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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: Ellington

Other names/site number: DHR #042-0400

Name of related multiple property listing: The Civil War in Virginia, 1861-1865: Historic and Archaeological Resources

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 17335 Washington Highway

City or town: Doswell State: VA County: Hanover

Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  N/A

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

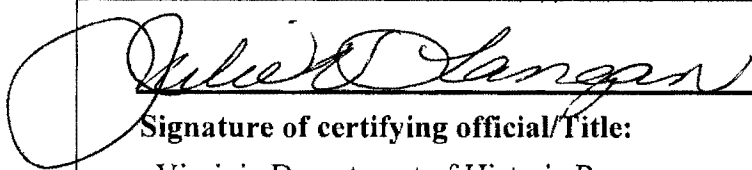
I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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 X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D

	10.3.19
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u>meets</u> <u>does not meet</u> the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title: _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

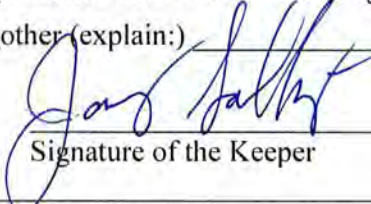
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**4. National Park Service Certification**

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

11-18-2019  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	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: single dwelling

EDUCATION: school

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

DEFENSE: battle site

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument/marker

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## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: ASPHALT; BRICK; CONCRETE; METAL:  
Aluminum, Steel; SYNTHETICS: Vinyl; WOOD: Weatherboard, Shingle, Log

## 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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Ellington consists of a large remnant of an early nineteenth-century farm property in Hanover County, Virginia, whose owner, the Rev. Thomas H. Fox, also ran a school for boys from 1840 to 1861. The house and school building, both constructed in 1839, stand in the center of the current 125.7-acre parcel. Twentieth-century domestic outbuildings and agricultural buildings are to the south and west of the historic buildings. Four years after the closing of the school, the property was at the center of action during the May 23-26, 1864 Battle of the North Anna River. As a temporary observation point for Confederate commanders, including Gen. Robert E. Lee, the area around the house came under intense artillery fire from across the river to the north. Period maps also show Confederate and Union fortifications built across the property during the battle, and at least one Confederate rifle pit overlooking the river appears to survive as a surface feature. The trace of Old Telegraph Road, which runs along the western edge of the property, and its crossing of the North Anna were strategic features that brought military action onto the doorstep of Ellington. In addition to the contributing road trace, the stone abutment of early nineteenth-century Chesterfield Bridge is in the northwest corner of the property. In 1927, U.S. Route 1 replaced Old Telegraph Road as a major north-south road corridor between Richmond and Washington, D.C. Currently, Route 1 marks the eastern boundary of the parcel. From 1839 until the 1950s, Ellington consisted of more than 400 acres with the boundary extending 500 yards farther east to the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad (still in use as a CSX railroad). Apart from these major transportation corridors to the east, and Interstate 95 beyond,

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the setting of Ellington remains rural, surrounded by agricultural fields and forested areas. Areas of residential and light industrial development occur to the east, between Route 1 and the railroad, and in the small community of Doswell approximately 1.2 miles south of the house and school building. Though the property's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship are somewhat impaired, its integrity of location, setting, association, and feeling are strong. Non-contributing resources consist of two pole barns, a vehicle shed, shed/kennel, and shed, all of which postdate the property's period of significance.

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## **Narrative Description**

### ***Setting***

Ellington, also known as the Turner Tract, the Reverend Fox House, and Juniper Farm, stands on high ground on the south bank of the North Anna River. The property contains two contributing buildings: (1) the dwelling known as "Ellington" or the "Reverend Fox House" and (2) the adjacent historic schoolhouse or "Academy" building. Both buildings face modern George Washington Highway (U.S. Route 1), approximately 80 yards to the east, and the historic route of Old Telegraph Road is to the rear of the buildings. This road is partially state-maintained along the property's western boundary, but the portion to the north along the western boundary of the property survives only as a trace ending at the abutment of early nineteenth-century Chesterfield Bridge (no longer extant), which crossed the North Anna River. The entirety of the property is within the core area of the North Anna Battlefield and may contain archeological resources such as battle-related artifact scatters and subsurface remains of Confederate and Union field fortifications from the battle fought May 23-26, 1864. The apparent remains of a rifle pit survive as a surface feature immediately east of the bridge abutment.

A loop drive leads from U.S. Route 1 through paired brick piers to the house and school building. There are many mature trees, some of considerable size, around the house and a screen of trees runs along the main road. Evidence of minimal landscaping with mature boxwoods occurs around the house foundation and at the "Y" of the loop drive near the entrance from the highway, as well as hollies, a dogwood, and some scattered bulbs. Twentieth-century domestic outbuildings (a shed/kennel and a ruinous shed) and agricultural buildings (two pole barns and a vehicle shed) stand to the south and east of the house and school building.

### ***Resources***

Contributing resources at Ellington include the primary dwelling, school building, battlefield site, and an abandoned road/bridge abutment. The property's non-contributing resources stand to the south and west of the house and school. Two pole barns and a vehicle shed date to the late twentieth century and remain in active use. A domestic shed converted to a kennel with a dog run attached and a dilapidated shed are north of the vehicle shed and west of the house. The pole barns, vehicle shed, shed/kennel, and shed postdate the property's period of significance and therefore are noncontributing.

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*Ellington: Single Dwelling* ca. 1839 (1 - Contributing Building)

Exterior: The house is a two-story masonry building on a raised basement. The rectangular core of the house has a standing seam metal, hipped roof with broad eaves. A later two-story, cross-gabled wing on the west side has a standing-seam metal roof with cornice returns; a one-story, glassed-in porch with a hipped, composite shingle roof is at the west end of the wing. Brickwork of the core portion of the house consists of Flemish bond on the east and west elevations, and 6-course American bond on the north and south. Compared to the core, the brick in the wing—also laid in 6-course American bond—is more orange than the brick in the core and the Portland cement joints are rougher and wider.

The house has four exterior chimneys, two on the north elevation and two on the south. The chimneys pierce the roof eaves and are straight with no shoulders except for the northeast chimney, which is corbelled along its east side. This chimney is narrow at its base, accommodating an exterior door at its east, and then expands diagonally with corbelling to achieve its full width at a point above the door's masonry opening. The chimney no longer serves any interior fireplaces.

The one-bay front porch, which is not original, has a pedimented roof. Squared fluted columns and pilasters support a simple frieze and the roof. Between the columns and pilasters is a wooden rail with turned balusters. Brick steps with bull-nosed treads lead up to the porch. The pediment of the porch has a raised triangular panel at its center.

The porch shelters an entry with a four-panel, single-leaf wooden door in a surround with three-light sidelights, each with panels below, and a transom with two lights above the door and panels aligned above the sidelights. Above the transom but below the porch ceiling is an inset wooden lintel with bull's eye corner blocks for the masonry opening.

Flanking the porch are combination windows, repeated on the second story and aligned above the first-story windows and entrance. Each combination has a central 6/6, wooden, double-hung sash, flanked by vertical 2/2 wooden, double-hung sash. Each combination has a common continuous wooden sill and a common continuous wooden lintel with bull's eye corner blocks. Each combination window has operable, wooden, louvered shutters that extend to cover the 2/2 sash windows only.

There are two doors at the basement level. One is below the front porch. A second is on the south elevation, east of the chimneys. It is a three-light, single-leaf, wooden door. An exterior brick enclosure with a gable roof has been constructed for this door. A third entrance on the south side of the rear wing appears to have had wooden bulkhead doors previously, as indicated by a fragment of beaded framing on the exterior.

The north and south elevations each have a single window on each level, centered between the chimney stacks. Those on the first and second stories are 6/6 wooden, double-hung sash with wooden sills and wooden lintels with bull's eye corner blocks. The basement level has 3/3 double-hung sash windows with trim similar to those on the upper levels.

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On the west elevation, flanking the later wing, are 6/6 wooden, double-hung sash with wooden sills and wooden lintels with bull's eye corner blocks on the first and second stories and windows with trim similar to those on the upper levels in the basement. The wing itself has a glazed sunporch. Above it, on the west elevation, are three 6/6 windows with metal lintels, narrow wooden sills, and an eight-light window in the attic, centered under the gable. The glazed porch has an exterior sliding glass door with brick exterior steps descending to the west. There also appears to be a hatch entrance to the mechanical room, which is beneath the glazed porch, on the south elevation of the porch foundation. The west wing may have been added in the 1920s and its sun porch addition in the 1960s. Although the date of the removal of the original porch is unclear, the existing portico may also date to the 1960s given its design and materials, and it may be contemporaneous with the removal of the larger porch.

Interior: The plan of the core of the house generally repeats itself on the basement and first and second floors. At the south are two rooms, east and west, and the western room absorbs the space taken by the stairs. North of these rooms is the primary "center hall," which extends from the west to the east but then jogs north to the exterior wall, creating a sizeable northwest room. In the basement, the interior walls are masonry and likely load-bearing except for a later frame partition wall that enclosed its northeast hall into a furnace room. On the upper floors, however, there is no partition, and each has an unusual L-shaped hall with an enclosed winder stair.

The first-floor trim is Greek Revival with deeply grooved door and window trim with bull's eye corner blocks in deep relief except in the northwest room, which has flat door trim without corner blocks. The masonry opening between the eastern portion of the hall and the northwest room is large, but there is no evidence of pocket or double doors. The exterior doors and the doors of the southeast room have four horizontal panels with a wide rail at the locking mechanism. The front door has a brass rim lock with a drop handle, the north exterior door has a Victorian square rim lock with a knob, and the interior doors have simple brass knobs with separate escutcheons. The four-panel door between the northwest room and the hall has two tall, rectangular raised panels over two shorter raised panels and a brass knob. The original west exterior door has been removed, and a two-light transom fitted within the original surround. The addition has a bath to the north with a five-panel door and a utility room on the south with a two-panel door. The sun porch has large windows and a sliding glass door.

The northwest, southeast, and southwest rooms all have fireplaces. The chimney breasts are shallow. The mantels are similar with flat panels below narrow pilasters topped by curved brackets supporting a two-level, graduated shelf.

Access to the stairs to the second floor is from the south side of the hall. A short section ascends to the south and then a series of winders to a straight run ascends west and arrives on the second floor between the hall and the southwest room. The plan is similar to that below, but the trim is inconsistent. The door trim between the southeast and southwest rooms is molded, as is that between the northwest and northeast rooms. The door surrounds to and in the west wing are modified Greek Revival, similar to some below but with shallower relief. All other door trim is

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generally flat. Similarly, window trim is simple and flat except for the west wing with Greek Revival trim with corner blocks. The southwest room has a mantel similar to those on the first floor. The southeast room has a mantel with reeded vertical members supporting a reeded lintel and a modeled shelf. The northwest room has a mantel with inset panels flanking and above the firebox. The west wing houses a bath to the north and closet to the south.

The door between the southeast room and the hall is a four-panel door with a wide rail at the locking mechanism as are the door between the southeast and southwest rooms, the southwest room and the hall, and the northwest room and the hall. The door on the east wall of the northwest room has four rectangular vertical panels, as does the door to the attic stair. The door to the addition is a six-panel door. The attic stairs are similar to the stair below them. A portion of the attic has been finished with lath and plaster walls.

The basement is accessed from stairs that descend to the east at a point near the southwest room, and, like the stairs above them end with a series of winders that turn the path ninety degrees to an interior hall. The basement houses a furnace room at the northeast, a ca. 1950s kitchen at the southwest, a breakfast room at the southeast, and a family room at the northwest. The latter two have wooden paneling, also ca. 1950s. All of the original rooms, except the furnace room, have a fireplace.

Several irregularities beyond the obvious west wing addition suggest the house has evolved. The northeast chimney, which accommodates an exterior door on the first floor, services no interior fireplaces, although there is an abandoned hearth on the second floor. The interior of the principal entrance has a deep reveal, and the Greek Revival trim at the masonry opening is cut off on its south side by the partition to the southeast room. The floorboards on the first floor generally run north-south except for the western portion of the hall where they run east-west. The exterior door at the north end of the eastern first-floor hall exits considerably above grade with no exterior stairs. Though commonly called a "coffin door" in the region, it was more likely a service entrance for enslaved servants who may have been bringing food from an exterior kitchen or a business entrance for the overseer or head of the household, though no documentation or physical evidence has yet been discovered to support these uses either.

On the second floor, the central portion of the floor has floorboards running east-west, but elsewhere the floorboards all run north-south. The interior trim at the central window of the east elevation is also cut off on its south side by the partition wall, creating the southeast room. The baseboard under this window is cut with a different profile on the north and south sides of the scar. The partition wall south of the hall has a large cased opening that is divided to service two doors; one doorway remains and the other has been boarded.

The exact dates of interior changes are unclear. Greek Revival door and window trim, as well as baseboards appear to date from the period of significance, as do the stairs and plaster walls. Most changes in the basement level such as the addition of a kitchen and introduction of pine paneling appear to date from the 1950s or 1960s. Most mantels appear to date from the 1920s. Interior doors are inconsistent, although all appear to date from the first half of the twentieth century.



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*School* 1839 (1 - Contributing Building)

South of the house is a school building apparently designed to mimic the house. It is rectangular in footprint with a hipped roof clad in wooden shakes. It has exterior end chimneys on the north and south elevations. A recent, shed-roofed frame addition has been added on the south elevation. The brick exterior is laid in 6-course American bond. The facade has a central entrance by a single-leaf, six-light door. The entrance is flanked by 6/6 double-hung, wooden, sash windows, and three additional windows of the same form are on the second story, aligned above the door and windows below. The windows have plain wooden sills and lintels with a header course above the lintels. The door has a plain wooden lintel. The west elevation is the same as the facade except for the addition of an exterior concrete block flue south of the entrance. The north elevation has an exterior door on the east side. The south elevation may have had a matching door, now encased in the frame, shed-roofed addition.

The building has been adapted into a residential rental unit. The interior has a central stair with rooms to the north (den) and south (kitchen) on the first floor. The second floor has one bedroom on either side of the stair with a bath carved out of one of them. Little historic interior fabric or finish remains on the first floor except for the stair with its carved rail, square balusters, and wooden steps with bullnose treading. Original woodwork on the second floor includes doors, door trim, uniform-width wooden flooring, and plainly carved mantels, each with a shallow shelf, a blank frieze, and carved panels.

*Abandoned roadbed/bridge abutment* ca. 1850? (1 - Contributing Structure)

This stone abutment of the Chesterfield Bridge (also known as Taylor's Bridge and Fox Bridge) is at the northwest corner of the property, on the south bank of the North Anna River. This vertical structure is completely below the grade of the property at its south and access is very limited. The form remains but is coated with moss, and a conditions assessment was not made. The bridge over the North Anna River was part of the Old Telegraph Road, a major north-south highway that connected Richmond and Washington, D.C., possibly as early as the turn of the nineteenth century. A trace of the unpaved road runs along and inside the Ellington property line for about a third of a mile to the south of the abutment. The Chesterfield Bridge was a key objective for the Army of the Potomac during the Battle of the North Anna River as it attempted to move south across the river. Although Confederate forces attempted to burn the bridge as they retreated from a small redoubt across the river, they were unsuccessful.

*Battlefield* 1864 (1 - Contributing Site)

The Ellington property lies within the core area of the North Anna River Battlefield. Due to the location overlooking a major north-south road between Richmond and Washington at its crossing of the river, Ellington was one of the areas of intense combat during the battle. Key features included advance Confederate field fortifications crossing the property east-west between the

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house and the river, likely Confederate artillery positions, and rifle pits. One of the rifle pits appears to survive as a faint surface feature immediately east of the bridge abutment, but the other fortifications may only survive in the form of subsurface archaeological features due to postwar plowing. Archaeological remnants of a Union rifle trench may lie to the south of the pole barns, based on a review of period maps. The area of the house itself came under fire while Confederate commanders, including Gen. Robert E. Lee, made use of its elevated position as a point of observation. Several artillery rounds are reported to have hit the building, and one entrance doorframe bears the mark of a possible direct hit by a rifled shell.

*Pole Barns* 1990s (2 - Non-contributing Structures)

South of the house and school are two pole barns. The larger of the two is to the east, and both are open, gable-roofed structures flanking a farm road.

*Vehicle Shed* 1990s (1 - Non-contributing Structure)

North of the pole barns and west of the school building is a shed-roofed vehicle shed.

*Shed/Kennel* ca. 1967 (1 - Non-contributing Building)

A frame shed clad in beaverboard and built to resemble a smokehouse in the Colonial Revival style is to the west of the house. The addition of a dog run, attached to the north side, converted the building into a kennel.

*Shed* ca. 1967 (1 - Non-contributing Building)

A severely deteriorated frame shed north of the kennel is leaning and close to structural collapse. This small, square frame building was constructed ca. 1967. The exterior is clad in composite siding, the pyramidal roof is clad in wooden shingles, and the interior is unfinished.

### ***Integrity Analysis***

Although the primary dwelling at Ellington is in fair to good condition thanks to a long history of continuous habitation until the last decade, remodeling in the twentieth century has resulted in the replacement of portions of the historic fabric, most notably the loss of an original façade-width porch. In addition to the substantial twentieth-century modifications to the main house, the school building has been reconfigured as a secondary dwelling.<sup>1</sup> The house and school building represent important examples of Greek Revival domestic architecture in central Virginia and a rare example of early school architecture but do not rise to the level of integrity required for eligibility under Criterion C. Deferred maintenance for both buildings threatens to continue deterioration of each building's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

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<sup>1</sup> Ashley Neville, Reconnaissance survey record (042-0400) (on file, VDHR Archives, Richmond, 1989).

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Ellington retains its integrity of location, having never been moved. Its integrity of setting is high as it remains in a still largely rural locale as it did during its period of significance. The integrity of design, materials, and workmanship has been impaired. The spatial relationship of the house and school remain, as do some character-defining features such as windows, stairs, and Greek Revival interior door and window trim. However, the removal of the monumental porch from the façade of the house, the addition of a west wing and new entry portico, and replacement of mantels render the house ineligible for listing under Criterion C. Despite these modifications, sufficient historic fabric remains to give Ellington a high integrity of feeling. The strong integrity of location, setting, and feeling reinforce its integrity of association, particularly in its link to the 1864 Battle of the North Anna River.

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## 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.)

- 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.
- 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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

MILITARY

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1839-1864

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1839 Purchase of property by the Rev. Thomas H. Fox

1840 Opening of the Fox School

1861 Closing of the Fox School

1864 May 23-26 Battle of North Anna River

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Hendrick, William or Fabius

Green, B.

\_\_\_\_\_

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**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.)

Built in 1839, the brick Greek Revival dwelling known as Ellington stands alongside a contemporary brick school house on a 125.7-acre property that abounds in tangible associations with the local history of antebellum education and the May 1864 Battle of the North Anna River. Information about the construction of buildings on the property is unusually well documented through a journal kept by the property owner, Rev. Thomas H. Fox, and details about his educational background further informs understanding of the buildings' design. Namely, the design of the schoolhouse may reflect trends in early nineteenth-century educational practices promulgated by English innovators, Dr. Andrew Bell and Joseph Lancaster. The "Fox School" was in operation from 1840 until the beginning of the Civil War in 1861. Developments in transportation made the Baptist minister's property a convenient location for his school, attended by day students and boarders. For these reasons, Ellington is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Education. During the Overland Campaign of May-June 1864, the importance of the Chesterfield Bridge would be underscored as one of a handful of crossings that Confederate forces defended against the advance of the Army of the Potomac southward after the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse. Although Confederate General Robert E. Lee established his main fortified line slightly farther to the south, his forces constructed a forward line of earthworks across the Fox property between the house and the river.<sup>2</sup> While the Union II Corps advanced on the bridge on May 23, the Fox house served as a Confederate corps headquarters and came under intense artillery fire. After the battle, the house and school survived occupation and vandalism by Union troops. Due to the importance of the battle and the action that occurred on the property, Ellington is significant at the statewide level under Criterion A in the area of Military. The property is nominated under the Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) Form, *The Civil War in Virginia, 1861-1865: Historic and Archaeological Resources*. According to the MPD, a battle significant at the state level may have been a less significant combat in an important campaign, or one with consequences that were confined to the state in which it occurred. The Battle of the North Anna River, which included military engagement at Ellington, was part of the Overland Campaign, which ended in stalemate but substantially weakened the Confederate Army and allowed the U.S. Army to go on the offensive.<sup>3</sup> Ellington's period of significance, 1839-1864, begins with construction of the Greek Revival house and school and ends with the May 23-26, 1864, Battle of the North Anna River.

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

***Criterion A: Education***

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<sup>2</sup> Bvt. Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Michler, "North Anna. [May 1864]" (Unpublished map, 1867; available from Library of Congress. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3882n.cw0590100>).

<sup>3</sup> Salmon, *The Civil War in Virginia, 1861-1865*, 72, 105.

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Prior to building his house and school above the south bank of the North Anna River, Thomas Fox had established a career as an educator and preacher both in Richmond and locally. Born in 1793 to a long-established prosperous family at The Retreat in King William County, Virginia, Fox received his early education at the Rumford Academy in his own county, then moved on to Wingfield Academy in Hanover County.<sup>4</sup> There he would study under his mentor and eventual father-in-law, the Rev. Peter Nelson. From Nelson, it is likely that Fox first heard of one of the most popular educational trends of the early nineteenth century, known as the Madras Method. As a young man in the 1770s, Nelson had been tutored by Andrew Bell, who returned to Britain in 1781, was ordained as an Anglican priest, and then worked as a teacher at a school for orphans of British military families in Madras, India. After observing Indian children teaching younger companions to write by drawing characters in the sand, Bell experimented with the concept of using older boys as “monitors” or assistants in his crowded classroom. With high student-teacher ratios in most early nineteenth-century schools, the “monitorial” method soon took hold in Britain, and its adherents formed a national association. Bell’s sometime friend Joseph Lancaster adapted monitorial teaching as the “Lancasterian” method, which also spawned followers and a rival association. Both men also published books detailing best practices for the implementation of their systems. With Fox’s close connection to Nelson (he would marry Nelson’s daughter in 1813), it is likely that the monitorial methods would have been familiar to him. Influences of the Madras or Lancasterian methods may be found in the design of Fox’s school building.<sup>5</sup>

After studying at Wingfield, Fox entered a more advanced course of study at the Richmond Academy in 1810. Soon after, he obtained a teaching position at one of the city’s schools. After serving in the city militia during the War of 1812, Fox married Eliza Hamilton Nelson in Caroline County and lived at various family estates. The 1820 census lists Fox as a 26-44 year old Hanover County resident, heading a household with four other free white persons.<sup>6</sup> Despite his profession as a schoolteacher, Fox also probably earned income from agriculture, as indicated by the presence of five enslaved persons on his property. The year after the census enumeration, he moved back to Richmond. He taught at the school of John G. Nelson, but also opened his own school. The Foxes remained in Richmond for a decade until a cholera epidemic erupted and Eliza’s poor health induced them to move back to the Hanover countryside. By 1838, Fox had purchased a house in Taylorsville, only a mile and a half south of Ellington, and taught students

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<sup>4</sup> Rev. Thomas H. Fox, (Rev.), Typescript of Thomas H. Fox papers, 1850-1861 (Leon M. Bazile Papers, on file, Virginia Museum of Culture and History, Richmond); James Wallace Fox, *Fox Family* (Richmond: Whittet & Shepperson, 1917).

<sup>5</sup> Andrew Bell, *The Madras School: Or, Elements of Tuition: Comprising the Analysis of an Experiment in Education, Made at the Male Asylum, Madras....* (London: T. Bensley, 1808); Peter E. Kurtze., “‘A School House Well Arranged’: Baltimore Public School Buildings on the Lancasterian Plan, 1829-1839,” in *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture Vol. 5, Gender, Class, and Shelter* (Vernacular Architecture Forum, 1995), 70-77; Joseph Lancaster, *The Lancasterian System of Education, with improvements, by its founder, Joseph Lancaster, of the Lancasterian Institute, Baltimore* (Baltimore: Author, 1821); Gray O’Dwyer, Resource report following easement staff visit to Ellington (042-0400) (Richmond: Va. Dept. of Historic Resources, 2018; on file VDHR Archives, Richmond).

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census [USBC], 1820 population census for Hanover County, Va. (on microfilm, Library of Virginia, Richmond).

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there. That fall, he purchased a tract along the North Anna River from Quaker farmer Pleasant Terrill and began construction of the Ellington house and school.<sup>7</sup>

The purchase of the property and construction of buildings coincided with a period of railroad development across the area.<sup>8</sup> Recently constructed tracks of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad (RF&P) ran along the east side of Fox's tract (until the sale of a portion of the property between present Route 1 and the railroad in the twentieth century). Completed from Richmond as far north as Fredericksburg in 1836, the line along the Ellington property ran between two nearby stations. To the north, across the North Anna, was Chesterfield Station (now called Ruther Glen).<sup>9</sup> To the south, travelers could stop at Taylorsville (now called Doswell), a small community that had sprung around the Hanover Junction station where the Louisa Railroad (later part of the larger Virginia Central in 1852), also built in 1836, intersected with the RF&P. The house and school also would be convenient to the main road between Richmond and Fredericksburg that ran along the west side of the property.

Growth in the area around Ellington apparently resulted in a boon to Fox's plans for the house and school. In his diary, he mentioned that he was able to purchase building materials at a bargain price, saving him as much as \$800. William Y. DeJarnette had purchased a large supply of brick and lumber, planning to build a hotel along the tracks. When DeJarnette died unexpectedly, his widow, Cora, was eager to sell the materials at a discount. Selecting brick as the main construction material, thanks to the lower price than usual, Fox began construction in the spring of 1839. Thanks to Fox's detailed journal entries, the builders of the house and school are identified as "Messrs. Hendrick doing the Brick work and B. Green the wood."<sup>10</sup> The Hendricks may have been a father and son team. Through 1840, a William Hendrick (ca. 1805-1870) appears in the federal census for Hanover County as a brick mason, and his son, Fabius, also may have worked in the family business. The house displays a restrained version of the Greek Revival style, with influences of the Federal style. Cost savings in materials may account for the somewhat more expensive Flemish bond construction being restricted to the end walls of the house.

Although more modestly detailed in its woodwork and less refined overall than the house, the school building is an impressive example of early school architecture in Virginia. Models may have included the larger two-story, five-bay Rumford Academy where Fox had received his early education as well as other schools built according to guidelines presented in Joseph Lancaster's publications. Among schools that specifically incorporated Lancasterian features in the United States was the first purpose-built public school in Baltimore, Male School No. 3 (1830). Some

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<sup>7</sup> O'Dwyer, Resource report.

<sup>8</sup> Hotchkiss, Jedediah, "[Map of Henrico, Hanover and Caroline counties.]" (Unpublished map, 186-; available from Library of Congress. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3883h.cw100200>)

<sup>9</sup> Wenger, Mark R., Willie Graham, and Veronica Deitrick. 1994. Historic American Engineering Record, Fox Bridge No. 1936 (HAER No. VA-94). Prepared by William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research, Williamsburg, Virginia.

<sup>10</sup> Rev. Thomas H. Fox, Typescript of Thomas H. Fox papers, 1850-1861, on file, Virginia Museum of Culture and History, Richmond. "Typescripts of Thomas Henry Fox diary", Notes on Families (boxes 19-21), Leon M. Bazile Papers, 1826-1967. Collection Name MSS1 B3483 a FA2, Virginia Museum of History and Culture. Page 25



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distinctive features of the Baltimore school included an open floor plan to accommodate a large number of students, a sloping floor with a platform for the teacher's desk at the lower end, evenly distributed heat, and large windows placed high enough to be above the students' line of sight and prevent the distraction of their gazing outdoors.<sup>11</sup> Although the windows are not as high as the five to six feet above floor level recommended by Lancaster, they are large, providing plenty of ventilation and light, and the building included two large end chimneys for ample heat. At the time of the 1840 census, enumerated a year after the construction of Ellington, Fox had a large farming operation. Between the farm hands and likely some domestic servants, there were 21 enslaved persons on the property.<sup>12</sup> The presence of the school is evident from the listing of 15 white males aged 10-14 and nine aged 15-19. In the 1850 census, the first to identify individuals' occupations, Fox appeared as a Baptist minister.<sup>13</sup> In fact, he had been ordained only two years before, after having entered the Baptist faith in 1826. In 1852, he began his tenure as the minister of nearby Concord Baptist Church in Caroline County.<sup>14</sup> The school was still thriving with at least 20 students listed in the 1850 census, perhaps only identifying the students who were resident on the property and omitting the day students. By the time of the 1860 census, Thomas H. Fox was 67 years old and widowed (following the death of Eliza Fox in 1855). According to the census, his son, Thomas, Jr. (age 38), served as a teacher, but only four students were included in the enumeration.<sup>15</sup> Perhaps the smaller number indicates that more of the students lived off site, as Reverend Fox only noted a sharp decline when many students left to enlist in the Confederate Army in 1861.<sup>16</sup> With the onset of the Civil War, Fox closed the school in 1861. Although the Fox family returned to Ellington after the 1864 Battle of North Anna, the school never reopened.

### ***Criterion A: Military***

During the Civil War, Reverend Fox frequently noted in his diary the visits of soldiers passing through between central Virginia and campaigns to the north, some damage to his property and that of neighbors due to military activity, and Confederate forces' use of the adjacent road and railroad. In 1862, a permanent guard of eight soldiers monitored the bridge at the north end of the property.<sup>17</sup> It was not until late May 1864 that Ellington bore the direct effects of intense combat when the Army of the Potomac launched attacks from north of the North Anna River against the Army of Northern Virginia dug in south of the river.

The fighting along the North Anna of May 23-26 occurred in the midst of the Overland Campaign, a grueling month-long series of battles fought from Northern Virginia to the outskirts of Richmond. After more than three years of combat, Union commanders had not been able to deal a decisive blow to the Confederate armies that might put an end to the war. In early March,

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<sup>11</sup> Kurtze, "A House Well Arranged."

<sup>12</sup> USBC, 1840 Hanover County, Va. population schedule.

<sup>13</sup> USBC 1850 Hanover County, Va. population schedule.

<sup>14</sup> O'Dwyer, Resource report.

<sup>15</sup> USBC, 1860 Hanover County, Va. population schedule.

<sup>16</sup> Fox, Typescript of papers.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

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however, President Abraham Lincoln decided that the success of Ulysses S. Grant in the Western Theater qualified him as the general who could lead the Union on the path to victory. Grant accepted the command of all Union armies and appointment as lieutenant general on March 9.<sup>18</sup> Grant quickly formulated a strategy to apply overwhelming pressure on multiple fronts simultaneously. A grand offensive would involve Union armies simultaneously targeting the Shenandoah Valley, Atlanta, Mobile, and Richmond. The strategy against the Confederate capital involved approaches from two directions: the Army of the Potomac moving south from Northern Virginia and Army of the James sailing northwest from Hampton Roads up the James River.<sup>19</sup> As his base of command, Grant chose the Army of the Potomac, which faced Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. While Maj. Gen. George G. Meade had tactical command of the Army of the Potomac, Grant took charge of overall strategy.<sup>20</sup> In May and June 1864, the Army of the Potomac (120,000 men) pursued the Army of Northern Virginia (60,000 men) as it fell back to the south through northern and central Virginia from the Rapidan River west of Fredericksburg toward Richmond.<sup>21</sup> From the Rapidan River, Grant maneuvered Meade's army in a series of flanking movements. The campaign never achieved an overwhelming Union victory, however, nor did the Army of the Potomac get between Lee and Richmond. With more than 86,000 casualties, the Overland Campaign was the war's bloodiest. Five major battles occurred between May 5 and June 12, along with secondary battles and engagements of detached forces.<sup>22</sup>

The campaign opened at The Wilderness (May 5–7) after Grant had ordered the first movements three other Union armies against the Shenandoah Valley, Atlanta, and Mobile. Lee moved northwest to face the Grant's forces in tangled second-growth woods. The drawn-out battle resulted in 18,000 Union and 11,000 Confederate casualties.<sup>23</sup> Despite the heavy toll, Grant pushed on, attempting to circle past the Army of Northern Virginia's right flank. This maneuver repeated itself throughout the campaign, with the Confederates quickly digging into new positions and thwarting an attack by a numerically superior force. A series of clashes around Spotsylvania Court House between May 8-21 resulted in 18,000 casualties on the Union side and 12,000 for the Confederates.<sup>24</sup> Shifting around Lee's right once again, the Army of the Potomac hastened toward the North Anna River, where the Army of Northern Virginia was ready to resist at the key crossings of roads and railways.

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<sup>18</sup> Daniel Davis and Phillip Greenwalt, *Hurricane from the Heavens: The Battle of Cold Harbor, May 26-June 5, 1864* (El Dorado Hills, California: Savas Beatie, 2014), xiv, 116.

<sup>19</sup> John Salmon, *The Civil War in Virginia, 1861-1865: Historic and Archaeological Resources* (Richmond: Va. Dept. of Historic Resources, 1999), 92.

<sup>20</sup> Robert M. Dunkerly, Donald C. Pfanz, and David R. Ruth, *No Turning Back: A Guide to the 1864 Overland Campaign, from the Wilderness to Cold Harbor, May 4-June 13, 1864* (El Dorado Hills, California: Savas Beatie, 2014), xxii.

<sup>21</sup> John S. Salmon, *The Official Virginia Civil War Battlefield Guide*, 1st ed. (Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania: Stackpole Books, 2001), 248-249.

<sup>22</sup> Gordon C. Rhea, "The Overland Campaign of 1864: Dodging Bullets," *Hallowed Ground Magazine* (2014) <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/overland-campaign-1864>; Salmon, *The Official Virginia Civil War Battlefield Guide*, 248.

<sup>23</sup> Salmon, *The Official Virginia Civil War Battlefield Guide*, 265–270.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, 270-279.

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The fighting along the North Anna began as an attempted ruse by Grant to expose Lee's outnumbered army in the open, away from the protection of its fortifications near Spotsylvania Court House. Detaching Maj. Winfield Scott Hancock's II Corps on May 20, Grant hoped that the Confederates would spring from their trenches in pursuit. Once exposed, any forces sent against Hancock would also bear the brunt of Maj. Gen. Gouverneur Warren's V Corps and eventually the rest of the Union forces as they came to the aid of the II Corps. Initially, Lee sent Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell's corps to block the Union advance with entrenchments built across Telegraph Road along the Po River, 18 miles north of the North Anna. As additional Union forces moved from the Spotsylvania lines, Lee declined to pursue Hancock's easterly course. With the entire Army of the Potomac on the move, he would shift directly south to the next suitable location for a defensive line, on the south side of the North Anna.<sup>25</sup>

Rather than form a straight line parallel to the river, Lee's engineers established an inverted V-shaped line between the North Anna and the Virginia Central Railroad with its point close to the river at Ox Ford about a mile and a half west of Ellington. This configuration drove a wedge between the II Corps and XI Corps advancing on the east, including Telegraph Road, and the V and VI corps, taking a more westerly route toward Jericho Mills.<sup>26</sup>

On May 23, most of the Army of Northern Virginia was fortifying south of the North Anna River. Only three regiments of South Carolina infantry commanded by Col. John Henagan remained on the north side of the river in a redoubt and trenches laid across Old Telegraph Road just north of the Chesterfield Bridge. As two of Hancock's divisions approached at 3:30 p.m., Union artillery prepared the way by opening a barrage against the South Carolinians and targeting Confederate batteries posted in advance earthworks on the bluffs above the south bank of the North Anna ahead of the main Confederate line. As the Union artillery prepared to open fire, Lee had walked onto the porch of Ellington to take advantage of the excellent view of the river valley below.<sup>27</sup> Historian Douglas Southall Freeman described what followed based on an account provided to him by Judge R. H. Cardwell in 1926; Cardwell had heard the story directly from the Rev. Thomas H. Fox. As Lee stood on the porch, Fox brought him a glass of buttermilk and some bread as refreshment. Just as Lee began to drink, the Union guns opened up and an artillery round whizzed by the general and lodged itself in the frame of the front door. The frame of the door still bears a round depression that purportedly was caused by the shot that narrowly missed Lee. Military historian Robert E. L. Krick of Richmond National Battlefield attests to the possibility that a small rifled artillery round could have made the depression in the doorframe (personal communication 2019). According to the judge's statement, Lee then calmly finished his milk, returned the glass to Fox, and rode off, not wishing to attract undue attention from the Union gunners and risk further damage to the house.<sup>28</sup> Krick surmises that the latter part of the story may have been an embellishment. It is unlikely that Lee would have put his personal safety

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<sup>25</sup> Rhea, "The Overland Campaign of 1864."

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> Gordon C. Rhea, *To the North Anna River: Grant and Lee, May 13-25, 1864*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2000), 295-299.

<sup>28</sup> Douglas Southall Freeman, *R. E. Lee: A Biography*, 4 vols. (New York and London: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1934-1935), vol. 3: 352-253.

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at risk unnecessarily by lingering on the porch during an artillery barrage. After the loss of Lt. Gen. Thomas Stonewall Jackson a year earlier and Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart less than two weeks prior to this incident, Lee was painfully aware of the high cost of losing experienced, capable members of the Confederate high command.

Despite Lee's departure, the gunners continued to hit the house, aiming at the fortified position of a Confederate battery and infantry trenches in the fields below.<sup>29</sup> A short time after Lee's departure, Maj. Gen. Richard S. Anderson (commander of the Confederate First Corps) and his staff stopped in the yard at Ellington to gain a good view of the action. Joining Anderson's men was the corps artillery commander, Brig. Gen. Edward Porter Alexander, who escaped death even more narrowly than Lee that afternoon. As Alexander observed the action, he sat down on the sill of a basement window to rest. His recollection of what followed appeared in a letter to his father and again in his memoirs:

Just then a shell cut off about ten feet of a chimney top which there ran up in the wall. I could not jump clear of the bricks as they began to fall for the couriers & horses were in the way, but as quick as a cat jumped on the sill about a foot above the ground, & flattened my back against the window. The recess was scarcely four inches deep, & the avalanche[e] of bricks fell so close to me that when they were done falling the slope of the pile completely covered my feet & ankles, which were badly bruised. Two couriers lay in the pile, one of them killed.<sup>30</sup>

It was not long before the Union artillery achieved its tactical objective along this portion of the front. By evening, Hancock's divisions had overtaken Henagan's position and captured the Chesterfield Bridge. Before the Confederates retreated to their V-shaped stronghold, they burned the southern half of the railroad bridge. On May 24, construction of a pontoon bridge by Union engineers allowed the II Corps to swarm across the river and take up positions on the south bank.<sup>31</sup> Later, Union forces would finish the destruction of the railroad bridge, to the awe and consternation of Reverend Fox:

The R.R. was a sublime scene. It was very dry, of heart pine, and burned down in an hour; it fell at once, and the black smoke rolling in great volumes toward the skies, the red and angry flames curling far above the trees; and the falling and crackling timber impressed the mind with gloomy thoughts. Our own dwelling may meet a similar fate, the enemy pressing upon us in two or three directions.<sup>32</sup>

After a disastrous attempt by portions of the IX Corps at Ox Ford, eventually, the rest of the Army of the Potomac crossed the river farther upstream at Jericho Mills. With the Army of Northern Virginia's fortifications wedged between the Union left and right wings, however, no coordinated assault would be effective and Union forces dug fortifications on the south bank,

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<sup>29</sup> Michler, "North Anna."

<sup>30</sup> Edward Porter Alexander, *Fighting for the Confederacy: The Personal Recollections of General Edward Porter Alexander*, Gary W. Gallagher, ed. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989), 389.

<sup>31</sup> William A. Frassanito, *Grant and Lee: The Virginia Campaigns, 1864-1865* (New York: Scribner, 1983), 138.

<sup>32</sup> Fox, Rev. Thomas H. Fox, Typescript of Thomas H. Fox papers.

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including trenches that ran across the Ellington property to the south of the house.<sup>33</sup> After the earlier intense fighting at the crossing, the armies settled into a stalemate with skirmishes taking place until May 26. Late that night, Grant withdrew his forces from the lines and maneuvered toward the southeast and the Pamunkey River, around Lee's right. The pattern of the Overland Campaign would repeat itself, with Lee's forces pulling back to fortified lines behind Totopotomoy Creek on May 28 and then finally to another showdown of entrenched forces at the campaign's climactic battle at Cold Harbor (May 31-June 12).<sup>34</sup>

A published letter of Confederate Lt. William Cowper Nelson relays the impact of the battle on Ellington:

Uncle Thomas Fox's residence near the Junction was within Yankee lines for several days, the Family all left, having been advised by General Lee to do so, he deeming it unsafe to remain, as there was probability of a battle occurring in the vicinity, they left so hurriedly that very little of their effects were removed. The Yankees played sad havoc with the old place, destroying all the outhouses, and stealing and tearing up things generally in the house, all the wearing apparel and bedclothes[,] many books, and most everything of value were stolen, some of the furniture was broken, but the piano was untouched, although they broke three clocks entirely; a great deal of the crop was destroyed as they had three lines of breastworks running through the place, and all the cattle were either stole or killed, the old gentleman, however seems reconciled to his losses, and hopes for better times. Ellington was a beautiful place, but it will take a long time I am afraid to restore it to its pristine loveliness....<sup>35</sup>

Eventually, the Foxes returned and the property gradually recovered from the damage wrought in late May 1864, but the school did not reopen.

### ***Post-Civil War History***

According to a Fox family grave marker in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, the Rev. Thomas H. Fox died in 1873. A chancery suit ensued over the distribution of his estate among his heirs. According to a neighbor who provided testimony regarding the value of the property in the case, the buildings on the property were "very much out of repair & unless put in proper condition by a liberal expenditure of money they would soon become *seriously impaired*."<sup>36</sup> Much of the damage, he noted, was due to the rental of the property to tenants for several years. In 1883 Richard H. Caldwell and William J. Leake, as special commissioners appointed by the chancery court, sold Ellington in addition to an adjacent 50-acre parcel to George Poindexter of Richmond. Only a year later, Poindexter sold the property to William Lueke for \$1,750 plus the assumption of a \$250 debt charged against the property. The Luekes moved to Richmond from

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<sup>33</sup> Bvt. Maj. C. W. Howell, L. C. Oswell, L. Bell, and R. B. Talfor, "Map of the battle fields of North Anna : showing the field of operations of the Army of the Potomac commanded by Maj. Gen. George G. Meade U.S.A., from May 3d to 27th, 1864" Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/86690171/>

<sup>34</sup> Salmon, *The Official Virginia Civil War Battlefield Guide*, 285-288.

<sup>35</sup> William Cowper Nelson, *The Hour of Our Nation's Agony: The Civil War Letters of Lt. William Cowper Nelson*, Jennifer W. Ford, ed., "Voices of the Civil War" series (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2007), 157.

<sup>36</sup> Chancery Index, Hanover County chancery causes, 085-1903-002 (on file, Library of Virginia, Richmond), 395.

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Bloomfield, New Jersey, and operated Ellington as a farm. In 1889, when the Luekes sold the Ellington to Sarah and Cornelius Van Liew (also from Bloomfield, New Jersey), they also conveyed all crops “growing on said land,” stored corn, hay, straw, fodder, farming implements, wagons, a cart, horse equipage, a pair of mules, a small herd of cattle, but excepted “one sorrel mare & colt.”<sup>37</sup> Evidently, the Luekes had made significant improvements to Ellington. Much of the increase in price of the 433-acre property to \$6,750 in 1889 probably reflected the badly needed repairs mentioned in the court testimony.



*Figure 1. Early 20th century view of house and school, showing two-story porch on house, since replaced with a one-bay portico.*

Only three months after purchasing Ellington, Cornelius Van Liew (described as a Virginia resident) and James Moore of New Jersey sold the property for \$5,000 to Cornelius and Sarah Van Liew’s daughter, Helen Louise, named in the deed as Mrs. H. E. Richards. Helen was the wife of Harry E. Richards, a lawyer. Although the couple lived most of the year in Bloomfield, New Jersey, they used Ellington as a summer home and probably rented the farm out to

<sup>37</sup> Hanover County (HC), Deed Book (DB) 24: 143.

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tenants.<sup>38</sup> After the death of Helen Richards, her executors, David Oakes and Alfred B. Van Liew, sold the property to three female cousins, members of the Oakes family who lived in Philadelphia and Bloomfield. The deed recording the sale of the property to John P. Brooks in 1945 indicates that the grantors Eleanor Oakes Skinner and Juliet Oakes Eels (and their respective husbands) and Jean Wortham Oakes, all still lived out of state in Philadelphia, Chicago, and Bloomfield.<sup>39</sup> Therefore, from the last decade of the nineteenth century through World War II, Ellington probably operated as a tenant farm. Nevertheless, the out-of-state owners used the property as a vacation home during much of that period and evidently kept the buildings in good condition.

Following the purchase of the property from the Oakes family members in 1945, John P. Brooks of Richmond held onto Ellington for four years and then sold it to R. E. Berlyn Blanton in January 1949. Except for a minor reduction in acreage conveyed as right-of-way to the railroad and the Department of Highways for the construction of Route 1 in the late 1940s, Ellington largely retained the same extent as during its initial use for a farm and boy's academy by Thomas Fox. When Blanton and his wife, Ethel, sold the property to James Cochrane in 1956, the property still extended beyond Route 1 to the east, although the Blantons had previously sold 32.4 acres to the Crandall Corporation. Local, resident owners kept the nineteenth-century extent of the property intact until sometime before 1967, when James Harwood Cochrane and his wife Louise sold Ellington as a 125.7-acre property located entirely west of Route 1 to William and Jacqueline Turner. According to a 1983 publication by the Hanover County Historical Society, the two-story Greek Revival porch that probably had spanned the house since the antebellum ownership of Thomas Fox had been replaced "in recent times by a small one" (Figure 1). This may date this major alteration of the Ellington house to the period when the Turners owned the property, thus possibly between 1967 and 1983. The property remained in the possession of the Turner family until its sale to the American Battlefield Trust in 2018. The purchase proceeded with assistance from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Act funds and through the Battlefield Acquisition Grant Program.<sup>40</sup>

### ***Registration Requirements***

Ellington is nominated under the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPD), *The Civil War in Virginia, 1861-1865: Historic and Archaeological Resources*. The property meets the registration requirements outlined in the MPD. Ellington's intact landscape retains integrity of association, setting, and feeling in relation to the battle that took place here. Landscape features include a possible rifle pit, portions of earthworks, and a historic road trace and bridge abutment, all of which featured in the movement of forces.

The MPD notes that most Virginia Civil War battles were fought in rural areas on open or wooded ground, usually on farms. The typical rural battleground may include the following

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<sup>38</sup> Hanover County Historical Society, *Old Homes of Hanover County, Virginia* (Hanover, Va.: Hanover County Historical Society, 1983).

<sup>39</sup> Chancery Index 085-1903-002; HC DB 16: 372-373, 16: 388, 24: 143, 24: 318; 104: 361; 121: 335.

<sup>40</sup> HC DB 133: 93; 176: 83; 268: 686; 3210: 220; Neville, Reconnaissance survey record.

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components: terrain features (hills, lowlands, ravines, etc.); watercourses (rivers, ponds, streams, wetlands, etc.); transportation resources (roads, turnpikes, railroads, etc.); buildings (dwellings, agricultural buildings, churches, depots, etc.); structures (bridges, walls and fences, forts, redoubts, entrenchments, etc.); and miscellaneous elements such as fords, cemeteries, etc. A battlefield may also retain some or all of its historic patterns of fields, pastures, and woods.<sup>41</sup>

The MPD establishes a set of registration requirements for battlefields. The first is that a battlefield, or a property that is part of a battlefield, must retain the majority of its historic landscape or other relevant components and without later intrusions, such as housing or commercial developments, that obscure key features. Resources present during the battle, such as structures and buildings, must retain integrity sufficient to convey association with the time of the battle. Although non-contributing resources are expected, and generally postdate the battle, their effect on the battlefield's integrity depends on their number, location, size, and use, and on the size and topography of the battlefield. The example given in the MPD, in which later resources that represent continuation of traditional land use, such as modern farm buildings on an antebellum farmstead having less effect on integrity, applies to Ellington.<sup>42</sup> No incompatible uses of Ellington's acreage has occurred since May 1864 as the property has continued to function as a farm.

The MPD further specifies that a battlefield's integrity is to be evaluated according to the following applications of the 7 aspects of integrity.

1. Location: A battlefield retains integrity of location if it is the place where the historic battle or event took place. A contributing building, structure, or site, likewise, should be in the location it occupied at the time of the battle; this is the case with Ellington.
2. Association: Ellington also retains integrity of association as a place where action directly involved with the Battle of the North Anna River took place. Physical features associated with the battle, such as the abandoned road and bridge abutment and adjacent open fields, are still present at Ellington. The primary dwelling and school buildings also were extant at the time of the battle.
3. Setting: Ellington has excellent integrity of setting as it retains intact physical features associated with the battle, including agricultural fields, historic buildings, the road trace and abutment, and the North Anna River. Changes to the setting that have occurred, such as erection of modern farm outbuildings, are of small scale and compatible use with the historic farmstead. But for continuing cultivation of the farm fields, Ellington's landscape has been almost untouched since the Civil War.
4. Feeling: The integrity of feeling for the portion of the North Anna River Battlefield at Ellington is substantiated by its relatively untouched state, which allows it to convey a historic sense of time and place in keeping with the landscape's character during the time of the battle. Although the primary dwelling at Ellington has been altered over the years, most obviously through replacement of the front porch and erection of a rear addition, it is still

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<sup>41</sup> Salmon, *The Civil War in Virginia, 1861-1865*, 104

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, 105.



Ellington  
Name of Property

Hanover County, VA  
County and State

recognizably an antebellum Greek Revival house. The school building, likewise, contributes to the property's integrity of feeling.

5. Design: The battlefield itself has few elements of design, other than the possible rifle pit next to the abandoned road and bridge abutment. The latter features contribute to Ellington's integrity of design as an antebellum farm. As one of the few crossings of the North Anna River at the time, the bridge and road along Ellington's western boundary also played a tactical role in the military engagement that took place here. As previously noted in section 7, the primary dwelling has impaired integrity of design due to the cumulative effect of various remodeling campaigns. The school, similarly, has been modified on its first floor to create a rental apartment. In the overall scale of Ellington's 125.7 acres, however, those alterations have a negligible effect on the battlefield's integrity.
6. Materials: The two contributing buildings at Ellington retain good integrity of materials, particularly on their exteriors where the red brick walls, white-painted wood trim, and low-pitched roofs are character-defining aspects of their Greek Revival style.
7. Workmanship: Integrity of workmanship at Ellington is evidenced by the antebellum house and school building. Both buildings, despite alterations, retain features associated with antebellum workmanship, again most notably with regard to exterior materials.

Taking all these aspects of integrity into account, Ellington clearly meets the registration requirements of the *Civil War in Virginia* MPD. In the event of future archaeological testing, the property may eventually be eligible for listing under Criterion D, depending on the research potential and integrity of archaeological resources associated with military activity during the Civil War Battle of the North Anna River.

Ellington  
Name of Property

Hanover County, VA  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Ellington  
Name of Property

Hanover County, VA  
County and State

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Ellington  
Name of Property

Hanover County, VA  
County and State

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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:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR No. 042-0400

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 125.7

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 37.889110      Longitude: -77.470560

Ellington  
Name of Property

Hanover County, VA  
County and State

2. Latitude: 37.889280      Longitude: -77.466340  
3. Latitude: 37.876010      Longitude: -77.464930  
4. Latitude: 37.876380      Longitude: -77.467120

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The historic boundary of Ellington is coterminous with the property's current lot lines, recorded by Hanover County, Virginia, as tax parcel 7884-16-0289. The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Location Map and Sketch Map.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic boundary encompasses all of the acreage historically associated with Ellington that has remained part of the farmstead to the present day. The acreage once part of Ellington, east of present Route 1 (Washington Highway) and Interstate-95, is not included in the historic boundary due to loss of integrity and to its sale to different ownership during the 1950s. All known historic resources, as well as the property's historic setting, are contained within the boundary.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: David Lewes, Historian; Mary Ruffin Hanbury, Architectural Historian  
organizations: Hanbury Preservation Consulting (HPC);  
William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research (WMCAR)  
street & number: WMCAR: 327 Richmond Road  
city or town: Raleigh state: VA zip code: 23185  
street & number: HPC: P.O. Box 6049  
city or town: Raleigh state: NC zip code: 27628  
e-mail: [dwlewe@wm.edu](mailto:dwlewe@wm.edu); [maryruffin@hanburypreservation.com](mailto:maryruffin@hanburypreservation.com)  
telephone: WMCAR: (757) 221-2579; HPC: (919) 828-1905  
date: August 2019

---

**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.)

Ellington  
Name of Property

Hanover County, VA  
County and State

### 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

Unless otherwise indicated, the following information applies to all photographs.

Name of Property: Ellington  
City or Vicinity: N/A  
County: Hanover  
State: Virginia  
Name of Photographer: Mary Ruffin Hanbury

View: House, façade (east elevation).  
Date of Photograph: January 10, 2019  
Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0001.tif

View: House, detail of porch on façade.  
Date of Photograph: August 1, 2017  
Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0002.tif

View: House, detail of cornice on façade.  
Date of Photograph: August 1, 2017  
Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0003.tif

View: House, detail of damage to front door frame, possible from Union artillery round.  
Date of Photograph: January 10, 2019  
Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0004.tif

View: House, north elevation.  
Date of Photograph: January 10, 2019  
Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0005.tif

View: House, west and south elevations.  
Date of Photograph: March 21, 2019  
Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0006.tif

View: House, south elevation.  
Date of Photograph: August 1, 2017  
Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0007.tif

Ellington  
Name of Property

Hanover County, VA  
County and State

View: House, interior, enclosed winder staircase.

Name of Photographer: David Lewes

Date of Photograph: March 22, 2019

Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0008.tif

View: House, interior, first story, southeast front parlor.

Date Photographed: March 22, 2019

Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0009.tif

View: House, interior, first story, back parlor.

Date Photographed: March 22, 2019

Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0010.tif

View: House, interior, first story, northeast front parlor.

Date Photographed: March 22, 2019

Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0011.tif

View: House, interior, second story, bedroom.

Date Photographed: March 22, 2019

Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0012.tif

View: School, east elevation, with house to north in background.

Date Photographed: January 9, 2019

Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0013.tif

View: School, east and north elevations.

Date Photographed: January 9, 2019

Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0014.tif

View: School, west elevation.

Date Photographed: January 9, 2019

Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0015.tif

View: School, south elevation.

Date Photographed: January 9, 2019

Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0016.tif

View: School, interior, first story.

Date Photographed: January 9, 2019

Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0017.tif

Ellington  
Name of Property

Hanover County, VA  
County and State

View: School, interior, stair.  
Date Photographed: January 9, 2019  
Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0018.tif

View: Non-contributing Colonial Revival shed converted to kennel with dog run.  
Date Photographed: January 9, 2019  
Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0019.tif

View: One of two non-contributing pole barns south of house and school.  
Date Photographed: January 9, 2019  
Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0020.tif

View: Old Telegraph Road trace, looking north.  
Date Photographed: March 22, 2019  
Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0021.tif  
Photographer: David Lewes

View: South abutment of Chesterfield Bridge, looking northwest.  
Date Photographed: March 22, 2019  
Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0022.tif  
Photographer: David Lewes

View: View from south Chesterfield Bridge abutment to the north across the North Anna River.  
Date Photographed: March 22, 2019  
Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0023.tif  
Photographer: David Lewes

View: View from North Anna River floodplain toward location of Confederate fortifications on brow of rise, looking north.  
Date Photographed: March 22, 2019  
Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0024.tif

View: Approximate location of Union earthworks in field to the south of the house and school, looking east.  
Date Photographed: March 22, 2019  
Image: VA\_HanoverCo\_Ellington\_0025.tif  
Photographer: David Lewes

**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.





LOCATION MAP

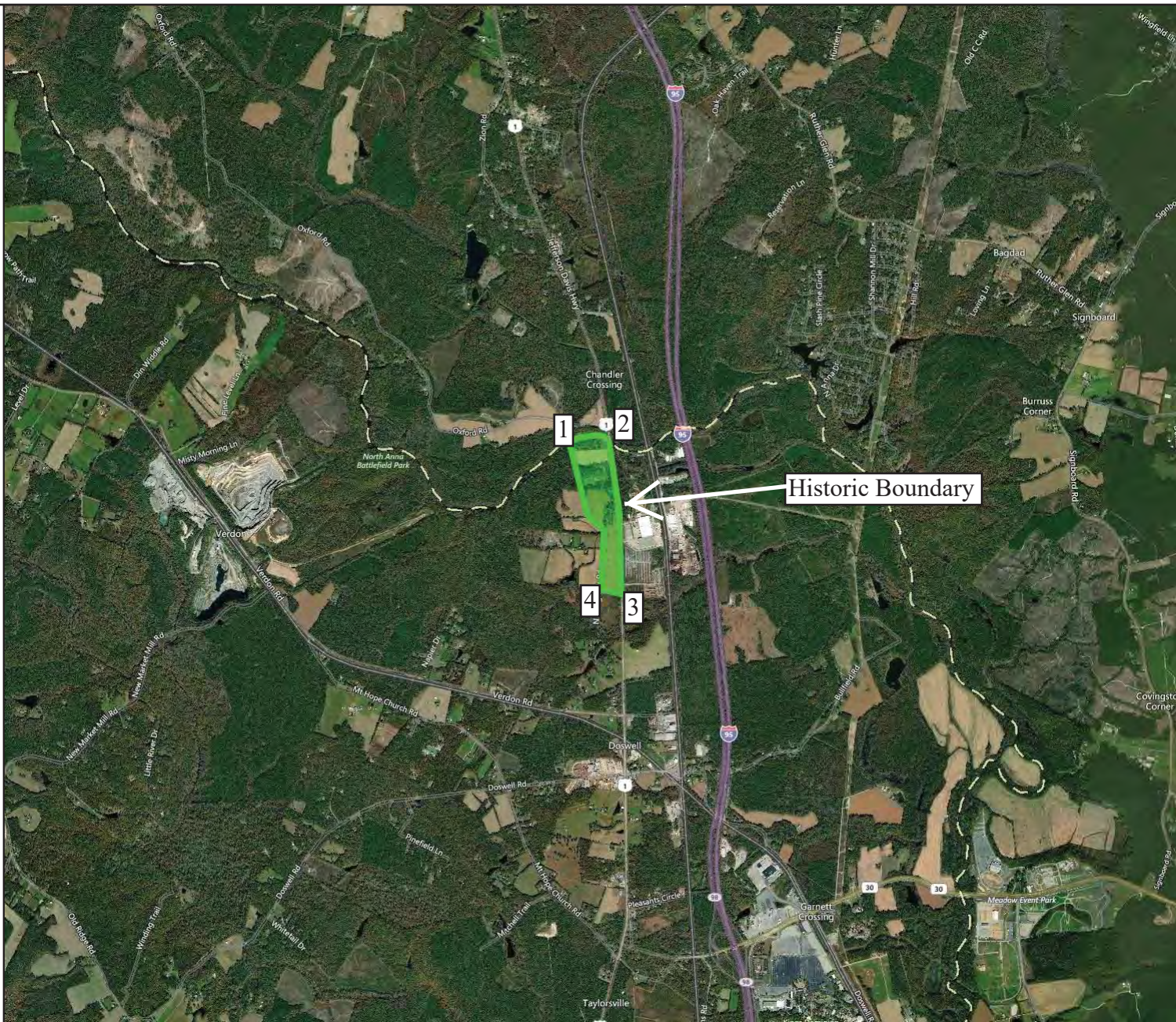
Ellington

Hanover County, VA

DHR No. 042-0400

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

- 1. Latitude: 37.889110  
Longitude: -77.470560
- 2. Latitude: 37.889280  
Longitude: -77.466340
- 3. Latitude: 37.876010  
Longitude: -77.464930
- 4. Latitude: 37.876380  
Longitude: -77.467120



Feet

0 120 240 360 480

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

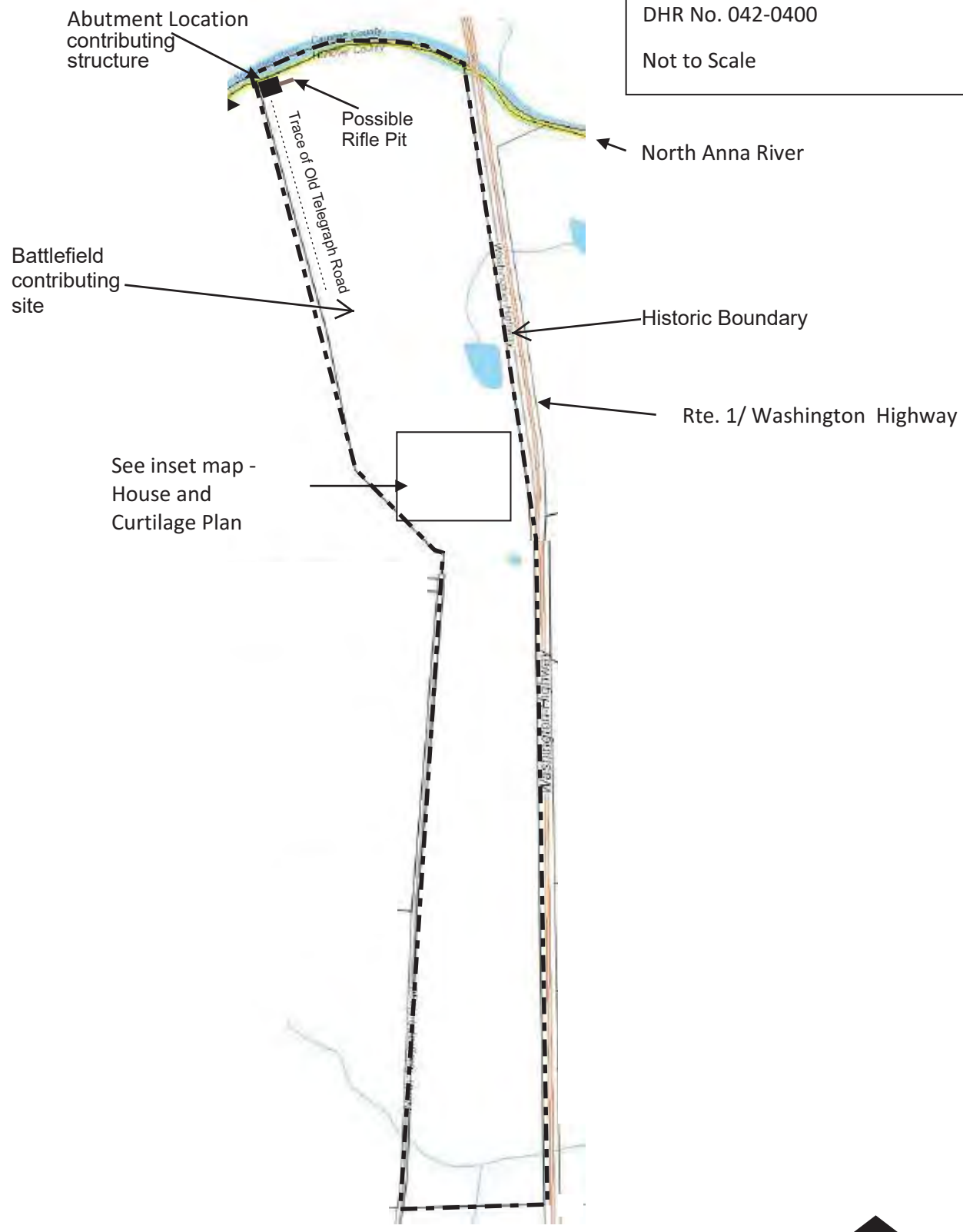
Title:

Date: 8/8/2019

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 to 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 (1 of 2)**  
Ellington  
Hanover County, VA  
DHR No. 042-0400  
Not to Scale






To River and Bridge Abutment

**SKETCH MAP (2 of 2) - House and Curtilage  
Plan Detail**

Ellington  
Hanover County, VA  
DHR No. 042-0400  
Not to Scale


 Shed  
non-contributing  
building


House  
contributing building

 Kennel/shed  
non-contributing  
building

Loop Drive


Piers

 Vehicle  
Shed  
non-contributing  
structure

 School  
Building  
contributing building

Rte. 1/Washington  
Highway

 Pole Barn  
non-contributing  
structure

 Pole Barn  
non-contributing  
structure

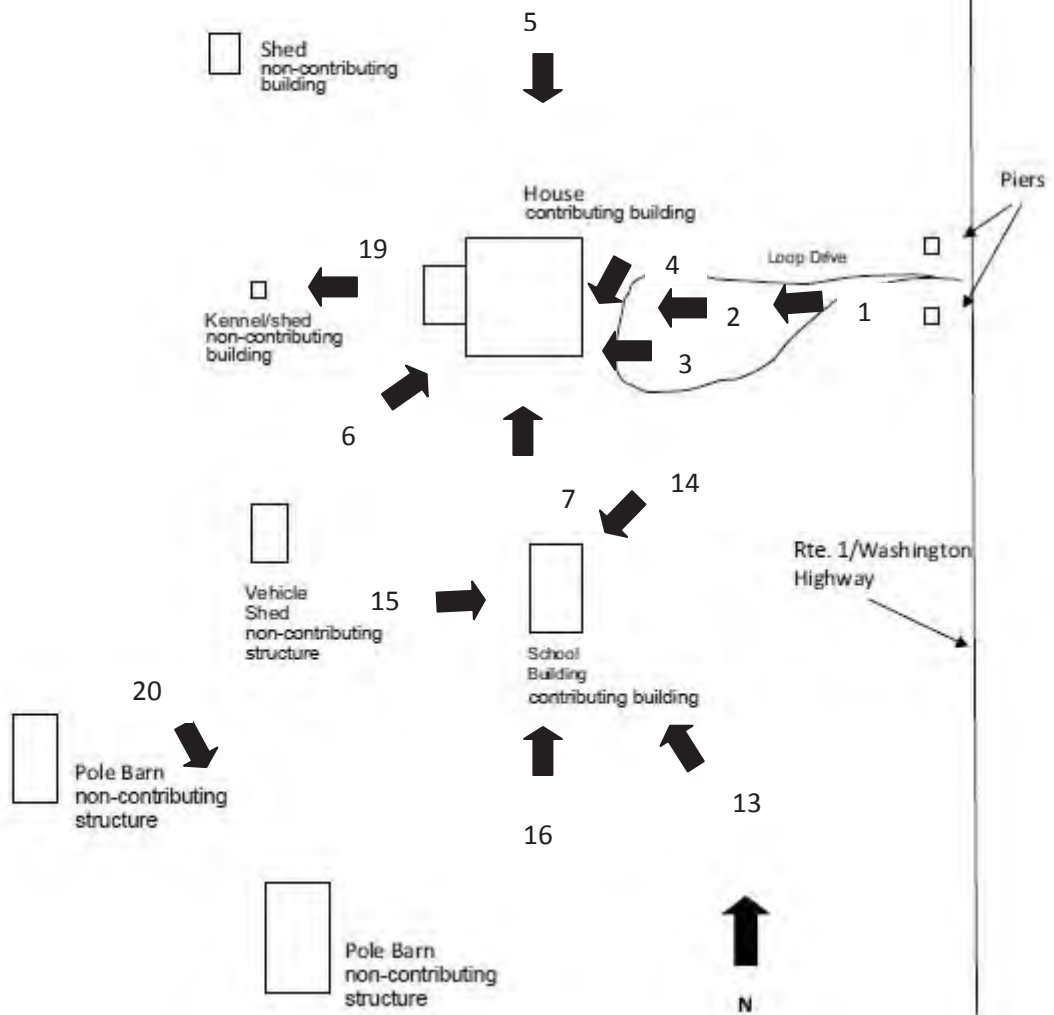


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↑  
To River and Bridge Abutment

**PHOTO KEY (1 of 2)**  
Ellington  
Hanover County, VA  
DHR No. 042-0400  
  
Not to Scale



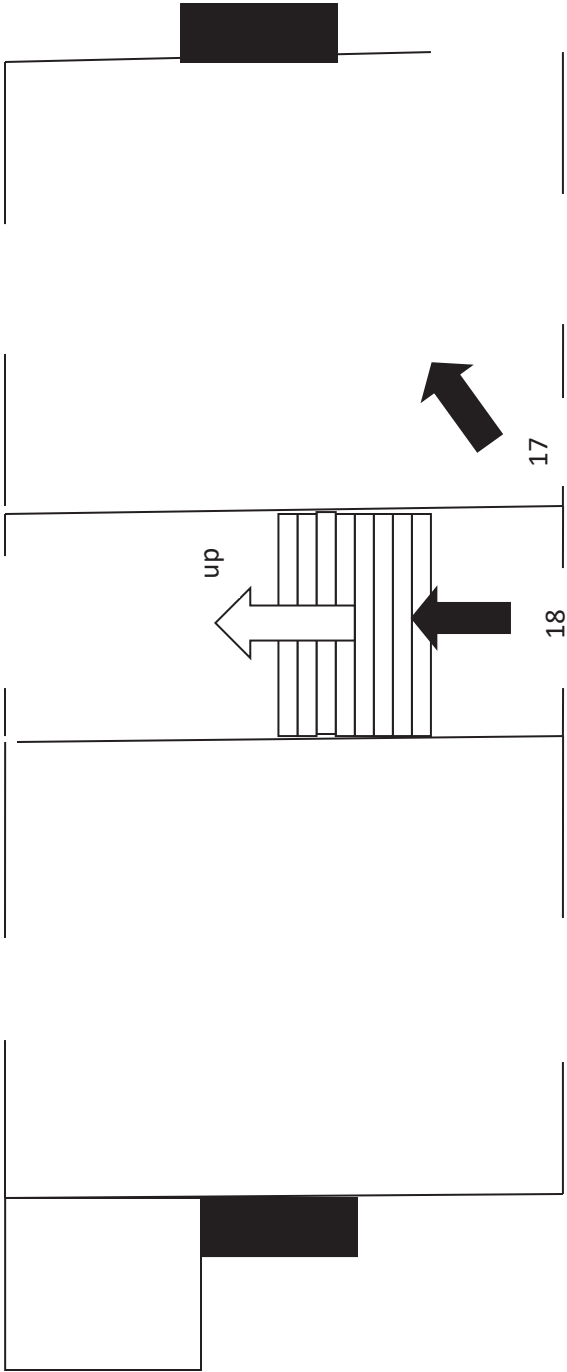
**PHOTO KEY (2 of 2) – School**

**Interior**

Ellington

Hanover County, VA

DHR #042-0400

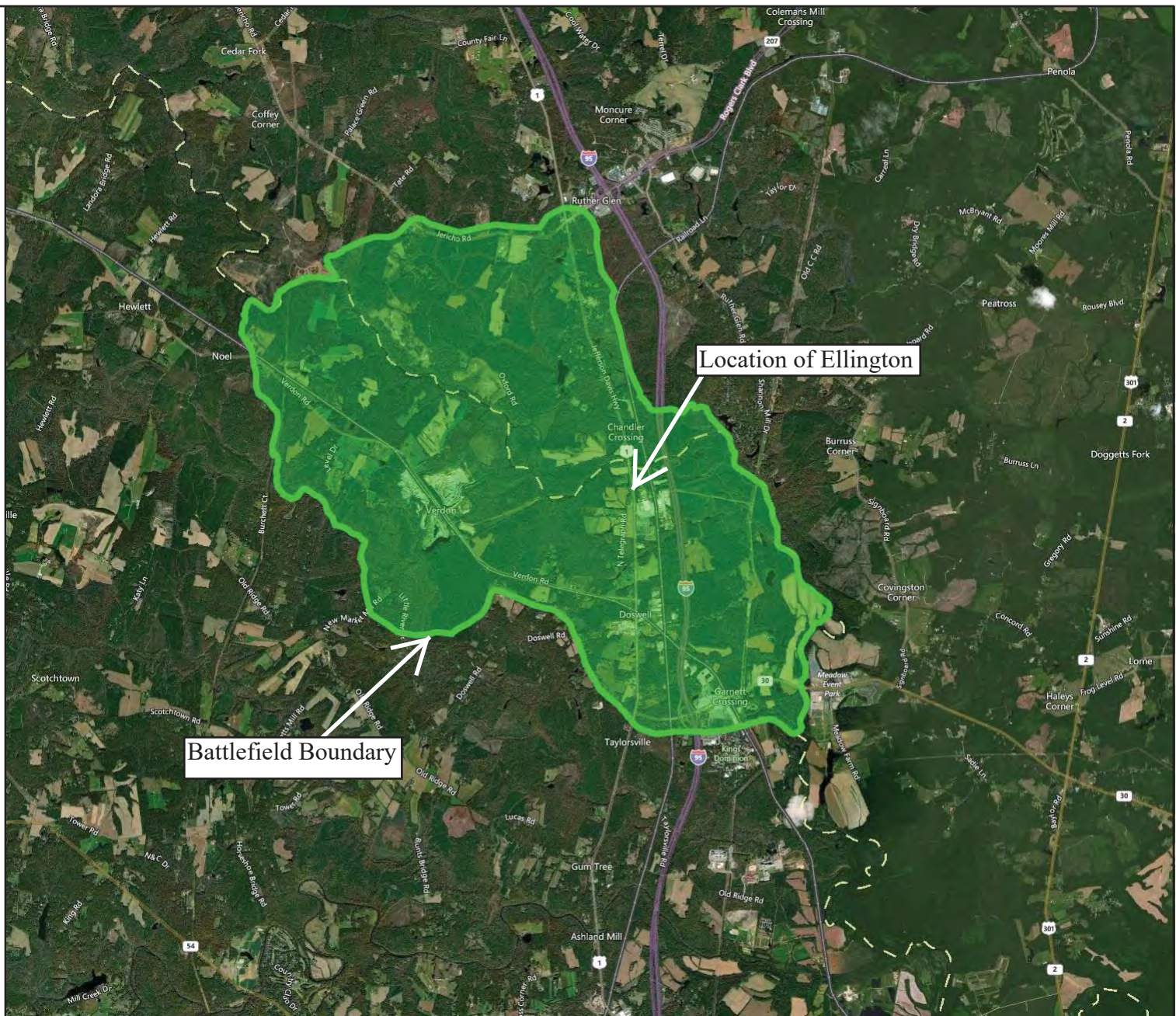


Not to scale

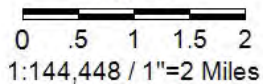


Location Map showing Ellington within the Historic Boundary of the North Anna River Battlefield Hanover and Caroline Counties, VA

Ellington  
Hanover County, VA  
DHR No. 042-0400



Miles



**Title:**

**Date: 7/18/2019**

*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.*

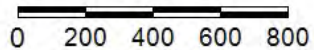


**AERIAL VIEW**

Ellington  
Hanover County, VA  
DHR No. 042-0400



Feet



1:9,028 / 1"=752 Feet

**Title:**

**Date:** 8/8/2019

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**Aerial - Detail View of Curtilage**

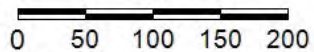
Ellington

Hanover County, VA

DHR No. 042-0400



Feet



1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet

**Title:**

**Date: 8/8/2019**

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BACARDI  
RUM



































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Ellington

Multiple Name: Civil War in Virginia MPS

State & County: VIRGINIA, Hanover

Date Received: 10/8/2019      Date of Pending List: 11/12/2019      Date of 16th Day: 11/18/2019      Date of 45th Day: 11/22/2019      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: MP100004650

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

X Accept       Return       Reject      11/18/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The property served as an important local educational institution for the 20 years leading up to the Civil War. The original school house is still extant, and has good integrity despite being converted to domestic use. The property itself was the site of a battle, where the Confederate forces sought to hold the crossings of the North Anna River. Trenches and breastworks on the property as well as the abutment of the road bridge are testament to the tactical importance of the property. The property is not viewed under Criterion D, but there are doubtless archeological deposits related to the confederate defense and Union occupation of the property. Meets the registration requirements of the MPS

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Matt Strickler  
*Secretary of Natural Resources*

Julie V. Langan  
*Director*

Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391  
[www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov)

October 3, 2019

Joy Beasley  
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service, National Register Program  
1849 C St., NW (Mail Stop 7228)  
Washington, D.C. 20240

**Re: Ellington, Hanover County, Virginia**

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for **Ellington** to the National Register of Historic Places. Submitted for your review, the nomination has been considered, and approved, by the State Review Board and the Virginia SHPO has recommended it for listing.

This property has 1 owner and the Department of Historic Resources received no letters of objection concerning the nomination. Any letters of comment or objection have been copied at the end of the nomination material, along with any FPO notification letters.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct phone line is 804-482-6439.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lena Sweeten McDonald".

Lena Sweeten McDonald  
National/State Register Historian

Enclosures

Western Region Office  
962 Kime Lane  
Salem, VA 24153  
Tel: (540) 387-5443  
Fax: (540) 387-5446

Northern Region Office  
5357 Main Street  
PO Box 519  
Stephens City, VA 22655  
Tel: (540) 868-7029  
Fax: (540) 868-7033

Eastern Region Office  
2801 Kensington Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23221  
Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391