

Waterford National Historic Landmark District Survey and Documentation Project Research Design

Waterford NHL District Survey & National Historic Landmark Documentation Project

Prepared by the Center for Historic Architecture and Design for the National Park Service, National Capital Region, National Historic Landmarks Program

March 4 2019

Note: This research design is an early stage estimate of timelines and work plans. Details may be subject to change in response to project needs or unforeseen obstacles.

Objectives: This project will provide updated documentation for the National Historic Landmark district in Waterford, Virginia. Objectives for the project include the survey/resurvey all properties within the district boundaries, which includes approximately 180 parcels. The field survey will record key architectural data and landscape elements, and will also assess each property's current condition, evaluate their contributing vs. noncontributing status to the NHL district, and note what historic trends and themes are reflected by the resources surveyed. Field survey will thus provide a baseline of updated data for properties within the district, while also informing the compilation of an updated nomination form for the National Historic Landmark, containing updated historical context and a clarified national significance statement. The intent is to update the NHL documentation to meet current NPS standards.

Methodology: The project will encompass three distinct phases, including research/preparation, field survey, and the authoring and compiling of the NHL nomination. The project will initiate with start-up and kickoff meetings with stakeholders and participants, including representatives from the National Park Service, Virginia Department of Historic Resources (SHPO), Loudoun County, and the Waterford Foundation, as well as property owners in Waterford. Concurrently, initial data on Waterford's history and its historic resources will be compiled and evaluated in preparation for the field survey and the creation of updated NHL documentation.

The field survey, which will commence in December, will include a reconnaissance-level survey (based on Virginia Department of Historic Resources standards) of each property that is located within the boundaries of the Waterford Historic District. Data collected will include key architectural features, including architectural style, building form, and materials, as well as any outbuildings and/or notable landscape features. Photographic documentation will also be completed for each property. Data collected will be submitted to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources via the VCRIS system and in hard copy.

Field data will be combined with historical research, including written histories, preservation-related reports, maps, and available primary sources, to update the nomination form for Waterford's National Historic Landmark district. This will include an expanded discussion of the nationally-significant portions of Waterford's history, and clarification on its eligibility as a National Historic Landmark.

Potential Areas & Periods of Significance:

Criterion 4: Category: Architecture (c.1733-c. 1900)

Waterford represents a highly significant survival of a comprehensive architectural landscape, encompassing over 150 years of intact buildings, displaying a remarkable array of time periods, styles, materials, forms, scale, and types. This architectural diversity, and the integrity of the collection of buildings and their surrounding rural landscape, set the stage for a remarkable preservation effort beginning during the 1930s.

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Criterion 1: Category: Conservation (Historic Preservation: c.1936-c.1990s?)

Waterford represents a one-of-a-kind historic landscape because of an extraordinary and progressive local preservation movement that began during the first half of the twentieth century. This period started with the Chamberlin brothers' restoration efforts in Waterford during the late-1930s, and continued with the subsequent founding of the Waterford Foundation in 1943. A series of innovative preservation efforts throughout the twentieth century resulted in a preserved villagescape of unmatched integrity.

Criterion 1: Category: Ethnic Heritage (1733-1870)

This seems like the least viable of the potential national Areas of Significance (if we are arguing for exceptional national significance, with comparative justification), but we will continue to explore Waterford's unique history as a settlement dominated by southeastern Pennsylvanians, especially Quakers, as well as African Americans, contributing to a unique cultural, social, and architectural landscape in Virginia. More than likely, however, this history will be merged with the discussion of the diversity of architectural expression in Waterford (Criterion 4).

PRODUCT	DETAILED DESCRIPTION	DUE
Startup meeting	Joint start-up meeting with NPS, CHAD, Waterford Foundation, Loudoun County, Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR).	October 29, 2018
Public Meeting	Joint public meeting with NPS, CHAD, Waterford Foundation, Loudoun County, Virginia Department of Historic Resources to update the residents about the amended NHL district nomination process.	November 14, 2018
Research Design	Draft research design to include objectives, methodology, and areas and periods of significance.	October, 2018
Research Design Review	Review the comments on the draft research design.	December, 2018

Waterford National Historic Landmark District Survey and Documentation Project Research Design

PRODUCT	DETAILED DESCRIPTION	DUE
Architectural Field Survey	Project team will travel to Waterford, VA in December to begin the survey process. The team will take updated photographs, as well as update the architectural survey record (meeting VDHR's standards).	Begin in December 2018, completed January 2019
Progress Meeting	Conference call meeting between NPS and CHAD staff (and potentially other relevant members of the larger team) to discuss the outcomes of the architectural field survey. We will send a notice to the Waterford Foundation (WF) and other identified partners briefly updating them on the status of work.	February 19, 2019
Meet with VDHR Staff	Possible separate meeting / call to discuss with VDHR staff how to use VCRIS.	February 2019
Data Entry into VCRIS	After the field survey is complete, CHAD staff and students will begin inputting architectural survey data into VCRIS.	March 2019
Historic Research- Town History	Develop town history based on secondary sources already compiled.	Begin March 2019 Completed April 15, 2019 30-day NPS review of Draft
Working Outline of Nomination	Develop a working outline that identifies major areas of significance as well as period of significance. Will discuss outline during Progress Update meeting.	April 16, 2019
Historic Research- Context Development	After completing the architectural survey and the development of the town history, CHAD staff will begin to develop appropriate historic contexts for the amended NHL nomination (possible areas include town planning, industry, social development, and the historic preservation movement in the 20 th century). Concurrently, CHAD staff will research significant individual properties as well as persons in Waterford, Va.	Begin Mid-February 2019 Progress Update April 16, 2019 Completed July 2019 30-day NPS review of draft
Historic Resource Inventory	Draft historic resource inventory (Section 7) including the name of the property, location, address, dates of construction, any known alterations, style, original	March 2019

Waterford National Historic Landmark District Survey and Documentation Project Research Design

PRODUCT	DETAILED DESCRIPTION	DUE
	function, current function, status (contributing or noncontributing), and brief description of the property.	Completed August 31, 2019 NPS/VDHR review period – 30 days
Progress Meeting	Conference call meeting between NPS and CHAD staff (and potentially other relevant members of the larger team) to discuss the data entry into VCRIS, historic context development, and the drafting of the historic resource inventory. We will send a notice to the Waterford Foundation (WF) and other identified partners briefly updating them on the status of work. Copy other partners including NPS, VDHR, and Loudoun County on these status updates.	April 16, 2019
Draft Description	Draft physical description of the NHL district boundaries	Completed November 30, 2019 NPS 30-day review
Draft Statement of Significance	Draft Statement of Significance using NPS NHL Thematic Frameworks to define national contexts. Suggested national themes to consider include, XVI. Architecture (A. Federal, and perhaps others), XXX. American Ways of Life (C. Industrial Towns, and perhaps others), XXXI. Social and Humanitarian Movements (A. related to the Quaker roots, and other movements like abolition), XXXIII Historic Preservation (B. Regional Efforts: the South), and any other relevant national themes related to the criterion identified above that are identified during the historic research/context development phase of the project.	Completed November 30, 2019 NPS 30-day review
GIS Mapping	Produce required NHL mapping of the district, including the NHL district boundary, property lines, addresses, relevant natural features (waterways, topography), modern aerials, and status of each property (contributing or noncontributing).	Completed August 31, 2019
Submit Draft Nomination	Submit Draft nomination to NPS, VDHR, Loudoun County and the Waterford Foundation (including maps, photographs, and figures).	November 30, 2019

Waterford National Historic Landmark District Survey and Documentation Project Research Design

PRODUCT	DETAILED DESCRIPTION	DUE
Progress Meeting	Conference call / in-person meeting to discuss draft nomination (CHAD, NPS, VDHR, Loudoun County, and the Waterford Foundation). We will send a notice to the Waterford Foundation (WF) and other identified partners briefly updating them on the status of work.	December 4, 2019
Edit Nomination	After the comments have been received from the entire project team, CHAD will edit the nomination.	No later than 45 days after receipt of comments electronically
Final Submission	Prepare final nomination in consultation with NPS staff.	Date TBD / Early 2020
Public Presentation	Present the findings and final nomination to the community of Waterford, VA.	Date TBD