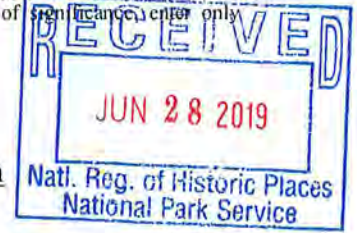


4261

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: Eley, Samuel House

Other names/site number: DHR ID 133-0101; Hobbs Farm; Rountree Farm

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: 4801 Pruden Boulevard

City or town: Suffolk State: Virginia County: Independent City

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity:

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.

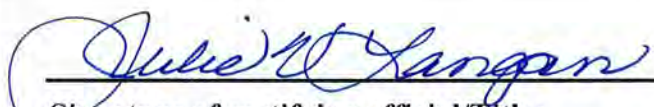
In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B X C D

	<u>6/25/19</u>
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> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

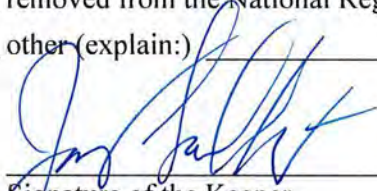
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4. National Park Service Certification

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

8-9-2019

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)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling/Farmhouse
DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure/Potato House
DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure/Smokehouse
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Barn

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling/House
DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure/Storage Shed

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal
MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival
LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD: Weatherboard; BRICK

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 Samuel Eley House property is located in the City of Suffolk, approximately seven miles northwest of the City center. The property is situated on a 2.15-acre parcel on the south side of Pruden Boulevard (US 460) and includes ten contributing resources: an early-nineteenth-century two-story frame house that reflects Federal, Greek Revival and Italianate stylistic influences, a frame smokehouse, brick potato house, log building/corn crib ruin, and several other sites and structures dating to the nineteenth century, including a hog spit, two wells, and the foundations of a former barn, dairy, and a possible former slave quarter. The property also includes a non-contributing mid-twentieth century barn. The house sits very close to the road at the northwest corner of the parcel, and the outbuildings are located to the east and south of the house. Landscape features of the property include mature trees and shrubs situated near the buildings, several garden plots south and east of the house, and open lawn in the eastern portion of the parcel. The property retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, setting, feeling, and association. In 2014, a cell tower was constructed in close proximity to the southeast corner of the property.

Narrative Description

Setting

Although within the jurisdiction of the City of Suffolk, the Samuel Eley House is located in a still-rural area where agriculture continues to be the principal land use in the property's vicinity. Constructed during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the house is located only a short

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distance south of Route 460, which now is a major transportation route consisting of four undivided lanes. Route 460 follows an earlier alignment that historically connected the towns of Suffolk and Windsor. The area's still-rural character owes to the merger of Nansemond County and the City of Suffolk in 1974. Since then, although development has spread from Suffolk's old city limits and around Windsor into the countryside, large swaths of the former Nansemond County remain rural and agricultural in character, especially in the City's western and southwestern environs. Although Suffolk geographically is the largest city in Virginia, its population was estimated to be about 90,200 in 2017.

In addition to the primary dwelling, the Samuel Eley House property today includes four outbuildings and several cultural features that were associated with the nineteenth-century farm. The main house and farm evolved throughout the period of significance, which begins in 1826, when tax records indicate the construction of the main dwelling, and ends in 1919, when the house's porch addition was constructed.

House ca. 1826, 1868, 1900-1919 (contributing building)

Exterior

The Samuel Eley House is a two-story frame I-house, clad in wood weatherboard siding, and is three bays wide and one room deep. It displays Federal, Greek Revival and Italianate stylistic influences in its massing, form, and details on both the exterior and interior. A one-story shed-roof addition extends along the south elevation of the main block and a one-story gable-roof ell projects from the southeast corner of the building. The main block and shed-roof addition sit on raised brick foundations laid in five-course common bond. The brick piers that support the ell have been filled in with newer brick, creating a solid foundation under this portion of the house. A gable-roof entry porch protects the central front entrance on the north elevation and a hipped roof ell-shaped porch supported with square wood posts covers the east elevation of the main block and addition. A porch with a shed roof extending from the main roof extends along the east side of the ell. Roofs on the main building and porches are standing seam metal.

Main Block

The two-story portion of the main block is three bays wide and one room deep; the one-story shed roof addition along the south elevation also is three bays wide and one room deep. Narrow boards extend vertically along each corner of this section of the house. The brick foundation of the main block is raised approximately five feet above the ground and is laid in 1:5 American bond with a row of header bricks where it meets the base of the wood walls.

The original section of the house has a standing seam, metal side-gable roof with simple frieze boards and partial returns along the north and south rooflines, as well as covered gutters located behind the molded cornices. The remains of decorative downspouts remain at the northeast and northwest corners of the house. Brick exterior end chimneys with stepped shoulders and bases and corbelled caps are centrally located on the exterior of the east and west elevations of the main block. The south addition has a standing seam metal shed roof with a decorative notched

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board at the southwest corner of the roofline and a stepped-shoulder corbelled brick interior chimney extending through the roof. This chimney is nearly as tall as those in the two-story portion of the house. Although now enclosed, the 1-story addition also originally included a porch along the western half of the south elevation.

North Elevation

The north (main) elevation is three bays wide and two stories high. Three-over-three double-hung wood sash windows are located at the east and west bays in the foundation. The first story includes six-over-six wood, double-hung sash windows in the east and west bays. The windows are set into a wood frame with a simple bead drip cap and wood sill and are covered with metal storm windows. The central bay of the first story contains the main entrance, which consists of a set of wood double doors with oval panels, flanked on either side by four-part sidelights and topped with a four-light transom. A porcelain handle and metal keyhole are located on the right (west) door. Each sidelight contains three upper lights and a solid lower panel with inset rectangular molding. The transom is made up of smaller lights at either end and two large lights in the middle.

The entry is covered with a gable roof porch supported by two chamfered wood columns and two chamfered wood pilasters sitting on square wood bases. The standing seam metal roof includes exposed rafter tails at the east and west sides and open triangular wood brackets at the edges and center of the gable. The tympanum is clad in wood siding. The porch also has a wood ceiling made up of rectangular panels and a wood deck. Railings with square wood posts stretch between the pilasters and columns along the east and west sides of the porch. Eight brick steps with metal pipe railings lead from the porch to the yard. The porch rests on a brick foundation that includes decorative metal vent covers on the east and west sides. The scored bricks are laid in common bond, differentiating them from the main block of the house. The different brick foundation as well as the architectural details and framing of the entry porch indicate that it was likely a later addition. An early photograph of the house reveals ghosting of what was likely a larger earlier entry porch (Rountree Private Collection: Date Unknown).

The second story of the north elevation includes three windows, with six-over-six, wood, double-hung sash at the east and west bays. These windows are shorter than those in the first story. The center bay in the second story contains a tripartite wood window with a six-over-six central double-hung sash flanked on either side by two-over-two double-hung sash.

West Elevation

The west elevation of the two-story portion of the main block includes windows flanking each side of the exterior brick end chimney in the first and second stories and the gable end. Windows in the first and second stories are four-over-four double-hung wood sash, with the tallest in the first story and slightly smaller ones in the second story. Windows in the gable are square, two-over-two double-hung wood sash.

A four-over-four, wood, double-hung sash window is located in the one-story shed-roofed addition; this window is of different proportions and set lower than those in the taller portion of

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the house. A three-over-three, fixed, wood sash window is located in the foundation under the shed-roof addition.

South Elevation

The south elevation of the main block is two bays wide in the one-story addition and three bays wide in the two-story portion of the main block. The first story includes two six-over-six double-hung, wood sash at the west and central bays; the window in the west bay is smaller than the one in the center bay. The eastern portion of the first story is obscured by the ell on the southeast corner of the house. The second story includes three six-over-six double-hung, wood sash. A decorative scalloped trim board extends from the cornice along the corner board at the southwest corner of the one-story addition. A six-light fixed sash window is located in the foundation, immediately adjacent to the ell.

East Elevation

The east elevation of the main block contains the same configuration as the west elevation, with four-over-four double-hung, wood sash windows flanking the exterior brick chimney in the first and second stories and the gable. The south end of the addition is stepped back from the east wall of the main block and contains a paneled wood door with a wood storm door. An ell-shaped one-story porch with a standing seam metal hipped roof extends along the east elevation of the main block. The porch rests on a scored brick foundation laid in common brick bond, and is supported by five chamfered wood posts along the outer edge and includes chamfered pilasters at the north and south ends, as well as a chamfered post at the corner of the inset portion of the main block. Wood railings with square wood balusters extend along the north, east and south sides of the porch. Eight brick steps with metal pipe railings lead from the porch to the yard. The exterior entrance to the basement is located in the foundation just south of the steps. A modern wood lattice and panel door covers the entrance.

South Wing (Ell)

The one-story south wing (ell), constructed ca. 1900, extends southward from the southeast corner of the main block, originally a rear porch. This portion of the house has a standing seam metal gable roof that transitions into a shed roof over the eastern bay and the porch that extends along the east side of the ell. A corbelled brick interior chimney extends through the center of the ridge. The ell is supported by a brick foundation that consists of the original brick piers that have been filled in with newer brick.

The west elevation is three bays wide and includes a two-over-two double-hung, wood, sash window in each of the north and center bays and a wood six-light fixed sash in the south bay. The south elevation includes a six-over-six double-hung, wood sash window in the west bay and a smaller six-over-six double-hung, wood sash in the east bay; a louvered vent is located in the gable end.

The east elevation is four bays wide and includes a six-light and panel door in the south bay, a two-over-two double-hung, wood sash window in the south-central bay, a wood panel door in the north-central bay and a two-over-two double-hung, wood sash window in the north bay. This

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elevation is covered with a shed-roof porch supported by square wood chamfered columns and has a wood railing with square balusters. A set of concrete steps in front of the south bay leads from the porch to the yard. A metal hand rail flanks the concrete stair, and a pair of iron horse-head posts is located on the bottom step.

Interior

Main Block

The two-story portion of the house is a center-hall plan with two rooms each on the first and second floors, and an attic. The southern addition includes two rooms and a full bathroom, and the southern wing (ell) contains two rooms and a laundry/mud room. The basement under the main block includes three rooms.

A parlor with a fireplace on the west wall is located at the west end of the main block. At the east end of the main block is a dining room with a fireplace centered on the east wall. The center hall contains a staircase along the east wall with a quarter turn near the second floor landing. The moldings in the dining room, living room and hall include tapered, fluted pilasters framing the doors, windows and fireplaces, inset rectangular panels under the windows and a subtle pointed arch motif on the fireplace surrounds. The architraves over the doorways in these rooms consist of a wide frieze board topped with a three-part molding. The baseboards are wide boards topped with ogee molding. Doors between the rooms are wood with four panels and porcelain knobs. The double entry door with transom and sidelights dominates the center hall. The stairway includes a turned wood newel post at the base of the stairs with a smooth wood handrail and turned wood balusters; the newel post at the top of the stairs is square and the wood railing that encircles the stairwell has a rounded corner handrail and turned wood balusters. The outer stair wall has decorative wood trim along the stringer at each step and inset panels that mirror the rise of the stairway.

The second story includes two bedrooms – one at the east end and one at the west end – and the upper center hall. The stairs to the attic are located along the west wall of the upper hall, opposite the main staircase. Each of the bedrooms contains a fireplace on the outer wall. Moldings in these rooms are similar to those in the first story, but with a slightly simpler detailing. Pilasters framing the fireplaces are plain and the door and window moldings are not tapered or fluted as in the first story. The subtle arch pattern continues on the second floor moldings and is visible on the fireplaces and door and window architraves. The iron sash locks, which are visible on the upstairs hall windows, have a decorative latch base against the window with a turned latch knob.

The south addition includes a family/sitting room behind the dining room and hall, and a library and full bathroom behind the parlor. The north wall of the sitting room is clad in weatherboards and the ceiling is covered in narrow wood boards like those typically used on a porch ceiling, indicating that this portion of the house was likely a porch that was later enclosed. A four-panel wood door leads to a small room/closet in the northwest corner of the sitting room and a smaller, four-panel wood exterior door at the southwest corner leads to the porch. The moldings in this room consist of simple single boards for the baseboard and door frames. A door and window

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separate the sitting room from the ell-shaped library at the western end of the addition. A fireplace is located at the southeast corner of the library. The trim around the doors, windows and fireplace echo the simpler moldings on the second floor and feature inset panels under the windows and the subtle arch motif. The full bathroom, added ca. 1930, is situated at the western end of the addition.

South Wing (Ell)

The south wing is a one-story addition likely constructed in the first quarter of the twentieth century. It is slightly lower than the main block and includes a large dining area adjacent to the sitting room in the south addition, a kitchen at the south end of the ell and a small pantry/laundry that extends off the kitchen at the southeast corner of the ell. The walls and ceiling of the dining area are clad in narrow tongue and groove paneling. A four-panel wood exterior door that leads to the porch is located in the center of the east wall. The dining area is separated from the kitchen by the chimney stack in the center and narrow shelving units along the east and west exterior walls. A cased opening is located in the upper half of the wall between the sitting room and dining area in the ell.

Basement

The basement, which is located under the main block, is nearly full height and includes three rooms. A set of stairs under the south addition provided interior access to the basement, however, they are covered up and not readily accessible or used. Presently, a large opening at the southeast corner of the foundation under the south addition provides access to this area. The basement has brick and dirt floors and includes two fireplaces, with evidence of a possible third fireplace. Evidence of lath and plaster along the ceiling framing, whitewashed framing and doors, and detailed molding and trim indicate the basement rooms were once finished spaces. The south room contains a large fireplace, with a hole near the top right corner of the chimney. In the southwest corner of the basement addition, the bricks have been chiseled at an angle at evenly spaced intervals. An exterior door in the southeast corner likely served as the access to the basement from the farmyard prior to the construction of the south-wing in the early twentieth century. During the nineteenth century, this space likely served as a winter kitchen and possibly a winter dining room. The evidence of a brick floor, plaster walls and ceilings, whitewash and trim indicate a space that was somewhat public in its use. It may also have functioned as living quarters for enslaved persons, household members, and/or servants responsible for food preparation and other domestic tasks. During the early twentieth century, the advent of more modern kitchens on main floors of houses often made such basement workspaces obsolete.

Outbuildings

Extant outbuildings on the property are located east of the house and include a brick potato house, a frame smokehouse, a mid-twentieth-century barn, and the remains of a collapsed log building. The foundation of a former barn is located at the eastern edge of the property and the remains of several other structures are located on the property.

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Potato House, Second Quarter 19th Century (contributing building)

The one-story brick potato house has a standing seam metal gable roof with exposed rafter tails and wood weatherboards in the gable ends. A gable roof vent projects from the center of the roof and a brick interior end chimney extends through the west end of the building. The brick walls are laid in 5-row common bond and small square vent openings are centered at the base of the north, west and south walls. A wood door with iron hardware is centered in the east elevation and a decorative wood plaque of a horse and carriage is attached to the weatherboards in the east gable end. It appears that the building may have been used for something other than potato storage at one time, as the wood and bricks in the upper portion of the interior are blackened. The building is currently used for general storage.

Smokehouse (contributing building)

The frame smokehouse is a tall rectangular building with a standing seam metal gable roof and rests on a brick foundation. The walls are clad in wood weatherboards, which were recently replaced. Vertical boards run along each corner from the foundation to the roof line. A wood plank door with iron hardware is located in the west elevation.

Barn ca. 1960 (non-contributing building)

A one-story rectangular barn was constructed ca. 1950-1960 on the foundation of an older barn. The building sits on a concrete foundation and has corrugated metal walls and a standing seam metal gable roof. The north elevation is covered with vinyl panels and the large opening is flanked by vinyl posts. The south elevation includes four modern one-over-one windows with false muntins and a door at the west end; these bays are set into an opening filled in with vinyl siding. There are no openings on the east or west sides of the building. Although constructed more than fifty years ago, the barn has been heavily altered with modern, twenty-first century materials.

Log Building/Corn Crib ca. 1900 (contributing building)

A partially collapsed log building/corn crib is located directly east of the barn and surrounded by trees and overgrown vegetation. The building has saddle-notched corners and a portion of the metal roof rests on top of the structure. A wood panel door is located in the center of the north elevation.

Other Sites and Structure

Barn Foundations (contributing site)

The site of the foundation of a nineteenth-century barn is located at the eastern end of the property. The barn had a brick and concrete foundation and included a stable at the west end of the building and storage at the east end of the building. The barn was deemed structurally unsound by the City and was taken down several years ago.

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Hog-pit (contributing structure)

The remains of a hog-pit are located at the northeast corner of the property near the road. Now mostly overgrown, the rock-lined, round pit was used to boil the pig after slaughter to remove the hair from the animal's body.

Brick lined well (contributing structure)

A brick-lined well is located in the northeast corner of the property. The well has been filled in and now the structure's location is mostly overgrown with grass and vegetation; however, the brick lining of the top of the well is still visible.

Well 2 (contributing structure)

The remains of another well are located south of the main house. It was visible as a depression in the earth, which the property owners excavated while gardening and discovered the lining of the well as well as early twentieth century artifacts.

Quarter Foundations (contributing site)

The foundations of what may have been a former slave quarter is located southeast of the smokehouse. The building was demolished in the late 1980s due to its deteriorated condition, but portions of the foundation are still visible. The area surrounding the foundation has not been disturbed, creating potential for the presence of cultural deposits related to the property's African-American history.

Dairy/Milk House Foundations (contributing site)

The site of a former dairy house is located south of the main house near the modern property line. The building was demolished following extensive damage due to Hurricane Isabel, but portions of the foundation remain visible.

Integrity Analysis

The Samuel Eley House retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, setting, and association to varying degrees. The property is situated on the south side of Pruden Boulevard, where it was originally established and therefore, maintains integrity of *location*. The general historic layout and spatial relationships of the buildings on the property remains intact, as does the relationships in functions and uses between the buildings and structures. There have been very few alterations made to the house and extant contributing outbuildings, allowing all to retain good integrity of *design, materials* and *workmanship*. The massing, arrangement of spaces, proportions and architectural details of the house reflect the building's historic appearance and function and retain high integrity of *design*. The design elements of the outbuildings remain

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intact as well. The house retains its original exterior physical materials, including the brick foundation, wood siding, wood sash windows, brick chimneys and decorative elements, while the interior features original wood trim, flooring, stairs, and doors, which together comprise a high level of integrity of *materials*. The outbuildings also retain integrity of *materials*: the potato house retains its original brick walls, central vent, chimney, door and hardware, and the smokehouse retains its original brick foundation, door and hardware; the wood weatherboards have recently been replaced. Many of the construction techniques and decorative elements characteristic of nineteenth century methods reflect good integrity of *workmanship*. Some of these features include the house's proportioned windows on the north and west elevations and on each story, the step-shouldered chimneys, and the simple board cornice on the exterior, while the dwelling's interior has scrollwork on the steps, a subtle arched motif used for trim on the fireplaces and window and door architraves, tapered fluted pilasters in the parlor and dining room, and the decorative functioning window locks on the interior. Integrity of workmanship is also evident in the simple utilitarian construction of the potato house and smokehouse and the iron hardware on the doors to these outbuildings. Because the house and outbuildings retain original design, materials and workmanship, as a group they convey the *feeling* of a nineteenth-century domestic complex with agricultural outbuildings also indicative of the property's historic character.

Although most of the acreage that was part of the original property is no longer included with the current parcel, the farmland remains under the ownership of various descendants of the Rountree family, who continue to utilize it for agricultural purposes. Together with the property's documentary record, the continued use of the surrounding land allows the Samuel Eley House to retain its integrity of *association* with its nineteenth century agricultural history. While Route 460, the major transportation route running along the northern boundary of the property has been widened in recent decades, the Eley House was historically situated close to this transportation route that ran between the towns of Suffolk and Windsor. The house also remains surrounded by primarily rural, agricultural parcels, further contributing to the property's integrity of setting and association.

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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.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1826-1919

Significant Dates

1826

1863

1869

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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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.)

The Samuel Eley House property includes a nineteenth-century house and several extant outbuildings and structures, as well as sites of former outbuilding foundations, which collectively are representative of a typical southeastern Virginia farm that evolved throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in response to local trends in agriculture, commerce, and social development. The property is locally significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an evolved example of an early-nineteenth-century Federal-style I-house, which was partially reconstructed and/or altered in the mid-nineteenth century using Greek Revival and Italianate-stylistic attributes. The property's period of significance extends from circa 1826 through 1919, beginning with initial construction of the dwelling through its later significant additions, which demonstrate local changing trends in architectural design and construction technology over nearly a century. The property was established when Nansemond County (now Suffolk City) was emerging from a brief agricultural depression and farmers learned to enrich the soil with minerals and found success in growing assorted grain crops and raising livestock. The property retains integrity of materials, workmanship, design, setting, location, and association and remains an exceptionally intact example of one of the few remaining early-nineteenth-century houses in the area.

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

County and Area History

The land that made up early Nansemond County was inhabited by Native American tribes for generations until English colonists settled the area in the mid-seventeenth century. When the British colony of Virginia was divided into nine shires in 1634, Nansemond was part of the Warrosquyoake Shire, later named Isle of Wight. Five years later, the shire was divided into counties and the area that would become Nansemond was originally named Upper Norfolk; however, the name was changed to Nansemond in the mid-1640s (Pollock 1886:15 and 18). The county was 34 miles long and about 12 miles wide, bounded on the north by Hampton Roads and Lake Drummond, on the east by Norfolk County, on the west by Isle of Wight and Southampton counties, and on the south by the northern boundary line of North Carolina (Pollock 1886:6). Suffolk, the county seat, was established near the center of the county, and in the late nineteenth century was served by two railroads and several rivers, including the Nansemond, James, and Elizabeth, as well as the Dismal Swamp and its associated canals.

During the nineteenth century, the county's economy was based in the area's vast timber and agricultural lands. Principal manufactures and trade products included tar, turpentine, shingles and staves that came from the large quantities of juniper, cypress, gum, ash, maple and pine found in the Dismal Swamp. Primary agricultural products grown in the county included corn,

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oats, wheat, cotton and peanuts, as well as various fruits and vegetables that were cultivated earlier than similar crops in the northern United States. By the 1830s, county farmers learned to supplement the soil with marl (mineral deposits found along the river bottoms and margins of the Dismal Swamp), which helped increase the quantity and quality of agricultural crops (Pollock 1886:11,14).

Suffolk and Nansemond County suffered great personal and property losses during the nineteenth century as the result of two fires and events related to the Civil War. In 1837, a fire broke out in a cabinetmaker's shop and approximately 130 houses, the courthouse and jail, and several businesses in Suffolk were lost (Pollock 1886:62). A second fire in the city occurred shortly after the Civil War when city and county records, and much of the principal business quarter, were lost (Pollock 1886:94). Between May 1862 and April 1863, the City of Suffolk and much of the surrounding area was occupied by federal troops. During "The Siege of Suffolk," nearly 50,000 troops were encamped on the outskirts of Suffolk and the area remained under federal control until Confederate General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House in April 1865. Several skirmishes occurred during this time, one of which took place very near the Eley House (Place 1863). Soldiers' diaries and letters describe dinners served at the house to the troops during "the siege" (Wills 2001:227-228). Local oral history tradition notes that when Union troops approached Suffolk, many valuables were carried to the Eley House for safekeeping, many of which were lost to a fire that occurred on the Eley property during the war. Sources citing the fire report conflicting information regarding the cause and extent of the fire. In 1863, newspapers reporting the Siege of Suffolk listed houses that had been burned by Union troops. Among those identified was the Samuel Eley House (*Daily Dispatch* 1863). The memoirs of a Union soldier from the 1st New York Mounted Rifles gives a detailed account of his encounters with the "Ely" family, and the fire. His report indicates that an accidental fire started in a barn and spread to the "handsome mansion." Although nearby federal soldiers sought to put out the fire, the soldier attributed the spread of the destruction to wind (Wills 2001: 228). While the causes and extent of the damage remain unclear, Nansemond County tax records from the years 1861 to 1869 reveal that the Eley property did sustain significant damages to its buildings and that the buildings were repaired and the property value restored by 1869.

In comparison to the rest of Virginia, Nansemond County ranked in the lower end of total population between 1850 and 1960. The total population of the county increased slightly between 1850 and 1860, fell in 1870, and then rose in small increments between 1880 and 1900. Population fell again by 1920 and then began to rise in greater increments between 1940 and 1960. In comparison, during the nineteenth century, the state's population was highest in Richmond, Norfolk, Danville and parts of central Virginia. By the early twentieth century, the Norfolk area was the most densely populated, and by 1960, the northern Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C. counted the highest number of inhabitants (UVA GDSC 2004).

Nansemond County Population

Year	Population
1850	12,283
1860	13,693

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1870	11,576
1880	15,903
1890	19,692
1900	23,078
1920	20,199
1940	22,771
1950	25,238
1960	31,366

Nansemond County also ranked at the lower end of number and value of farms in comparison to the rest of the state. The county included 731 farms in 1850, 673 farms in 1860, 1,035 farms in 1870 and 1,351 farms in 1880 (UVA GSDC 2004). The steady increase in the number of farms reflected a concomitant decrease in average farm size in the county, from 136 acres in 1880 to an average size of 93.9 acres by 1940. Nearly half of the county population in 1940 was enumerated as “rural farm.”

Nansemond County was reorganized as the City of Nansemond in 1972. Two years later, it merged with the City of Suffolk and the county was dissolved. The Eley House is currently located within the City of Suffolk municipal boundaries, which include all of the former Nansemond County, Virginia.

History of Eley House and Owners

In the early nineteenth century, Thomas Godwin, Jr. owned the land that became the Eley property. Tax records indicate that Godwin owned several parcels in the county, including the subject parcel, which contained 25 acres and was located 7 miles north of the courthouse at Suffolk. In the early 1820s, the property was valued at \$75 and had no buildings on the parcel. County tax records from 1826 note a \$300.00 increase in value on account of improvements, indicating that a building or buildings had been constructed on the property (Nansemond County Land Tax Books, 1822A-1839B). Godwin also owned a larger parcel of 445 acres, which included buildings, located north and east of the 25-acre parcel.

County tax records from 1833 note that Samuel Eley had purchased the 25-acre parcel from Godwin. Eley also owned additional parcels of 87 acres and 79 acres nearby, but neither of these appeared to include buildings. The subject property was reassessed in 1838 and by 1839, the land and buildings was valued at \$575. In 1843, Eley added parcels of 125 acres and 100 acres to his landholding. Over the next decade, Eley added and sold parcels, and by 1857, he owned 329 acres with buildings worth \$1,800 and total value of land and buildings listed at \$3,290 (Nansemond County Land Tax Books, 1843B-1857B).

The 1840 census listed Samuel Eley as the head of household, which was comprised of 5 free white persons, including 2 males between the age of 5 and 9, 1 male between the age of 15 and 19 and 1 male between the age of 30 and 39, along with 1 female between the age of 20 and 29.

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The entry also noted 7 enslaved people, including 3 males under age 10, 1 male between the age of 10 and 23, 1 male between the age of 36 and 54 and 2 females between the age of 10 and 23. The census noted that there were 2 persons employed in agriculture and 1 person employed in manufacturing and trade (Ancestry.com 1840).

The 1850 census listed Samuel Eley as a 48-year-old farmer, living at the property with his wife Susannah, age 27, and sons Adolphus, age 4 and Alphonso, age 2. The entry notes that Eley was born in Isle of Wight County and his real estate was worth \$3,500 (Ancestry.com 1850).

In 1860, Samuel Eley was listed as a 58-year-old farmer living at the property with his wife Susan, age 37, and sons Adolphus, age 14 and Alphonzo, age 12, both of whom attended school.

Also listed in the household was Mary Pinner, age 30, who was noted as deaf and not able to read or write. The value of Eley's real estate was listed at \$5,000 and his personal estate at \$20,000. Most of the neighbors were listed as farmers, with 1 physician in the area. The entry immediately following Eley was listed as a laborer and perhaps was someone who worked on the Eley farm (Ancestry.com 1860).

The 1870 census listed Samuel Eley as a 67-year-old farmer, living at the property with his wife Susan, age 47, keeping house. Also living at the property was a housekeeper, Amelia Whitley, age 25, and her daughter Eloy R., age 1. Eley's real estate was valued at \$3,300 and his personal estate at \$4,750 (Ancestry.com 1870). The decrease in real estate and personal estate values could be attributed to the prolonged siege of Suffolk during the Civil War and the effect it had on the Eleys' ability to make a living, as well as to damage incurred during the federal occupation and when the house was partially burned, with much of the contents likely destroyed or damaged. The larger region also experienced economic damage during the war, with full recovery requiring many years to accomplish.

Agricultural census information for Samuel Eley indicates that he maintained a farm of approximately 325 acres (1850) to 400 acres (1870), with about one-half to one-third improved/cultivated acres and the remaining property in woodland or unimproved. The farm was valued at \$2,000 in 1850, at \$5,000 in 1860, and at \$3,800 in 1870. Livestock enumerated in 1850 and 1860 included 2 horses, 2 mules, 5 milch cows, 2 working oxen, 5-8 other cattle, 18 sheep, and 54-63 swine, with a livestock value of around \$500. During 1850 and 1860, Eley's farm produced 1,000 bushels of Indian corn, 200-300 bushels of oats, between 30 and 75 pounds of wool, 200 bushels of peas and beans, 12-100 bushels of Irish potatoes, 200 bushels of sweet potatoes, and 150-400 pounds of butter. In 1850, the farm also had orchard products valued at \$10, produced 10 tons of hay and 60 pounds of beeswax and honey. The information presented in the 1850 and 1860 agricultural census returns indicates that Eley's farm did not appear to be a large commercial operation, other than perhaps products related to swine and Indian corn, as the overall numbers of livestock and crops are more indicative of a family or subsistence farm. By 1870, both the number and variety of livestock had dwindled and the amount of grains produced was reduced as well (Ancestry.com, Non-Population Schedules 1850, 1860 and 1870).

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The heirs of Samuel Eley (widow Susannah and sons Adolphus and Alphonso) sold the property to Solomon Saunders and his wife Balry for \$4,000 in January 1883 (Nansemond County Deed Book 11, Page 544). Saunders owned the property until 1890, when he sold it to William Camp for \$2,250. The property described in the deed included 2 parcels – one of 325 acres and one of 6 acres, “part of the Samuel Eley Farm” (Nansemond County Deed Book 24, Page 176). According to previous research conducted on the property, Camp was a wealthy lumber company owner, who formed Camp Manufacturing, which eventually became Union Camp Corporation and then part of International Paper (Augustine 1999). Camp apparently lived in Florida and is not listed under Nansemond County’s population census schedules. He likely either rented the property to a local farmer and family, or he used it as home base when conducting business in the area.

C.K. Bowden purchased the two tracts from Camp for \$6,000 in January 1907 (Nansemond County Deed Book 62, Page 459). A year later Bowden sold the property to Patrick L. Hobbs for \$6,450 in November 1908 (Nansemond County Deed Book 66, Page 290). In the 1910 census, Patrick Hobbs is listed as a farmer, age 48, who lived at the property with his wife Sarah along with seven daughters and two sons, one of whom worked on the farm (Ancestry.com 1910). He continued to farm the property through 1920 (Ancestry.com 1920).

In 1924, George T. Rountree purchased the property from John K. Hutton, Special Commissioner of the City of Suffolk (result of chancery court proceedings between D.T. Hobbs complainant and N.L. Hobbs, administrator of P.L. Hobbs, deceased and other defendants), for \$9,600 in October 1924, which at that time included 235 acres, “being a part of the old Samuel Eley tract of land...” (Nansemond County Deed Book 106, Page 380). Rountree was listed in the 1930 census as a farmer, age 39, who lived at the property with his wife Mattie, age 37, and children Ruby, age 17, Elizabeth, age 17, G.T. Jr., age 8, Edward, age 5, and Mildred, age 2, as well as his mother Ella, age 79. The census noted that each member of the family was born in North Carolina (Ancestry.com 1930). In 1940, Rountree lived at the property with his wife and oldest son, a laborer, and his two youngest children (Ancestry.com 1940). George died in 1965 and his family continued to own the property until it was sold to his granddaughter and current owner, Vivian Janette Rountree in October 1986 (City of Suffolk Deed Book 183, Page 776). Ms. Rountree and other family members also own some of the adjacent land.

Architectural Significance

The Samuel Eley House is an excellent example of a southeastern Virginia nineteenth-century I-house. The main house was originally built circa 1826 in a vernacular interpretation of the Federal Revival style. The house was repaired and/or reconstructed following a fire during the Civil War, resulting in minor stylistic alterations to include interpretations of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles popular during the latter half of the nineteenth century.

A sketch entitled “skirmish on Ely’s Farm one mile from Providence Church,” drawn by Thomas Place, a private in Troop H of the 1st New York Mounted Rifles, depicts a minor battle between Confederate and Union troops near the Eley House in January 1863 (Skirmish Drawing). In the

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drawing, the main block of the house appears in its current form and massing, with weatherboard siding, exterior chimneys on the east and west sides, a side gable roof and an entry porch. The north, or main, elevation is shown as five bays wide, with a central entrance in the center of the first story and a single, multi-pane (likely six-over-six) window in each of the remaining bays. These features are typical of the Federal style, especially the symmetrical facade, the central main entry, and the single windows with multi-pane sash (McAlester 1984:153). When the house was partially rebuilt in the late 1860s, many of the basic details remained – the symmetrical façade and the central entrance – but showed influences of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles, including the simple cornice with wide trim, the oval paneled double doors with a full transom and sidelights, and entry porch with square columns. The rectangular tripartite window in the center bay of the second story is an updated Greek Revival version of the rounded Palladian window characteristic of the Federal style (McAlester 1984:179-182).

The tall, exterior brick chimneys with stepped shoulders and corbelled tops, the long narrow windows that flank the chimneys and the raised brick foundation are characteristic of this house type in southeastern Virginia. The gable-roof south wing, added circa 1900, and the porches (both entry and side), added in the early twentieth century, also are typical modifications made to accommodate changing social and domestic customs. Around the same time, the front porch was likely altered, as the brick foundations match those of the side porch, and evidence from the porch framing indicates an early twentieth century construction date. The large, three-room basement likely was the location of the kitchen before the one-story wing was added to the southeastern corner of the house. The wood siding and cedar roof shakes (which have since been replaced with a standing seam metal roof) reflect the abundance of wood in the area and the local manufacture of wood products, including shakes and shingles. The property retains several intact agricultural outbuildings and other features of its nineteenth-century agricultural past, but has lost its historic barns, a former slave quarter, and a dairy or milk house. The foundations for these demolished outbuildings are still extant and may yield additional information related to the property's history.

There are two similar houses in the vicinity of the Eley House: the Old Boyce Place/Peels Farm/Pruden Farm (DHR # 133-1012) at 4129 Pruden Boulevard, and Camp Farm/Langford Farm (DHR #133-0100) at 5345 Pruden Boulevard. The Old Boyce Place, which dates from the 1820s, also displays a symmetrical 3-bay main elevation, exterior brick chimneys with stepped shoulders, a side-gable roof and a one-story rear wing. Since it was originally documented in 1973, the wood weatherboard siding has been replaced with vinyl, but the nine-over-nine and six-over-nine double-hung sash remain. Like the Eley House and the Old Boyce Place, the main dwelling at Camp Farm, built circa 1870, has a symmetrical 3-bay main elevation, exterior brick chimneys with stepped shoulders, and a side-gable roof. Although the basic form is similar to the Eley House, the Camp Farm house displays more high-style features related to the Italianate style, including brackets at the cornice, decorative drip caps over the windows and a two-story porch with elaborate wood trim. The Camp Farm also retains most of its original agricultural outbuildings

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The Samuel Eley House meets National Register Criterion C as a good example of an evolved, nineteenth-century dwelling characteristic of those built by middling planters in southeastern Virginia. The dwelling displays distinctive characteristics of the type, period and method of construction of the local and regional vernacular interpretation of the Federal style, as evidenced by the basic form and massing of its original construction ca. 1826 and by the elements of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles introduced during alterations in the late 1860s and early twentieth century. The house retains character-defining features such as the symmetrical façade with central entry, six-over-six sash windows, and balanced proportions characteristic of the Federal style, as well as a rectangular tripartite window and double-door main entry with full transom and sidelights typical of the Greek Revival style. The house also features simplified Italianate style features such as its double oval-paneled front door, exposed porch rafters, and geometric brackets. The raised brick foundation, exterior brick chimneys with stepped shoulders, and wood weatherboard siding are features that are found on many houses of this era and style in southeastern Virginia. The Eley House is distinguished by its retention of most of its original materials as well as high integrity of design and workmanship from its construction in 1826 and later renovations of the late 1860s and early twentieth century.

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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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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

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 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: Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #133-0101

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.15 acres

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: 36.472072 | Longitude: -76.393411 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

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3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

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

The historic boundary for the Eley House coincides with the current tax parcel associated with the property and includes the dwelling and associated outbuildings. The 2.15-acre parcel is recorded as tax parcel map no. 24*19D and is assigned City of Suffolk account number 253133700. The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the accompanying Tax Parcel Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic boundary of the property coincides with the current tax parcel and contains the historic buildings and remaining land associated with the original property and as much of the historic setting as remains., as well as all known historic resources.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Margaret Parker, Architectural Historian/ Jennifer Grover, Terranext, LLC/

Revised by Kayla Halberg, Commonwealth Preservation Group

organization: _____

street & number: 135 Bonnybrook Road/ 1106 Mill Hill Road/ PO Box 11083

city or town: Carlisle/Richmond Hill/Norfolk state: PA/GA/VA zip

code: 17013/31324/23517

e-mail mparker60@comcast.net/jgrover@terranext.net/

kayla@commonwealthpreservationgroup.com

telephone: 717-580-2305/912-572-1995/ 757-905-4380

date: September 30, 2015, rev. December 18, 2015, rev. February 13, 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.)

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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: Eley, Samuel House (DHR #133-0101)

City or Vicinity: Suffolk

County: Independent City State: VA

Photographer: Kayla Halberg

Date Photographed: February 7, 2019

Location of Original Files: DHR Archives

Photo No.	Description	Camera Facing
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0001	House, North and east elevations oblique	Southwest
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0002	House, North and west elevations oblique	Southeast
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0003	House, South elevation and addition	Northwest
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0004	House – South elevation	North
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0005	Front Door/Porch Detail	South
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0006	Porch and Addition detail	Southwest
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0007	Outbuildings and farm yard	Northeast
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0008	Smokehouse and Potato House	Northeast
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0009	Potato House and Smokehouse	Southwest
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0010	Mid-20 th Century Barn	Southeast
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0011	Log building/corn crib	Southeast
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0012	Former quarter building foundations	Southeast
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0013	Former dairy/milk house foundations	South
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0014	Former 19 th century barn foundations	Northeast
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0015	Site of former well 2	Southwest
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0016	Former well 1 Detail	North

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Photo No.	Description	Camera Facing
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0017	Hog-pit	North
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0018	Interior- Parlor Fireplace	West
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0019	Interior- Main block exterior wall/enclosed porch	Northwest
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0020	Interior- 20 th century addition	South
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0021	Basement- stair from enclosed porch in warming kitchen	Northeast
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0022	Basement- Stair from enclosed porch	West
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0023	Basement- typical fireplace	East
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0024	Basement- room under dining room	West
VA_Suffolk City_Samuel Eley House_0025	Basement- room under parlor	West

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.

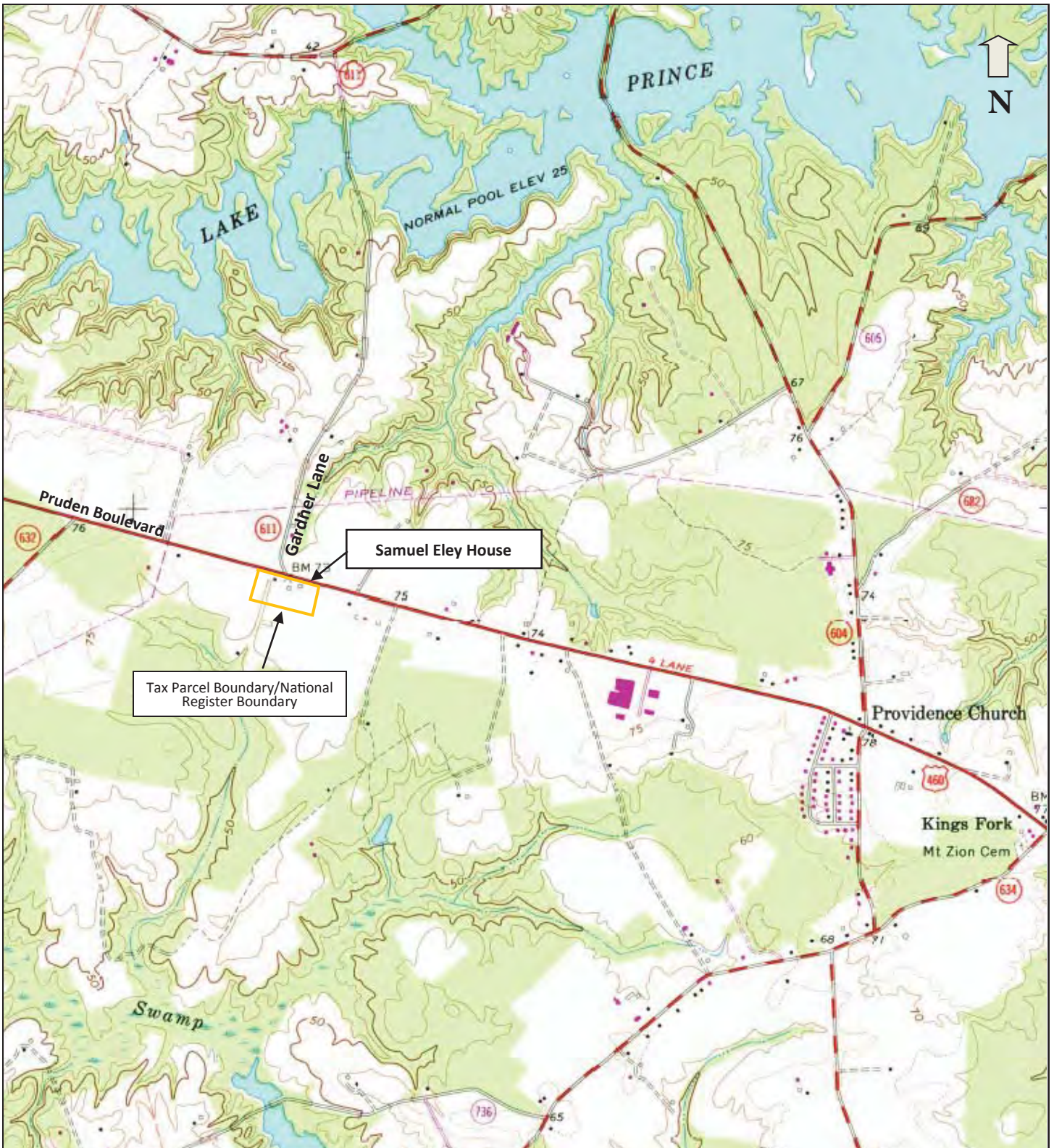


skirmish on Ely's farm one mile from Providence Church.

Source: War Reminiscences of Thomas Place,
Private in Troop H, 1st New York Mounted Rifles
Copied from collection of Jan Augustine, April 15, 2015

"Skirmish on Ely's farm one mile from Providence Church"

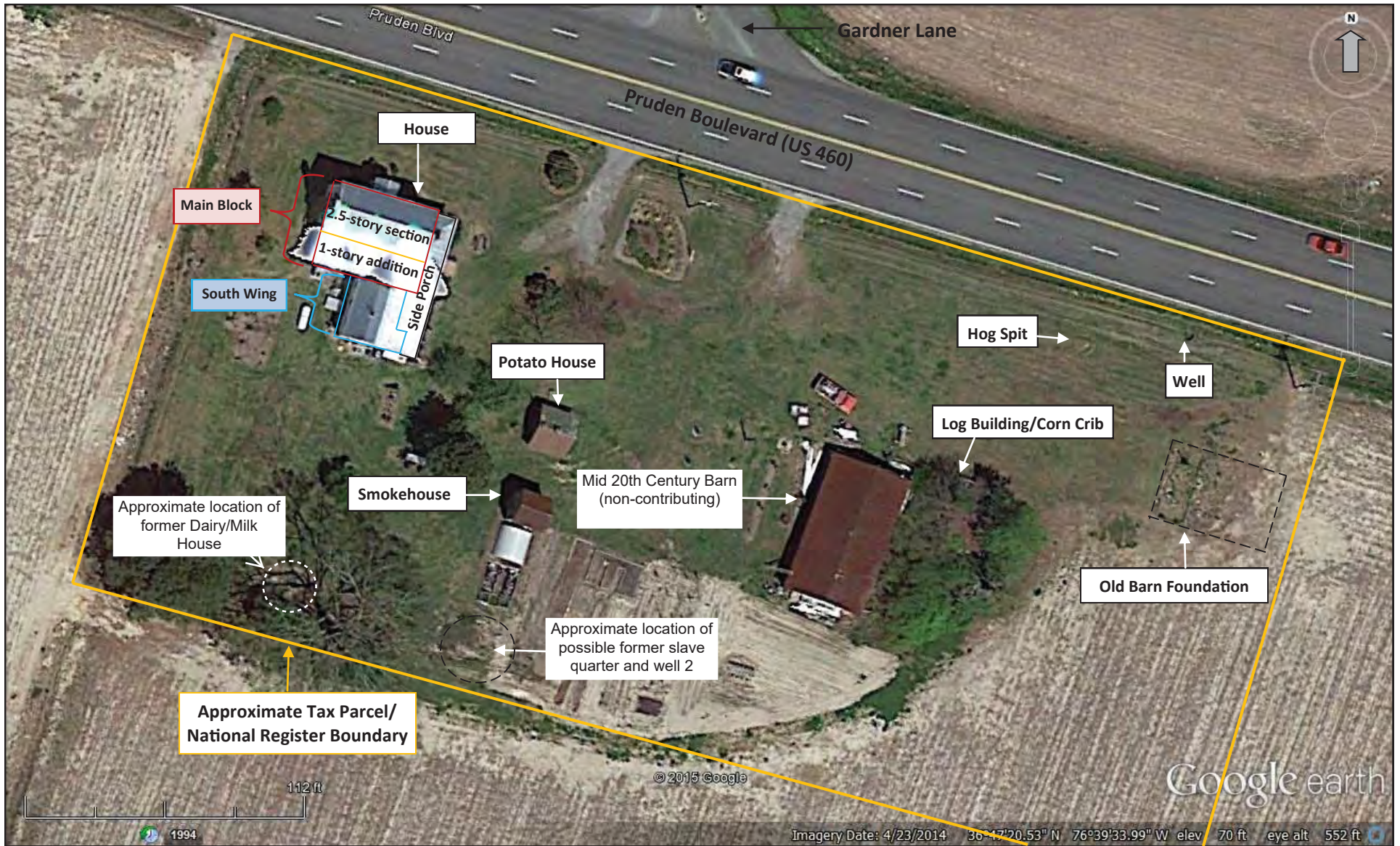
Drawn by Thomas Place



Location Map of Samuel Eley House (DHR #133-0101)
4801 Pruden Boulevard, City of Suffolk, VA

Windsor , VA, 7.5 minute USGS Quadrangle
 1965, photorevised 1980
 Source: www.usgs.gov
 Scale = 1:24,000

Latitude: 36.472072,
 Longitude: -76.393411



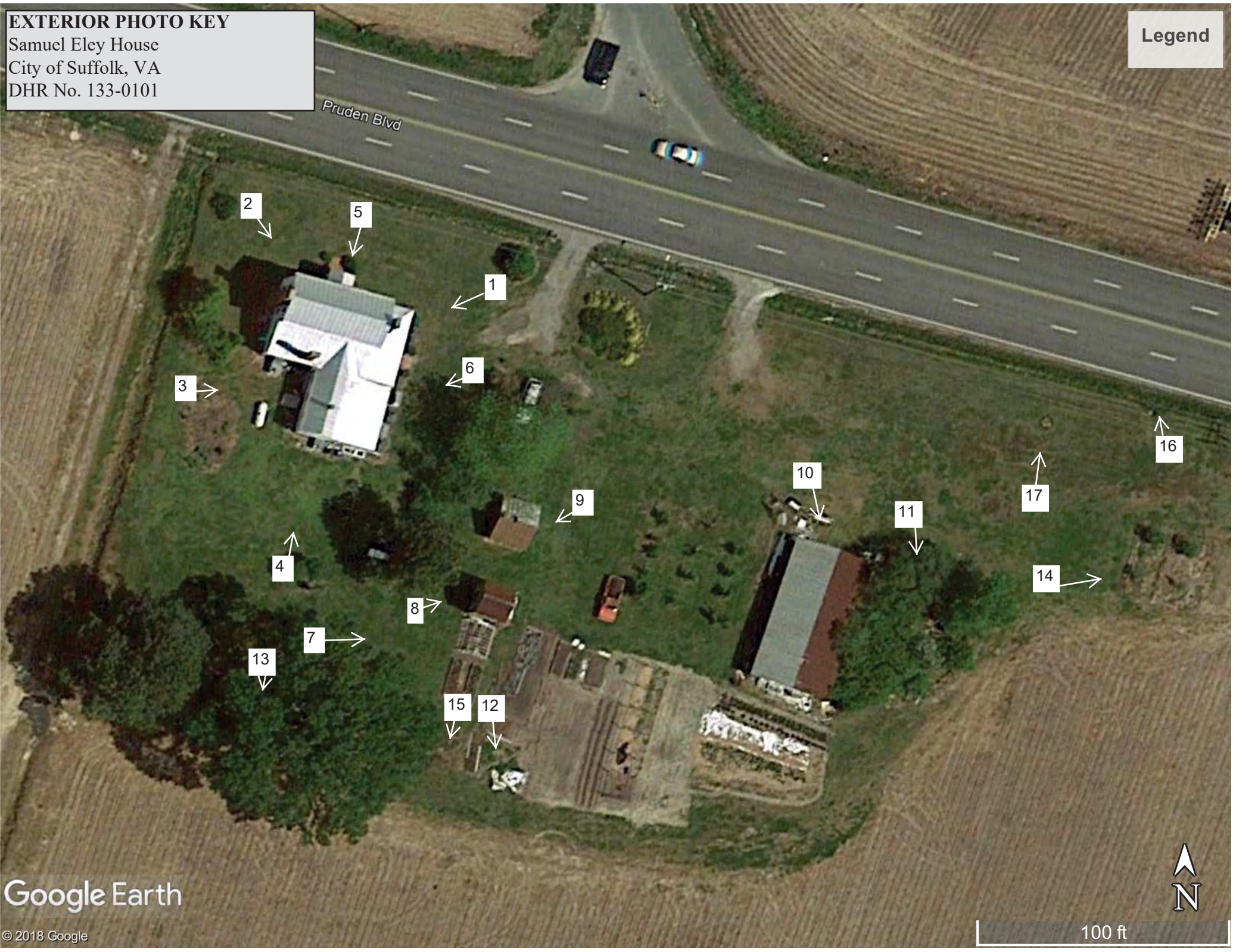
All labeled resources contribute to the historic property unless otherwise noted

Source: Google Earth
 Imagery Date: 4/23/2014
 Scale: 1 inch = 112 feet

Sketch Map
Samuel Eley House (DHR #133-0101) 4801
Pruden Boulevard, City of Suffolk, VA

EXTERIOR PHOTO KEY
Samuel Eley House
City of Suffolk, VA
DHR No. 133-0101

Legend



Google Earth

© 2018 Google



100 ft



WTA File HERE: Delorme-Intermap-IPC-1400

Source: City of Suffolk, GIS Department
 Date Accessed: 4/13/2015

Tax Parcel Map
Samuel Eley House (DHR #133-0101)
4801 Pruden Boulevard,
City of Suffolk, VA



















































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Samuel Eley House

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: VIRGINIA, Suffolk

Date Received: 6/28/2019 Date of Pending List: 7/19/2019 Date of 16th Day: 8/5/2019 Date of 45th Day: 8/12/2019 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100004261

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review: _____

X Accept Return Reject 8/9/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Good example of the I-house form, with transitional Greek Revival and Federal features representing the evolution of the house.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / C

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.



CITY OF SUFFOLK

442 W. WASHINGTON ST., P.O. BOX 1858, SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA 23439-1858
PHONE: (757) 514-4060 FAX: (757) 514-4099

DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Division of Planning

June 10, 2019

Mr. James Hare
Director, Survey and Register Division
DHR Headquarters, Richmond Central Office
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

RE: National Register Nomination – Samuel Eley House, DHR No. 133-0101

Dear Mr. Hare:

Thank you for providing the City of Suffolk with an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed nomination of the Samuel Eley House, located at 4801 Pruden Boulevard, to the National Register of Historic Places. As requested, the Suffolk Historic Landmarks Commission considered this nomination at their May 2019 meeting and passed a unanimous motion in support of listing of this property on the National Register. A copy of the meeting minutes is attached for your reference. Staff has also reviewed the nomination and believes that the subject property has significant importance to the architectural history of Suffolk and should be listed on the Register. Please accept this letter and the attached minutes as our response to your request for comments.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the nomination of the Samuel Eley House to the National Register of Historic Places. This is a unique property in a still rural part of Suffolk, and it is important to document its importance and its continued contribution to the architectural record of the City. If you have any questions or need additional information in regard to these comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at cljones@suffolkva.us or (757) 514-4063.

Sincerely,

Claire Jones, AICP
Secretary, Historic Landmarks Commission

Enclosure



MINUTES
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
May 9, 2019
9:00 A.M.

The regular meeting of the Historic Landmarks Commission was held on Thursday, May 9, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers of Suffolk City Hall, 442 W. Washington Street, Suffolk, Virginia, with the following persons present:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Bailey
Susan Coley
Mary Austin Darden
Merritt Draper
Oliver Hobbs
Edward King
Larry Riddick
Vivian Turner

STAFF:

Claire Jones, Secretary
Karla Carter, Assistant City Attorney
Kevin Wyne, Principal Planner
Connie Blair, Planning Technician

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hobbs. The roll was called by Ms. Jones and the Chairman was informed that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Certificate of Appropriateness HLC2019-00014, submitted by Michael Beale, applicant, on behalf of N & N Land Company, LLC, property owner, for exterior material alterations and fencing on property located at 239 West Washington Street. The property is further identified as Zoning Map 34G17, Block A, Parcels 160 and 161*162, Suffolk Voting Borough, zoned CBD, Central Business District and HC, Historic Conservation Overlay District.

The public hearing item was introduced by Chairman Hobbs, followed by a staff report from Kevin Wyne, Principal Planner. Mr. Wyne stated the property includes two parcels on W. Washington Street between Saratoga and South/Pine Streets making it a part of the 2002 District Expansion of the Original Suffolk District. Mr. Wyne noted the property is currently a vacant commercial building with an unenclosed patio area. The last two businesses on the site were restaurant uses, the most recent of which closed within the last year.

Mr. Wyne stated that according to the National Register of Historic Places Inventory, the most common building form noted in this second boundary expansion is the brick-fronted commercial structure like the building in question. These buildings often feature large show windows and an entry on or off center. Other common features include oriel windows, brickwork paneling, and brick friezes and cornices either corbeled or in geometric patterns.

Mr. Wyne stated that the subject property was constructed between 1910 and 1925 and features painted brick, a single storefront with a recessed entryway and a stepped parapet roofline. An open air patio area is located to the west of the structure on a separate parcel. The subject property also includes an eight foot wide alley deeded for access to the surrounding properties in 1890. The current owner of these properties has provided written permission to use this alley.

Mr. Wyne noted that the subject property received a Certificate of Appropriateness in 2015 for the installation of a sign, construction of a shelter for barbecue smokers, and the painting of the patio fence white. These improvements were related to the establishment of the restaurant that most recently occupied the building. Prior to that, in 2006, a Certificate of Appropriateness was granted for the installation of a sign and the painting of previously painted brick. These improvements were also related to the opening of a restaurant in the building.

Mr. Wyne explained the applicant's requests, which include installing two new aluminum storefront doors with sidelights on the west elevation, replacing an existing window on the east elevation, and replacing existing wooden fencing with 4' tall aluminum, wrought iron style fence. All trim will be aluminum with a bronze finish.

The western elevation of the subject property features several windows that are boarded up and painted red. The applicant proposes to reopen the window aligning with the existing privacy fence and reconfigure it to include a single leaf metal and glass door to provide access to the patio. The remainder of the existing window would be reopened and a new aluminum, divided 7-lite window would be installed along with the door. Mr. Wyne explained that this façade is visible from the public right-of-way but is a less prominent one due to the proximity of neighboring buildings. He added that the proposed door and window will match the style and color of the storefront door and windows on the front of the structure and will pay homage to the original window, but the configuration would not permit retention of the original material. Mr. Wyne also noted that the Historic Landmarks Commission has approved similar projects in the past and provided examples.

Mr. Wyne stated that the applicant is proposing to remove an existing, non-contributing double-door made of plywood on the same façade, to be replaced with a single aluminum framed storefront door with storefront glass panes on each side. The opening will maintain its current size, and aside from being slightly wider, the door will match the other storefront door proposed for installation on this elevation.

On the eastern elevation, the applicant proposes to replace an existing window with a new aluminum paneled window with a bronze finish. Presently, this window is boarded up with painted plywood. The window is proposed to match the one on the western elevation and consist of eight (8) lites. This elevation includes three windows of the same type, all currently obscured by plywood and painted the same color as the building. Because of the alignment of the street and the adjacent parking lot, this façade appears to be more visually prominent than the western one. In the event that the remaining windows can be repaired, all windows on this façade should match.

The new window, as proposed, would replace a 16 lite window with an 8 lite window. The design would differ from the window in question and the other existing windows on this façade that may be uncovered

in the future. For these reasons, staff recommends that this window be replaced in-kind, with a window that matches the existing window in configuration and design.

Mr. Wyne stated that the final component of this request is the proposed replacement of two sections of wooden, residential style fence with an aluminum style fence designed to mimic wrought iron. The Design Guidelines do not establish recommendations for the placement of fencing on commercial properties; however, this type of fencing is more appropriate for a commercial site within the District. The current wood fencing is more appropriate for a residential property, and its replacement with a wrought iron style aluminum fence would result in an improvement to the existing condition. The fence will meet height requirements and will allow for a more attractive and functional patio area for the proposed business.

In conclusion, Mr. Wyne stated that staff recommends approval of this request, HLC2019-00014, with the conditions noted in staff's report. Staff's recommendation differs from the applicant's request as it pertains to the eastern façade window replacement. Staff is recommending the in-kind replacement of this window with a 16 lite window that will profile the same and offer the same configuration as the existing window. This is due to the visibility of this façade and the fact that other windows are present on this elevation.

The public hearing was opened and Mr. Michael Beale, applicant, spoke in favor of the application. He stated he wanted to put in a restaurant and make improvements to the building. There being no other speakers, the public hearing was closed.

The Commission discussed the proposed replacement of the original window on the east side of the building with a different configuration. They also discussed the potential use of the existing rear door, which will be for employee use only. Following this discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Darden to approve staff's recommendation as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Turner and approved by a recorded vote of 8-0.

National Register of Historic Places Nomination, DHR No. 133-0101, Samuel Eley House, 4801 Pruden Boulevard was introduced by Chairman Hobbs, followed by an overview from Claire Jones, Comprehensive Planning Manager and Secretary of the Historic Landmarks Commission. Ms. Jones stated that, because Suffolk is a Certified Local Government, the Historic Landmarks Commission is entitled to review and comment on new National Register nominations in the City. The Department of Historic Resources has provided information in regard to the nomination of the Samuel Eley House, which is located at 4801 Pruden Boulevard and includes an early 19th century house and several dependencies. Ms. Jones explained that the nomination was initiated by the City to mitigate the visual impact from a communications tower that was located near the property in 2014. As part of the Section 106 review for the tower, this property was identified as potentially eligible for register on the National Register. The City contracted with Commonwealth Preservation to prepare this nomination, which found the property to be largely intact and locally significant for its architecture.

The nomination to recommend listing the property on the National Register and the Virginia Landmarks Register is scheduled to be presented to Virginia's State Review Board and Historic Resources Board on June 20, 2019. Ms. Jones stated that the Historic Landmarks Commission is entitled to a sixty-day comment period to review the proposed nomination of this property and provide any comments to the

Virginia Department of Historic Resources prior to its presentation to the state review boards. She added that staff has reviewed the nomination and supports the listing of this property on the National Register of Historic Places. The owner supports this nomination, as well.

The Commission discussed their knowledge of the property and its nomination. Following the discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Bailey to endorse the nomination. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Draper and approved by unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

STAFF REPORTS:

Enforcement Update: Donald Bennett, Property Maintenance Official, reported on the following properties:

- 118 Wellons Street – Fined \$700.00 for code violations on 3-7-19
- 122 W. Washington Street -- Case continued until July
- 342 N. Main Street – Case continued until July
- 131 Clay Street -- Case continued until July

Zoning Update: Larry Dennis, Zoning Inspector I, reported on the following properties:

- 178 E. Washington Street – Court date on 6-6-19
- 178 E. Washington Street – Court pending
- 216 Grace Street – Summons pending

Administrative Approvals:

Ms. Jones provided a brief report on the eight administrative COAs approved since the last HLC meeting in February and noted that copies of each were provided in the meeting packet.

Chairman Hobbs asked for an update on the Guidelines Update. Ms. Jones stated that the outline for the new Guidelines has been reviewed by staff and some changes made. There will be one additional public input meeting with the SPARC arts group and then a presentation of the public input findings to City Council at their work session on June 19, 2019. The first draft of the new document should be complete by the end of June and a briefing for the Historic Landmarks Commission will follow.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION



May 9, 2019

Motion:

To approve with staff recommendations as presented

1st: Darden

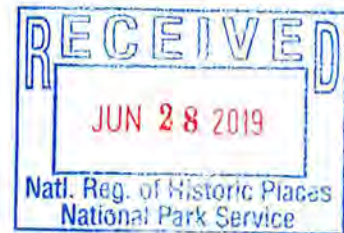
2nd: Turner

Motion:

1st:

2nd:

COMMISSIONERS	ATTENDANCE		HLC2019-14			
	PRESENT	ABSENT	VOTE: 8-0		YES	NO
			YES	NO		
Bailey, George	X		X			
Coley, Susan	X		X			
Darden, Mary Austin, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	X		X			
Draper, Merritt	X		X			
Hobbs, Oliver, <i>Chairman</i>	X		X			
King, Edward L. —	X		X			
Riddick, Larry	X		X			
Turner, Vivian	X		X			



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

June 25, 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: Samuel Eley House, City of Suffolk, Virginia

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Samuel Eley House** 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,

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