



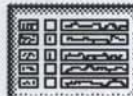
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Virginia Historical Inventory: CATALOG CARD

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RECORD NO.	VHIR/22/0649
REPORTER	Morton, Susan R.
TITLE	Cottage Tavern site : survey report, 1937 July 21 / research made by Susan Rogers Morton. 4 leaves.
NOTE	Map location number: PW211
NOTE	Class: Site and cemetery
NOTE	Building date: Late 1700's
NOTE	Building plan: Rectangular
NOTE	Building material: Log, weatherboarded
NOTE	Location: 5 miles from Occoquan on Rt. 638.
NOTE	Primary owners: Rufus Davis, George Tansill, Oscar Chinn
NOTE	The place stopped being a tavern before the Civil War and the owners turned to shipping instead.
NOTE	Includes description of the house, site and cemetery. The house was once on the direct road from Alexandria to Fredericksburg, but the Telegraph Road was later superceded by another. The Lynn, Moore family cemetery is nearby.
NOTE	Includes transcription of a receipt for a boat and rigging.
NOTE	Includes information from tombstone inscriptions.
NOTE	Includes abstracts of title.
OTHER FORMAT	Also available on microfilm.
ISSUING BODY	This write-up is a part of the Virginia W.P.A. Historical Inventory Project sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Commission under the direction of its Division of History.
REPRODUCTION	Computer file. Richmond, Va. : Library of Virginia, 1998. 4 image files.
SUBJECT	Cottage Tavern (Prince William County, Va.)
SUBJECT	Dwellings -- Virginia -- Prince William County.
SUBJECT	Wooden-frame buildings -- Virginia -- Prince William County.
SUBJECT	Log buildings -- Virginia -- Prince William County.
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SUBJECT	Surveys. aat.
SUBJECT	Abstracts of title -- Virginia -- Prince William County. aat.
SUBJECT	Genealogies -- Virginia -- Prince William County. aat.

SUBJECT	<u>Receipts. aat.</u>
ADDED ENTRY	<u>Chinn, Thomas, informant.</u>
ADDED ENTRY	<u>Foukels, William, Mrs., informant.</u>
ADDED ENTRY	<u>Ledman, W. E., informant.</u>
ADDED ENTRY	<u>Selecman, G. D., informant.</u>
ADDED ENTRY	<u>Virginia Historical Inventory Project.</u>
ADDED ENTRY	<u>Virginia Conservation Commission. Division of History.</u>
ADDED ENTRY	<u>United States. Works Progress Administration.</u>
LINK FIELD	<u>http://lvaimage.lib.va.us/VHI/html/22/0649.html -- ReportHome Page</u>



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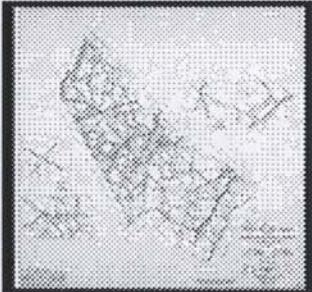
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Cottage Tavern site

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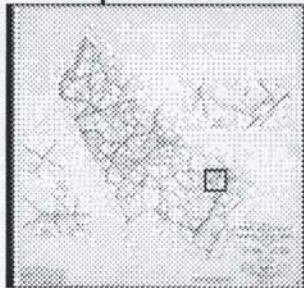
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(Prince William County - Dwellings)

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	<input type="radio"/> 2
	<input type="radio"/> 3
	<input type="radio"/> 4
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<input type="radio"/> 640x480	<input type="radio"/> 800x600

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Dwellings

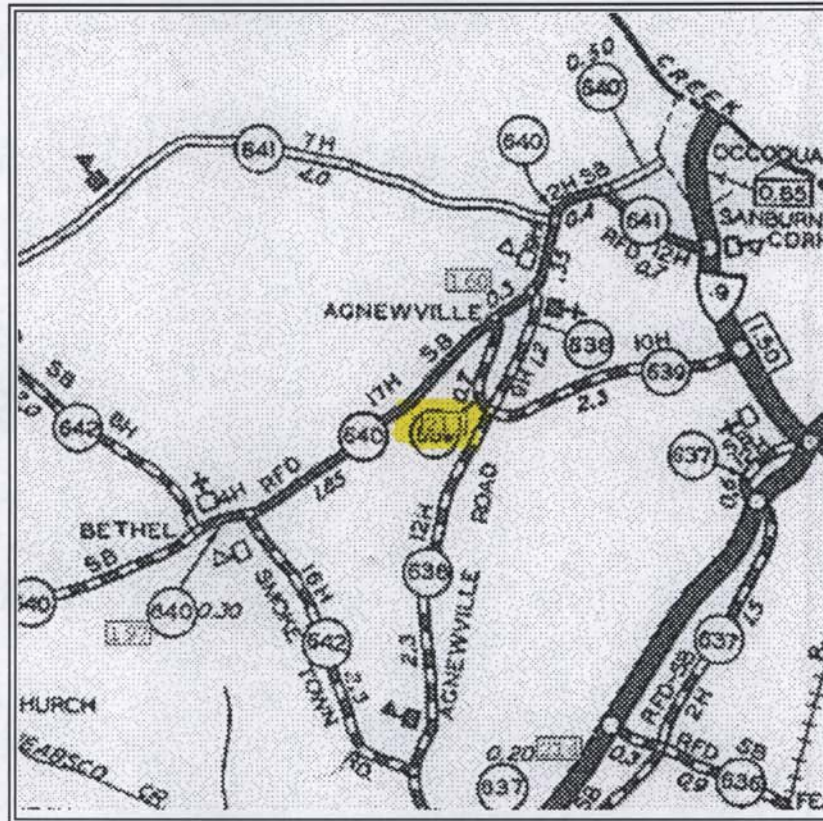
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Clicking Map Will: Recenter

211. Cottage Tavern site

<remove red squares>



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1. SUBJECT:

Cottage Tavern Site.

2. LOCATION:

North of Route #638, five miles from Occoquan, Virginia. This is the old Telegraph Road.

3. DATE:

Probably built in the latter part of the eighteenth century. It was considered a very old house seventy-five years ago, and a man recently died whose father was born there and this man himself was over eighty.

4. OWNERS:

It has been impossible to locate any of the old deeds and as the land in that section was owned by Davis and Lynn and as there are many deeds for small parcels of land close by, it is hard to determine which is the one. The only sure deed is in 1890 and recorded in Deed Book 39, folio 365. It is the transfer of "a part of Cottage Tavern tract to George W. Tansill from Rufus Davis, with $\frac{1}{4}$ acres reserved for a graveyard. Two years later Tansill cut up the tract which, so I have been told, was several hundred acres, into small parcels and the part on which the tavern stood was sold to Oscar Chinn, a colored man who lived there until his death a few years ago. This sale is recorded in Deed Book 43, folio 3. It is still owned by Oscar Chinn's heirs.

5. DESCRIPTION:

There is nothing left to tell the passer-by that there was once a place for the weary traveler to pause and refresh himself. The only part of the old landscape left are two unusually large white oaks that are near the road and that once guarded the entrance. Among the thick undergrowth are bits of the old garden, lilacs and roses. Fifty feet in from the road the foundations of the house can be found hidden in the dense tangle of shrub and vine. There is also a large open well close by the house site. Further back in the trees, are the ruins of some old log buildings and the remains of an orchard. Aside from the graveyard which is several hundred yards to the north of the house, in what are now thick woods, there is nothing left of the physical remains of the historic place. Until a few years ago the old house was partly standing and there are still some people who can give a word picture of it. It was a large house, probably of eight or ten rooms, my informant could not remember, of log construction, weatherboarded over, rectangular in form with dormers in front and porch that extended the entire length in front. There were two very large brick chimneys at the ends, and as the bricks were in excellent condition, they were sold some years ago. Taking away the chimneys caused the house to collapse and finally the wood was gradually carried away.

6. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

If there are any outstanding historical events connected with this site there seems to be no way of connecting them today. When the new highway was put through the road bed was changed at Neabsco, going south of the original road that is still known as the Telegraph Road, but it once was the direct way from Alexandria to Fredericksburg and beyond, and it was on this road that the mail was carried. It was known as the Post Road before it became known as the Telegraph Road. Therefore, this was a likely site for ordinaries, and this one is said to have done a large business. There have doubtless been many personages of note in the history of the country who have sought its hospitality. As this was only five miles from Occquan, where there was a brisk trade carried on with foreign ports, and also on the road that led from the court house for people going north from Dumfries, it probably was a busy spot in the past.

A neighbor told me that several years ago a large tree was felled in the yard, which had embedded several inches into the wood, iron rings that had evidently been used as hitching rings for the patro who came on horseback.

The following item I found in an old court record at the court house. Seymore Lynn was one of the owners and the original Tansill farm was in the neighborhood. This would indicate that after the tavern was discontinued, which was some years before the War Between the States according to local tradition, that the family interests were in shipping.

"Seymore Lynn borrowed nine hundred dollars from Samuel Tansill on a long boat named "Whig of Alexandria", together with the sails and riggings, also long boat named "Andrew Jackson", also seven hundred cords of wood, cut and stored."

The old graveyard is surrounded by an iron fence but there are many stones that are outside of the enclosure and others, both in and out that have no inscription, and from the appearance of the stones, they are the oldest. The inscriptions that I could make out follow. The whole place is ankle deep in periwinkle and a profusion of ancient box almost hide many of the graves.

"Julia F. Lynn, wife of R. G. Davis, died November 7th., 1850, aged 70 years."

"Maud A. Moore, died Sept. 27th., 1881, 7 mo., 7 days."

"Edwin Moore, Feb. 1837, ---Aug. 1916. Near My God to Thee."

"In memory of my Beloved wife, May M. Moore, born Sept. 22, 1840, died January 4th., 1882."

"James L. Moore, died November 4th., 1865, aged 1 yr. 11 months."

"John E. Moore, died February 3d, 1880, aged 3 yrs. 3 months."

"Sterling Moore, died Sept. 15th., 1879, aged 8 months, 9 days."

7. ART:

8. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Informants: Mr. G. D. Selceman of Occoquan, Virginia.
Mr. W. E. Ledman, Manassas, Virginia.
"Uncle" Thomas Chinn, Agnyville, Virginia.
Mrs. William Foukels, Bethal, Virginia.

Court Records, Prince William County, Virginia.