

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>ca. 1953</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Buckland Historic District is located in the small, rural, residential village of Buckland, the first inland town established in Prince William County, Virginia. The district centers on a traditional mill site that has been used for three different mills since the 1790s, including the present one constructed ca. 1899, along with an associated cluster of buildings on the mill road and the old Alexandria-Warrenton Turnpike (now Lee Highway, U.S. Rte. 29/211). It contains approximately 19.6 acres and is bounded on the east by Broad Run, a major tributary of the Occoquan River. The predominant architectural character of the area is early to late 19th-century vernacular, with relatively few unobtrusive modern additions and alterations, except for the modern highway U.S. 29/211. Besides the mill, the most significant buildings include an early 19th-century wagon tavern and a small church (ca. 1857). Most of the other buildings originally served combined commercial and residential purposes. Altogether, the district contains 19 buildings: 15 contributing and four noncontributing. There is also one contributing site, the early churchyard cemetery containing graves of several persons prominent in the history of the church and the community. Most of the contributing buildings are in good to excellent condition; only two are deteriorated, and one of these is currently being renovated.

### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The Buckland Historic District stretches approximately .2 mile along Route 684 (Buckland Mill Road) north of Lee Highway (U.S. Route 29/211) and .1 mile along Rte. 684 south of the highway. The district is primarily linear in form and includes only that portion of the village with a significant concentration of early buildings. For the most part the houses are small, simple, 19th-century dwellings constructed of log, frame or stone; most were intended to serve a commercial as well as a residential purpose, and their architectural interest lies in their existence as part of a coherent ensemble of vernacular buildings. Now almost entirely residential in usage, the buildings nonetheless continue to reflect the traditional character of this small milling community established at the end of the 18th century on the western banks of Broad Run. Mature shade trees are interspersed with grassy lawns stretching down to the creek, creating a quiet rural setting for the well-maintained structures.

The pivotal structure in the historic district is a disused, turn-of-the-century frame grist mill, the third mill to be constructed on the same site at the north end of the district. An early 19th-century wagon tavern of stone stands at the entrance to the mill road; just across the highway is a frame and stone dwelling associated with a mid-19th-century blacksmith shop. A mid-19th century frame church a few hundred feet away on the highway is the westernmost building included in the district, which is framed on the east by Broad Run.

See Continuation Sheet #1

## 8. Significance

Period	Area of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1800 - 1930s Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Buckland Historic District is significant historically and architecturally as a representative of the small, mill-oriented communities that characterized much of the Virginia Piedmont from the late 18th through the 19th centuries. Chartered by the Virginia legislature in 1798, Buckland was the first inland town established in Prince William County. It was an important wagon stop on the main east-west road between the port town of Alexandria and the territory beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains, and it was once called "the Lowell of Prince William County" because of its thriving water-powered woolen mill. The present turn-of-the-century grist mill is believed to be the third mill constructed on this site. In addition to the mill, the historic district contains a dozen small, vernacular buildings, dating from the early to the late 19th century. They have sustained relatively few unobtrusive modern alterations or additions. Although their present use is almost entirely residential, the houses were originally intended to serve a combination of residential and varied commercial purposes supporting the mill community. Noted since its inception for the beauty of its wooded location on Broad Run, within site of Bull Run Mountain, Buckland retains an exceptional degree of architectural and scenic integrity despite a nearby modern divided highway. Although there are two other extant mills with some associated buildings remaining in Prince William County, the mill and village at Buckland present an unusually complete suggestion of its original character and appearance.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The town of Buckland was chartered in 1798 by an act of the Virginia General Assembly.

In a petition presented to the House of Delegates in December 1797 John Love had requested that

"a Law be enacted for the purpose of establishing a Town on the lands of John Love in Prince William County on Broad Run, a Branch of the Occoquan River, near said Love's Mill, agreeable to the plan of a Town herewith presented, and subject to the usual regulations, which Town we pray may be called Buck Land."