

Substantive Review

VLR: 2-17-93  
NRAP: WITHDRAWN

OMB No. 1024-0018  
Exp. 10-31-84

Determined  
not eligible

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received APR 30 1986

date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Substantive Review

1. Name

historic Old Michie's Tavern

and or common Michie Tavern (preferred)

(DHL File # 02-93)

2. Location

street & number Rural Virginia Route 6, Box 7-A (State Route 53)

N/A not for publication

city, town Charlottesville

X vicinity of

state Virginia

code 51

county Albemarle

code 003

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Restaurant

4. Owner of Property

name M. Joseph Conte

street & number Rural Virginia Route 6, Box 7-A

city, town Charlottesville

N/A vicinity of

state Virginia 22901

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of County Clerk, Albemarle County Courthouse

street & number 1413 East High Street

city, town Charlottesville

state Virginia 22901

6. Representation in Existing Surveys See continuation sheet #6)

title HABS I has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1967  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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	date <u>October 1927-January 1928</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Michie Tavern is located on State Highway 53 in Albemarle County, Virginia, approximately 0.5 miles east of the City of Charlottesville, and faces north. The tavern was moved in October 1927 from its original location on Buck Mountain Road to its new site approximately 17 miles away. The pieces of the structure were marked, the building was totally dismantled and moved to the new site, and its reconstruction was completed in January 1928. The main section of the tavern is an eighteenth century (circa 1772-73), two story wood structure with a hall-parlor plan. It has a full basement, a one story shed-like projection to the south, and a one-and-a-half story dormered wing to the east. The tavern is constructed with stone foundations, stone and brick chimneys, and a wood shingle roof. The wing of the main section is joined on the east end, via an enclosed passage, to a single pen log structure, which was brought to the site in 1927. The log pen replaces a late nineteenth-early twentieth century one story shed-like addition that was not moved to the new site. Also, during the original reconstruction, an unattached one story single pen log structure was located approximately thirty feet west of the main section of the tavern. In 1969 the two structures were physically joined when a one-and-a-half story dormered frame structure was built between them. The log pen was enlarged in 1979 with a one story frame structure on the south side (rear). The nominated property includes the tavern and its immediate surroundings. No other buildings are included in this nomination.

### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The main section is a two story, single pen structure, three bays wide with a hall-parlor plan. It measures approximately 28 feet wide by 45 feet long. A wood shingled, gabled roof extends in the front to create a low profiled upper level of a two story porch. The porch is supported by five square columns, creating four equal bays. The columns have chamfered corners which end in lamb's tongue carvings at top and bottom. A balustrade with wooden pickets spans each bay and the ends on the second story. At the ground floor it spans the three bays to the right of the entry, and fills the west end of the porch. Photographs taken in the 1930's show a stair connecting the west end of the porch to the ground, but this was removed when a one-and-a-half story infill section was added in the late 1970's. Early photographs, circa 1920, of the tavern at its original site show a long, backless wooden bench on the front porch which was brought with the building to the present site. The bench has been restored and has been displayed on the porch since 1928. At the time the photographs were taken, the balustrade on the upper level was not visible and may have been removed by then. Because the original site was level in front of the tavern, it is unlikely that a balustrade ever existed on the lower level. The present balustrade is a twentieth century addition. The tavern is approached by way of a brick-paved walkway of elongated steps which curves upward from the present day parking lot to the front door of the tavern. The large stepping stones from the original site were installed in the same position when the tavern was reconstructed.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet #15

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre  
Quadrangle name Charlottesville East, Virginia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	7	7	2	2	6	6	0	4	2	0	9	5	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet #17

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title H. Christopher Slusher, Project Manager and Consultant

organization DePasquale & Associates

date March 1986 / Revised Sept. 1986

street & number Post Office Box 621 - Slusher  
507 East Main Street - DePasquale

telephone Slusher - 817/334-2061  
DePasquale - 804/649-2192

city or town Forth Worth - Slusher  
Richmond - DePasquale

state Texas 76101 - Slusher  
Virginia 23219 - DePasquale

# 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

H. Bryan Mitchell, Director  
title Division of Historic Landmarks

date April 15, 1986

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas 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/		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

PRESERVATION HISTORY

Specific dates CA. 1772-73, 1927-28 Builder/Architect Unknown

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Michie Tavern is a surviving physical statement of the attitudes of the preservation movement in the early part of the twentieth century. The removal from the original site, relocation and transformation of the tavern into a museum by Mrs. Mark Henderson were representative at the local level of preservation activities that were occurring across the state and nation during the 1920's. Mrs. Henderson's decision to move the deteriorating and remotely located home of a colonial figure from the Revolutionary War period speaks of the prevailing influence in preservation thought at that time. As a collector of colonial antiques for fifteen years and an astute entrepreneur, she moved the tavern in 1927-28 from its site on Buck Mountain Road in Albemarle County to the foot of Carter's Mountain on Route 53, just a quarter of a mile from Monticello to capitalize on the busy tourist trade that was developing around Monticello and other homes of colonial heroes in the Area.

Michie Tavern is the only surviving structure in Virginia associated with William Michie, an important figure in Albemarle County during the Revolutionary War period. It was built as a residence (circa 1772-1773) and later expanded and converted primarily to tavern use in the 1780's. With its expansive porches, specialized taproom for dispensing alcoholic beverages and formal ballroom for public and social gatherings, it is representative of a vernacular architecture typically associated with early taverns in Albemarle County.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

William Michie, son of John Michie was borne c. 1749. John Michie wrote his will in 1772 (copies are extant), and he died in 1777. The will provides a possible connection between young William and the tavern, in that it states that William and his brothers, James and Patrick, had made "considerable improvements" (i.e. buildings) to lands owned by their father, and that these improvements or the monetary value of them belonged to the sons:

"...And whereas my sons James Michie and Patrick Michie and William Michie have made considerable improvements on the lands they now occupy which lands are fore devised, I declare it to be my will that such improvements shall not be considered as any part of my estate but that on the division of the said land they shall be valued and the value thereof paid to such of my sons James Michie, Patrick Michie and William Michie, as made the said improvements respectively by the person, into whose lot the said improvements shall fall...."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7

Page 1

For NPS use only

received APR 30 1985

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The facade of the main two story building has three bays, but is asymmetrical on the second level. Here, three regularly spaced windows with nine over six lights are interrupted by a six panel door with a four light transom. This door falls between the middle and the west window. Below, on the main floor, the door to the entry hall, also with a four light transom, is in the east bay, with two nine over nine light windows in the other two bays. Below the porch on the west side is the entrance to the cellar, with walls laid up in stone and mortar, and whitewashed throughout. In the wall on the east side of the entrance, a small wooden door with wrought iron strap hinges covers a recess once interpreted as a milk cupboard (now used as a mailbox).

The two story section has a fully exposed brick chimney laid in Flemish bond on the west end. The front facade is sheathed in thinly beaded shiplap siding, while the remainder of the siding is lapped weatherboarding. The upper and lower ceilings of the porches are also clad in the beaded flush boards. Wooden shutters with fixed louvers appear only on the front windows of the ground floor. Two small four over two light, double hung windows in the east gable end and one in the west end give light and ventilation to the attic space, which once served as sleeping rooms for travellers at the tavern.

The rear roof of the main structure breaks at the wall line and extends backward to cover a shed-like addition. This room, called the keeping hall, was part of the original structure, but was changed somewhat during its reconstruction. According to oral histories, the chimney was originally at the west end of this addition.<sup>1</sup> However, it was reconstructed in the middle of the south (rear) outside wall in the form of a large cooking fireplace.

The wing to the east is a three bay, one-and-a-half story structure, with a one story shed-like roof running across the front, forming a porch. It measures approximately 30 feet wide by 45 feet long. Two front dormers and one rear dormer with six over six lights appear to have been added at the time of the reconstruction. In an oral history given in July 1984, Mrs. Anna F. Bailey, who lived in the tavern as a child, described the room over the wing as the "dark room" with no sources of natural light. Her family used it as a root cellar, keeping canned goods and tuberous vegetables in it, secure from the light. However, Mrs. Bailey said her father had re-roofed the tavern soon after their moving into the structure, and she felt that he had removed the dormers which were in deteriorated condition prior to the reroofing. (Mrs. Bailey has also stated that the tavern was in an overall state of advanced deterioration when they moved into it). A reference in a 1928 newspaper article to "The houses with the dormers and balconies, porches and stone chimneys...." suggests they were reconstructed at the time of the move, since no other dormers appear on the building, except those on the infill section that was constructed in the winter of 1969.<sup>2</sup> The dormers have flush siding that runs diagonally with the pitch of the roof.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #2

Item number 7

Page 2

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APR 30 1982

date entered

A photograph recently discovered in the Alderman Library at the University of Virginia shows a rear view of the east wing of the structure prior to the move.<sup>3</sup> The photograph is taken at the rear of the one-and-a-half story east wing looking toward the two story section. From the photograph it is evident this wing was shortened during the reconstruction. It appears the wing was removed east of the chimney in the photo. The square chimney stack is laid in common bond with a plan two course, corbelled cap. The entire stack projects through the north slope of the roof adjacent to the ridge line. Two nine over six windows and a small rectangular window in the gable occupy the narrow east end wall. The end of a shed roof porch along the north wall is evident in the photograph, with the weatherboard of the east wall of the building extending onto the porch forming an enclosed end wall. The wing is supported on a rubble stone foundation.

The wing east of the present stone chimney is apparently that portion which was not moved to the site and was instead replaced by the present log structure.

The most important feature of the wing is the small, enclosed bar, or tap room, at the east end of the porch. The bar is built under the porch roof, with its floor level with that of the porch, which is two steps down from the main floor of the house. The bar is sheathed outside with boards similar to the shiplap siding found on the front of the main two story section. This siding also continues across the front of the one-and-a-half story wing. Inside, the walls are plastered and have shelving on three sides. There are openings to all four sides. A small six light casement window with shutters is on the north facade. An even smaller opening with a solid wooden shutter on the east end allowed the dispensing of spirits to the rear of the building. A wide, drop leaf door with large metal strap hinges on the west side provides access from the porch, while a dutch door services the inside room. A large, fully exposed, coursed stone chimney is at the east end of the wing. A covered passageway between the wing and the adjoining log pen encloses the chimney below the stack. Because the site slopes uphill behind the structure (rather than downhill, as the original site), a paved L-shaped walkway exists at the rear (on the south side) between the wing and the keeping hall, instead of the rough, uncovered wooden porch which was described by Mrs. Bailey as existing prior to the move.

Continuing the roofline to the east is an approximately 16 feet square, single pen log structure with a stone chimney. The log structure has a wood shingle roof, and is trimmed with plain rectangular corner boards and reverse scalloped eave and gable end boards. A small porch covers the battened entry door into a passageway, where entry into the pen is gained off the passage through a door with cross battens. The log structure was moved to the site in 1927 along with the tavern. In the late 1960's, a metal spiral stair for access to the second floor of the log section was installed in the passageway and replaced the earlier wooden stair.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

APR 30 1971

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #3

Item number 7

Page 3

The log structure approximately 30 feet west of the original tavern was also moved to the site at the time of the reconstruction. It is not known whether this log building, or the other one previously discussed, belonged to the original site. This building, also a single pen and approximately 16 feet by 32 feet, was initially interpreted as detached slave quarters.

In 1969, this building was converted to a dining room for a restaurant and has been used as such ever since. Similar to the log structure on the east end, it also has reverse scalloped eave and gable end boards, fixed louver shutters with six over six light windows, and a single, large stone chimney at the west end. Entry at the front is gained through a door on the east side. This structure was enlarged by modern additions as the restaurant operation grew, but these additions remain, for the most part, up the hill behind the structure, hidden from view. They consist of a shed-like frame addition that houses the kitchen, and a single story frame structure that is used for dining.

Also in 1969, when the dining facility was being established, the log pen was physically connected to the main structure when a one-and-a-half story wood frame infill building with dormers was added to house additional dining, with office facilities on the second floor. The style of this building recalls that of the adjacent, historic structures, incorporating historic molding profiles and other architectural elements, such as dormers, multi-paned windows, and multi-paneled doors, which are found in those buildings. While this structure was built adjoining the tavern, it does not provide access from the restaurant to the historic structure.

The interior of the tavern has remained much the same since it was reconstructed in 1928. Throughout are wide, random width pine floorboards and roughly textured plastered walls and ceilings. In all rooms the paint colors remain faithful to the 1928 color scheme, especially the woodwork, which is painted with "antiqued" paint colors.

The entrance into the side hall is through the door in the left bay. The door has six raised, rectangular panels, and has a box lock. The door and four light transom above appear to be identical to those shown in the early photographs of the building prior to the move. The hallway is rectangular, running the full depth of the building. At the rear left corner, a stair with winders to the second floor is partially enclosed above the winders and has a raised panel wainscot along the outside walls. The wainscot is punctuated at the top and bottom of each run with engaged, rectangular newels that have fluting and simple, moulded caps. A balustrade of turned, wooden balusters and newels is along the open, inside corner and extends up the stair to the second floor. The paneled wainscot, capped with a simple, moulded chair rail, continues throughout the hallway. Four raised panel doors similar to the entry door lead to other rooms off the hall: one through the partition wall leads to the west parlor, one on the left wall leads to a room in the east wing, one to the



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #4

Item number 7

Page 4

For NPS use only

received

date entered

APR 30 1982

right of the stair on the rear wall leads to the keeping hall, and one under the stair leads to the cellar. The mouldings at doorways are made up of a plaster moulding with a fillet, ovolo, and fillet, which is attached to a wide, beaded board. Hardware on doors include H-L hinges, and wrought iron latches and pulls with elaborate escutchions.

The parlor to the right of the entry hall is two bays wide with a fireplace at the west gable end. Windows with nine over nine lights flank the fireplace on each side. The woodwork in the room is Federal, dating from c. 1790-1820. The mantel has elaborate gouged detailing, and a simple bead surround. The firebox opening is flanked by fluted pilasters with beaded edges. The flutes terminate at the top with gouged circles. The frieze is fluted in the same manner as the pilasters. Blocks with a scotia-like profile extend the pilasters up through the frieze. The entablature rests on a moulding made up of a cavetto, bead, fillet, bead and fillet. A series of mouldings make up a bed moulding above; a small fillet, bead, and cyma are surmounted by two alternating rows of dentils, which are decorated with gouges on the sides, and a circle in the center of each. The fillet, and bead are repeated in larger form under the projecting mantel shelf. The plane of the shelf above breaks forward at each end, presenting the appearance of high, flared capitals. The shelf moulding is another fillet and bead surmounted by a cyma, and topped by a wide fillet. A fluted tablet is in the center of the frieze. The shelf above breaks forward to articulate the decoration. Raised panel wainscoting extends from the floor up to the windows, where it is capped by the chair rail, which also becomes the window sill. The rail is made up of a single row of gouged dentils, surmounted by a series of moulded profiles. Window and door surrounds have cyma reversa mouldings on a wide beaded board. A beaded picture rail extends around the room and is broken above the mantel. The two windows on the front wall have shouldered surrounds above the picture rail.

The keeping hall is located at the rear of the entry hall and the west parlor and is a long, rectangular room. The fireplace that originally was located at the west end of the room was rebuilt as a cooking fireplace in the middle of the back, or south, wall. A pair of double hung windows was installed in the wall where the original fireplace was located. Small four over two light windows flank the cooking fireplace on each side. The east end wall contains a large, six panel door with a four light transom above, which leads to the exterior. Beaded rafters and collars are exposed in the ceiling above, but the interstices are recessed and filled with plaster. The breast timbers around the brick fireplace are exposed and span some 15 feet in length. Wainscoting around the room is made up of wide (12"+), beaded, horizontal boards, capped with a flat piece of wood with a grooved edge. Board shelving with curved wooden brackets, and built-in cupboards with raised panel doors, H Hinges and wooden knobs, exhibit a large collection of colonial artifacts dealing with the preparation and serving of food and drink.

(See Continuation Sheet #5)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #5

Item number 7

Page 5

For NPS use only

received

date entered

APR 30 1988

The room to the east of the entry hall is rectangular, with a fireplace at the east gable end. Two nine over six light windows are located in the north and south walls. The photograph of the rear of this wing indicates the easternmost window in the south wall was a door opening prior to the move and reconstruction. A door at the end of the north wall opens to the barroom built onto the front porch outside. The door appears to be a later addition, originally having two long, vertical panels with Greek Revival mouldings. The door was cut in half to create a dutch door, with a new bottom rail spliced onto the upper portion. A shelf is attached to the lower portion, and the door carries a thumb latch and H-L hinges. A door to the right of the fireplace in the east wall opens to the covered passageway at the log structure on the east end of the complex. The door is six panelled with H-L hinges and a box lock. Door and window surrounds are made up of a fillet, ovolo, and fillet on a wide beaded board.

The fireplace mantel has a moulded surround around the firebox. Above each side of the surround, the frieze has a plain block, topped with a moulding of a fillet, bead and cavetto. The bed moulding below the shelf is comprised of a double fillet, bead, fillet, ovolo, and fillet. The shelf projects slightly, with its plane broken forward over the blocks in the frieze. The room has wainscoting similar to that of the keeping hall, except for a simple, moulded chair rail. A beaded picture rail runs along the front and rear walls. The beaded ceiling joists are exposed, although faint plaster marks show that they were once covered, and the interstices are recessed and have plaster infill.

At the top of the stairs on the second floor, a balustrade of turned balusters and a handrail, and a turned newel serve as a screen to the ballroom, which is located over the west parlor below. According to Mrs. Bailey's oral history, the stair was originally enclosed on the first and second floors, and the wall extended at the top of the stair toward the north wall as a partition wall to enclose the landing. A door through the partition led into the ballroom. Once inside the ballroom, the stair then continued to the attic with an identical run, with winders, but was open, with a balustrade. This balustrade is probably the same one we now see relocated one story below, in place of the partition wall. A built-in cupboard on the landing at the top of the stair contains a folding rope bed, an early version of the Murphy bed, but is not original to the tavern. The bedding has since been removed, but the rope and wood frame remain. The ballroom is a long, rectangular room with a fireplace at the west gable end. The woodwork is a mixture of styles, some of indeterminate period, but predominately Federal. Three nine over six light windows are spaced evenly across the front wall. A six panel door with a four light transom gives access to the second story porch. The door has H-L hinges and a box lock. Two casement windows with 15 lights flank the fireplace on each side. The mouldings on the surrounds of these windows are a fillet, ovolo, and fillet on a wide board, and do not match that of the three windows and door on the north wall, which are fillet, cyma, and fillet on double layers of wide beaded boards. The latter appear to be earlier in date.

(See Continuation Sheet #6)



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received **APR 30 1988**

date entered

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA  
Continuation sheet #6

Item number 7, 6

Page 6, 1

The mantel is similar to that of the parlor below. Fluted pilasters flank the firebox on each side and are capped with double bands of bead and wide fillet. These are topped with a cyma reversa and wide fillet. The fluted frieze of the entablature terminates at each end with blocks which have a cavetto-like profile. A bed mould made up of a small cyma reversa and fillet is surmounted by a gouged Greek fret and followed by a fillet and cyma reversa. The shelf is moulded at the edges with a fillet, astragal with alternating sections of ganged beads and a bead run, cyma recta, and fillet. A rough, square edged board caps the original shelf and appears to be a later addition. A raised panel wainscoting is topped by a projecting plain fillet. A beaded picture rail is broken at the west gable end wall over the fireplace. Two niches with shelving in the south wall above the chair rail are each fitted with two raised panel doors. The top panel of each door has a round head, while the bottom panel is rectangular. The doors have pintel hinges and wooden knobs. The surrounds are shouldered, and have a plaster mould similar to that on the openings in the north wall. A fluted frieze surmounts the surround, followed by cornice mouldings of a cyma and a row of dentils with small gouged circles above the interstices, capped with a large cavetto which touches the ceiling.

The east wall of the ballroom shows a recessed triangular outlined of the roof-line of the one-and-a-half story wing beyond. The door at the landing leads into the room under the roofline, with two dormers on the north side and one on the south. As noted earlier, these do not appear to be original to the structure. They may have been built within framed openings for dormers that were removed due to deterioration and covered with roofing. The walls, ceiling, and dormer alcoves are plastered, with a plain rectangular baseboard as the only woodwork. The fireplace at the east gable end has been closed and the mantel and hearth removed.

The interiors of the two adjoining log structures, as well as that of the late 1970's one-and-a-half story connector, are principally twentieth century constructions, are utilitarian in nature, and are not significant to the historical integrity of the tavern. In 1969, a metal spiral stair for access to the second floor of the east log pen was installed in the covered passageway. The east log pen is now the private office of the current owner, and the restaurant and museum administrative offices have been moved to the newer one-and-a-half story connector immediately west of the main two story section.

The cellar of the two story section presently has a gift shop in the front, under the porch and parlor. A room under the stair hall was constructed in 1969 to hold wooden barrels and other artifacts associated with the storing and dispensing of alcoholic beverages.

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

(2) Division of Historic Landmarks Survey File # 02-93

1968 State  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(See Continuation Sheet #7)





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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received APR 30 1982  
date entered

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA  
Continuation sheet #7

Item number 7

Page 7

FOOTNOTES

1

Davis, Bernice "Remembrances of Michie's Old Tavern," typed, unpublished copy of an oral history given after 1945 by B. Davis, in the collection of papers on the tavern at the Albemarle County Historical Society, Charlottesville, Virginia; and from information given by Mrs. Anna Francis Bailey, Charlottesville, Virginia, in an oral interview conducted by Cynthia M. Conte and H. Christopher Slusher, July 1984, in Charlottesville, Virginia.

2

"Michie Tavern has been moved near Monticello," Dailey Progress (Charlottesville, Virginia), January 14, 1928, pp. 1, 2 and 12.

3

Milton, Vestal Thomas, Letter to the Editor, Visit Magazine, November 1953, 12, 13.



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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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received APR 30 1986

date entered

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #8

Item number 8

Page 1

Michie Tavern was originally located on Buck Mountain Road, one of the earliest roads to be opened through the county (c. 1750). It was used extensively by local residents in their travels to the county seats of government, as well as by those moving westward through Rockfish Gap into the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.<sup>2</sup> The tavern was situated approximately 8 to 10 miles east-northeast of Whitehall along Route 665, which follows the same route as Buck Mountain Road.

It is known that William served as "Corpril" in Captain Murry's First Artillery Regiment, Virginia Continental Troops and was at winter camp in Valley Forge in 1777 and 1778, the period immediately following his father's death.<sup>3</sup> Nothing else is known of the period between 1772, the year of his father's will and 1784, the year of the license to operate the tavern. However, even though William did not receive title to the land on which his improvements stood until his father's death, he would have been able to continue improving the land as he was doing at the time of the will. The war obviously created a hiatus in this activity, and the first mention thereafter of any activity by William is in 1784. Thus, it seems reasonable to place the earliest parts of the tavern at c. 1772-1773, coinciding with the reference to "improvements" in John Michie's will. This date is speculative, but one earlier than this seems unsupported.

William Michie signed Albemarle's Declaration of Independence in 1779.<sup>4</sup> It may have been the intent of those who signed this document to help revive interest in the American Revolution at a time when local enthusiasm for the war may have been declining.

On November 11, 1784, William Michie applied for and received a license to operate an ordinary "at his house for twelve months on his giving security whereupon he with Bland Ballard entered into and acknowledged their bond agreeable to law accordingly."<sup>5</sup> It is probable that Michie enlarged and/or remodeled his home c. 1784 to accommodate the operation of the tavern, while continuing to house his family there. No further mention of Bland Ballard has been found, so it is not possible to determine whether Ballard was a partner, or was a lessee to Michie, managing the tavern without Michie's involvement.

Michie Tavern is significant as a representation of vernacular architecture associated with early taverns in Albemarle County. A comparison of the plan of Michie Tavern to drawings on eighteen Mutual Assurance Society insurance policies issued during the first quarter of the nineteenth century for taverns in Albemarle County shows that it is a typical plan for taverns of the period.<sup>6</sup> The plan is that of a basic house which, through the addition of porches, galleries and shed-like additions, was expanded to accommodate the tavern functions.

(See Continuation Sheet #9)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

APR 30 1980

received

date entered

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #9

Item number 8

Page 2

Of the fifteen historic sites identified as relating to taverns in the Albemarle County Survey and Inventory, conducted by the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, the construction of five of the taverns date from the eighteenth century. Michie Tavern is one of the five. Also, of the fifteen sites identified as taverns or inns, Michie Tavern, was the only one being used or interpreted as a tavern. In fact, many of the Buildings had either been altered and converted to residential or other use, or had been destroyed.

William Michie was magistrate of Albemarle County in 1791.<sup>8</sup> In 1803 he served as Sheriff of Albemarle.<sup>9</sup>

William and Robert Michie were two of the first Vestrymen in Fredericksville Parish shortly after its formation. This parish included most of Louisa County and the northern half of Albemarle.<sup>10</sup>

The will of William Michie (Sr.) was dated January 18, 1808 and he died in 1811. While the court order books had no mention of his operating a tavern during these later years, there is indication of continued use of the property for that purpose as late as 1820:

"In 1820 thirteen annual tavern licenses were issued by the local court...Among those securing tavern licenses were Nathaniel Burnley of Stony Point, William Brown of Warren, Meredith W. D. Jones, whose facility was entered in court records as being at Michie's place...."<sup>11</sup>

An unusual feature of the tavern, the small exterior tap room, with its ability to serve in three directions, is an important physical illustration of laws regulating the tavern industry. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, there were strict laws defining who could be served at taverns. Certain people, including blacks, Indians, servants, apprentices and seamen, were forbidden to use or frequent taverns, so that social order in the surrounding community would not be disrupted.<sup>12</sup> At times, letters of permission would allow some of those people to be served.<sup>13</sup>

Also, it was a common practice to exclude or limit service to local inhabitants. Taverns, inns and ordinaries were generally conceived as existing for "the Receipt, Relief and lodging of Travellers and Strangers, and the Refreshment of persons upon lawful business."<sup>14</sup>

However, the laws governing taverns differed from locale to locale. In the late 1600's the Massachusetts colony passed a law which licensed tavern keepers to sell liquor "out of doors" to citizens. While in Maryland laws were passed which "encouraged tavern keeping for the entertainment of all persons as well strangers as

(See Continuation Sheet #10)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #10

Item number 8

Page 3

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received

date entered

APR 30 1988

others.<sup>15</sup> On the other hand, the Moravian community, founded in 1766 in Salem, North Carolina, allowed only travellers to be served at the local tavern.<sup>16</sup>

Thus, the outside dispensing room at Michie Tavern is an unusual and important feature which allowed service to the interior bar room, to those under the protection of the long front porch, as well as to those who, for some reason, had to be served from the small, vertically sliding shutter located at the east end of the small room. It is also likely that the small shutter could have been used to pass fresh stock through to the interior of the serving room, which had no door to the exterior.

Newspaper articles written at the time of the building's removal attest to the great interest that was developing in Albemarle County for the preservation of antiquities, as well as for the creation of national shrines. The attempts to preserve and restore Jefferson's Monticello as a shrine were at the apex of the local activity in the 1920's. While most of the direction and money for the restoration came from the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, headquartered in New York City, several developing trends at the local and state level also played an important role in its success as a tourist attraction.<sup>17</sup> A survey of the Charlottesville Daily Progress from December 1926 to June 1928 shows that articles and events about preservation activities were in the paper daily or weekly. More than 65 articles on preservation, history and tourism appeared during this period.<sup>18</sup> National Geographic published another major article on Virginia in 1929, entitled "Jefferson's Little Mountain," detailing the efforts to revive national interest in Thomas Jefferson and to preserve his home as an historic shrine.<sup>19</sup>

Promotion of the state's history and heritage as a part of the new industry of tourism was also carried out at the local level. This activity formed the basis of Mrs. Henderson's decision to move Michie Tavern. From the information available through research, it is clear that Mrs. Henderson was a collector of colonial tavern antiques and artifacts.<sup>20</sup> Also, it was her stated purpose to exhibit them in an appropriate setting, i.e., an historic tavern structure, and that structure, in order to be available to the most people, should be located along a popular and well travelled road. It is a testament to Mrs. Henderson's entrepreneurial sense that she chose to relocate the tavern along the well travelled road to Monticello, which was quickly becoming one of the country's premier historic tourist attractions. Whether she intended the tavern to be more than a museum, e.g., a commercial antique shop and/or a restaurant, cannot be determined from the information presently available. Photographs from an October 1928 Times-Dispatch article indicate the tavern is presently furnished in a manner very similar to its appearance during Mrs. Henderson's ownership.

Mr. Henderson was a partner in a shirt manufacturing business in Charlottesville, and Mrs. Henderson's own family in Nashville, Tennessee was reportedly wealthy. It appears that profit from such a venture was not Mrs. Henderson's sole motive.

(See Continuation Sheet #11)





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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

APR 30 1988

date entered

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #11

Item number 8

Page 4

It is clear, however, that she recognized tourism as a major developing economic force within the county and intended to capitalize on it to serve her own interests. In moving the tavern and altering it during the reconstruction she showed the same lack of appreciation for the integrity of architecture and site of many early preservationists. By contrast, the restoration of Monticello was an early effort to instill such a respect for integrity.

The moving of Michie Tavern created quite a stir of excitement and newspapers in both Charlottesville and Richmond featured articles on the project.<sup>21</sup> Although there are written accounts of the moving of Michie Tavern which state that photographers were taken before and after the move and would be given to the Albemarle County Historical Society, research to date has located no photographs.<sup>22</sup>

Thus far, only five photographs have been found which show the tavern at the original site. Four of these photographs, are essentially portraits, centered on people, giving only cropped views of the porch at the front of the structure. While they give us little information about the original site, one shows the large flat stone at the front entrance described in Bernice Davis' oral history. This stone, was moved to the new site and placed in the same position. Another photograph only recently discovered is a rear view of the tavern, taken at the original site prior to the structure being moved. Described in the section on Architectural Analysis it indicates the alterations made to the tavern's east wing during its reconstruction.

The tavern was moved and reassembled on Route 53 at the foot of Carter's Mountain, about a quarter of a mile below Monticello, between October 1927 and January 1928. Transcripts of oral histories by persons involved in the move in 1927 are in the possession of the current owner. The interviews are from Mrs. John M. Clarke, widow of the proprietor of the firm contracted to move the structure, Messers Ed Newlan and Arthur Stubbs of Charlottesville, and Juliam Catterton of Free Union. According to these histories, the tavern parts were numbered, dismantled and moved 17 miles to the new site by horse and wagon and truck. All four attested to the accuracy and care with which the tavern was reconstructed. Newspaper accounts of the activity also credit the moved tavern as having been "...restored in all its charm and preserved to posterity. The services of a firm of Contractors, J. M. Clark and Son, were engaged and the work of marking each piece of the building and its systematic demolition was begun."<sup>23</sup>

The tavern was relocated approximately 30 feet up the hill above the heavily travelled road, Route 53, approximating its relationship to the public road a most important feature of its original site. The new site, however, reverses the lay of the land: instead of sloping to the rear, the site now slopes from the rear to the front. The tavern now faces north, overlooking Charlottesville. The stone basement was recreated, but because of the sloping site, it opens at the front of the building rather than its rear. The large stone steps were moved from the original site to the

(See Continuation Sheet #12)



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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

APR 30 1984

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #12

Item number 8

Page 5

new one, and a walkway was installed from the front of the building to the parking lot near the road. Large, mature trees were left in the front yard to simulate the catalpas that were at the original site. However, since the hillside behind the tavern is steep, structures were located at either end of tavern, rather than behind it as at the original site. A log structure was moved and attached to the east end of the tavern, to replace an addition which was not moved to the site.

Another log structure, situated at the west end of the tavern, was intended to represent slave quarters. This structure remained unattached until 1969, when a one-and-a-half story infill structure was constructed. Although this connecting structure resembles the original one-and-a-half story section on the east side of the two story section, there is no passage into the main section. These two structures, now used as offices and a restaurant, remain totally separate from the museum section. To get from the new infill structure to the museum, one must go outside and enter the tavern from the front entrance.

Other, more modern, utilitarian buildings have been built uphill and south of the log structure on the west end in an expansion of the restaurant facilities during the period from 1969 to 1980. However, none of these are attached to the historic structure, nor are they readily visible in the principal views of the tavern.

Also during this period, a historic grist mill was moved to a location several hundred feet west of the tavern and down the hill. This structure was dismantled and reconstructed under the guidance of Browne, Eichman, Dalgliesh and Gilpin, a preservation-oriented architectural firm in Charlottesville. This structure was moved to the site in an attempt to simulate a mill once owned and operated by Robert Michie, William's brother, during the last quarter of the eighteenth century. It is now used as a gift shop and offers interpretative information on the milling operation.

The tavern remained in the Michie family until c. 1910, when it was sold by the State of Virginia for Sarah James Michie, who had been institutionalized. The purchasers were Mr. & Mrs. John Via of Free Union. According to the oral history of Mrs. Bailey, the tavern was in a serious state of decay and disrepair at this time.<sup>24</sup> It remained in this condition while the Vias held the property, until 1927 when Mr. & Mrs. Mark Henderson purchased it with the intention of moving it to a more accessible location. After the Hendersons moved and reconstructed the tavern as a museum, they sold it in 1932 to Mr. & Mrs. Milton Grigg. The Griggs divorced in 1933 and Mrs. Grigg, who assumed her maiden name, Vestal Thomas received ownership of the tavern. Mr. Grigg, a noted restoration architect, operated his office from the tavern prior to his divorce. There is presently no information affirming that Mr. Grigg was involved in the tavern reconstruction.

In November 1968, Mrs. Milton sold the museum to the Michie Tavern Corporation, Mr. M. Joseph Conte, its current owner, who operates the building as a museum and restaurant.

(See Continuation Sheet #13)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

APR 30 1988

date entered

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #13

Item number 8

Page 6

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- 1  
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- 2  
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- 3  
Vincent M. Kordack, Park Technician, Valley Forge National Historical Park, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania: Letter of verification, dated July 28, 1983, to Cindy Conte, Route 6, Box 7A, Charlottesville, Virginia, on file at DCHR, Richmond, Virginia.
- 4  
Woods, Op. Cit. (History of Albemarle County), p. 366.
- 5  
Court Order Book 1783-1785, Albemarle County, Virginia, p. 267.
- 6  
Department of Conservation and Historic Resources, Division of Historic Landmarks, "Compilation of Albemarle County Historic Resources Survey and Inventory", identifying transportation - and commerce - related structure, (unpublished material, DCHR, Richmond, Virginia).
- 7  
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- 8  
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- 9  
Ibid., pp. 376, 379-380.
- 10  
John H. Moore, Albemarle: Jefferson's County 1727-1976 (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1976), p. 79.
- 11  
Moore, Op. Cit. (Albemarle: Jefferson's County 1727-1976), p. 98.
- 12  
Kym S. Rice, Early American Taverns (Chicago: Regnery Gateway, 1983), p. 69.

(See Continuation Sheet #14)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

APR 30 1984

date entered

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #14

Item number 8

Page 7

- 13  
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- 14  
Ibid, p. 26.
- 15  
Ibid., p. 26.
- 16  
Ibid., p. 27.
- 17  
Charles B. Hosmer, Jr., *Presence of the Past* (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1965), p. 191.
- 18  
Cynthia M. Conte, Research compiled in 1984 from survey of Daily Progress microfilm (Charlottesville), December 22, 1926 - March 12, 1927; March 12 1927 - July 28, 1927; and July 28, 1927 - January 14, 1928.
- 19  
Paul Wilstach, "Jefferson's Little Mountain," National Geographic, LV No. 4 (1929), 481-503.
- 20  
Daily Progress (Charlottesville), October 22, 1927, p. 1.
- 21  
Daily Progress (Charlottesville), October 22, 1927; January 14, 1928, pp. 1, 2, 12; Richmond Times Dispatch, October 21, 1928.
- 22  
The collections of all local photographers who were operating at the time of the move were consulted without any success. Also, collections of Historic Photographs in both Charlottesville and Richmond were consulted without finding any that document the moving of the structure.
- 23  
Op. Cit., (Daily Progress only).
- 24  
Bernice Davis, "Remembrances of Michie's Old Tavern," typed, unpublished copy of an oral history given after 1945 by B. Davis, in the collection of papers on the tavern at the Albemarle County Historical Society, Charlottesville, Virginia.





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

APR 30 1988

date entered

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA  
Continuation sheet #15

Item number 9

Page 1

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(See Continuation Sheet #16)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

APR 30 1985

date entered

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #16

Item number 9

Page 2

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# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received APR 30 1986  
date entered

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet #17

Item number 10

Page 1

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### Verbal boundary description

Beginning at a point on the west side of Virginia Route 53 approximately 2,400' northwest of the intersection of said route with Albemarle Route 647; thence extending approximately 100' southwest; thence approximately 100' west; thence approximately 50' north; thence approximately 150' northeast to a point on the west side of Virginia Route 53; thence approximately 150' south-southeast along said side of Virginia Route 53 to the point of origin.

### Justification

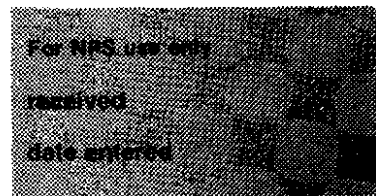
The bounds have been drawn to include the tavern and approximately .75 acres of land on which it stands.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA



Continuation sheet 18

Item number 8

Page 8

The moving of Michie Tavern was featured in newspapers in both Charlottesville and Richmond during 1927-28.<sup>25</sup> Antique collector and businesswoman Mrs. Mark Henderson, the owner who instigated the relocation, was in step with her contemporaries who were also receiving notoriety on their preservation efforts at this time. More than 65 articles dealing with preservation on the local, state and national levels were featured in Charlottesville's Daily Progress from December 1926-June 1928.<sup>26</sup> The increase of tourism and the restoration of the state capitol and Monticello were two examples that helped create the interest that was developing on the local level for the preservation of antiquities, as well as for the creation of national shrines.

Like her peers, in the early preservation movement, Mrs. Henderson's action in relocating Michie Tavern were a continuation of a longstanding lack of appreciation that preservationists had for the integrity of architecture and site. Mrs. Henderson could best be described as a "dedicated amateur."<sup>27</sup> In addition, the move was representative of preservation activities on the local level, most notable was Monticello, that were occurring across the state and nation during the late 1920s. Her preservation peers were not only moving entire historic structures such as Henry Ford's Greenfield Village but also portions of antiquated buildings.<sup>28</sup>

The 1920s preservation philosophy was an enigma which tended to voice a false sense of authenticity. The quest for accuracy was part illusion with which museum proprietors would later regale guests. Visitors were told they walked the exact floors and viewed the very rooms in which their famous forefathers had lived or slept.

"Since the earliest preservationists intended to have the sites they saved operated as historic museums for the inspiration of visitors, considerations of architecture or of beauty seldom entered into their calculations."<sup>29</sup>

Like other preservationists, Mrs. Henderson took great lengths to be accurate with the relocation of Michie Tavern. However, since the preservation philosophies of her time would take decades to reach the purist approach, her endeavors were limited.

(See Continuation Sheet #19)





**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

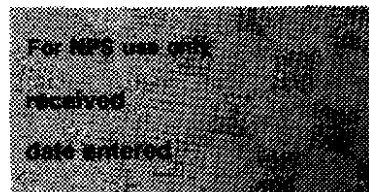
**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet 19

Item number 8

Page 9



As early as 1910, George Francis Dow, at the Essex Institute, in Massachusetts, was establishing a precedent in the display of artifacts which would become a standard to be followed by both professionals and amateurs for many years. In 1910, Dow was successful in finding persons who would assist in the purchase of the John Ward house, which was built in 1685, in Salem, Massachusetts. He moved the house to the Essex Institute where it became the first piece of the collection of buildings and architectural fragments in the outdoor museum. Dow rebuilt the house on the inside in order to give it a seventeenth century appearance, copying many details from well known houses in the county. The interior was described as follows:

"In furnishing these rooms an effort has been made to present a truthful picture of an interior of the year 1700. Where original furniture or utensils of the period have not been available, reproductions have been made, and the finished result is believed to be highly successful, giving much of the atmosphere of liveableness. Miss Sarah W. Symonds and her assistants occupy the second floor and act as custodians, showing the house to visitors when the cow bell signals its call from the front entry. They will be dressed in homespun costumes of the time when the house was built." 30

A collector of colonial furnishings and artifacts for 15 years, Mrs. Henderson was quoted as saying she purchased Michie Tavern to "show off" her antiques.<sup>31</sup> The inn was relocated, she said, "so as to be more accessible to the public. Although preservation was probably not the prime concern, her actions from the time she purchased Michie Tavern to the opening and operating of the museum indicate that she was influenced by the preservation movement.

Oral histories also attest that while the Hendersons surely wanted a viable business, profit was not a sole concern. Mrs. Henderson was of the affluent Duncan family of Nashville, Tenn. She was a partner in her husband's shirt manufacturing business, "Rocking Chair" or "Henderson-Nervene," and they owned a prestigious home on Cameron Lane, Charlottesville. She relocated the Tavern so that it would be more accessible to the public, "not to cash-in on Monticello's success." <sup>32</sup> However, once again her environment influenced her actions. Due to an increase in wages, leisure time and automobile ownership, tourism was a new and growing industry. Mrs. Henderson took advantage of her opportunity to capitalize on the busy tourist trade that was developing around Monticello and other homes of colonial heroes in the area.

(See Continuation Sheet #20)



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

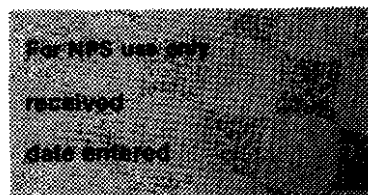
**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet 20

Item number 8

Page 10



According to local histories, the tavern was systemtically numbered, dismantled and carted 17 miles by horse and wagon, and then by truck, to Route 53, Monticello Mountain. These interviews with Mrs. John M. Claire (deceased), widow of the proprietor of the firm contracted to move the structure; Ed Newlan, Arthur Stubbs and Julian Catterton, workmen and carpenters on the tavern project; Lockwood Frizzell, grandson of the Hendersons, and Mrs. Margaret Wright, close friend of Mrs. Henderson for 17 years. All of these oral histories vouch for the accuracy and care with which the tavern was moved and reconstructed.<sup>33</sup>

Mr. Frizzell noted that his grandfather was a "frustrated architect" and very meticulous in his small but vocal role in Michie Tavern. Mr. and/or Mrs. Henderson were on the work site daily, he said.<sup>34</sup> The couple's concern for authenticity was such that they replaced any unusable tavern siding with wood from area buildings of the same age.<sup>35</sup> Newspaper accounts also credit the moved tavern with having been "...restored in all its charm and preserved to posterity. The services of a firm of Contractors, J.M. Clark and Son, were engaged and the work of marking each piece of the building and its systematic demolition was begun."<sup>36</sup>

Photographs and detailed journals recorded the move, as noted in an excerpt of Mary Rawlings' Historical Guide to Old Charlottesville:

"Before and after photographs show that while some later tamperings were done away with, the original structure was scrupulously preserved—with the exception of the cellar, whose massive slave masonry it was not possible to transport or reproduce," she said. These records and photographs were reportedly donated to the Albermarle County Historical Society but despite a recent search the documents have not yet been located.<sup>37</sup>

The tavern offers a good local example of preservation activities carried out at the local level across the country by lay persons influenced primarily by their interest in American history. The relocation of Michie Tavern reflects the prevailing attitudes of those involved in a kind of preservation that showed a lack of understanding of the significance of the building's relationship to site.

(See Continuation Sheet #21)



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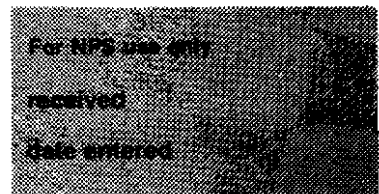
**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet 21

Item number 8

Page 11



ADDITIONAL

FOOTNOTES

25

"Tavern Is Moved Near Monticello" (October 22, 1927, page 1). The Daily Progress, Charlottesville, Virginia. Microfilm box #56 (July 28, 1927-January 14, 1928.)  
"Michie Tavern Has Been Moved Near Monticello" (January 14, 1928, pages 1, 2 and 12). Box #56 and 57. The Daily Progress, Charlottesville, Virginia. (Transcripts of articles attached).  
Photo Page in Richmond Times-Dispatch, Sunday, October 21, 1928. (Copy sent to National Register and in Michie Tavern file there).

26

Copy of list of articles attached.

27

Charles B. Hosmer, Jr. Preservation Comes of Age From Williamsburg to the National Trust, 1926-1949, Volume I. (Published for the Preservation Press, by the University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville), page 4, 6.

28

Ibid., page 4.

29

Charles B. Hosmer, Jr., Presence of the Past (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1965), p. 11.

30

Ibid., p. 215, 216.

31

Interview with Lockwood Frizzell, October 21, 1985.

32

Ibid

33

Oral transcripts in the possession of current owner. Interviews/research compiled by Cynthia M. Conte. All interviews dated from 1983-1985.

34

October 21, 1985 interview with Lockwood Frizzell, grandson of Mrs. Henderson.

(See Continuation Sheet #22)



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

MICHIE TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Continuation sheet 22

Item number 8

Page 12

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35  
Interview with Edward Newlan, Spring of 1983 at Michie Tavern. Newlan was one of four carpenters that worked in both the dismantling and reconstruction.

36  
The Daily Progress, Charlottesville, "Michie Tavern Has Been Moved Near Monticello" (January 14, 1928) Reel #56 and 57.

37  
"Historical Guide to Old Charlottesville," by Mary Rawlings. 15 p., paperbound. 1958, publication.





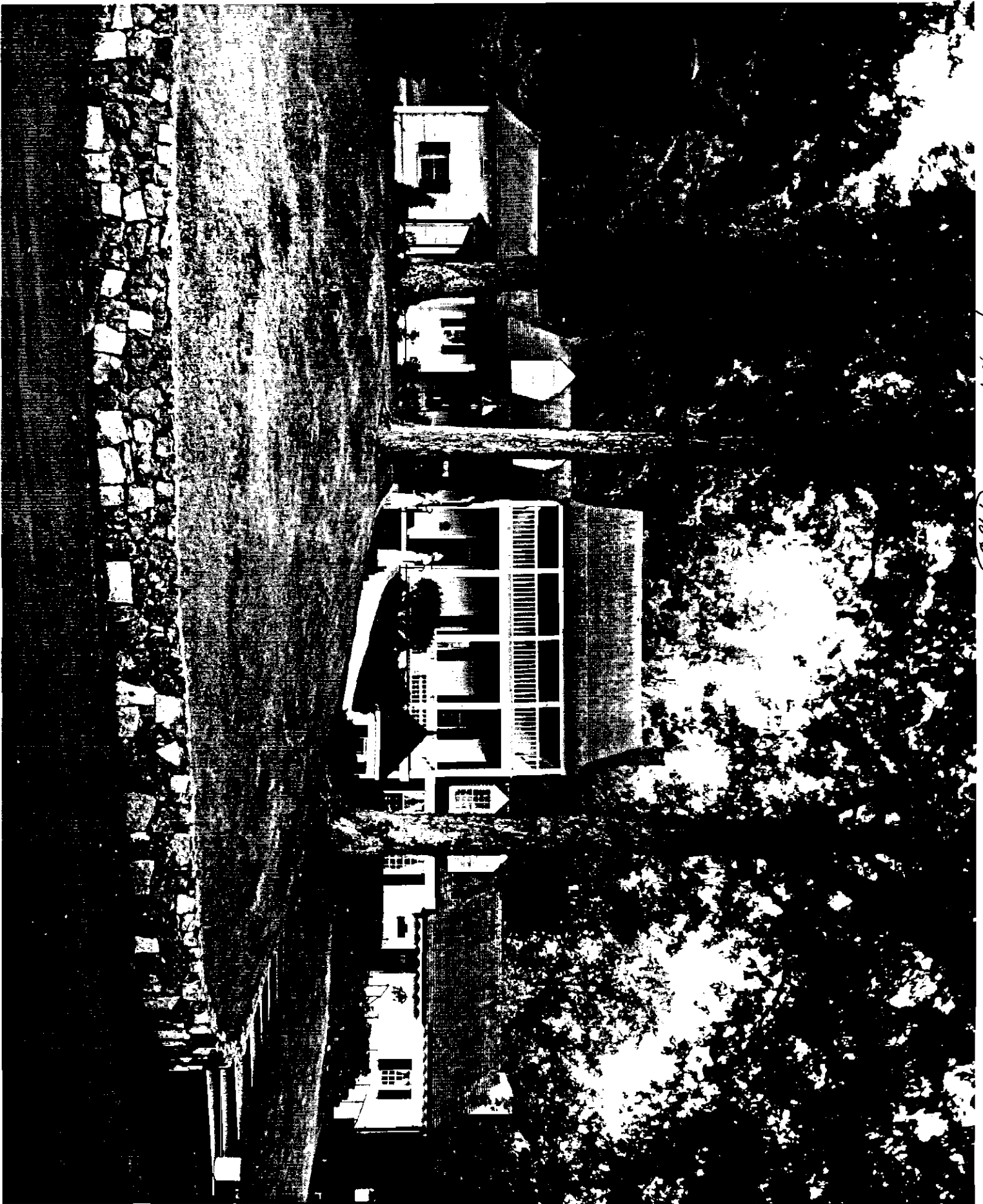
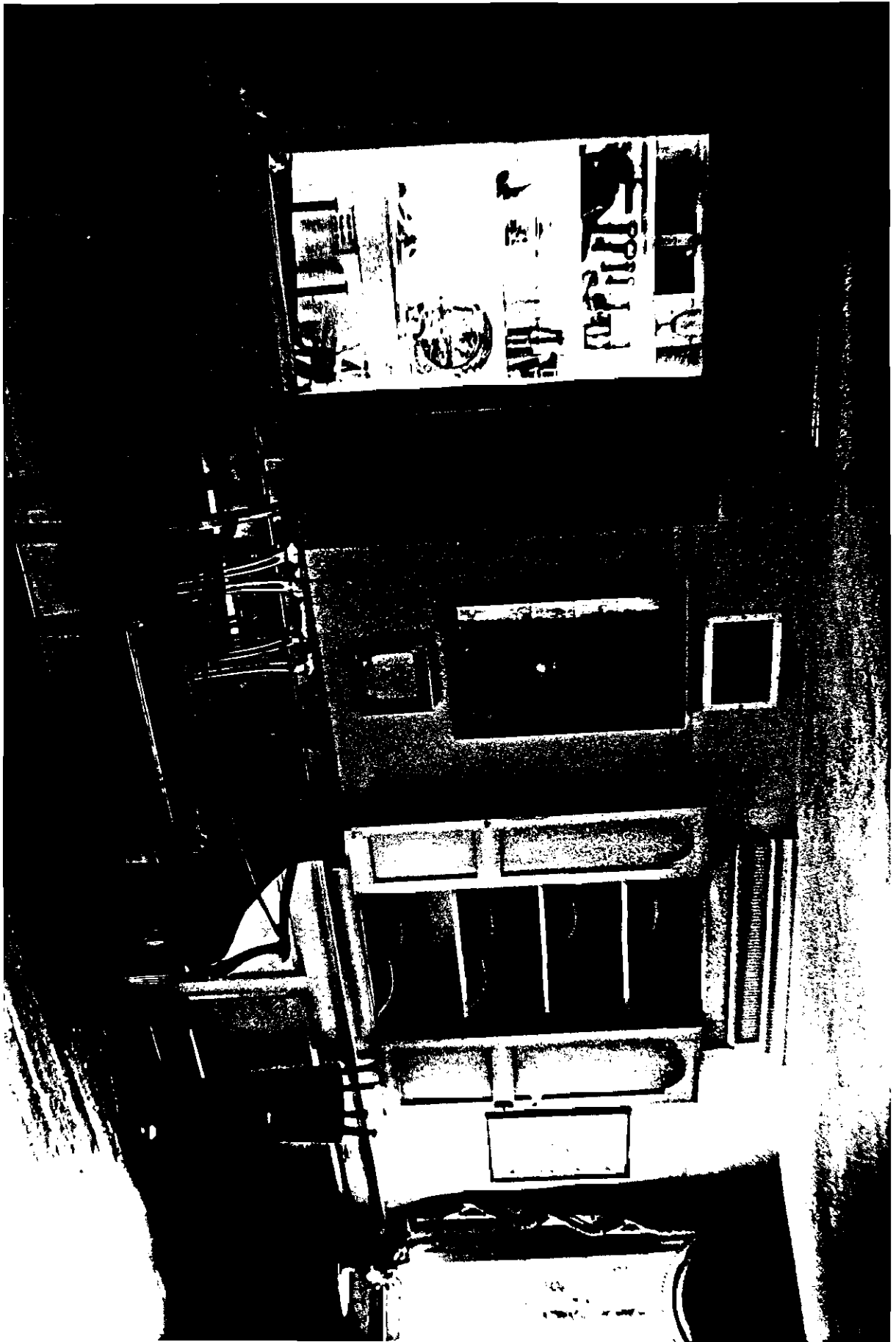


Photo:

1986

APR 20





+ Negative A

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MICHIE TAVERN  
Location: Albemarle County, Virginia

Credit: H. Christopher Slusher  
Date: 1984  
Negative Filed: VA State Library,  
Richmond, Virginia  
View of: North Facade  
Neg. No. 8145 (16-16A)  
File No. 02-93

Photo 2 of 4

11/84

