

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

398

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: Silver Lake Historic District
Other names/site number: Rife's Mill Historic District; VDHR No. 082-5665
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: Silver Lake Road (State Route 701), Linhoss Road (State Route 735)
City or town: Dayton State: VA County: Rockingham
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A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 statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
X A B X C D

Julie A. Hargan 4-12-19
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official: Date

Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government


Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

5-22-2019
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

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>19</u>	<u>6</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>21</u>	<u>7</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE: Agricultural outbuilding

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

INDUSTRY: Manufacturing facility: mill

LANDSCAPE: Natural feature: creek

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE: Agricultural outbuilding

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

COMMERCIE: Specialty Store

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: I-house; Hall-parlor; Gristmill

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

NO STYLE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; STONE; WOOD; CONCRETE;
METAL; ASPHALT; STUCCO; SYNTHETICS: Vinyl; GLASS

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 Silver Lake Historic District is situated within the Shenandoah Valley in southwestern Rockingham County, a predominately rural section of Virginia's top-producing agricultural county. The district is roughly bounded by Linhoss Road, which curves along the east and south edge of Silver Lake, and Silver Lake Drive (Route 701), which stretches north and west of the lake. The district encompasses approximately 104 acres and consists of nine tax parcels. There are seven contributing primary resources, comprised of one mill and five dwellings (six buildings), and Silver Lake (a contributing structure), as well as 14 contributing secondary resources, consisting of three bank barns and the lake dam (four structures) and various outbuildings such as garages, sheds, a spring house, a wash house and a root cellar. The district has two non-contributing primary resources (a single dwelling and a utility building) and five non-contributing secondary resources (various types of sheds, a chicken house, and a silo). The resources illustrate the Silver Lake area as an industrial (milling) and agricultural community. Contributing buildings were built and used through the district's period of significance, from c. 1822 through c. 1960, and reflect vernacular adaptations of architectural styles popular from the mid-to-late 19th century through the early to mid-20th century. Although the non-contributing resources postdate the district's period of significance, they indicate the continued primacy of agriculture as the predominate activity in the district. The Silver Lake Historic District is significant for its original development by German Baptist Brethren migrating from Western Maryland to northern Rockingham County, then on to southwestern Rockingham. The American Civil War diluted the Brethren orientation, and by the 20th century, Silver Lake was a hub of

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

agricultural commerce and industry for general community leaders. The Silver Lake Historic District, with its intact mill, lake and dam, historic development and bucolic landscape, maintains excellent integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Narrative Description

The Silver Lake Historic District is bounded by both Linhoss Road (State Route 735) and Silver Lake Road (State Route 701) with resources surrounding the manmade lake known as Silver Lake. Resources that contribute to the historic district include single-family dwellings, agricultural outbuildings, the mill and the lake and dam. The Silver Lake mill (DHR #082-0284), which was listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register in 1999, is a large three-story frame building with white wooden novelty siding, six-over-six window sash and several warehouse-style sliding and hinged wooden doors. Metal grain elevators and storage tanks are located along the south elevation, extending upward from a covered loading dock. On the mill's east side, there are two tile-block silos attached to the main building by a horizontal grain elevator. On the west elevation, a large Fitz overshot water wheel remains below the headrace, which is formed by a concrete-lined trough leading from the surface of the lake to the wooden control gates above the wheel. The mill remained in almost continual use since originally constructed c. 1822 (and rebuilt/remodeled several times) up to 1996.

In addition to the mill itself, three of the resources included are dwellings directly associated with three different periods of mill ownership. The first of these, at 4051 Linhoss Road, is an evolved dwelling that was constructed in the early to mid-19th century. The second dwelling, at 2323 Silver Lake Road, is situated across the road from the mill. It is believed it was constructed in the mid- to late 19th century. The third dwelling, at 2271 Silver Lake Road, was built in 1924. The lake and dam are also contributing structures. The lake was first constructed in 1822 by John J. Rife. Additional residential resources include the Wenger House, originally constructed ca. 1822 and the ca. 1930 one-and-one-half story brick residence at 4235 Linhoss Road, which reflects the continued development of the district into the mid-20th century. Architectural styles include vernacular interpretations of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival, as well as vernacular types, such as I-house and hall-and-parlor. One Craftsman bungalow (the third residence associated with the mill) and a Colonial Revival 1½-story brick residence are situated on the south side of the lake.

The Silver Lake Historic District is located in southwestern Rockingham County in an area that still largely retains its rural character. The incorporated Town of Dayton lies a short distance directly south of the historic district, while the City of Harrisonburg is only about 2.3 miles northeast of the district. Suburban development is beginning to move southwest from Harrisonburg along John Wayland Highway (US 42) but for the most part the district's setting is characterized by large working farms.

Similarly, the vast majority of the acreage within the historic district is comprised of open agricultural fields, while Silver Lake itself encompasses approximately 11.5 acres. John J. Rife

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

built the 1823 dam that created the lake. Nearby is the ca. 1870 mill, historically known as Rife's Mill and as the Silver Lake Milling Company (among other names), at the south end of Silver Lake. A short distance to the northeast, at 2323 Silver Lake Road, stands one of three dwellings in the district that served as millers' houses over the years; this house is thought to have been the second miller's house. Built ca. 1870, it is a two-story, three-bay, side gabled hall and parlor house with an integral rear ell, constructed of timber framing (covered by weatherboard siding) on a limestone foundation laid in a shallow builders trench, directly on rock outcrops in places. The house has two porches, a front hip-roof porch, and a side porch with a shed roof attached to the ell. Along with the dwelling, the approximately .88-acre property includes a ca. 1850 root cellar, ca. 1930 garage, and ca. 1940 shed.

North of 2323 Silver Lake Road, the Jacobs House once served as the third miller's house. Constructed ca. 1927, the house at 2271 Silver Lake Road is a cross-gable, three-bay Bungalow with a wraparound one-story porch. This 42.94-acre property includes a ca. 1880 bank barn, ca. 1880 kitchen, and 1920 tool shed. North of the domestic complex, three cultivated fields and a portion of a woodlot comprises the majority of this property's acreage. The fields extend along the east side of Silver Lake then wrap around a later dwelling that was excluded from the historic district boundary due to its recent date of constructions.

Along the northwest edge of Silver Lake stands the Wenger Farm at 4192 Linhoss Road. The evolved ca. 1840 primary dwelling is thought to have been originally constructed as a two-story, three-bay I-house. A late-nineteenth-century remodeling added a Queen Anne wing and reoriented the façade. A wraparound porch features Tuscan columns, and the gable fields retain original fishscale shingles. The original block was clad with stucco at an unknown date, and the remainder of the house now has vinyl siding. The three-acre property also includes a historic domestic and agricultural complex consisting of an 1840 spring house and kitchen, an 1870 bank barn, 1920 equipment shed, and 1920 chicken house.

Also on the western side of Silver Lake is the Rhodes House at 4235 Linhoss Road. The 1.14-acre property has a ca. 1930 Colonial Revival brick dwelling with a steeply pitched side gable roof and a raised basement. Centered on the façade is an enclosed, one-story porch. A 1945 brick garage also is on the property. Immediately south of this property are two small tracts; the first, at 4275 Linhoss Road, has a 1975 ranch house and the second, at 4157 Linhoos Road, has a 1998 brick utility building on a concrete slab. These two non-contributing resources are included in the historic district to maintain continuity of the boundaries.

Another large property makes up the remainder of the historic district. The Rohrer Farm at 4051 Linhoss Road encompasses 43.87 acres that extend from the western side of Silver Lake to wrap around the lake's southern edge and the mill building and extends southwest to include several large cultivated fields. Thought to have been the first miller's house, the ca. 1830 dwelling is two-story, three-bay, side-gable dwelling on a brick foundation. A one-story front porch features four simple square wood posts on slightly larger square piers. The house has updates such as replacement sash and vinyl siding. The working farm retains its 1880 bank barn, and also has two large ca. 2000 equipment buildings, two large 1995 chicken houses, and a ca. 1960 silo.

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

Integrity Analysis

Many of the single-family dwellings in the district have alterations, such as replacement window sash and/or synthetic siding, that have eroded integrity of workmanship and materials by concealing or removing historic features. The mill also has been altered repeatedly to make repairs and to keep the milling process functional and efficient. Historic-age agricultural and domestic outbuildings generally are not altered, other than routine maintenance. Some of these outbuildings are no longer in use and are in deteriorating condition, but not yet to an extent that their integrity is being irreversibly lost. As is common with working farmsteads, there are newer outbuildings on some farms. These tend to be strictly utilitarian and feature standardized, mass-produced design and materials that are distinctly different from the older outbuildings that were constructed using vernacular methods and locally sourced materials. Because the newer outbuildings, however, are part of current farming operations, they do not detract from the district's overall feeling and association as an agricultural area. Collectively, the resources in the district imbue it with high integrity of location, setting, feeling and association and more variegated integrity of design, workmanship, and materials.

INVENTORY

The following inventory is organized alphabetically by street name, then numerically by street address. Resources are keyed to the attached Sketch Map by the last four digits of their ten-digit DHR district inventory number (i.e., -0001, -0002, etc.). Contributing status of resources was evaluated based on the date of construction, association with one or more of the district's areas of significance, and ability to convey their historic association through integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association, with respect to the integrity analysis as explained above.

Linhoss Rd

4051 Linhoss Road 082-5665-0007

Other DHR Id#

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1830
Contributing Total: 1

The primarily dwelling is a two-story, three-bay, side gable residence situated on a brick foundation that has been parged with concrete. The facade features a steeply pitched projecting front gable and a one-story porch supported by four simple square posts placed on slightly larger square piers. The first story contains a centered entry flanked by two windows with one-over-one replacement vinyl sash. The pattern is repeated on the second story with three vinyl one-over-one window sash aligned with the openings below. The house has a one-story, modern addition off the rear elevation. The entire house has been wrapped in vinyl siding,

Secondary Resource: Agricultural Bldg. (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

Secondary Resource: Bank Barn (Building)	Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Chicken House/Poultry House (Building)	Non-contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed, Machine (Building)	Non-contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Silo (Structure)	Non-contributing Total: 1

4157 Linhoss Road 082-5665- 0009 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Utility (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1998
Noncontributing Total: 1

This utility building is located on the south side of the Silver Lake. It is a one-story brick building with a flat roof. The façade features the only entry to the building and one window. The building sits on a concrete slab.

4192 Linhoss Rd 082-5665-0005 Other DHR ID#

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Queen Anne, Ca 1840
Contributing Total: 1

Originally constructed ca. 1840, the house at 4192 Linhoss Road has been modified during several different periods. What is believed to be the original section is a two-story, three-bay block with an I-house form. During the late 19th century, a Queen Anne style addition was constructed and became the front and main section of the house. A kitchen addition was built, probably in the early 20th century, off the original I-house section. Originally, the house was oriented northward and after the Queen Anne section was added, the house became oriented to the east. The three-bay evolved house features a steeply pitched hipped roof with projecting cross gables on the front and both side elevations. Each of the projecting gables is covered with original wood, patterned (fishscale) shingles. Most of the house is clad in wood siding. The only exception is the original 19th century block, which is covered in stucco. The façade is spanned covered by a one-story porch that wraps around to the north elevation. The porch features simple round columns and sits on a series of brick piers.

Secondary Resource: Bank Barn (Building)	Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Chicken House/Poultry House (Building)	Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Kitchen (Building)	Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed - Equipment (Building)	Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Spring House (Building)	Contributing Total: 1

4235 Linhoss Road 082-5665-0006 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1930
Contributing Total: 1

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

The residence at 4235 Linhoss Road is a 1½-story brick Colonial Revival building with a steeply pitched, side gable roof. The dwelling is situated on a raised basement. It features one exterior end brick chimney off the west elevation. The facade has three bays consisting of two paired windows flanking a large enclosed porch that is located above the basement-level garage. The porch is covered by a flat roof. There are four additional windows that light the raised basement as well as one entry way. The steeply pitched roof is pierced by three gable front dormers. The central dormer has an entry to the flat roof of the porch and is flanked by two slender single-lite sidelights. The rear elevation has multiple windows, one entryway and a large shed-roofed dormer that stretches almost the entire length of the roof.

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

4275 Linhoss Road 082-5665- 0008

Other DHR Id#

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, ca. 1975

Noncontributing Total: 1

The building at 4275 Linhoss is a one-story ranch dwelling situated on a cinder block foundation and brick piers. The house features a side gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. The walls are clad with vinyl siding. A one-story garage is connected to the rear of the house.

Silver Lake Road

2110 Silver Lake Road 082-5665-0004

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Lake (Structure), Stories , Style: No style, Ca 1822

Contributing Total: 1

Silver Lake is an irregularly shaped manmade lake that sits at the center of the Silver Lake Historic District. The Dam and mill pond were first constructed ca. 1822 by John J. Rife to power his mill. The lake is surrounded by pastureland to the north, south and west. Scattered trees, shrubs, and tall grasses and cat tails mark most of the lake's shoreline.

Secondary Resource: Dam (Structure)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Storage (Building)

Contributing Total:1

2271 Silver Lake Road 082-5665-0003

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Craftsman, Ca 1924

Contributing Total: 1

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

Constructed ca. 1924, the Craftsman bungalow at 2271 Silver Lake Road is a cross-gable, three-bay brick residence with elements of several different styles that were popular from the early 20th century through the 1930s. The house is constructed mostly of brick with a cross-gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. There is one interior (centered) brick chimney. The three-bay facade features a centered door flanked by two larger single-pane picture windows. The facade, along with a portion of the east elevation, is covered by a one-story porch supported by half tapered columns that sit on squared brick piers. Most of the windows have one-over-one, double hung, sash in single, paired and triple configurations.

Secondary Resource: Bank Barn (Building) *Contributing Total: 1*
Secondary Resource: Wash House (Building) *Contributing Total: 1*
Secondary Resource: Shed - Tool (Building) *Contributing Total: 1*

2323 Silver Lake Road 082-0287

Other DHR Id#: 082-5665-0002

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1870
Contributing Total: 1

The building is a two-story, three-bay, side gabled hall-and-parlor house with an integral rear ell. It is timber framed with weatherboard siding, and has a limestone foundation laid in a shallow builders trench, directly on rock outcrops in places. The house has two porches, a front hip-roof porch, and a side porch with a shed roof attached to the ell. It is in good to fair condition, is unoccupied, and is currently being repaired with an emphasis on preserving as much as possible of the original materials and important later additions. Large-dimension lumber used in construction is up-and-down mill sawn, except for the sills on the ell, which are circular sawn. The flooring, paneling, stair treads and risers, and other small-dimension lumber are circular sawn. There was a sawmill, belonging to Daniel Bowman, on the Silver Lake dam in use during the time of this house's construction. Most likely, the wood used for this house's construction was supplied by this mill. There are exterior gable-end chimneys on the main block; the north chimney stack has been replaced, while the south chimney stack is original. There is no fireplace on the second floor in the older chimney, but the replaced chimney does have an upstairs fireplace. An original stove flue still stands inside the rear ell's gable end, it no longer extends through the roof. A patch is evident in the standing-seam-metal-clad roof where the chimney stack exited. A new chimney stack was added on the outside of the gable. Some of the first-story walls have brick nogging between the studs. There are indications that the bricks were added from the inside after the siding was installed. A beehive cistern under the southeast corner of the house, where the side porch attaches, supported that corner of the house. There was a pipe from the cistern going to a sink inside the house, apparently with a hand pump. The sink also had a terra cotta drainpipe. The ghost of the original sink counter is visible on the wall.

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) *Contributing Total: 1*
Secondary Resource: Root Cellar (Building) *Contributing Total: 1*
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) *Noncontributing Total: 1*

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

2328 Silver Lake Road 082-0284 Other DHR Id#: 082-5665-0001, 44RM0512
Primary Resource: Mill (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1870
Contributing *Total: 1*

The Silver Lake Mill is a large three-story, post-and-beam, frame building with white wooden novelty siding, six over six window sash and several warehouse-style sliding and hinged wooden doors. Large metal grain elevators and storage tanks dominate the property's south side, extending upward from a covered loading dock. On the east elevation there are two tile-block silos attached to the main building by a horizontal grain elevator. Metal, standing-seam roofing painted red covers the main building, the loading dock roofs, and the two silos. On the mill's west elevation, a large Fitz overshot water wheel remains below the headrace, which is formed by a concrete-lined trough leading from the surface of the lake to the wooden control gates above the wheel.

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

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

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1822-c. 1960

Significant Dates

1864

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

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 Silver Lake Historic District provides a significant window on the development and evolution of a 19th- and 20th-century industrial and agricultural community in Rockingham County, Virginia. That story is interwoven with shifts in the population from 18th-century English and Scots-Irish¹ to 19th-century German Baptist Brethren and, finally, to an amalgam of 20th-century local business leaders. The small neighborhood experienced and survived the trauma of the American Civil War under Brethren ownership, and the mill is listed on Virginia's Civil War Trails. During the 20th century, the district mirrored the cultural and technological changes of the community at large. Locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Industry and Community Planning and Development and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, the Silver Lake Historic District features a prominent industrial site (a gristmill) with farm and residential development surrounding the manmade Silver Lake. The contributing buildings show the range of architectural styles popular during the period of significance, constructed as vernacular interpretations of those styles. The period of significance begins in 1822, with construction of the lake and continues through the 20th century with creation of the Silver Lake Improvement Company until ca. 1960, encompassing the district's earliest development through the time the mill's flour milling equipment was sold to an out-of-state firm. The mill remained in use, primarily as a feed mill, until 1996, when its owner, Rockingham Milling, closed the building and moved to a newer facility.

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

Criterion A: Industry and Community Planning and Development

The Silver Lake Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Industry and Community Planning and Development for its association with early milling in Rockingham County and for the care taken with planning the community that grew up around the mill. The Silver Lake area along the northern edge of the Town of Dayton was first settled by Daniel Harrison, who migrated to the Shenandoah Valley from New York about 1740 with three brothers. Their father had emigrated from England in 1687.² The four brothers patented more than 17,000 acres, much of it in Augusta County (which then included what is now Rockingham County). Daniel Harrison established a distillery, a mill, an ordinary, a Chapel of Ease, as well as his own home at what is now Dayton's northeastern edge, just south of the Silver Lake Historic District.³

The Scots-Irish had enough population in the area by 1742 to form the Cooks Creek congregation, building a Presbyterian meetinghouse by 1750 near the spring at what is now the northwestern corner of Silver Lake.⁴ The church was closed by 1780 and a new church built about four miles away. Part of the church cemetery was relocated when the church moved, but some graves remained.⁵ According to a published local history, "In later years this old cemetery

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

was abandoned and a mill dam was built across the creek below the burying ground in such a way that the water of the dam backed up and completely covered all the old graves. The old church where [Rev. Alexander] Miller and several of his successors preached was torn down about the year 1780 and the stones of which it was constructed were used in building the mill-dam.”⁶ Rough-cut limestone blocks are visible in the stone section of the dam between the mill’s headrace and the concrete spillway.

German Baptist Brethren (also known as Dunkers, Dunkards, and Tunkers) began moving to Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley from Pennsylvania and western Maryland in the mid-18th century.⁷ Their numbers rapidly increased during the American Revolution of the 1770s and 1780s as they submitted to the confiscation of their property rather than “violate the teaching of Christ against going to war and taking the oath,” which was being demanded of them.⁸

The Rife family⁹ and the Bowman family¹⁰ were among the German Baptist Brethren who first moved to northern Rockingham County to bolster the Flat Rock congregation. Elder Benjamin Bowman Sr. built a prosperous milling operation at Greenmount in central Rockingham County. Daniel Rife settled at what is now Dayton; he purchased land there, laid it off, and began selling the first lots. He is considered the “founder” of Dayton, and the town was originally called Rifetown and Rifessville.¹¹ An October 28, 1822, *ad quad damnnum* gave John J. Rife, grandson of Daniel Rife, permission to build a dam to serve a mill. A gristmill and sawmill were soon in place, beginning a 60-year Brethren ownership of the mill, the manmade lake, and the surrounding area, thus creating what is now the Silver Lake Historic District.

The first Mill Owner’s House at 4051 Linhoss Road was likely built between 1822, when John J. Rife created the lake and built a mill, and 1829, when the prosperous German Baptist Frederick Cline (Kline/Klein) purchased the mill from Rife.¹² Cline was a brother to George Kline, Rife’s father-in-law. A man of considerable means and generosity among the German Baptist Brethren, Frederick Cline sold the mill in 1839 to Daniel Bowman and Brethren Elder Frederick Miller.¹³ Bowman was the son and grandson of the prominent Bowman milling family at Greenmount. Frederick Miller married Daniel Bowman’s sister Mary Ann in August 1839, and Daniel married Sarah, Frederick Miller’s sister, in September 1839.¹⁴ The two men bought the mill together a month later from Frederick Cline on October 28, 1839. Daniel Bowman’s wife Sarah and mill partner Frederick Miller had been raised by Frederick Cline and were children of Elder Daniel Miller, a prominent member of the German Baptist Brethren in the Greenmount section of central Rockingham County. While complex, the family relationships illustrate how intertwined they were with business and daily life for the tightly-knit German Baptist Brethren. Cline and his wife shared the first Mill Owner’s House with Daniel Bowman and his family until the Clines passed away.¹⁵ In the 1840 census, Frederick Miller, his wife, and their young child were living near Daniel Bowman, and near the family of Conrad Senger II. The same census shows Conrad Senger as a miller, and Senger family records indicate that Senger worked at the Bowman mill.¹⁶ Daniel Bowman bought out his partner’s 50 percent interest in 1842; it was the third year in one of the longest and deepest depressions of the 19th century.¹⁷ Both men preferred to operate singly rather than as partners. Frederick Miller was reluctant to take on more debt, so he sold his portion to Bowman.¹⁸

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

The first Mill Owner's House was visited overnight many times by Frederick Cline's nephew, Brethren Elder John Kline, who later became a still-honored Brethren martyr when he was killed as a spy during the Civil War because of his non-resistant and anti-slavery views – essential beliefs held by all German Baptist Brethren. John Kline's diary accounts indicate that he held church services in the first Mill Owner's House, and baptisms were conducted near the mill dam.¹⁹ In 1855, Rockingham County tax records show the construction of a new house, owned by Daniel Bowman and believed to be the second Mill Owner's House at 2323 Silver Lake Road. Bowman used it as a home for a hired miller and possibly other mill helpers. The 1860 census shows 38-year-old Peter Long as a miller living very close to Daniel Bowman; it was Peter Long who would purchase part interest in the mill a decade later, after the Civil War. The 1860 household included Long's wife and five young children. Also in the dwelling were two unrelated young men, probably mill or farm workers, and an unrelated young woman, likely a family helper. The 1850 Manufacturers Census shows Daniel Bowman's operation to be a large one, annually producing 5,000 barrels (25,000 bushels) of flour as primarily a merchant mill and 250,000 feet of wood planks in his sawmill. He employed two men in the flour mill, one doing custom milling, and one in the sawmill. The annual value of his production was nearly \$25,000. Unfortunately, the 1860 Manufacturers Census for mills in the Dayton area is lost or was not recorded, so a comparison with 1850 is not possible. The larger Rockingham County mills that were recorded in the 1860 census were producing about 2,500 barrels of flour, substantially less than Bowman's 1850 production.

The large Brethren-owned mill, with a new house as part of the complex, suffered a sudden loss when it was destroyed by fire on January 26, 1856. Ten days after the fire, the *Richmond (Va.) Daily Dispatch* reported the fire on the front page, "...some 1500 bushels of wheat, about 3000 bushels of corn, and near 100 barrels of flour in the mill, together with the mill books, indeed everything in the mill, was entirely destroyed. The loss to Mr. Bowman is at least 8 to \$10,000."²⁰ Despite the extreme loss, the mill was rebuilt and operating again within four months.²¹

As the mill grew, the local road network also began to change. Today's Silver Lake Road, currently on the east side of the lake, originally had been on the west side – placing the first Mill Owner's House and the Wenger House alongside the main road. After Rife constructed the mill, nearly 20 neighbors petitioned the court to move the road to the east side, "...through the old camp meeting ground, where it formerly ran ... passengers will avoid some risk in crossing the branch just below the wheels of the mill, which frequently scares the horses to the dangers of their riders."²² Based on that petition, it was not the first time the road had moved. The growth of Daniel Bowman's mill apparently also necessitated a new road. The 1847 Rockingham County road orders list a "New Road Called Bowmans Mill Road," adding it would begin at Bowman's Mill and end at the Shun Pike (Warm Springs Turnpike).²³ An 1882 map shows Bowman's Mill Road as today's Eberly Road in combination with Silver Lake Road.²⁴

German Baptist Brethren are often viewed as conservative, however, the first three owners of the mill demonstrated strong support for adopting new milling technology and building better

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

transportation systems. John Rife's selection of the site for constructing the dam and building the mill demonstrated excellent technical judgment; Frederick Cline was an outspoken supporter of bringing the Manassas Gap Railroad south to serve Harrisonburg, so markets would be more accessible to Shenandoah Valley producers; and Daniel Bowman was also an early and financially substantial supporter of the railroad and of macadamizing the Harrisonburg & Warm Springs Turnpike, which would also give his mill and the entire area much more reliable access to distant markets. Bowman's need for improved transportation is well-illustrated by an 1851 incident in which a wagonload of 40 barrels of flour going to Winchester overturned in a Harrisonburg creek.²⁵

On the eve of the Civil War, the 1860 census social statistics showed the "Tunkers" as one of the two largest faith groups in Rockingham County, sharing the top position with Methodists. German Baptists reported 9 churches seating 7,900, and Methodists counted 15 churches seating 7,500. Mennonites, who shared non-resistant views with German Baptist Brethren, had 4 churches seating 1,950.

The Silver Lake Historic District with its German Baptist owners was surrounded by other German Baptists and Mennonites. Census schedules for 1840, 1850, and 1860 show no enslaved persons were held in bondage nearby, and the few African American persons listed were shown as "free." John J. Rife, Frederick Cline, and Daniel Bowman were respected throughout Rockingham County, yet operated very profitably without relying on enslaved labor.²⁶ As the Civil War descended, it seemed to be respect for Bowman that permitted the milling business to continue during the war years, although Daniel Bowman was forced at times to work for the Confederacy.²⁷ Newspaper accounts report he was coerced to haul freight to Staunton and other locations. Bowman's Unionist views were grudgingly mentioned in newspaper accounts, but he continued to operate.²⁸

The German Baptists and Mennonites shared the same non-resistant perspectives on war, but it took several years to work out ways to avoid military service with the Confederate government. In the meantime, Daniel Bowman's oldest son, David, was conscripted, but he was allowed to serve in the quartermaster corps. He returned home at Christmas 1863 and married his wife on December 27. He deserted several months later, meeting his wife in Hagerstown, Maryland, and then fled to Dayton, Ohio, where they waited out the war, "... finally acting in compliance with his conscience and convictions as to slavery and the preservation of the union."²⁹ When Union General Philip Sheridan's troops camped around Harrisonburg in late September 1864, Union soldiers of the 116th Ohio Volunteer Infantry took over Bowman's Mill and started grinding flour 24 hours a day to feed the troops. The killing of Sheridan's Chief Engineer, John Rodgers Meigs, led to an order to burn the entire town of Dayton and everything within five miles. Union commissary sergeant William T. Patterson of the 116th Ohio recorded in his diary on October 4:

This evening, the citizens are removing their goods. The work of destruction is commencing in the suburbs of the town. Now it is dark a squad of cavalry has just passed coming from the country where they have been carrying out the General's order. The whole country around is wrapped in flames; the heavens are aglow with the light there-of. One of the citizens that is going North came along wanted

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

me to take his cows and hogs. I went over and some of the boys went with me and brought over two cows and three hogs killed the hogs and turned the cows over to Capt Rosecrans. I never saw a sight like I saw in that town such mourning and lamentation, such crying and such pleading for mercy I never saw nor want to see again. Some were wild crazy mad, some cry for help while others throw their arms around Yankee soldier's necks and implore mercy. The order is now countermanded till further orders. I hope it will not be enforced. If it was at Berryville, Charlestown or Winchester I would say burn in retaliation of Chambersburg, but this place is the most loyal or at least most innocent of any I have seen in the Valley. The great majority of the citizens being Dunkards and consequently non-combatants. Most of their young men having gone North and the rest paying 500 dollars a year. Some say they have always opposed secession, but were compelled to remain quiet. All their beds and furniture were carried out into the fields. An old soldier of 1812 with his old woman were compelled to sleep out in open air. Many who were [illegible] did the same. It is certainly hard. Truly war is cruelty."³⁰

On October 4 or 5, 1864, Sheridan's troops burned Daniel Bowman's mill and one dwelling.³¹ Daniel's children testified under oath in 1910 that their father showed Union General George Armstrong Custer a letter from Sheridan saying not to burn his mill because he was a Union man. Custer's retort was that it did not matter anymore. The testimony also implied that the house that burned was not the dwelling the family lived in (first Mill Owner's House). It was likely what is known as the second Mill Owner's House.³² A February 2019 dendrochronological analysis of the second Mill Owner's House indicates the pine timbers were cut in the November 1866 to March 1867 dormant season, establishing a likely 1867 construction date for the house.³³ Burned rubble found under the current house, including bricks, molten glass, and plaster, indicate the house was built on the site of the Bowman house reportedly burned by Custer.

Records show that over 400 wagonloads of Dayton area citizens, mostly Dunkers, left with Sheridan as his army moved north, executing their orders to lay waste to the entire Valley.³⁴ Among those leaving was Daniel Bowman's younger brother, Joseph, an elder in the church, who left with another minister and over 70 people from their congregation.³⁵ Some family accounts report that Daniel sent his teenage son, Frederick Miller Bowman, out of fear he would be conscripted by a desperate Confederacy. The burning and the wagon train marked the beginning of the sad diaspora of German Baptists leaving the Dayton area; the Silver Lake Historic District was a core part of the area affected. Although Daniel Bowman was only aged 52 at the close of the war in 1865, he seemed slow to rebuild. Family accounts report he was helping others in the community get fresh starts by selling some of his real estate and using the proceeds for funding those efforts. The sawmill was operating again by March 30, 1866, less than a year after the close of the war.³⁶ The decision to rebuild the merchant mill was not made until March 22, 1867, according to a diary entry by Emanuel Suter, the renowned Rockingham County potter: "Snowing this morning. Went to Daniel Bowman's with Kerlin. Bowman and Kerlin entered into an article for bilding [sic] a mill. Snowing all day. Staid [sic] all night at

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

Bowmans.³⁷ The *Rockingham Register* reported a week later about Daniel Bowman's decision to rebuild:

Our friend, Mr. Bowman, we had feared had lost his energy and go-ahead spirit by the terrible war through which we have passed. His mill was burnt by the federal forces near the close of the war... Mr. B. seemed to have lost his usual enterprize [sic] and spirit... We are happy to see, however, that he is still the energetic, moving Daniel Bowman of former years, and that the neighborhood is soon to have the advantage of the new mill now at once to go up. Mr. B., we regret to know, differs with us politically, but we feel gratified to say for him, that he is one of the best citizens of the county – one of the most public spirited and liberal. He has always contributed his full share to every improvement and good work projected in his neighborhood and county. He gave \$500 to McAdamize the Harrisonburg and Warm Springs Turnpike to Dayton, and subscribed very liberally to the Manassas Gap Railroad.³⁸

Just four months after his decision, it seems Daniel's new mill was nearing completion, according to the *Rockingham Register* issue of July 31, 1867.

The postwar economy was weak, and recession reared its head in 1869-1870. Daniel Bowman sold one-half interest in the mill to Peter and Benjamin Long, giving them bonds for payment.³⁹ The 1870 Industrial and Manufacturers Census Schedule shows Long, Bowman & Co. operating under the name Cooks Creek Merchant Mill. They reported a capacity of 200 bushels per day and had three hands employed with grinding. The year's production was 10,000 bushels (2,000 barrels) of wheat, plus 1,000 bushels each of rye, corn, and oats, and a scant 400 bushels of barley. The drop in barrels of wheat from nearly 5,000 in 1850 is reflected in the value of \$15,000 for 1870 – down from \$25,000 in 1850. The change may represent the shift from a predominantly wheat-based agriculture to more diverse farming operations; it may also reflect post-war deflation and a slow economy. The Cooks Creek Sawmill was also active, having one employee and cutting 180,000 feet of pine planks and 750 feet of oak; the production for lumber being down 28 percent from 1850. A water-powered circular saw is listed as the equipment.

In 1873, at the onset of a six-year financial panic, Bowman traveled to Missouri with his three oldest sons and encouraged them to move there after observing fresh opportunities and inexpensive land.⁴⁰ Typical of the era's western expansion, one son and two daughters moved to Missouri; two sons went to Texas and later moved on to California. Two daughters moved to Northern Virginia, one daughter moved to Augusta County, Virginia. One son, Joseph Miller Bowman, married Anna Elizabeth Miller from the Conrad Senger II farm nearby (at 4192 Linhoss Road), and the couple moved to Northern Virginia. Only two children out of Bowman's 11 stayed in Rockingham County – one staying near his parents at Dayton. Most of the children and grandchildren remained members of the German Baptist Brethren, which became today's Church of the Brethren. One grandson became President of Bridgewater College, and another became President of the church's seminary in Illinois. In 1876, Daniel Bowman and his wife Sarah (Sallie) deeded a small piece of land at the northern end of Silver Lake to the Rockingham County school board.⁴¹ A school had been established there in 1827 under Rife's ownership. The

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

1870s school was variously known as the Mill Pond School and Bowman's Mill Dam School. It continued operating until the 1886 term, when a new school opened on the hill in Dayton. At a 1927 centennial of the school's opening, at least 25 teachers were remembered.⁴²

After the western migration of many of the Bowman family members, Daniel Bowman himself was over 60 years old. His mill partners failed to pay the bonds when due. In the 1880 Industrial and Manufacturers Census Schedules, Bowman's flour production had declined again, going to 2,000 barrels (12,000 bushels) and an annual volume of \$14,000. He rated his daily capacity at 75 bushels and still employed two hands for grain milling. The sawmill also declined to 100,000 feet of planks, but he reported two hands employed there as well. In 1884, Bowman sold the mill properties to Charles P. Arey, and the complex left Brethren ownership after 60 years. Lake's 1885 atlas showed the first Mill Owner's House and the second Mill Owner's House as part of Charles P. Arey's mill complex. An 1888 magazine article refers to a Mr. Dillon as the "gentlemanly miller," so the Dillon family was likely living in the second Mill Owner's House as hired millers. The article reports a capacity of 40 barrels per day (equivalent to about 200 bushels per day), the same as Bowman reported in the 1880 census. Arey's short ownership of the mill was lackluster, but he was the first step in the transition from Brethren ownership to local business leaders.

Arey's role was cut short when he suddenly died of an apparent heart attack at 42 years old on April 24, 1890. A complex set of legal actions followed because of debts owed by Arey. An attempt was made to auction the mill property on the courthouse steps, but the highest bid was not accepted.⁴³ William Monger arranged a private purchase in 1891. Monger's ownership was still shorter than Arey's, ending in 1894, when the mill property was sold to R. H. Brown, who seems to have been both a professional miller and talented marketer. Brown had started as a hired miller at Bowman's Mill near Broadway and later became the owner. Brown sold that mill and bought the larger facility at Silver Lake from Monger. It was under Brown's leadership that the name Silver Lake entered into commerce with "Silver Lake Patent Flour." Brown had a vision for the mill at Silver Lake, and within the first year, the Risdon-Alcott Turbine Company of New Jersey was listing Brown as owning one or more of their well-known efficient turbines.⁴⁴ Evidence of the turbine still exists; the framework for holding it remains in place in the equipment pit. Water would have entered the mill in the northwest corner and exited through the south wall. Evidence of a brick archway was seen in the south wall during the 2000-2001 renovation.

R. H. Brown stayed at Dayton for 15 years and popularized the Silver Lake name as well as modernized the mill's operation. The 1900 census shows the Brown family near the mill, likely in the second Mill Owner's House, since the first Mill Owner's House stayed in the Monger family after they sold the mill to Brown. Barrel stamps were occasionally tested, as evidenced by partial imprints on the mill's interior walls. The initials of his son Marvin are scratched into the interior parging in the basement of the mill. Newspaper reports suggest the Brown family members were very active and highly respected in the surrounding community. In February 1909, R. H. Brown purchased Wenger's Mill near Edom in Rockingham County and was once again on his way to a potentially larger operation. Before he had left Dayton, he was already

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

working on new engineering approaches to operating Wenger's Mill.⁴⁵ Several weeks after his new mill purchase, he sold his Dayton milling operation to a freshly formed corporation, Silver Lake Improvement Company.

On December 30, 1908, the *Harrisonburg Daily News* carried a front-page story that was headlined, "Year's Close Sees Dayton Booming: Syndicate Buys Water Power at Silver Lake." The story went on to describe the transaction:

A syndicate composed of twenty of the most active business men of Dayton has purchased of Robert Brown his mill property, known as the "Silver Lake Mill," together with the dwellinghouse [second mill owner's house] and twenty acres of land. It is the intention of the purchasers to improve the property, beautifying it, and turning the water power to further usefulness...a park is also proposed, with cement walks leading from the town to the lake and the latter will furnish...excellent boating and fishing.

Silver Lake Improvement Company, Inc., took over the mill operation on April 1, 1909.⁴⁶ Its corporate charter dated March 2, 1909, reveals a diverse list of officers and board members prominent in Dayton business circles. The stated business objective of the corporation was to "buy and sell real estate and operate a grist mill for the purpose of grinding wheat and other grains at Dayton, Virginia." Unlike the mill's owners during the 19th century, they shared neither ethnic origins nor religious faith and did not live at Silver Lake. They were, however, business owners, professionals, neighbors, and relatives with intertwined commercial interests, and they lived throughout the broader Dayton community.

Silver Lake Improvement Company's first President, Walter D. Heatwole, lived on Main Street in Dayton and enjoyed a variety of roles in the town, including being part of Dayton Farm Supply, owned by fellow board member J. M. Kagey.⁴⁷ Heatwole wore many hats, including real estate investing and being involved with the Bank of Dayton. Board Vice President J. M. Shrum, a Methodist, lived in downtown Dayton and owned a large brickmaking operation at the edge of town.⁴⁸ Secretary and Treasurer N. R. Crist was Cashier of the Bank of Dayton when it was formed in 1904 and "lived in one of the most stylish early 20th-century houses" in Dayton.⁴⁹ Board member E.C. Ralston, a Presbyterian, had joined with board member J. M. Kagey and organized Specialty Harness Company in 1898; they employed board member W. J. Campbell to serve as manager of their leather manufacturing business. Board member George W. Hedrick lived on Dayton's highest hill; he pioneered a prominent carriage factory in the 1890s, making 500 carriages a year in Dayton until the factory burned in 1911. He also spearheaded the Dayton Land and Improvement Company in the 1890s and constructed many of the houses in the G. W. Hedrick Addition to the town, playing a substantive role in Dayton's growth during the 1910 to 1930 era. Kagey (a Brethren minister as well as entrepreneur), along with board members Ralston, Crist, and N. M. Caricofe, also served on the board for Dayton Creamery, which constructed a new modern creamery and ice plant in 1907.⁵⁰

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

A forward-thinking 20th-century approach to milling and other enterprises was clearly underway with Silver Lake Improvement Company. During the first week of taking over the mill's management, "Mr. White of Bridgewater" [E. J. White] moved into the second Mill Owner's House and began to manage the mill. Newspaper announcements about new equipment and other changes peppered the local readers. In less than a month, the *Harrisonburg Daily News* reported a concrete dam would be built at Silver Lake. Six months later, on September 9, 1909, a 10-foot-wide by 12-foot-diameter diameter Fitz water wheel costing \$900 was shipped to Dayton by train.⁵¹ A "factory man" from Hanover, Pennsylvania, guided local workers on unloading the parts and assembling the Fitz Model I-X-L Overshot Wheel on site, replacing the mill's Risdon turbine. Fitz Waterwheel Company claimed high efficiencies for their wheels, due to the "peculiar curve" of the buckets, estimating 30 percent more power than the best turbine⁵². With manufacturing facilities in Hanover, Pennsylvania, and Martinsburg, West Virginia, many of the company's water wheels were installed in the nearby Shenandoah Valley, where agricultural communities embraced new technologies.

While no concrete sidewalk was built from the town of Dayton to Silver Lake, photographs of boats on the lake suddenly became very common. Yearbooks from Dayton's Shenandoah College and its predecessors began using the lake as a backdrop for class photos, student activities, and recreational opportunities. The December 19, 1914, issue of the *Daily News-Record* reported on great ice skating conditions at the lake after several weeks of cold weather, and on another occasion, wrote that the lake had been flooded and allowed to re-freeze for smoother ice. Many photographs are extant from the period showing shiny vintage cars surrounded by stylishly attired young people, with the spillway and mill in the background. Harrisonburg schoolchildren were reported sometimes hiking to Silver Lake with their teachers, with all carrying their lunches.⁵³

The year 1915 brought interesting changes within the Silver Lake community. A classified ad in the January 18 issue of the *Daily News-Record* used the name Dayton Roller Mills for the first time; this appellation apparently replaced the Silver Lake Mill name. The change undoubtedly reflected updated equipment. On August 2, 1915, Silver Lake Improvement Company signed a 99-year lease with the Town of Dayton to supply water for the town's needs.⁵⁴ The town was required to pay \$1.00 per day for up to 125,000 gallons and \$.50 per day for overage. The lease names the lake's spring as Silver Spring. Late in 1915, Walter D. Heatwole moved to the second Mill Owner's House at Silver Lake and became manager for the mill.⁵⁵

On December 17, 1917, after a meeting of all stockholders, Silver Lake Improvement Company sold the mill to Amos H. Shank, an experienced miller who had owned mills in nearby Mt. Clinton and Hinton.⁵⁶ Dayton Roller Mills would be his largest operation. The local newspaper immediately reported that Shank would be installing new equipment at the mill and that he was known as an excellent miller.⁵⁷ According to his great grandson, the family lived in the second

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

Mill Owner's House for at least part of his ownership. Shank retired in 1920, selling the mill to Walter D. Heatwole and others.⁵⁸ Shank's son and grandson followed him in milling, with the son owning mills at Hinton and Craigsville, Virginia, and at Zoro and Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. His grandson owned a mill at Zoro, Pennsylvania for 50 years.⁵⁹ Walter D. Heatwole moved his family to the second Mill Owner's House and once again assumed management of the company. By 1924, Heatwole was ready to let go, and the mill was purchased by J.B. Grove of Berryville, an entrepreneur and professional miller.⁶⁰ It seems that Grove purchased the second Mill Owner's House in a separate transaction on November 10, 1924, exercising an option in the first contract.⁶¹ Walter D. Heatwole built and moved into the third Mill Owner's House in 1924.⁶²

In late 1923, the west side of Silver Lake was poised to see new growth. Dr. Arthur L. Langley opened a chiropractic office in Harrisonburg's prestigious First National Bank Building on Court Square. Believed to be Harrisonburg's first chiropractor, he was joined in a few months by his new wife, Dr. Verdie S. Langley, also a chiropractor.⁶³ They had both graduated from a three-year chiropractic program at the Palmer Institute in Davenport, Iowa, which claims to be the first chiropractic school in the world. The Langleys purchased a lot at Silver Lake, a location that would become 4235 Linhoss Road.⁶⁴ Within the next year, they built their home overlooking the lake.⁶⁵ They advertised appointments being available at their Harrisonburg city office as well as their Silver Lake home. A small waiting area and treatment room were located in the walk-in basement of their home.⁶⁶ For commuting to their city office, the Langleys owned a 1924 Dodge Coupe they had purchased new from Wine Brothers Garage just down the street from their Harrisonburg office.⁶⁷ Most of their local advertising focused on educating the public about the merits of chiropractic medicine. The efforts must have resulted in a successful practice; the Langleys had retired to Florida by 1947. The Langleys provide an interesting and early example of Silver Lake and Dayton acting as a bedroom community for the growing city of Harrisonburg.

On the south side of the lake, J. B. Grove spent his first years of ownership by expanding the mill's operations to include animal feeds and by adding a collection of rental boats that could be used on the lake. Boats were stored in the lowest level of the mill during the off-season.⁶⁸ Silver Lake, touted for its many ducks, was named part of a 400-acre game sanctuary by the State Game Department in 1926; the lands included those owned by J. B. Grove and W. D. Heatwole.⁶⁹ Grove also began selling lake water to the City of Harrisonburg in 1932, according to the local newspaper.⁷⁰ City Council agreed to pay six cents per 1,000 gallons, amounting to about \$45 per day for the expected 600,000 gallons needed daily to supplement the supply from Riven Rock west of Harrisonburg. The area had been experiencing a drought that began in 1930, and Harrisonburg's water supplies were inadequate. It is not known how long water was provided to Harrisonburg. The opening day of Virginia's trout season in 1932 brought to Silver Lake an estimated 5,500 people, who caught about 2,500 of the 13,000 fish that were stocked by the state for the occasion. The daily limit for trout in 1932 was 20.⁷¹ In both the 1930 and 1940 census, the Grove family lived on Dayton's High Street. In 1930, Grove reported he owned a

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

flour mill; in 1940, he reported that he owned a *feed* and flour mill. The change, while seemingly small, reflected important changes in the agriculture industry of the time. In the 1940 census, the second Mill Owner's House was occupied by Marion Suter and his young family. Suter was manager of the mill, and had moved to the house in the early 1930s and lived there until about 1942.⁷² As pressures in the marketplace continued to increase, J. B. Grove sold the mill to the City of Harrisonburg in 1945.⁷³ Included with the mill building was the second Mill Owner's House (referred to as a tenant house) and eight boats sitting on the banks of Silver Lake. The city was a ready buyer for the property because it offered a back-up water supply with Silver Lake.

Through the last quarter of the 19th century, successful flour mills became larger. Small mills started disappearing. During the 20th century, the increase in size as well as improved technology escalated at an even faster pace.⁷⁴ Those changes were coupled with heightened preferences for commercial baking over home baking. All of the factors affected how much wheat was grown and where. Wheat production in the "Valley of Virginia" plummeted dramatically from a peak of four million bushels in 1920 to about one-half million bushels in 1980.⁷⁵ When R. H. Brown and his son purchased the larger Wenger's Mill in early 1909, they had undoubtedly expected even greater success than at Silver Lake. However, by 1937, R. H. Brown had passed away, and the Edom mill was being sold at auction to pay Marvin Brown's creditors. Auction notices sadly described the miller's home, the mill building, and details of all the milling equipment. With its purchase, the City of Harrisonburg only wanted the lake, so within months, it started the process of selling off the excess. On April 1, 1946, the second Mill Owners House was sold to Isaac C. and Lelia Propst for \$4725.⁷⁶ The mill itself was finally sold at auction June 8, 1946, for \$5225 on the Rockingham County courthouse steps – a total that was little more than the second Mill Owner's House. Rockingham Milling Company, Inc. was the winning bidder, according to the deed dated ten days later.⁷⁷ Advertisements had described the facility as "completely equipped for operation as a water-operated flour mill." They also noted the building and equipment were in good repair. Thirteen boats, most described as 16-foot flat bottom wood boats, were to be auctioned separately.⁷⁸

Since its founding in 1919, Rockingham Milling Company had wrestled with the changes in the milling industry. In the mid-1920s, the firm began offering feeds along with flour and found it was feed that was responsible for company growth. Meanwhile, in 1931, it had faced a "flood of western flour" that made profits impossible.⁷⁹ The company managed to survive the tumult of the Great Depression, and by the end of World War II, view itself as poised once again for growth. Rockingham Milling's main office and operations were on C & W Drive in Harrisonburg, and it had branches in Elkton, Bridgewater, and Timberville. Along with feed and flour, the company had diversified by adding hardware, plumbing and china.⁸⁰ The acquisition of the Silver Lake Mill, now known as the Dayton Mill, in 1946 was the company's first significant postwar step, but that step was followed with a new building in Elkton in 1948 and an addition to the Bridgewater building in 1954. A 1938 decision to contract with poultry growers to provide the feed necessary for their flocks and not collect payment until the flocks had been sold set the

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

stage for buying the Dayton facility.⁸¹ It is not known if Rockingham Milling continued flour production at the Dayton Mill; most retired employees visiting the mill say it was continued until the 1960s when the flour milling equipment was sold to a firm in North Carolina. Some, however, say flour was never made at Dayton after the 1946 purchase of the mill. They all report the focus was on feed. Rockingham Milling faced new challenges over the next few decades and continued to transform itself. In its 1989 history, the company remarked, "The Dayton Mill remains a small custom type mill which serves a very limited market area."⁸² Rockingham Milling, rebranded as RMC, Inc., ceased milling operations at Silver Lake in 1996 after it purchased a larger, more modern mill north of Dayton. In 1997, RMC donated the Silver Lake mill to the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society, based in Dayton.⁸³ Today the mill houses several small businesses, but is no longer an active mill.

Criterion C: Architecture

Silver Lake Historic District is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its varied and evolved buildings dating from the early 19th century through ca. 1930. Most of the contributing buildings within the district are vernacular adaptations of popular forms and styles. They also embody the characteristics of traditional building practices found throughout the Shenandoah Valley. The oldest dwelling in the district is the Rohrer Farm (or the First Miller's House). It is believed the earliest section of this dwelling was constructed in 1830 as a simple two-story, three-bay I-house and was later, probably during the late-19th or early 20th-century, enlarged with a rear ell. A steeply pitched, projecting front gable also was added, along with a partial-width, one-story porch. The large 1880 bank barn associated with the Rohrer property also reflects changing architectural craftsmanship. Still highly functional, the barn exhibits detailing associated with styles popular in the late 19th century, notably its louvered vents topped with a triangular pediment and overhanging eaves with exposed brackets.

The second-oldest house in the district is located at the Wenger Farm and is an excellent example of a simple I-house built by German settlers. During the 1880s, the dwelling evolved into a fine vernacular adaptation of the Queen Anne style. In its original form, the house was a two-story, three-bay I house with a two-room or hall-and-parlor plan with a corner stair leading to the second-story loft area. Many of the original architectural details in the interior of this section of the dwelling remain. While many of the details are plain in design, they demonstrate the builders' intent to fashion the house with details that resemble elements found in popular architectural pattern books of the day. The house underwent a complete transformation in the late 19th century with the Queen Anne addition on the east elevation. Both the interior and exterior of this section of the house retain character-defining architectural features. On the exterior, the patterned (fishscale) shingles in the gable fields, the Tuscan columns on the wraparound porch, and the corbeled chimney stacks are most demonstrative of this period of construction.

The continued success of the mill throughout the 20th century prompted continued construction of housing in the district. The third miller's house, located at 2271 Silver Lake Road, is a good example of such development and was the first building constructed during the 20th century

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

alongside Silver Lake. It is unlike any of the earlier dwellings and reflects a mix of styles popular in the early 1920s. The cross-gable, three-bay Bungalow with a wraparound one-story porch was the first house in the district to be constructed of brick. The house, with its partial wraparound porch, with tapered posts resting on brick piers, large picture windows, and tripartite and paired window combinations mostly reflect the popularity of the Craftsman style during the first quarter of the 20th century.

According to a 1999 nomination to the Virginia Landmarks Register, the mill itself is a locally significant example of post-and-beam construction with 10" by 10" stop-chamfered heartpine posts, and 10" by 12" heart pine beams running the length of the building; most of them are a single 50' unbroken beam. The floor framing has principal joists which cross the longitudinal beams above the posts. The principal floor joists and the 2" by 10" regular floor joists sit atop the beams and wall sills. Intermediate wall studs are 3" by 6"; angle braces are used at the junction of all principal joists, principal wall studs and corner posts. The roof framing uses principal rafters, common rafters and purlins. The mill is sided with "German" novelty wood siding, and presently has a standing-seam metal roof. The roof sheathing shows nails left from a wood-shingle roof.⁸⁴

Along with the mill, the district's bank barns and other agricultural buildings convey the district's historic associations with agriculture and milling. Silver Lake itself, along with its dam, also are important parts of this historic assemblage. As a whole, the historic district retains a surprisingly rural character despite the area's development pressures. The Silver Lake Historic District provides an important illustration of Rockingham County's 19th and early 20th century architectural history.

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Bowman, Elder Joseph. "Christian Family Companion." Dale City, Pennsylvania: H. R. Holsinger, 1865.

Bowman, Dr. Warren D. "Visiting with Family". Undated.

"Classified Minutes of the Annual Meetings of the Brethren." Mt. Morris, Illinois: The Brethren's Publishing Co., 1886.

Congressional Case #14961, Senate Bill #7674, Court of Claims. Benjamin F. Bowman, Administrator of Daniel Bowman. Affidavits by Mary Stickle, Annie Kerlin, Benjamin F. Bowman, B. F. Ritchie. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

Cook, Dr. E. R. and Callahan, W. J., "A *Dendrochronological Analysis of the Mill House at Silver Lake Mill, Dayton, Rockingham County, Virginia*," Tree-Ring Laboratory at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University, February 2019.

Custer, Milo, *The Reverend Alexander Miller and Some of His Descendants*. Bloomington, Illinois: 1910.

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Funk, Benjamin, *Life and Labors of Elder John Kline*. Elgin, Illinois: Brethren Publishing House, 1900.

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Harrison, J. Houston, *Settlers by the Long Grey Trail*. Dayton, Virginia: Joseph K. Ruebush Co., 1935.

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Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

- Harrisonburg Daily News-Record*, Harrisonburg, Virginia: August 2, 1917.
- Harrisonburg Daily News-Record*, Harrisonburg, Virginia: November 16, 1926.
- Harrisonburg Daily News-Record*, Harrisonburg, Virginia: July 15, 1931.
- Harrisonburg Daily News-Record*, Harrisonburg, Virginia: August 30, 1932.
- Harrisonburg Daily News-Record*, Harrisonburg, Virginia: April 17, 1934.
- Harrisonburg Daily News-Record*, Harrisonburg, Virginia: December 1, 1994.
- Harrisonburg Daily News-Record*, Harrisonburg, Virginia: December 15, 1997.
- Highland Recorder*, Monterey, Virginia: May 24, 1946.
- Keller, Paul Bowman, grandson of David Bowman, from letters to family, 1985-1986.
- Kiser, P.A. 11th Virginia Cavalry (Laurel Brigade). Personal diary.
- Koones, Kenneth E., and Warren R. Hofstra, eds. *After the Backcountry: Rural Life in the Great Valley of Virginia 1800-1900*. The University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, Tennessee.
- Library of Virginia (Richmond, VA). Chancery Records.
- Library of Virginia (Richmond, VA). Legislative Petitions.
- Martin, Richard. Rife's Mill. Nomination Form (DHR #082-0284). June 1999.
- May, C. E. *Life Under Four Flags*. McClure Press, Bridgewater, Virginia, 1976.
- Logan, Bernard S., Dr. *The History of RMC Incorporated 1919-1989*. Mid Valley Press, Verona, Virginia 1991.
- Official Records of the War of Rebellion, Series 1, Vol 43, Part 1.
- Patterson, William T. Personal diary. Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio.
- Plat of the Town and Corporation of Dayton by J. Hawse, 1882.
- Richmond Daily Dispatch* (Va). Various dates.

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

Risdon-Alcott Turbine Company catalog. Undated.

Rockingham County Deed Books, Various dates.

Rockingham County Road Orders, 1847.

Rockingham County Tax Records, 1856-1857.

Rockingham Public Library Collection of Rockingham County Legal Documents 1767-1873, SC0136, folder 17, Special Collections Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Rockingham Register (Harrisonburg, VA), Various dates.

Sappington, Roger. The Brethren in Virginia. Committee for Brethren History in Virginia, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Schultz, Jan. "The Bowman family." May 1, 1913, available on CD, X1.

Senger, Nettie M. "House of Sanger." N.p., 1956

Shank, William T. Letter to Cheryl Lyon. August 16, 2001.

Sites, Carrie B. and Effie A. Hess. A History of the Town of Dayton. Shenandoah Press, Dayton, Virginia, 1962.

Steen, Herman. "Flour Milling in America." T.S. Denison & Co., Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1963.

Suter, Emanuel. Personal diary. Courtesy of Dr. Scott Suter.

U.S. Census, Various Dates.

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff. Dayton Historic District. Nomination Form (VHLC #206-2), June 1984.

Wallis, John Joseph. The Depression of 1839 to 1843. University of Maryland and National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). No date.

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

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

___ 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, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR No. 082-5665

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 104

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.428690 | Longitude: -78.939640 |
| 2. Latitude: 38.425730 | Longitude: -78.935440 |
| 3. Latitude: 38.419810 | Longitude: -78.939090 |
| 4. Latitude: 38.420280 | Longitude: -78.946300 |
| 5. Latitude: 38.424010 | Longitude: -78.944490 |
| 6. Latitude: 38.426070 | Longitude: -78.942910 |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

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

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

The historic boundary for the Silver Lake Historic District includes the following tax parcels, as recorded by Rockingham County, Virginia: 107-(A)-L135; 107-(A)-133A; 107-(A)-132; 107-(A)-L131; 107-(A)-125A; 107-(A)-L130A; 107-(A)-L137; 107-(A)-L136; and 107-(A)-L144C. The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Sketch Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic boundary is drawn to encompass the properties that are illustrative of their associations with the founders of the mill at Silver Lake, the German Baptist Brethren families who lived and worked here prior to the Civil War, subsequent mill owners who kept the mill in operation through the late nineteenth century and for the duration of the twentieth century, and the working farms that were present throughout the district's period of significance, thereby capturing the district's historic setting and all known historic resources. The boundary excludes properties that lack these associations and/or that lack integrity to convey their historic associations.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Cheryl Lyon, Owner Silver Lake Mill
organization: N/A
street & number: 2328 Silver Lake Road
city or town: Dayton state: VA zip code: 22821
e-mail: silverlakemill@gmail.com
telephone: 540-564-3012
date : February 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.

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Silver Lake Mill Historic District

City or Vicinity: Dayton

County: Rockingham County

State: Virginia

Photographer: Aubrey Von Lindern (VDHR)

Date Photographed: 3/12/2018

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

1 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0001
Silver Lake Mill, south elevation, looking northeast

2 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0002
Silver Lake Mill, West Elevation, looking southeast

3 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0003
First Miller's House, Front Elevation, looking southwest

4 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0004
First Miller's House, Bank Barn, South Elevation, looking northeast.

5 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0005
Second Miller's House, Silver Lake Drive, looking west

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

6 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0006
Third Miller's House, Front Elevation, looking north

7 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0007
Third Miller's House, Driveway, looking south towards Silver Lake

8 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0008
Wenger Farm, northwest oblique

9 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0009
Silver Lake, looking northeast towards Silver Lake Mill

10 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0010
First Miller's House, Silo, looking north

11 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0011
First Miller's House, Bank Barn, looking southeast

12 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0012
Silver Lake Mill and Second Miller's House, looking northeast

13 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0013
4235 Linhoss Road, southwest oblique

14 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0014
4235 Linhoss Road. southeast oblique

15 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0015
Wenger Farm, looking northwest

16 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0016
Wenger Farm, Bank Barn with a Forebay, looking west

17 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0017
Wenger Farm, South Elevation, primary resources and outbuildings, looking north

18 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0018
Wenger Farm, kitchen, looking west

19 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0019
Wenger Farm, Rear Elevation and Springhouse, looking east.

20 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0020

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

Silver Lake, looking southwest

21 of 21: VA_RockinghamCounty_Silver Lake Historic District_0021

Silver Lake Dam, looking west

List of Historic Photos

Historic Photo 1: Wenger House before the Queen Anne Addition. "House" of Sanger, by Nettie M. Senger.

Historic Photo 2: Ca.1910 Car with Silver Lake Mill in the Background. Cheryl Lyon's Personal Collection.

Historic Photo 3: Ca. 1920. Boating on Silver Lake. Mill and Second Miller's House in the Background. Joseph Meyerhoeffer's Personal Collection.

Historic Photo 4: Ca. 1935. Boating on Silver Lake. Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society.

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.

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

Historic Photos: Silver Lake Historic District



Home of Conrad Sanger II and Katie Flory-Annie Early

Historic Photo 1: Wenger House before the Queen Anne Addition. "House" of Sanger,
by Nettie M. Senger.

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State



Historic Photo 2: Ca.1910 Car with Silver Lake Mill in the Background. Cheryl Lyon's Personal Collection.

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State



Historic Photo 3: Ca. 1920. Boating on Silver Lake. Mill and Second Miller's House in the Background. Joseph Meyerhoeffer's Personal Collection.

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State



Historic Photo 4: Ca. 1935. Boating on Silver Lake. Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society.

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

ENDNOTES

¹ A History of the Town of Dayton, Carrie B. Sites and Effie A. Hess, Shenandoah Press, Dayton, Virginia, 1962, pg 12

² Settlers by the Long Grey Trail, J. Houston Harrison, Joseph K. Ruebush Co., Dayton, Virginia, 1935, pg 68.

³ Life Under Four Flags, C. E. May, McClure Press, Bridgewater, Virginia, 1976, pg. 308

⁴ Life Under Four Flags, C. E. May, McClure Press, Bridgewater, Virginia, 1976, pg. 102.

⁵ Library of Virginia Chancery Records, Index #1832-007, Image 13 references remainder of cemetery still at the mill pond (Silver Lake),

⁶ The Reverend Alexander Miller of Virginia and Some of His Descendants, Milo Custer, 1910, Bloomington, Illinois, pg 5.

⁷ Mennonite Family History magazine, July 1997 issue, pp 125-126. Article by Dr. Emmert Bittinger discusses migration of Brethren and Mennonite families from Western Maryland to Rockingham County.

⁸ "The Brethren in Virginia," by Roger Sappington, Committee for Brethren History in Virginia, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801, pg. 30.

⁹ Iman family records online discuss the migration of the Rife/Reiff family from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania to Rockingham County. www.imanfamily.net/rock/links/Reiff/, last accessed 2-27-2010.

¹⁰ "The Bowman family," by Jan Schultz, May 1, 1913, available on CD, X1-pg 9 begins discussion of the Bowman family's migration south into and through Rockingham County.

¹¹ Library of Virginia, Legislative Petitions, January 1832 and February 19, 1833. The four petitions explain Daniel Rife's founding of the town and ask to name it Dayton; Daniel Rife did not want it named for him.

¹² Library of Virginia, Chancery Records, Index #1832-007, Image 31

¹³ Library of Virginia, Chancery Records, Index #1883-040, Image 7; Gospel Messenger, March 14, 1908.

¹⁴ Library of Virginia, Chancery Records, Index #1883-040, Images 49-50; discusses the various family relationships, with Miller and Bowman having married a brother and sister both raised by Frederick Kline. Miller was married in August 1839; Miller and Bowman bought the mill in September 1839, and Bowman was married in October 1839.

¹⁵ Library of Virginia, Chancery Records, Index #1883-40, Images 78-79.

¹⁶ "House of Sanger," by Nettie M. Senger, 1956, pg 504.

¹⁷ John Joseph Wallis, The Depression of 1839 to 1843, University of Maryland and NBER, undated.

¹⁸ Library of Virginia, Chancery Records, Index #1883-040, Image 49; discusses arrangements and preferences at length between the partners (Miller and Bowman).

¹⁹ Life and Labors of Elder John Kline, Benjamin Funk, Brethren Publishing House, Elgin, Illinois, 1900, pg 157.

²⁰ Richmond Daily Dispatch (Va), February 5, 1856, pg 1.

²¹ Rockingham County tax records, 1856-1857.

²² Rockingham Public Library Collection, SC0136, folder 17.

²³ Rockingham County Road Orders, 1847, pg. 187.

²⁴ Plat by J. Hawse, 1882

²⁵ Rockingham Register, Harrisonburg, VA, February 16, 1906.

²⁶ Classified Minutes of the Annual Meetings of the Brethren, The Brethren's Publishing Co., Mt. Morris, Illinois 1886, pp 372-377, discusses slavery from Brethren perspective. Slaves or hiring of slave labor was sternly forbidden since 1782.

²⁷ Rockingham Register, August 1, 1862, coupled with affidavits in Congressional Case #14961.

²⁸ Rockingham Register, March 28, 1867.

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

- ²⁹ Paul Bowman Keller, grandson of David Bowman, from letters to family 1985-1986.
- ³⁰ William T. Patterson diary June 21-November 6, 1864, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus Ohio 43211
- ³¹ P.A. Kiser, 11th Virginia Cavalry (Laurel Brigade), diary entry, October 5, 1864; discusses all the barns and houses burned along the road from Dayton to Turleytown, which includes Silver Lake Road.
- ³² Congressional Case #14961 in 1910, three of Daniel Bowman's children and one employee provided affidavits in 1910 about details of the burning as part of a war claim for \$11,500. The testimony culminated in Senate bill 7674, but the results of the bill are unknown, reportedly because of the 1973 "National Archives" fire St. Louis. There are no Bowman family reports of the claim being paid.
- ³³ "A Dendrochronological Analysis of the Mill House at Silver Lake Mill, Dayton, Rockingham County, Virginia," Cook and Callahan, February 2019.
- ³⁴ Official Records of the War of Rebellion, Series 1, Vol 43, Part 1, pg. 30.
- ³⁵ "Christian Family Companion," April 11, 1865, first-person account written by Daniel Bowman's younger brother, Elder Joseph Bowman.
- ³⁶ Rockingham Register, March 30, 1866.
- ³⁷ Emanuel Suter diary entry, March 22, 1867, courtesy Dr. Scott Suter.
- ³⁸ Rockingham Register, March 28, 1867.
- ³⁹ Rockingham County Deeds, April 18, 1870, DB5-360.
- ⁴⁰ Written notes by Dr. Warren D. Bowman about "Visiting with Family, undated.
- ⁴¹ Rockingham County Deeds, November 20, 1876.
- ⁴² Comments by Dale MacAllister, Rockingham County school historian.
- ⁴³ Rockingham Register, February 13, 1891.
- ⁴⁴ Risdon-Alcott Turbine Company catalog, undated.
- ⁴⁵ Early 1909 correspondence between R. H. Brown and Fitz Water Wheel Co., Hagley Museum and Library, Fitz Water Wheel Collection.
- ⁴⁶ Harrisonburg Daily News, January 16, 1909.
- ⁴⁷ "A History of the Town of Dayton," by Carrie B. Sites and Effie A. Hess, Shenandoah Press, Dayton, Virginia, 1962, pg. 51
- ⁴⁸ "A History of the Town of Dayton," by Carrie B. Sites and Effie A. Hess, Shenandoah Press, Dayton, Virginia, 1962, pg. 21.
- ⁴⁹ Dayton Historic District Nomination Form (VHLC #206-2), 105 Main Street, pg 28
- ⁵⁰ Rockingham Register, February 28, 1907.
- ⁵¹ Letter from Fitz Water Wheel Company to Silver Lake Improvement Co., September 9, 1909, Hagley Museum and Library, Fitz Water Wheel Collection.
- ⁵² Letter from Fitz Water Wheel Company to Silver Lake Improvement Co., June 2, 1909, Hagley Museum and Library, Fitz Water Wheel Collection.
- ⁵³ Harrisonburg Daily News-Record, March 24, 1925.
- ⁵⁴ Rockingham County Land Records, DB103-189.
- ⁵⁵ Harrisonburg Daily News Record, October 7, 1915.
- ⁵⁶ Rockingham County Land Records, DB115-352; Letter to Cheryl Lyon from Shank's great grandson, Wilmer T. Shank, August 16, 2001.
- ⁵⁷ Harrisonburg Daily News-Record, August 2, 1917.
- ⁵⁸ Rockingham County Land Records, DB115-453, January 1, 1920.
- ⁵⁹ Letter to Cheryl Lyon from Shank's great grandson, Wilmer T. Shank, August 16, 2001.
- ⁶⁰ Rockingham County Land Records, DB128-127.
- ⁶¹ Rockingham County Land Records, DB130-542.
- ⁶² Reported by granddaughter Linda Jacobs (nee Heatwole), the current resident of the third Mill Owner's House.

Silver Lake Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, VA
County and State

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- ⁶³ Harrisonburg Daily News-Record, December 1, 1994.
- ⁶⁴ Rockingham County Land Records, DB149-275.
- ⁶⁵ Harrisonburg Daily News-Record, July 15, 1931.
- ⁶⁶ Interview with Elizabeth Rohrer on December 3, 2018, who remembers family members and acquaintances being treated there.
- ⁶⁷ Rockingham County records, DB128-430 records a note for the car with the car salesman as grantee.
- ⁶⁸ Interview with Stanley Suter, January 4, 2014; his father worked at the mill for many years, and the family lived in the second Mill Owner's House.
- ⁶⁹ Harrisonburg Daily News-Record, November 16, 1926.
- ⁷⁰ Harrisonburg Daily News-Record, August 30, 1932.
- ⁷¹ Harrisonburg Daily News-Record, April 17, 1934.
- ⁷² 1930 census, 1940 census, interview October 28, 2018 with Stanley Suter, son of Marion Suter.
- ⁷³ Rockingham County Land Records, DB199-176.
- ⁷⁴ "Flour Milling in America," by Herman Steen, T.S. Denison & Co., Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1963, p 53. This begins a good discussion about the decline of the small neighborhood grist mills, and the increasingly large merchant mills.
- ⁷⁵ "After the Backcountry: Rural Life in the Great Valley of Virginia 1800-1900," edited by Kenneth E. Koons and Warren R. Hofstra, The University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, Tennessee, pg 15, chart based on census and other sources for wheat statistics.
- ⁷⁶ Rockingham County Land Records, DB202-18.
- ⁷⁷ Rockingham County Land Records, DB202-577.
- ⁷⁸ Highland Recorder, May 24, 1946.
- ⁷⁹ The History of RMC Incorporated 1919-1989," by Dr. Bernard S. Logan, Mid Valley Press, Verona, Virginia 1991, pp 8-9.
- ⁸⁰ The History of RMC Incorporated 1919-1989," by Dr. Bernard S. Logan, Mid Valley Press, Verona, Virginia 1991, pg 18.
- ⁸¹ The History of RMC Incorporated 1919-1989," by Dr. Bernard S. Logan, Mid Valley Press, Verona, Virginia 1991, pg. 19.
- ⁸² The History of RMC Incorporated 1919-1989," by Dr. Bernard S. Logan, Mid Valley Press, Verona, Virginia 1991, pg. 42.
- ⁸³ Harrisonburg Daily News-Record, December 15, 1997.
- ⁸⁴ Richard Martin, Rife's Mill, Nomination Form (DHR #082-0284), June 1999, pg. 7.



LOCATION MAP

Silver Lake Historic District

Rockingham County, VA

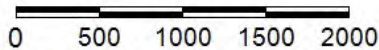
DHR No. 082-5665

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

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Longitude: -78.939640
- 2. Latitude: 38.425730
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- 3. Latitude: 38.419810
Longitude: -78.939090
- 4. Latitude: 38.420280
Longitude: -78.946300
- 5. Latitude: 38.424010
Longitude: -78.944490
- 6. Latitude: 38.426070
Longitude: -78.942910



Feet



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

Title:

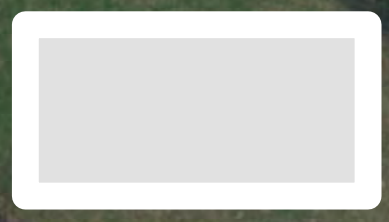
Date: 2/7/2019

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.

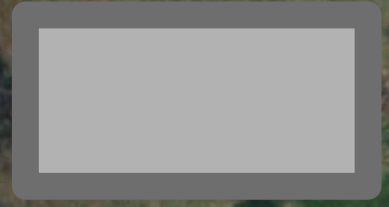
Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

Silver Lake Historic District
Rockingham County, VA

SKETCH MAP



Contributing



Non-contributing

1 inch = 200 feet

DHR No. 082-5665

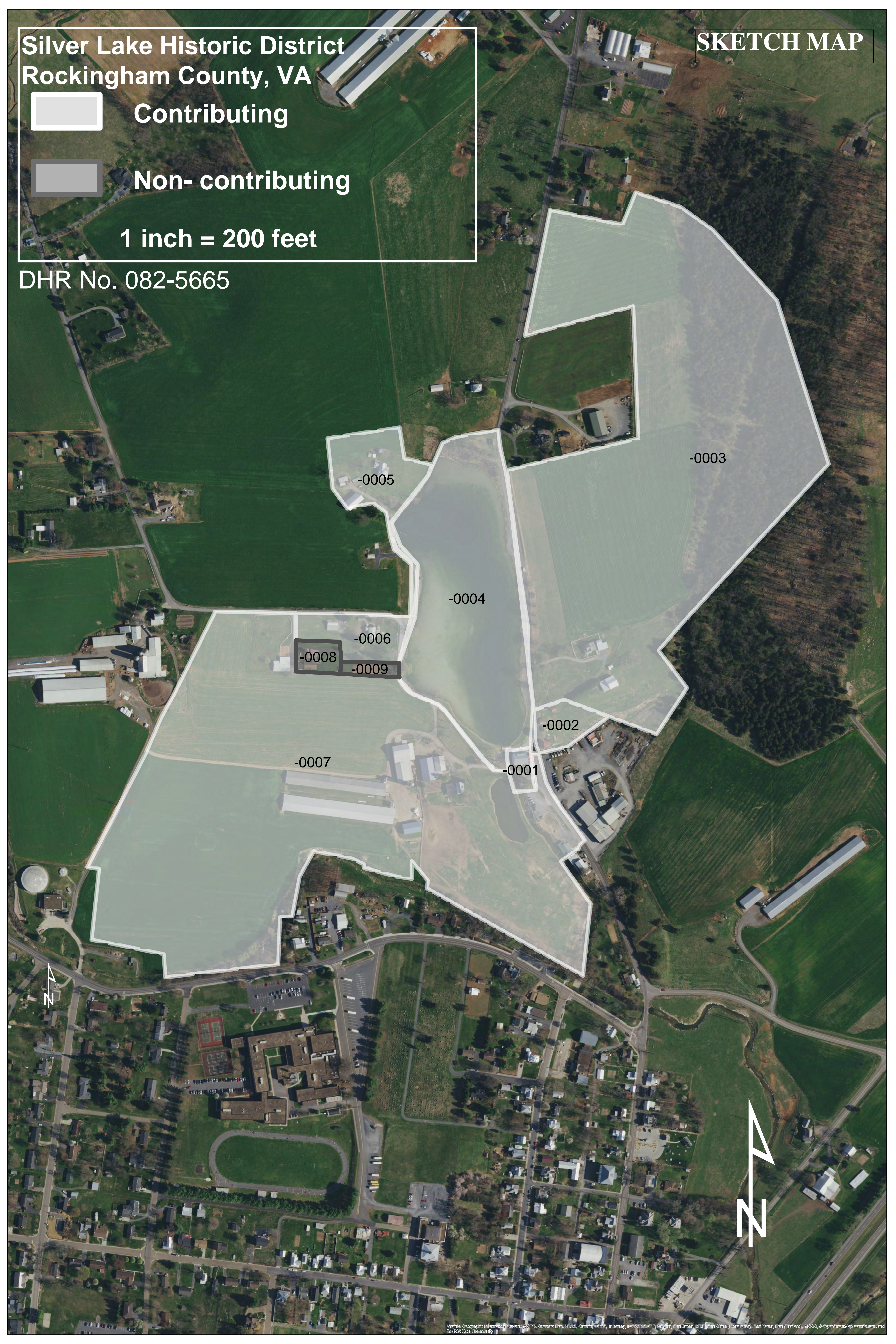
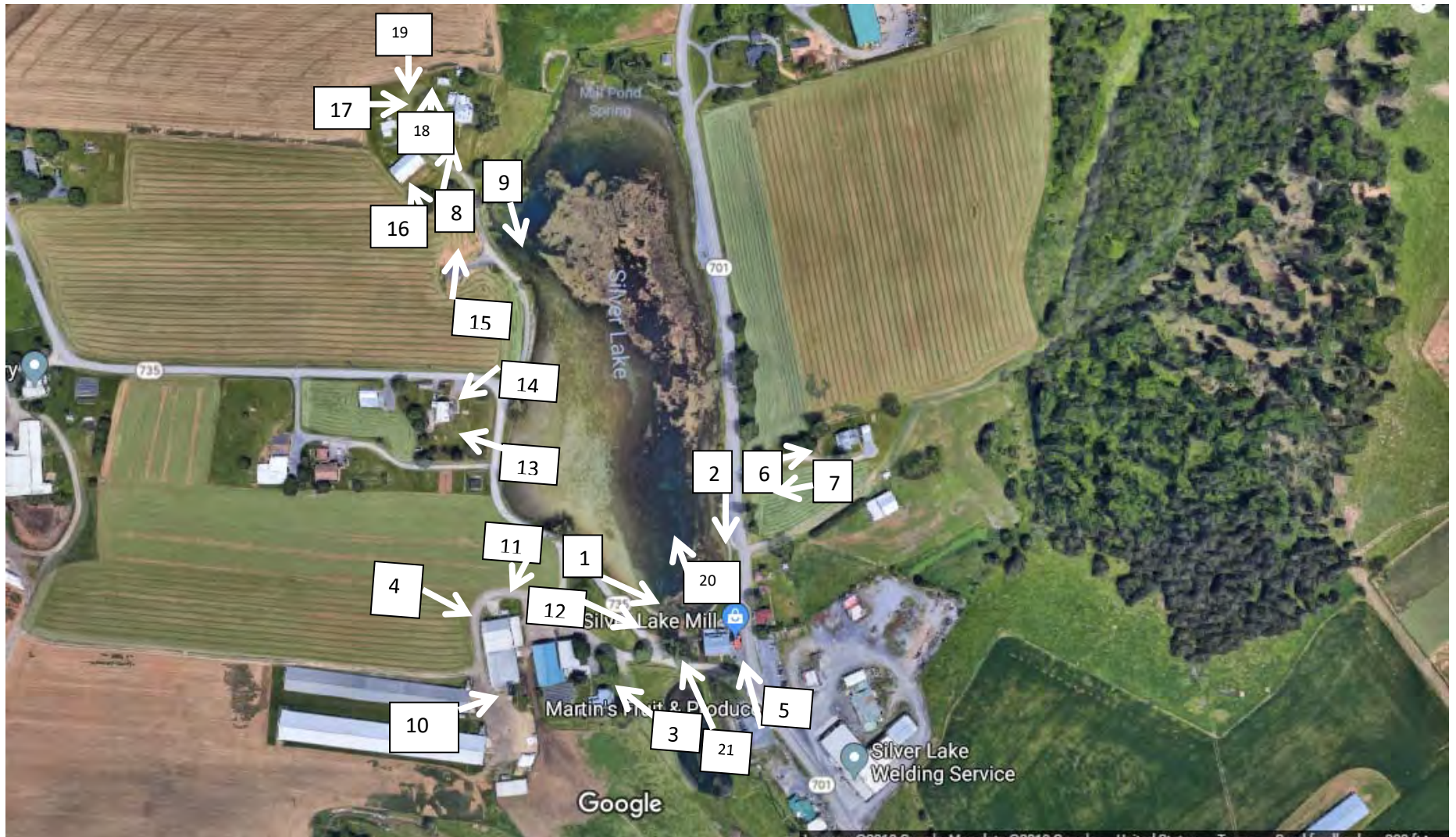


PHOTO KEY

Silver Lake Historic District

Rockingham County, VA

DHR No. 082-5665







25

MILL





NO
OPEN
BY HOURS



































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination
Property Name: Silver Lake Historic District
Multiple Name: _____
State & County: VIRGINIA, Rockingham

Date Received: 4/15/2019 Date of Pending List: 5/2/2019 Date of 16th Day: 5/17/2019 Date of 45th Day: 5/30/2019 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100003978
Nominator: SHPO

- Reason For Review:
- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 5/22/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: This small district is centered on Silver lake and dam, created when a spring was impounded in the early 19th century. A succession of mills (all in the same location) and the Dunkard community that owned and lived there gave continuity to the area, carried on after the Brethren left by the succession of mill owners, whose houses make up half of the residential stock.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A & C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian
Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

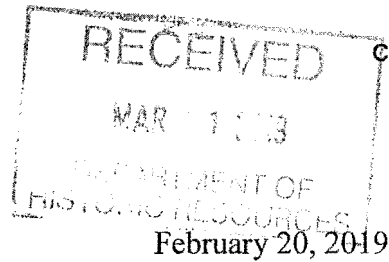
DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

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



Silver Lake Welding Service, Inc.
www.slwsinc.com
2433 Silver Lake Road
Dayton, VA. 22812
540-879-2591 Phone
540-879-2344 Fax

Structural Steel Fabrication and Erection
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Re: Silver Lake Historic District, Rockingham County

Dear Mr. James Hare and Members of the Board

As an adjacent property owner (107-4-L1A), I am writing to express my concerns about this proposed Historical District.

The properties at 2328 Silver Lake Road (107-A-L125A) and (107-A-L130A) are the only two properties that have an historical significance to them. The Mill parcel (107-A-125A) now houses two businesses and one apartment for living purposes. One of these (107-A-L130A) has no significance to it other than it is maybe 150 years old and my grandparents lived there at one time which does not mean anything.

Silver Lake is a man-made lake and is strictly used for a reserve water supply for the Town of Dayton and the city of Harrisonburg, VA and is stocked for fishing by the VA Game and Inland Commission. All of the other properties have absolutely no historical significance to them. They are (107-A-L131) used for agriculture purposes with two large poultry houses having been built in the last 5 and 15 years respectively, and as crop land and pasture land. Properties (107-A-L133A) and (107-A-L135) being built in the last 50 and 100 years and are used as tenant houses to parcel (107-A-L131). Parcel (107-A-L144C) is an old house and a barn in a poor state of repair and is used for agriculture purposes (and will never be restored). Parcel (107-A-L137) is strictly rented for agriculture proposes which includes a 100 (?) year old house and a small stable, again of no historical value.

I would have no problem with parcels (107-A-L125A) and (107-A-L137) being put in a historical district. The one and only reason that the other properties that are being suggested to be put in a historical district is to protect them from being developed or annexed by the Town of Dayton, otherwise they would want no part of a historical district.

Regards,

Fred Shank Sr.
Silver Lake Welding Service, Inc.



McDonald, Lena <lena.mcdonald@dhr.virginia.gov>

Fwd: Silver Lake Historic District Nomination: Rockingham Support

1 message

McDonald, Lena <lena.mcdonald@dhr.virginia.gov>
To: Lena McDonald <Lena.McDonald@dhr.virginia.gov>

Wed, Mar 20, 2019 at 4:56 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rhonda Cooper** <rcooper@rockinghamcountyva.gov>
Date: Wed, Mar 20, 2019 at 4:06 PM
Subject: Silver Lake Historic District Nomination: Rockingham Support
To: Hare, James K <jim.hare@dhr.virginia.gov>

Dear Mr. Hare:

The Rockingham County Board of Supervisors, at its March 13 regular public meeting, expressed its support of the nomination of the Silver Lake Historic District to the Virginia State Review Board and the Virginia Board of Historic Resources for recommendation to the National Register of Historic Places. An excerpt from the draft Board minutes follows:

Ms. Cooper informed the Board that the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) received a nomination to establish the Silver Lake Historic District. DHR plans to present the proposed nomination to the Virginia State Review Board and the Virginia Board of Historic Resources for recommendation to the National Register of Historic Places and for inclusion in the Virginia Landmarks Register at a meeting on March 21, 2019. She noted DHR solicits input from jurisdictions where the site is located or near the site. The Board was previously provided with a copy of the nomination packet for Board consideration and direction.

Since the proposed historic property is located in District 2, Supervisor Wolfe-Garrison contacted the Department of Historic Resources. She explained that this is an honorary designation with benefits that can be requested by landowners for tax credits, historical preservation and historical work, as well as easement options. Supervisor Wolfe-Garrison also learned that the Dayton Town Council approved the request for support on March 11, 2019. She noted that other parts of Dayton have been designated by the DHR as historic.

On motion by Supervisor Wolfe-Garrison, seconded by Supervisor Chandler, and carried by a vote of 5 to 0, voting recorded as follows: BREEDEN – AYE; CHANDLER – AYE; CUEVAS – AYE; KYGER – AYE; WOLFE-GARRISON – AYE; the Board approved the nomination of the Silver Lake Historic District to the Virginia State Review Board and the Virginia Board of Historic Resources, for recommendation to the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,

3/20/2019

Commonwealth of Virginia Mail - Fwd: Silver Lake Historic District Nomination: Rockingham Support

Rhonda Cooper

Rhonda H. Cooper

Deputy Director of Community Development

Desk: 540-564-3033 | Mobile: 540-271-5061

Rockingham County Administration Center

20 East Gay Street

Harrisonburg, VA 22802

www.rockinghamcountyva.gov



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

April 12, 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: Silver Lake Historic District, Rockingham County, Virginia

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Silver Lake Historic District** 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 8 owners 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
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2801 Kensington Avenue
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Tel: (804) 367-2323
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