



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman and Members
Park Authority Board

VIA: Jai Cole, Executive Director

FROM: Torsha Bhattacharya, Division Director, Stewardship & Planning

DATE: March 7, 2025

Agenda

**Resource Management Committee
(Committee of the Whole)
Wednesday, March 12, 2025 – 5:40 pm
Boardroom, Herrity Building
Chairman: Vacant
Vice Chair: Dr. Abena Aidoo Hewton**

1. Annual Resident Curator Program Update – Countywide (with presentation) – Information

*Enclosures



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563. TTY (703) 803-3354

Board Agenda Item
March 12, 2025

INFORMATION (with presentation)

Annual Resident Curator Program Update

Heritage Conservation Branch continues to monitor four active resident curator sites. These include Stempson House and Hannah P. Clark Enyedi house in Lorton, Turner Farmhouse in Great Falls and Ellmore Farmhouse in Herndon. Two additional sites will be added by the end of FY2025. These include Mount Gilead in Centreville and Ash Grove in Tysons. Curator investment in the active sites totals over \$2.1 million. This includes curator and volunteer labor.

The Resident Curator Program is accepting applications for Lahey Lost Valley in Vienna. By the end of FY2025 the program will also make available Dranesville Tavern in Herndon, and Fairfax Arms in Lorton.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENT:

None.

STAFF:

Jai Cole, Executive Director

Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO

Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD

Torsha Bhattacharya, Director, Planning and Stewardship Division

Resident Curator Program

PAB Updates



Stewardship & Planning Div.
March 2025



Agenda

Program Overview

RCP Highlights

Project Spotlights

- Turner Farm Crib Barn Restoration
- Mount Gilead Roof Project

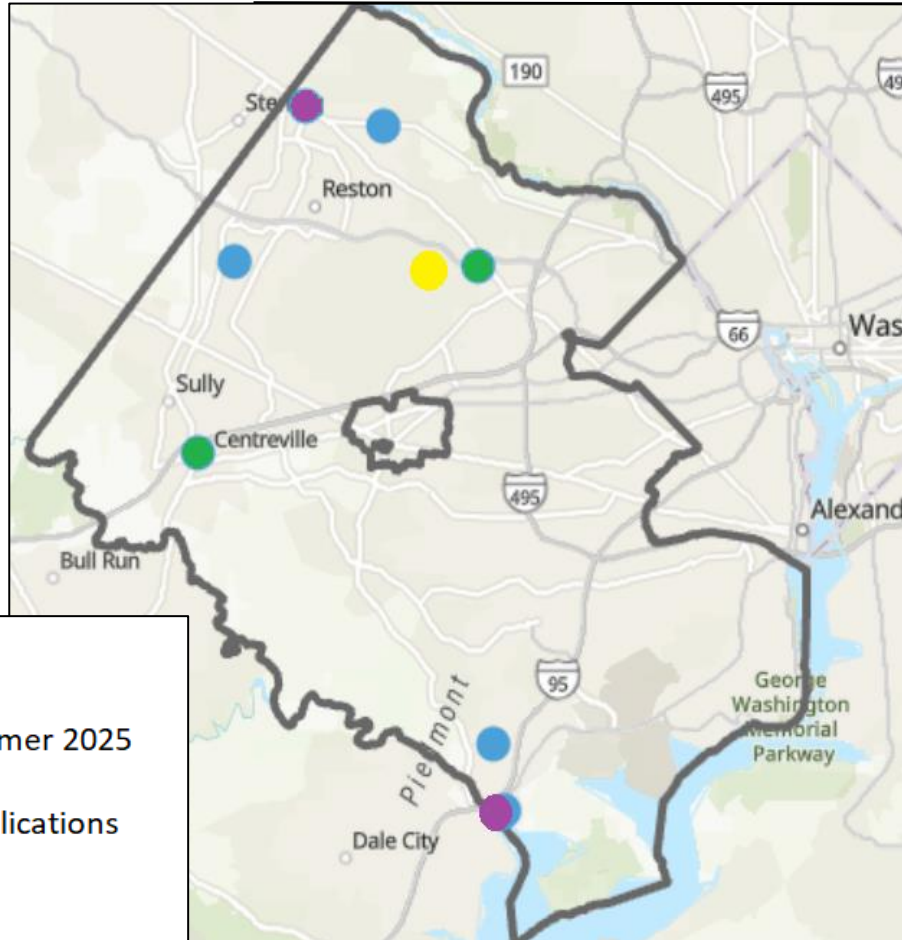
Coming Soon

Fairfax County Resident Curator Program – Overview



- Address vacant, publicly-owned historic properties
- County ordinance adopted in 2014
- First program in Virginia
- Historic Structure Reports & Treatment Plans
 - Lease Length, Curator work plan

RCP Highlights



- 4 Active Sites – 6 by end of FY25
- \$2.1 million in curator investment
- Lahey Lost Valley – accepting applications
- Coming soon: Dranesville Tavern & Fairfax Arms

RCP Highlights – Active Sites



ELLMORE FARMHOUSE

Site Summary

The earliest portion of the farmhouse was constructed in 1891, for Mary W. Ellmore, who had purchased 50 acres of land the year prior. Mary lived in the house for 13 years before she died in 1904. Her son, William Ellmore, became a prominent dairy farmer and local politician during the Great Depression.

William Ellmore served on the Fairfax County School Board, the Fairfax County Board of Equalization, and the County Agricultural Board before becoming the Dranesville District representative on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors from 1932 until his death in 1935.

By the end of 1932, the Ellmore farm had 38 cows, produced approximately 1,155 gallons of milk per year, and cultivated and sold wheat.

The Ellmore farm was sold in 1945 to Mason F. Smith Jr. and his wife, Mary Peck Smith. The Smith's called their farm Masonary Farm, an amalgamation of their names. They continued to operate the dairy business until the farm was sold in 1954. The farmhouse passed between various owners before being bought by the Trustees of Chantilly Bible Church in 1984. They rehabilitated the barn into a church sanctuary and used the house for church offices.

In February 2001, Fairfax County Park Authority purchased the property for inclusion in Frying Pan Farm Park. The Ellmore Farmhouse was included in the county's Resident Curator Program.

The Resident Curator Program was designed to help the Park Authority address the restoration and ongoing care of underutilized publicly owned historic properties throughout the Park System. When entering into long-term agreements, qualified tenants agree to rehabilitate properties in compliance with a set maintenance plan to preserve the historical significance of these buildings.

In 2021, ServiceSource became the farmhouse's curator. ServiceSource completed the rehabilitation work and began occupying Ellmore Farmhouse in the Fall of 2023.



Circa 1945 addition

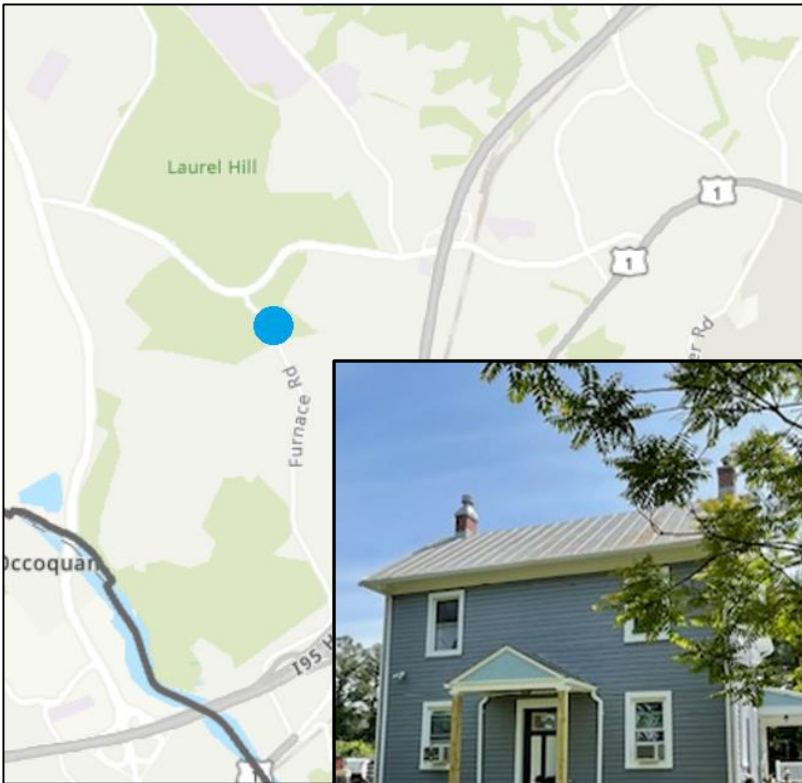
Ellmore Farmhouse

- Original portion constructed in 1891 for Ellmore family
- Ellmore family occupied the property for over 50 years, operating a productive dairy farm through 1945
- Active curator site since 2021 - ServiceSource adult day center
- Onsite café, gift shop, and volunteer opportunities
- Recurring house tours every Monday & Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



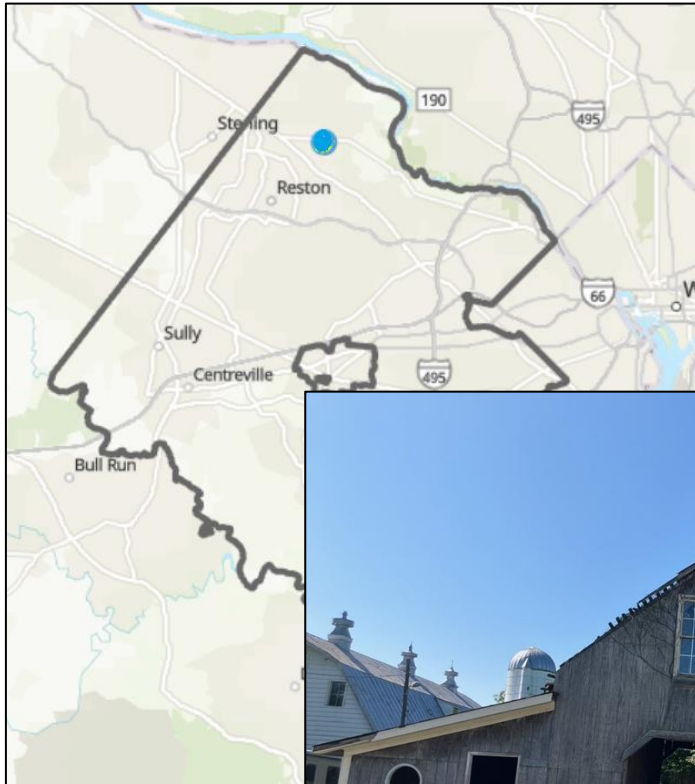
RCP Highlights – Active Sites

Stempson House



- Once part of the Occoquan Workhouse & Reformatory, later known as Lorton Prison, established by the US government in 1910
- Constructed c.1937 as a prison officer residence converted to security office
- Active curator site since 2017
- Current lease expires Aug 2026
- Next steps & considerations

Turner Farm - Crib Barn Restoration



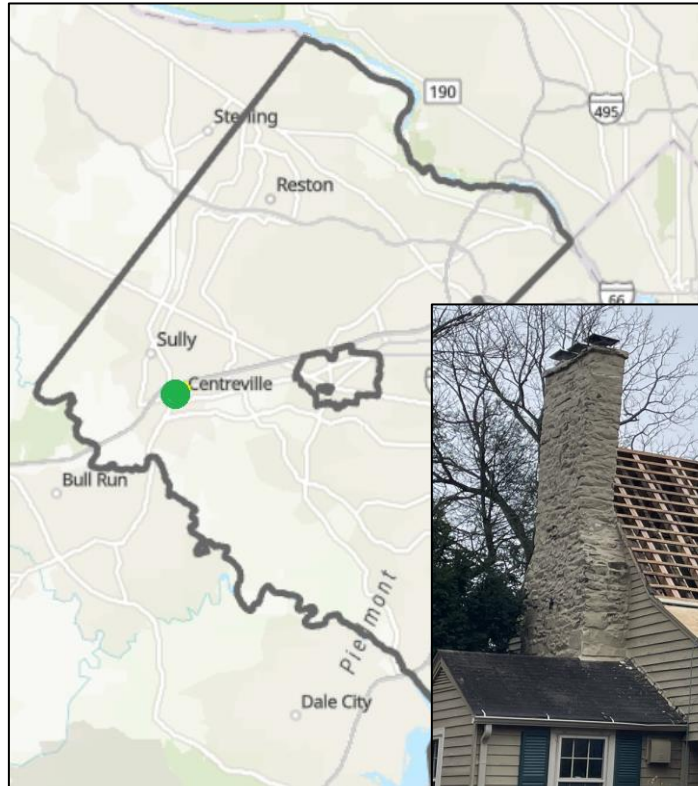
- Part of Turner Farm, operating in late nineteenth century
- Mark Turner, inherited in 1920s, was a leader in local and state-wide dairy farming,
- c.1890 – 1910 construction
- Early 2000s additions
- \$100k curator investment
- Complete restoration in accordance with treatment plan

Turner Farm - Crib Barn Restoration



- Remove east & west additions
- Remove modern window above central bay
- Replace deteriorated framing
- Replace modern siding
- Roof Replacement

Mount Gilead Roof Project



- Built c. 1785 as a combined residence and tavern
- Last remaining structure of Newgate community, settled in late 18th century
- Replace asphalt shingles
- Replace flashing, gutters, downspouts
- Substantial structural work
- Installation of new ARB approved composite roof shakes

Mount Gilead Roof Project



- Address existing sagging roof
- Reinforcement of deteriorated wood framing
- Replaster interior walls

Mount Gilead Roof Project



- Carriage house demo complete
- Lease signing Spring 2025



Coming Soon!



- Fairfax Arms & Dranesville Tavern
Spring 2025
- Dranesville Tavern – Built c.1823
- Dranesville Tavern remained open to the traveling public until 1946 and to boarders until 1968.
- Fairfax Arms – Built c.1756
- Fairfax Arms was used as the town`s tavern until the early 1800s, when it became a residential dwelling

Coming Soon!



- Applications will be available on RCP website
- Application period remains open 30 calendar days upon receiving an application
- Applicant evaluation includes public comment period, public hearing
- Lease requires BOS public hearing & approval before signing

Questions?

