

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Taylorstown

AND/OR COMMON

Taylorstown Historic District (Preferred)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

At Catoctin Creek: 2.9 miles SW of Pococanæ River; At western foot of Catoctin Mountain.

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Taylorstown

\_\_ VICINITY OF

Tenth (Joseph L. Fisher)

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Virginia

51

Loudoun

107

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY                                     | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS  | PRESENT USE                                     |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED                   | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL             | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE           | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS             | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE                   | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT          | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT              | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED              | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC                   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION               |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                           | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER                        |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple Ownership (See continuation Sheet #1)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

\_\_ VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS ETC.

Loudoun County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leesburg

STATE

Virginia

22075

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

(2) (See Continuation Sheet #2)

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey inventory

DATE

1958

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

**7 DESCRIPTION**

|  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>CONDITION</b>                         |                                       | <b>CHECK ONE</b>                              | <b>CHECK ONE</b>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED              | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR            | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The tiny settlement of Taylorstown is nestled in the scenic, rolling farmlands of Virginia's northern Loudoun County, an area regarded as one of the most beautiful rural regions of the state. It is situated on the banks of Catoctin Creek, a meandering stream which formerly supplied power for the village mill. About two miles north of the community, the stream joins the Potomac. The wooded Catoctin Mountain is immediately to the east of Taylorstown; most of the remaining property in the vicinity is open farmland dotted with patches of forest. Little commercial development has taken place to mar the pastoral quality of the area.

The principal landmark of the community is Taylorstown Mill, a two-story structure built in the late eighteenth century of the local fieldstone. It is situated down by the creek immediately south of Route 688, the main east-west road through the town. Banked by tall trees, the 34 X 48 foot mill is approached by its three-bay gable end front. The gable is weatherboarded and painted dark red. At the peak of the gable is a hood covering the hoist; doors are located in the center bays of each level below. Typical of mill architecture, a single chimney is located in the building's northeast corner. The two-story frame extension on the rear was probably put up in the late nineteenth century. Much old framing, flooring and plastering survives on the interior; however, virtually all the machinery has been removed with the mill's conversion to a warehouse and later a residence. Several floods have caused significant but not permanent damage.

Atop the hill to the north of the mill is a one-and-one-half-story stone dwelling, Hunting Hill, an exceptionally picturesque structure believed to have been erected in 1737 as the residence of the original mill's owner. The main part of the house measures 33 X 25 feet with the front wall sheltered by an early, if not original, shed porch supported on chamfered posts. A later kitchen wing has been placed against the west wall. Essentially unaltered, the house has a German plan consisting of a large hall and two smaller chambers separated from the hall by a board partition. The hall is heated by a large fireplace centered on the west wall. A small, winding stair is in the hall's southwest corner. The room's ceiling has exposed summer beam and joists. The northeast chamber has a fireplace in its northeast corner, resulting in the chimney rising distinctively on the exterior from the corner of the house. On the slope to the east of the house is the farmer's late nineteenth-century bank barn; a smaller farm building is immediately to the west.

Taylorstown's early store building is located on Route 688 to the south of the barn. Erected ca. 1800, the 28 X 18 foot building is a one-story frame structure with a gable roof. After ceasing to function as a store, the building was used for a time as a theatre and later a movie house. Now covered with asphalt siding, it serves as an automobile garage. Its original storefront has been replaced by garage doors.

Immediately to the east of the old store building is the community's present store - Mann's Store, a curious one-story concrete building covered by a shallow hipped roof. Built in 1904 to replace an earlier building on the site destroyed by fire, the

(See Continuation Sheet # 3)

# B SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD      | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |   |  |  |
|-------------|--|---|---|--|--|
| PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |  |
| 100-1499    | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |  |
| 1500-1599   | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |  |
| 1600-1899   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |  |
| 1700-1799   | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |
| 1800-1899   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE     | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |  |
| 1900-       | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |  |
|             |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |  |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although numerous milling communities survive across the state, few possess a setting so scenic or a collection of vernacular buildings of such interesting diversity as the tiny hamlet of Taylorstown. Even in its minuteness, the village has a historical ambiance of a quality rarely retained in similar communities. The origins of Taylorstown are traced back to the 1730s when the settlement of northern Virginia began. In that decade English families from the tidewater region and German and Quaker families from Pennsylvania began moving into what was to become Loudoun County. There the Germans occupied much of the northern section, while pockets of Quakers were established around Waterford, Lincoln, and what is now Taylorstown. The Taylorstown site offered a convenient ford across the Catoctin Creek and a steady supply of water power. Thus, in the 1730s the Quaker Richard Brown started a milling operation there and established a farm on the property now known as Hunting Hill. The present house at Hunting Hill may have been built in 1737, the date traditionally assigned to it, as its dimensions conform to those described by Lord Fairfax, the proprietor of the region, for settlers taking up land there.

In 1784 Richard Brown's son, Mercer Brown, sold the mill and family farm to Thomas Taylor of Frederick County, Maryland, who probably built the present stone mill. The original mill erected by Brown most likely was a log structure as were the majority of the earliest mills in the region. Taylor acquired with the mill a log miller's house which has since disappeared. After establishing himself, Taylor began selling off half-acre lots near the mill. The resulting small community came to be called Taylors Town, and later Taylorstown. The Taylor family lived at Hunting Hill and operated the mill for the next forty-five years. The last owner to continue the milling operation was Millard C. Myers, who ran the mill from 1912 to 1958. Today the mill is used as a private residence owned by Mr. and Mrs. Philip R. Ehrenkranz.

Although the mill has ceased its operation the tiny village, composed of less than a dozen structures, remains unspoiled by either neglect or modern intrusion and all the structures remaining in the town possess some degree of architectural interest. Of particular importance is Hunting Hill which may be one of the earliest houses in the county. Even though it was built in a Quaker community, the room arrangement and the stair location reflect a German influence. Having been well maintained over the years, with no significant modernization, the house possesses a charm and antiquarian interest frequently lacking in restored old houses. The mill is also a rare survival, as the majority of mills in Loudoun County, a county once known for its many mills, have disappeared. Taylorstown Mill indeed is one of the handful of such structures in the state that has been successfully adapted for a new function; most of the early mills across Virginia stand idle and abandoned.

Of Taylorstown's other buildings, the eighteenth-century stone cottage known now

(See continuation Sheet # 4)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lewis, John G., "Taylorstown," unpublished manuscript in Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.

"Taylorstown Would Be Wiped Out," in Echoes of History, Pioneer America Society, Vol. IV, No. 5, September 1974.

Templeman, Eleanor Lee and Nan Netherton. Northern Virginia Heritage. Arlington, VA., 1966.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 61 acres  
 UTM REFERENCES

E 18/277550/4347860  
 F 18/277520/4348050  
 G 18/277590/4348220  
 H 18/277720/4348340

A 1,8 | 2,7,8,1,0,0 | 4,3,4,8,4,3,0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C 1,8 | 2,7,7,8,2,0 | 4,3,4,7,8,7,0

B 1,8 | 2,7,8,0,6,0 | 4,3,4,8,0,7,0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 D 1,8 | 2,7,7,6,6,0 | 4,3,4,7,8,3,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The 61 acres comprising the Taylorstown Historic District are bounded by a line beginning at a point on N bank of Catoctin Creek, 1900' NE of State Route 668 bridge over said creek; thence extending approximately 1100'S, crossing Catoctin Creek to feeder creek, following latter for approximately 600'; and continuing SSW to a point; thence extending approximately 350' SW to a point; thence extending approximately 700' SW to a point (C), crossing State Route 668; thence extending approximately 400' NW to a point, crossing State Route 665; thence extending approximately 150' S to a point; thence extending approximately 250' SW to a point (D); <sup>(See Continuation Sheet #2)</sup>

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

December 1976

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE DEC 21 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

JAN 3 1977

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

JAN 5 1977

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

JAN 20 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET # 1

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 1

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

(Lot numbers correspond to those indicated on Loudoun County Tax Map Section 11. A sketch map based on this tax map is included with this report)

Lot # 85

~~Mrs. A. Elizabeth Mann (also owns #104)~~

~~RFD~~

~~Lovettsville, Virginia 22080~~

Lots #88, 88A

Miss C. Joan Rollins

Route 2, Box 224

Lovettsville, Virginia 22080

Lot # 91

Mr. and Mrs. Philip R. Ehrenkrantz (also own #93)

Route 2, Box 54

Lovettsville, Virginia 22080

Lot # 92

Miss Anna F. Hedrick (also owns #103)

Hunting Hill

Route 2, Box 53

Lovettsville, Virginia 22080

Lot # 93

(see #91)

Lots # 98, 99, 101, 102A

Mr. and Mrs. Raynold Cheronis

Route 2, Box 54-A

Lovettsville, Virginia 22080

Lot # 103

(see # 92)

Lot # 104

(see # 85)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY         |
| RECEIVED                 |
| DATE ENTERED JAN 30 1978 |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET #2 ITEM NUMBER 6, 10 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1969, 1974, 1976 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Verbal Boundary Description cont'd)

thence extending approximately 400' WNW to a point (E) at confluence of feeder creek and Catoctin Creek; thence extending approximately 550' NNE, crossing Catoctin Creek to a point on S side of State Route 668 approximately 200' W of said creek; thence extending approximately 300' WNW to a point (F), following S side of State Route 668; thence extending approximately 600' NNE to a point (G), crossing State Route 668 and continuing through wooded area; thence extending approximately 300' ENE to a point; thence extending approximately 350' NNE to a point (H); thence extending approximately 350' SE to a point on N bank of Catoctin Creek; thence extending NE along N bank of said creek to point of origin. These boundaries coincide with the Taylorstown Historic Preservation Area District established by Loudoun County on April 20, 1976.

|                   |              |         |              |            |   |
|-------------------|--------------|---------|--------------|------------|---|
| Post-It® Fax Note | 7671         | Date    | 1-11-96      | # of pages | 4 |
| To                | Ray Cheronis | From    | JIM HILL     |            |   |
| Co./Dept.         |              | Co.     | VDHR         |            |   |
| Phone #           |              | Phone # | 804-371-0821 |            |   |
| Fax #             | 703-8224-088 | Fax #   | 804-2254-261 |            |   |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| RECEIVED         |             |
| DATE ENTERED     | JAN 30 1978 |

CONTINUATION SHEET #3

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION

present structure has its concrete walls scored with deep vee joints to make the walls appear to be laid in very formal ashlar stonework. The front of the building is sheltered by a shed porch supported on thin posts.

Directly across the road from Mann's Store is the Mann house, a ca. 1900 frame dwelling situated on a broad sloping lawn dotted with shade trees. Typical of its era, the two-story, three-bay structure has a gable roof with cross gable and a front porch ornamented with sawn balusters and brackets. A dwelling of similar age and architectural character, the Rollins house, is located directly across Route 665 to the west. It too is set on a broad, grassy lawn and, with the Mann House, adds a homey, late-Victorian note to the hamlet's main intersection.

Directly across Catoctin Creek, just to the north of Route 688, is Foxton, a quaint one-story cottage built against the hill leading down to the creek. Probably erected in the late eighteenth century, the cottage has walls of the local fieldstone and is covered by a gable roof. The south side is sheltered by a shed porch. Attached to the north side is a one-and-one-half-story, five-bay, frame wing in the Colonial style, recently added to make the cottage a more commodious dwelling.

Catoctin Creek is presently spanned in the village by a modern concrete bridge of little visual interest. It replaces a metal truss bridge taken down within the past ten years, which was located just to the south of the present bridge, closer to the mill. The stone abutments of the former bridge were left in place.

Except for the new bridge and a scattering of new houses south of the main intersection along Route 665 (not included in the historic district), Taylorstown has suffered few modern intrusions. The historic buildings, and the scenic open spaces between them, form a picturesque, visually cohesive unit.

CCL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

JAN 20 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET #4

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

SIGNIFICANCE

as Foxton is a quaint example of Loudoun's early vernacular. Likewise, the ca. 1800 town store, although much altered, is a rare example of village commercial architecture of its period and an important element in the mill complex. The 1904 Mann's Store is an interesting specimen of early concrete construction with decorative surface treatment. The Mann and Rollins houses are both typical and well-preserved examples of late-Victorian vernacular dwellings. Their white walls and fancy sawn-work porches add a festive note to the now sleepy village. Intertwined among all these buildings are well-tended, old-fashioned landscaped yards which, with the beautiful pastoral scenery surrounding the community, contribute to make Taylorstown a rural historic district of exceptional visual quality.

CCL