



C.1845 MICKLE KNOX

879 Evans Mill Road
Dillwyn, Virginia 23936

Brochure

VirginiaCountryLiving.com/879-evans-mill

Reflections from the Heart

An Owner's Journey

We purchased the house in June of 2021 from a family friend we referred to as Aunt Anne. My father and mother were friends and neighbors for almost 30 years. They took care of each other, and in Anne's failing years, Mom took care of her in many ways. Anne wanted them to buy her property to "keep it in the family" since she never married and had no children or close heirs, but my father was leary to go in to debt. I decided to purchase the property and restore it...a father and son project that he was excited to embark on....and it needed more work than can be described. Generations of neglect to the grounds and house needed to be corrected.

About five months in, my father became suddenly ill. Turns out he had stage 4 melanoma through his body. After battling for several months his journey here ended and he went home to his Father. Three years later...I'd like to think he's looking down with a smile seeing what Anne's house has become. Every other week, 4-5 hour one way trips to work on the property, it has come a LONG way. Thanks largely to Uncle Roy and little Bob (the bobcat tractor) being next door and always willing to help and look after things even when I'm not. We wouldn't be nearly this far along without him. So many friends and neighbors willing to help...this community is awesome. We had intended to move south to be here and live where we work...making the home a B&B or events venue and keep improving the grounds as time went on. Five grand kids later, it is no longer an option to be that far away from all the babies. Sadly we must make the decision to pass Mickle Knox on to the next owner.

The home is so rich in history, and so much documentation about the people and families involved. Longwood University did an archaeological dig here in 2007. A wagon full of staples was sent to the army every week during the Civil War from this plantation (known as Edgewood Plantation at the time). Mr. and Ms. Corson, Aunt Judith, Aunt Anne....everyone kept so many records. Totes full of detailed information, scrap books, news articles.... everyone in the family seemed to have some sense of prominence. Anne's great grandfather, JH Field, was a world famous photographer and is in the Arkansas "hall of fame" for famous Arkansians...if that's a word. Blake Corson was an inventor for NASA...and a doctor, engineer....he invented the noise suppression system for the jet engine in the 40's 50's. Too many things to mention. I would like all this material to convey...my sincere hope is that whoever makes this house their home, cares as much about preserving and learning this rich history. It's a rare find to have this much info regarding a historic property. So much still to learn. It really is a peaceful step back in time here....not something I'll be able to replace for sure.

The Soul of the House

In 1762, amidst the rolling hills of Buckingham County, John Gannaway was granted 300 acres of untamed Virginia land. With imagination and determination, he began to shape his vision, gradually expanding his holdings and building a bustling estate he named “Edgewood.” There, he constructed not just a home but a community—a house surrounded by slave quarters, a dairy, an office, a sawmill, a store, and mills for grinding corn and wheat. The rhythm of life at Edgewood was filled with the sounds of work, the scents of fresh-cut timber, and the whisper of wind through the fields.

In 1845, a fire swept through Edgewood, leaving little but ashes. The Gannaway legacy was not so easily extinguished. Richard Gannaway chose a nearby rise to begin anew, erecting a grand, square brick manor. The house rose two stories tall, its imposing façade framed by a strong looking, two-story columned porch. Inside, four spacious rooms on each floor were arranged around a central hall, where a broad staircase led upward. Each room boasted a large, welcoming fireplace with a carved mantel; the ceilings were adorned with intricate plaster medallions that caught the light.

In a gesture that connected the new with the old, magnolia slips from the original Gannaway home in Mississippi were planted around the property. Over the decades, those young saplings grew into towering guardians, their blossoms scenting the air.

Edgewood was later renamed “Mickle Knox” when it was purchased by Mrs. B.W. Corson in 1933. It became a beacon of Southern hospitality. The Corsons added a kitchen wing that blended with the home’s original architecture, maintaining its historic charm. The house, rich with history, resonated with laughter and life.

Today, the property occupies 358 acres and is bordered by the Willis River and Cattail Creek. Mickle Knox has been shaped by the vision and care of its owners over the years and has blossomed into a home of elegance and comfort. Now featuring five en suite bedrooms, an updated kitchen, central air and heat, and an inviting outdoor kitchen, it blends historic charm with modern luxury. There is a pavilion offering the perfect setting for gatherings. Water and electricity now run to two of the outbuildings, bringing new life and potential to every corner of the estate. The “barn,” with electric and roughed-in plumbing, stands ready for a new vision. The smaller yellow outbuilding can become a cozy guest retreat, an artist’s studio, or a quiet escape.

Mickle Knox is a cherished home where history meets the present, always ready to welcome what comes next.







The First Floor

Welcome to this c.1845 historic home where timeless elegance meets modern comfort. As you step inside, a grand central hall welcomes you with a sweeping staircase that captures the essence of the era.

To your left, the library invites you with its large windows and fireplace, a perfect setting for intimate gatherings. To the right, the parlor, which is currently a game room, features a fireplace and period details that evoke a sense of history.

Continuing down the hall, you'll find the formal dining room, a space for entertaining, complete with a fireplace that adds warmth and character. Across the hall an en suite bedroom provides a serene retreat. There is also a remodeled powder room.

At the heart of the home, the large country kitchen and breakfast area, designed within the original kitchen's footprint, offers a generous space and modern amenities. Large sliding glass doors open onto a screened porch featuring an outdoor kitchen that provides a view of the pavilion beyond.



The Parlor



The Dining Room





The Library



The First Floor En Suite





The Kitchen



The Upper Level

Upon reaching the second floor, the spacious central hallway leads to a cozy sitting area and library which opens to a small balcony. There are four large en suite bedrooms, each with a fireplace. The bathrooms with walk-in showers were added in a recent renovation.

This is a unique opportunity to reside in a mid-1800s home, offering history blended with modern amenities.





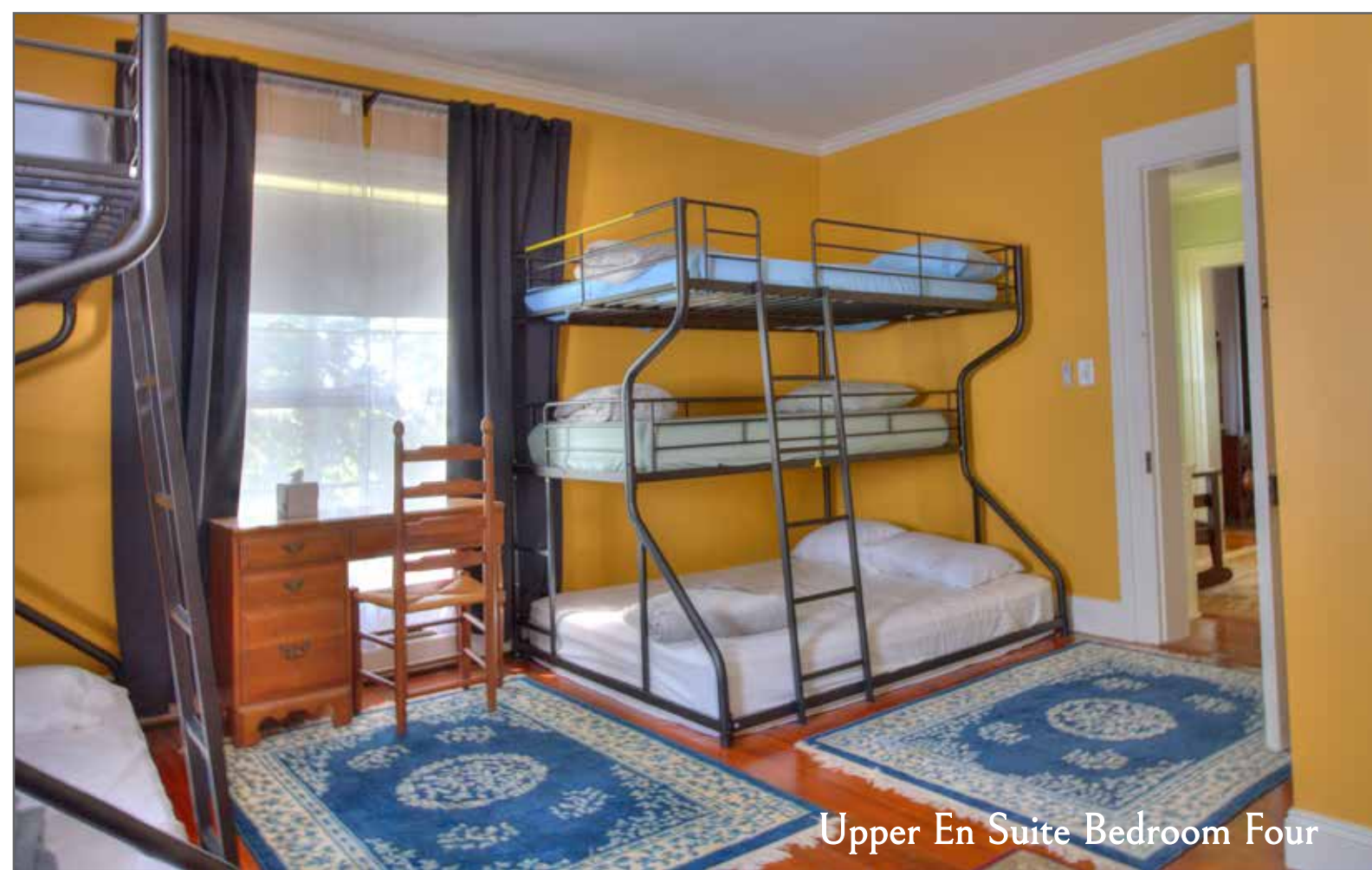
Upper En Suite Bedroom One



Upper En Suite Bedroom Two



Upper En Suite Bedroom Three



Upper En Suite Bedroom Four

History & Historic Preservation

Mickle Knox was established as an active farm before the Civil War, with records showing that a weekly wagon load of provisions was dispatched to support the Confederate Army. The property has since remained in continuous agricultural and forestry production.

Nestled within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the land features frontage on both the Willis River and Cattail Creek. These waterways converge below the property and flow into the James River, which serves as a public drinking water supply for the City of Richmond.

The property offers a diverse habitat for wildlife, showcasing a variety of land covers and stream corridors on either side.

Mickle Knox is protected by a conservation easement through the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, ensuring the land is preserved for agricultural use, forestry, historic preservation, and watershed protection.



The Gathering Place

Screened Porch & Outdoor Kitchen

The screened porch includes an outdoor kitchen, creating the perfect setting for entertaining guests while enjoying the outdoors in comfort.

The Pavilion

A wonderful pavilion was constructed to enhance the property's versatility and enjoyment, offering a shaded retreat that is perfect for relaxation, gatherings, and outdoor activities.







The Barn

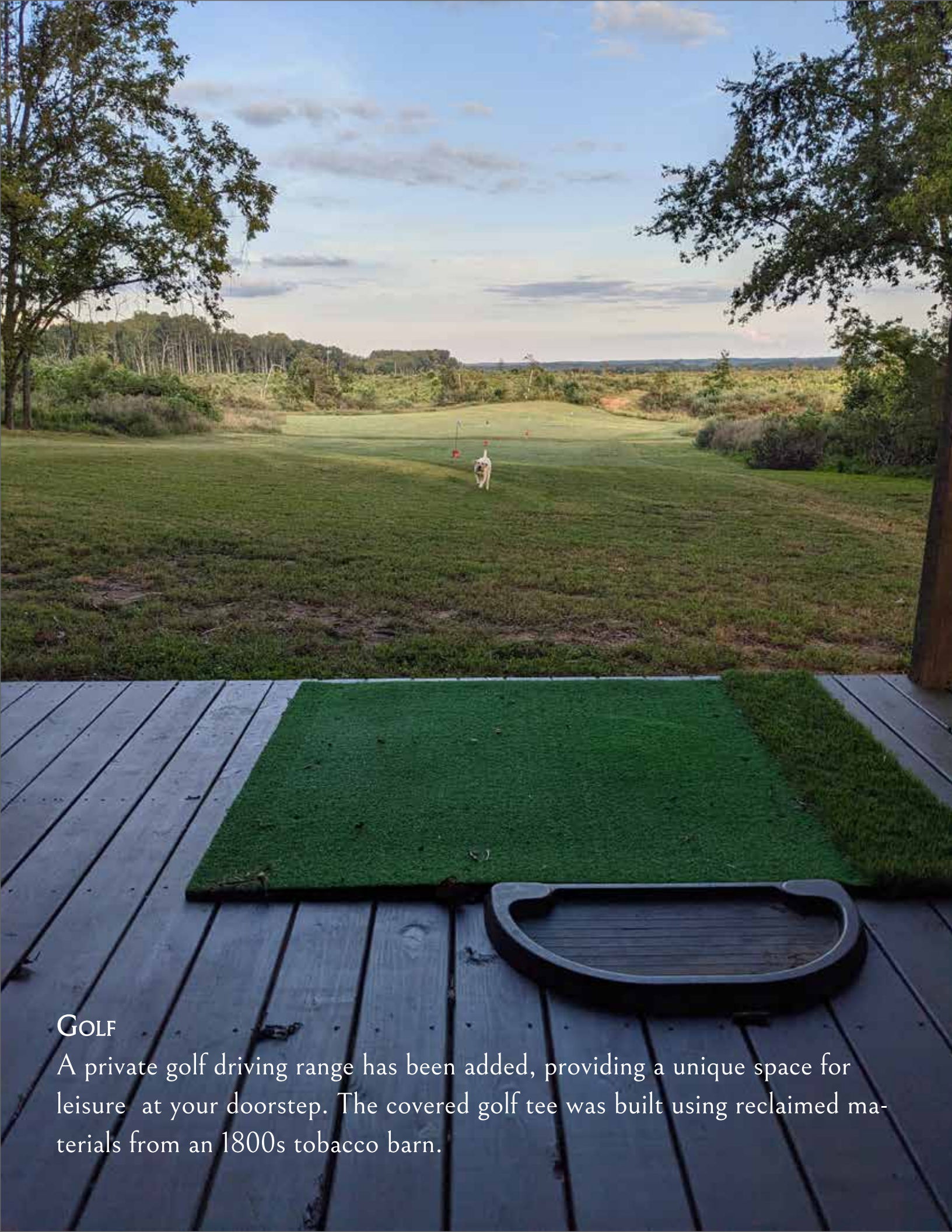
The large barn can accommodate a variety of uses. It would make a great workshop, studio, horse barn, or with roughed-in plumbing already in place, it offers an opportunity to create an additional living space.





The Outbuilding

The yellow outbuilding retains its original charm from the 1770s and was the original plantation office. It is ideal for use as a future office, studio, or could be transformed into a charming honeymoon suite.



GOLF

A private golf driving range has been added, providing a unique space for leisure at your doorstep. The covered golf tee was built using reclaimed materials from an 1800s tobacco barn.



Recent Improvements

Bathrooms

The addition of new bathrooms has transformed the home, now featuring five en suite bedrooms, each offering its own private retreat. This thoughtful upgrade provides enhanced privacy and comfort.

Heat & Air

In 2023, a new heat pump was installed to service the upper level. In 2024, the heat pump on the main level was replaced, ensuring efficient climate control throughout the home. The existing oil baseboard heating continues to serve as a reliable backup option.

Renovated Kitchen

This stunning kitchen features elegant quartz counter tops and a striking black walnut central island that seamlessly blends functionality with style, serving as both a workspace and a gathering spot. The abundant maple cabinets provide generous storage, while thoughtfully placed lighting enhances the warm, inviting atmosphere, making this space truly the heart of the home.

Fireplaces

There are 8 fireplaces in the house. The dining room and the bedroom on the first floor have working fireplaces. All other fireplaces need to be lined.

Windows

The home features original windows that add a touch of historic charm, although some will require restoration to fully enhance their functionality.

Laundry Room

A laundry room with a sink was added off the kitchen.

Home Exterior - Paint

2023 The home's exterior, originally featuring classic red brick, was painted with a vibrant yellow paint, adding a bright and welcoming appeal.

Screened Porch & Outdoor Kitchen

The screened porch includes an outdoor kitchen, creating the perfect setting for entertaining guests while enjoying the outdoors in comfort.

Pavilion

A wonderful pavilion was constructed to enhance the property's versatility and enjoyment, offering a shaded retreat that is perfect for relaxation, gatherings, and outdoor activities.

Landscaping & Golf

The seller has revitalized the property. A private golf driving range has been added, providing a unique space for recreation at your doorstep. The covered golf tee was built using reclaimed materials from an 1800s tobacco barn.

Barn

The large barn can accommodate a variety of uses. It would make a great workshop, studio, horse barn, or with roughed-in plumbing already in place, it offers an opportunity to create an additional living space.

Outbuildings

The yellow outbuilding was the original office at the plantation and retains its original charm from the 1770s and could be transformed into an office or a charming honeymoon suite. Additionally, there is a small storage building.

Electric

400 amps were added to provide adequate future electric needs for all the outbuildings. There are new electric panels in the barn and yellow outbuilding.

Water to Outbuildings

Water lines have been extended to the barn and the yellow outbuilding but have not been connected, offering convenience and functionality throughout the property.

General Information

Furniture

The home is being offered partially furnished, featuring a collection of charming antiques and a comprehensive archive detailing the property's history and its previous owners.

Year Built c.1845

The home was expanded with an addition in 1972. The kitchen was renovated and bathrooms were added in 2022.

2024 Taxes \$1741.80

Acres 358.630

Easement

Open Space Easement - Agricultural through Virginia Oudours Foundation

Square Footage Living area total: 4575 SF

Security System

General security - the wireless alarm system and app - about \$35/month

Electric

Central Virginia Electric Cooperative - average electric bills have been between \$250-\$350.

Oil Provider

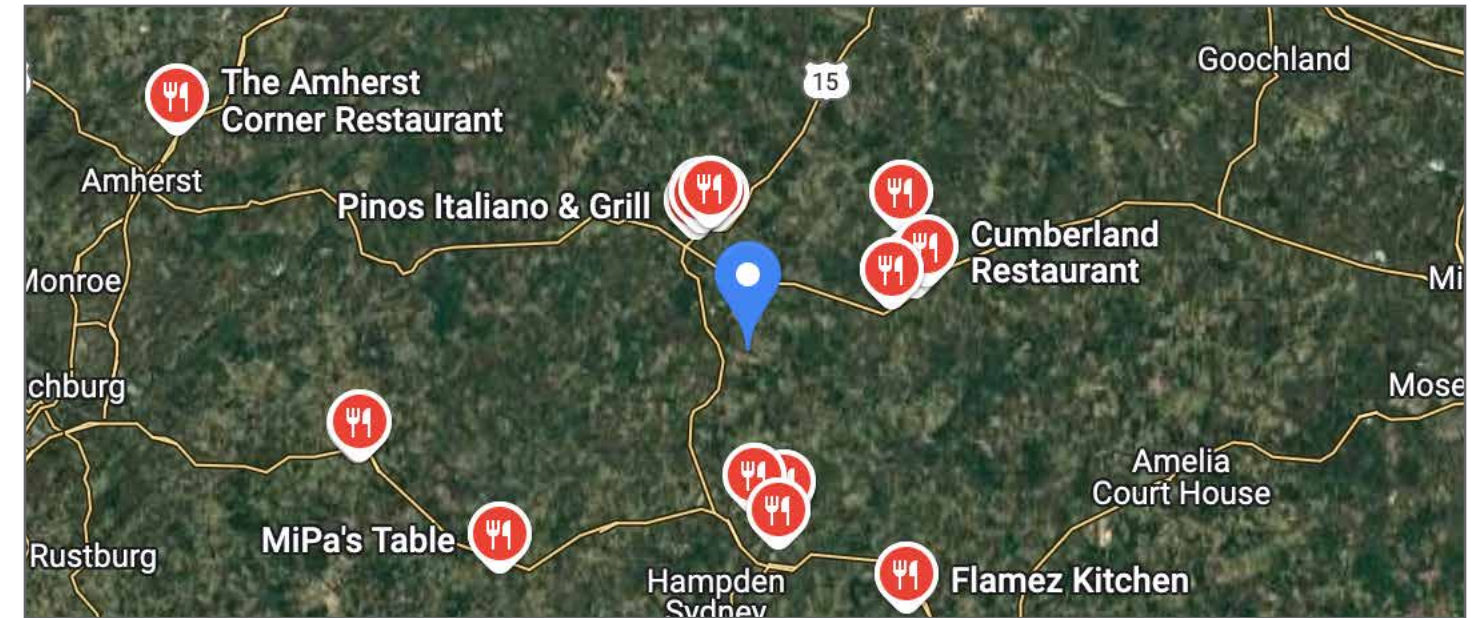
Ellington Energy in Farmville. This is for the back up baseboard heat.

Internet Firefly Fiber Optic: \$80/month

House Phone Brightspeed - \$50/month

Roof 8 - 10 Years Old

Exterior: The house was painted in 2022.



Location

Conveniently located near Route 15, Route 60, and Route 20, this property offers easy access to Farmville shopping, dining, and healthcare.



The property is bordered by the Willis River and Cattail Creek.



Exclusive Listing Agents
Bridget Archer 434-981-4149
Pam Dent 434-960-0161

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Information in this brochure is considered reliable, but not guaranteed.



Gayle Harvey Real Estate, Inc. | 198 Spotnap Rd, Charlottesville, Virginia 22911