property was recommended to be not eligible for the NRHP by the Virginia State Review Board in 1986, and no additional documentation of the property has occurred since then.

Deer Browse (DHR #042-0569) also was identified during the early 1990s survey of Hanover County. Although classified as a tavern, the property actually consists of two buildings moved to the site at an unknown date. One building was constructed of log and the other was of frame construction, with both dating to between c. 1800 and 1820. When joined together as a dwelling, the one-room log section comprised the front section. A privy, smokehouse, and shed, all of unknown construction date, also were recorded on the property. Deer Browse was recommended not eligible for the NRHP by staff at the Department of Historic Resources.

Federal Style Architecture

The time frame known as the Federal period generally encompasses the three to four decades following the American Revolution and reflects the styles and attitudes of the burgeoning new nation. Architecturally in America, it coincides with what was the new, English Neoclassical style, widely introduced by Robert Adam and known in Europe as Adamesque. The style emphasized classical orders and motifs drawn from Roman classical sources, although they were used with more delicacy and less attention to a strict interpretation of classical orders as was seen in the earlier Georgian period. Architects and builders often looked to English pattern books for classical detailing which was then incorporated into designs for door surrounds, cornices, and mantels as well as other features. In addition to widespread use for new construction in America's cities, it found its way into the rural areas and is reflected in country houses and public buildings such as the Tavern at Old Church. The local craftsmen interpreted post Renaissance styles either directly from American or British pattern books or from other local built examples. Vernacular interpretations often exhibit varied proportions, simplified details, and more rarely, complex elaborations.

The Tavern at Old Church is an excellent example of Federal period architecture in Hanover County reflected by its use of many of the typical character defining features such as the balance and symmetry of the front façades, brick work, window sash configurations and both exterior and interior finishes. The earlier frame section employs a brick foundation of 1:3 bond, while the slightly later brick section is constructed with Flemish bond on the principal (front) façade and 1:5 bond on the side and rear facades, both very common treatments during the Federal period. Both sections have large amounts of surviving exterior and interior trim, including a good amount of beaded base molding, chair boards, and window and door surrounds. The finest Federal detailing is found in the mantels of the principal first floor rooms of both sections and the larger of the bedrooms on the second floor of the brick section, along with the recessed arched alcoves that flank the mantel in the larger first floor parlor of the brick section (see section 7 for detailed descriptions). The alcoves are a rare sophisticated example of Grecian detailing that incorporates a tripartite Palladian form, a vernacular marriage of Greek and Roman Renaissance period styles. Along with the numerous surviving exterior and interior paneled doors, the tavern today reads very much of its original Federal design and is notable alongside the previously NRHP-listed Hanover Tavern (DHR #042-0035) and the previously determined NRHP-eligible taverns, French Hay (DHR#042-0256) and Denton's Tavern (DHR#042-0382) , all with origins in the Federal period.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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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
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: Department of Historic resources, Richmond, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR No. 042-0041

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 27.3

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: 37.645800 Longitude: -77.222260
2. Latitude: 37.645740 Longitude: -77.221480
3. Latitude: 37.646420 Longitude: -77.221230
4. Latitude: 37.646630 Longitude: -77.216480
5. Latitude: 37.643950 Longitude: -77.217270
6. Latitude: 37.644510 Longitude: -77.222550

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 boundaries are drawn to coincide with the current boundaries of Hanover County tax parcels 8756-20-9936 and 8756-31-8005, as shown on the attached map entitled, "Tax Map, The Tavern at Old Church, Hanover County, Virginia."

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The historic boundaries encompass the historic setting and all known historic resources associated with the Tavern at Old Church.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: David Auerbach & Susan Ortmann
organization: N/A
street & number: 3360 Old Church Rd
city or town: Mechanicsville state: Virginia zip code: 23111
e-mail: soda@e-mc2.org
telephone: 804-779-2400
date: December 30, 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

Name of Property: The Tavern at Old Church (Old Church Tavern)

City or Vicinity: Mechanicsville

County: Hanover State: Virginia

Photographer: Susan Ortmann

Date Photographed: (see log)

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

Photo number	Date taken	View
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0001	March 2015	Facade, facing south, camera facing north
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0002	March 2015	Side of brick portion with addition, facing west, camera facing east
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0003	March 2015	Rear of brick portion, facing north, camera facing south
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0004	March 2015	Rear of frame portion, facing north, camera facing south
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0005	March 2015	East side of frame portion, facing east, camera facing west
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0006	March 2015	Front of Tenant house, facing south, camera facing north
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0007	March 2015	Front of smokehouse, facing west, camera facing east
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0008	March 2015	Front and side of post office, door faces west, camera facing northeast
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0009	September 2015	Front of corn crib, door facing south, camera facing northeast
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0010	March 2015	Front door of barn, doors facing south, camera facing northwest
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0011	March 2015	Front and east side of smokehouse, door facing south; front of garage facing east, cameral facing northwest
VA Hanover County	March 2015	Front of chicken coop, doors facing east,

Photo number	Date taken	View
Tavern at Old Church 0012		camera facing west
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0013	March 2015	Front of corn crib, door facing west, camera facing east
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0014	March 2015	Picture of APVA road sign on Old Church Rd, sign faces west, camera facing east
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0016	August 2015	Brick building, Basement view facing the western wall, camera facing southwest
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0017	August 2015	Rear wing of brick building, Former rear doors now the entrance to the addition on the first floor, camera facing north
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0018	April 2015	Brick building, Living Room west wall and view of the fireplace and side rooms. Cameral facing west.
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0019	April 2015	Brick building, Second floor hall, door opening onto second floor porch connection, camera facing east
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0020	August 2015	Brick building, Second floor bedroom facing west wall with view of fireplace and mantle, camera facing west
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0021	August 2015	Brick building, Third floor bedroom west wall with view of fireplace and mantle, camera facing west
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0022	July 2015	Frame building, Basement view of fireplace and outside exit, fireplace on west wall, camera facing northwest
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0023	July 2015	Frame building Living Room view of fireplace on west wall and door opening onto first floor porch connection, camera facing southwest
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0024	July 2015	Frame building, Kitchen with view of fireplace on north wall, camera facing north
VA Hanover County Tavern at Old Church 0025	July 2015	Frame building, Second floor bedroom over the kitchen, view of fireplace on north wall, camera facing north

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.

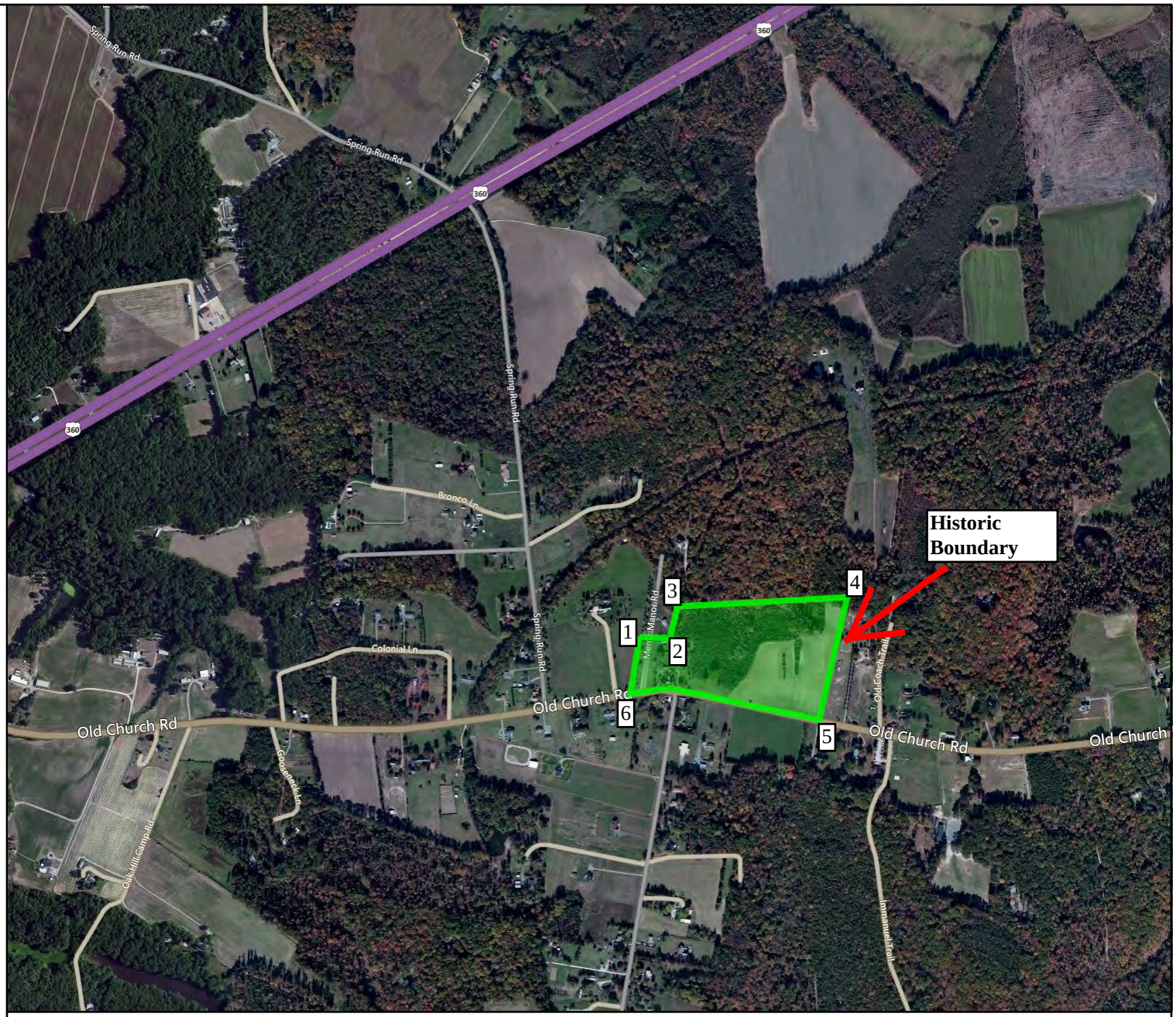
Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources

V-CRIS

Virginia Cultural Resource Information System

LOCATION MAP
Tavern at Old Church
Hanover County, Virginia
DHR No. 042-0041
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 37.645800
Longitude: -77.222260
2. Latitude: 37.645740
Longitude: -77.221480
3. Latitude: 37.646420
Longitude: -77.221230
4. Latitude: 37.646630
Longitude: -77.216480
5. Latitude: 37.643950
Longitude: -77.217270
6. Latitude: 37.644510
Longitude: -77.222550



N

Feet

0 500 1000 1500 2000

1:18,056 / 1"=1,505 Feet

Title: Tavern at Old Church **Date: 1/6/2016**

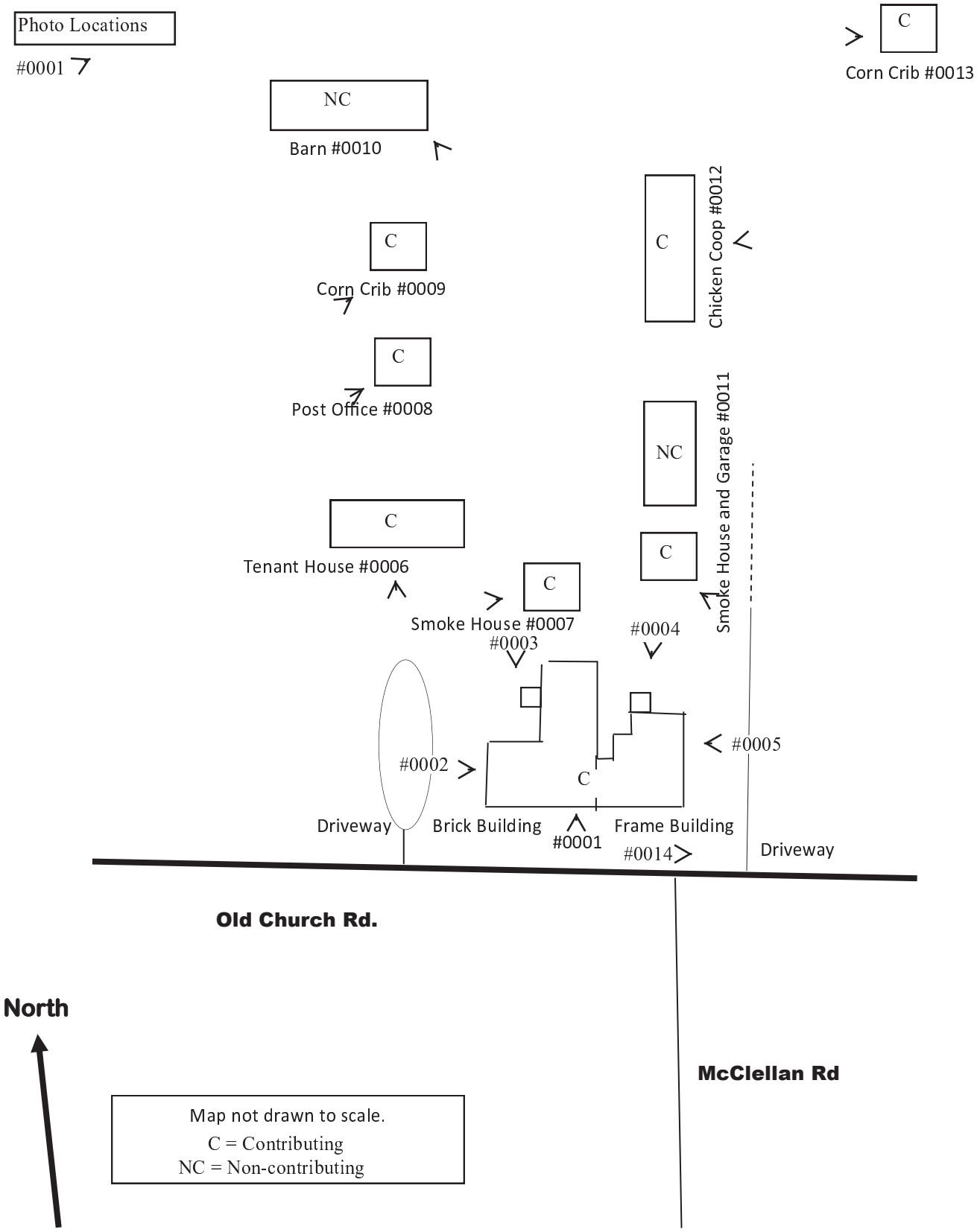
DISCLAIMER:Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions.The map is for general information 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.

Sketch Map/ Photo Key
The Tavern at Old Church
Hanover County, Virginia
DHR No. 042-0041

VA Hanover County

The Tavern at Old Church



TAX MAP
The Tavern at Old Church
Hanover County, Virginia
DHR No. 042-0041

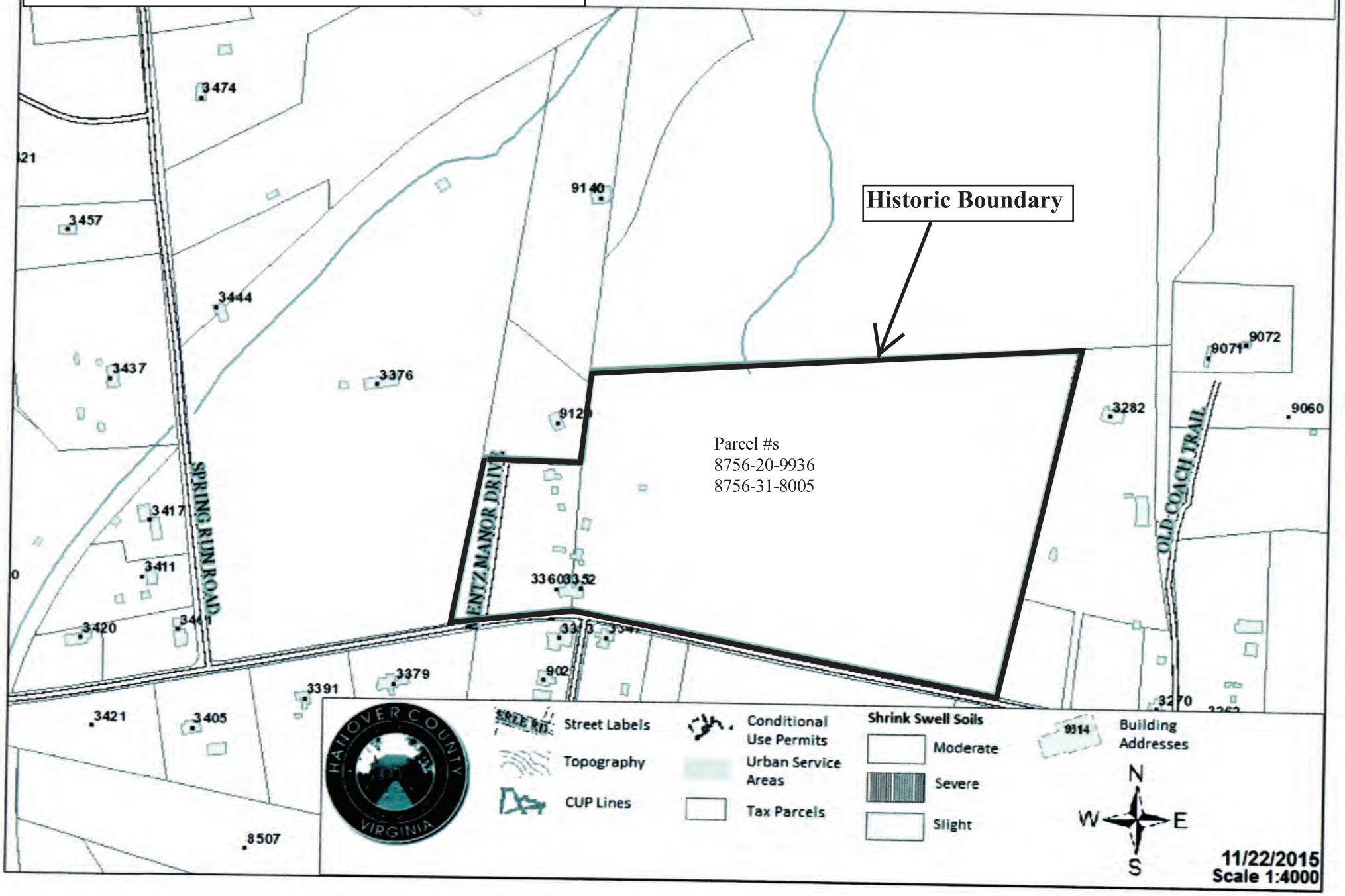


Figure 1. C. 1900 Photo of the Tavern at Old Church (Image Courtesy of David Auerbach and Susan Ortmann).

Figure 2. C. 1922 Photograph of the C. 1870 Post Office Building (at left) and the Tavern at Old Church. Amanda Tucker is the person on the post office steps. (Image Courtesy of David Auerbach and Susan Ortmann).

Figure 3. 1938 Photograph of the Tavern at Old Church from the Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory (Image on file at the Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA).

Figure 4. 1947 Photograph of the Tavern at Old Church (Image on file at the Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA).

Figure 5. 1968 Photograph of the Tavern at Old Church (Image on file at the Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA).

IL9340PA

APVA
"THE OLD CHURCH"
ERECTED ON THIS SPOT
IN 1753
ESTABLISHED ORIGINALLY ON THE
PAMUNKEY RIVER
PRIOR TO 1654
SUBSEQUENTLY MOVED TO THE
VILLAGE OF "OLD CHURCH"
AND REBUILT IN 1718
THE REV. PATRICK HENRY OFFICIATED
1757-1777
ERECTED BY HANOVER
BRANCH A. P. V. A. 1932

CITY
GAS
DOLLARS
GALLONS
PREMIUM