



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staff and the State Review Board based on information known at the time of preparation. Recommendations concerning PIFs are subject to change if new information becomes available.

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 310-5016

1. General Property Information

Property name: **McGuire’s Inn**

Property address: **445 Marsh Street**
City or Town: **Tappahannock, VA**
Zip code: **22560**

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: **Essex County**

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):
Building Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: ?

Setting (choose only one of the following):
Urban Suburban Town Village Hamlet Rural

Briefly describe the property’s overall location and setting, including any notable landscape features:

The McGuire’s Inn property is located on Marsh Street in the rural Town of Tappahannock, Virginia. The property is situated two blocks from the Rappahannock River. The river is famous for its fishing and canoeing. The property is two blocks from the Historic Prince Street where the Daw Theater is located (a National Historic Landmark), the DeShields Fisher House (a National Historic Landmark), and The Ritchie House (a National Historic Landmark). The property is one block from The Harris Grill (a Green Book Historic Site).

McGuire’s Inn is in walking distance from the desegregated James H. Cary Intermediate School, originally the All-Black Essex County Training School.

On the McGuire’s Inn property, there is a black-top circular driveway and a silver chain link fence dividing some of their property from its neighbors. In the springtime, beautiful, pink azalea bushes align the side of the house (along the driveway). In the summertime, tall, vibrant pink Crepe Myrtle Trees are in full bloom on the property.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): A Two-Story Dwelling

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: Eneck Legree (remodeling contractor / 1960-1962)

If the builder is known, please list here: Original builder of the house not known

Date of construction (can be approximate): Originally constructed in the 1800's as a bungalow style house. It was remodeled to a two-story dwelling in the 1920's. In 1960-1962, it was remodeled a second time adding additional features.

Narrative Description (Please do not exceed one page in describing the property):
Briefly describe the property's general characteristics, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions or other major alterations.

1889 – Oral history stated that in the early days, the house, on Marsh Street, Tappahannock, VA, was purchased as a bungalow style home.

1920s – Oral history stated that in the early days, the house was remodeled to a two-story dwelling. Thus, the business of renting rooms was begun by Lewis and Ida McGuire, with a sign in the front yard that read “**Colored Tourists.**” They served hot meals to the tourists, and the tourists enjoyed their stay. There was no separation of family and tenant quarters. They used the same entrance and exit, and the same (one) stairway to the second floor. There were seven rooms on the second floor (including a bathroom), and six rooms on the first floor (including kitchen and living room). They all used the same bathroom (2nd fl), and living room and kitchen (1st fl).

1936 – A book was written by Victor H. Green called “The Negro Motorist Green Book.” Because White establishments did not welcome Black travelers into their businesses, the book was written for Black travelers who found themselves traveling, during the Jim Crow Era, throughout the United States. It listed Black owned businesses, or “safe” places, for Black travelers to stop on the road and receive friendly service.

1955 – After the deaths of Lewis and Ida (1952 & 1955 respectively), great nephew Charles McGuire, who was raised as their son from a very young boy, inherited the business. In 1957, Charles and Lillian Hill were united in holy matrimony, and thus continued the service of renting rooms to Colored tourists.

1960 - 1962 – The home/business, associated with the sign “Colored Tourists”, had completed renovations, and the business of preparing hot meals was discontinued. However, the Inn still welcomed Colored tourists during the summer months (June -August), but now welcomed Black teachers during the school year (September – June). Renovations included the following: giving the entire house aluminum siding and double - paned windows. The first floor became completely family private, and the second floor gave tenants complete privacy. A second (2nd) stairwell was added for the tenants, which gave them access to a kitchen that was added on the back of the house (first floor) for them. A bathroom and den were also added on the (first floor) for the family's privacy. A furnace room for heating was added on the first floor, and air conditioners, for cooling, were added in every bedroom and living room (1st & 2nd floors). Also, the sign in

the front yard was changed to read “**McGuire Rooms.**” Its most famous renters included the following: Rev. Leon Sullivan – National and International Civil Rights Leader; Rev. Dr. Wendell Sommerville – International Lott Carey Foreign Missions; Mr. James H. Cary – the First Black Superintendent of Essex County Public Schools. During segregation, he served as principal of the all-black Essex County High School. In 1970, the segregated school name was changed to the desegregated Essex Intermediate School. In 2018, the name would be renamed the James H. Cary Intermediate School.

1980 – During the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, federal laws were changed. White establishments, now, had to open their doors to Black travelers. These changes, gradually, affected the renting of McGuire Rooms. Twenty years later – 1980 – McGuire Rooms ceased operations.

2018 – A Hollywood, California motion picture was made called “The Green Book.” It was based on the book “The Negro Motorist Green Book.” It won an Academy Award for Best Motion Picture of the Year in 2019. This is when the McGuire Family learned that their ancestor’s home/business was listed in this book under the name “McGuire’s Inn” – seventy-eight years later (1940-2018).

2023 – In March 2023, the Virginia General Assembly signed into law House Bill 1968 – “Green Book Historic Site Designations.” As a result of HB1968, McGuire’s Inn is, now, recognized as a historic site – one hundred three years later (1920-2023).

In a bullet list, include any outbuildings or secondary resources or major landscape features (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

- There is an outside cinder block, tool house – Constructed in the 1980’s. In good condition.
- There is an underground oil tank – Put under ground in the 1970’s. In good condition.
- There were black window panels added on to the windows when the house was remodeled a second time - in 1960-1962.
- There are black & white ironings over top of the windows, added on when the house was remodeled a second time.
- There is a chain linked fence dividing some of the property line.

4. Property’s History and Significance (Please do not exceed one page)

Briefly explain the property’s historic importance, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property.

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

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1955 – After the deaths of Lewis and Ida (1952 & 1955 respectively), great nephew Charles McGuire, who was raised as their son from a very young boy, inherited the business. In 1957, Charles and Lillian Hill were united in holy matrimony, and thus continued the service of renting rooms to Colored tourists.

1960 - 1962 – The home/business, associated with the sign “Colored Tourists”, had completed renovations, and the business of preparing hot meals was discontinued. However, the Inn still welcomed Colored tourists during the summer months (June -August), but now welcomed Black teachers during the school year (September – June). Also, since 1962 to present, the Hill Family Reunion (my mother’s family) has taken place at McGuire’s Inn every 1st weekend in August (62 years). From 1960-1962, renovations included the following: giving the entire house aluminum siding and double - paned windows. The first floor became completely family private, and the second floor gave tenants complete privacy. A second (2nd) stairwell was added for the tenants, which gave them access to a kitchen that was added on the back of the house (first floor) for them. A bathroom and den were also added on the (first floor) for the family’s privacy. A furnace room for heating was added on the first floor, and air conditioners, for cooling, were added in every bedroom and living room (1st & 2nd floors). Also, the sign in the front yard was changed to read “McGuire Rooms.” Its most famous renters included the following: Rev. Dr. Leon Sullivan – National and International Civil Rights Leader; Rev. Dr. Wendell Sommerville – International Lott Carey Foreign Missions; Mr. James H. Cary – the First Black Superintendent of Essex County Public Schools. He served as the principal of the all- Black Essex County High School during segregation. In 1969, the school system was desegregated and in 1970, the school’s name became Essex Intermediate School. In 2018, the school would be renamed James H. Cary Intermediate School.

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Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property, such as deeds, census and tax records, and/or published articles and books. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

- Oral History as told to my mother – Lillian Hill McGuire, Historian, by her husband and other individuals who lived in Tappahannock during that time.

- The Deed of the property
- Personal Experiences – My parents married in 1957. My mother moved in the house at that time, where she became part owner of McGuire's Inn with my father.
- Mine and my sister's own personal experiences growing up in McGuire's Inn.

5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: X Public\Local Public\State Public\Federal

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property: (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

Owners:

Gina R. McGuire
 445 Marsh Street; Tappahannock, VA 22560
 Telephone: (804)517-1987 Email: gimcgui@aol.com

Legal Owner's Signature

Gina R. McGuire

Date:

5/13/25

Brenda McGuire Randolph
 9705 Springfield Woods Circle; Glen Allen, VA 23060
 Telephone: (804)366-5535 Email: randolphbren@verizon.net

Legal Owner's Signature:

Brenda McGuire Randolph

Date:

5/13/25

• • *Signature required for processing all applications.* • •

In the event of corporate ownership, you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: N/A
 Daytime Telephone:


Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)


name/title:
 organization
 street & number
 city or town: state zip code:
 e-mail: telephone:
 Date:

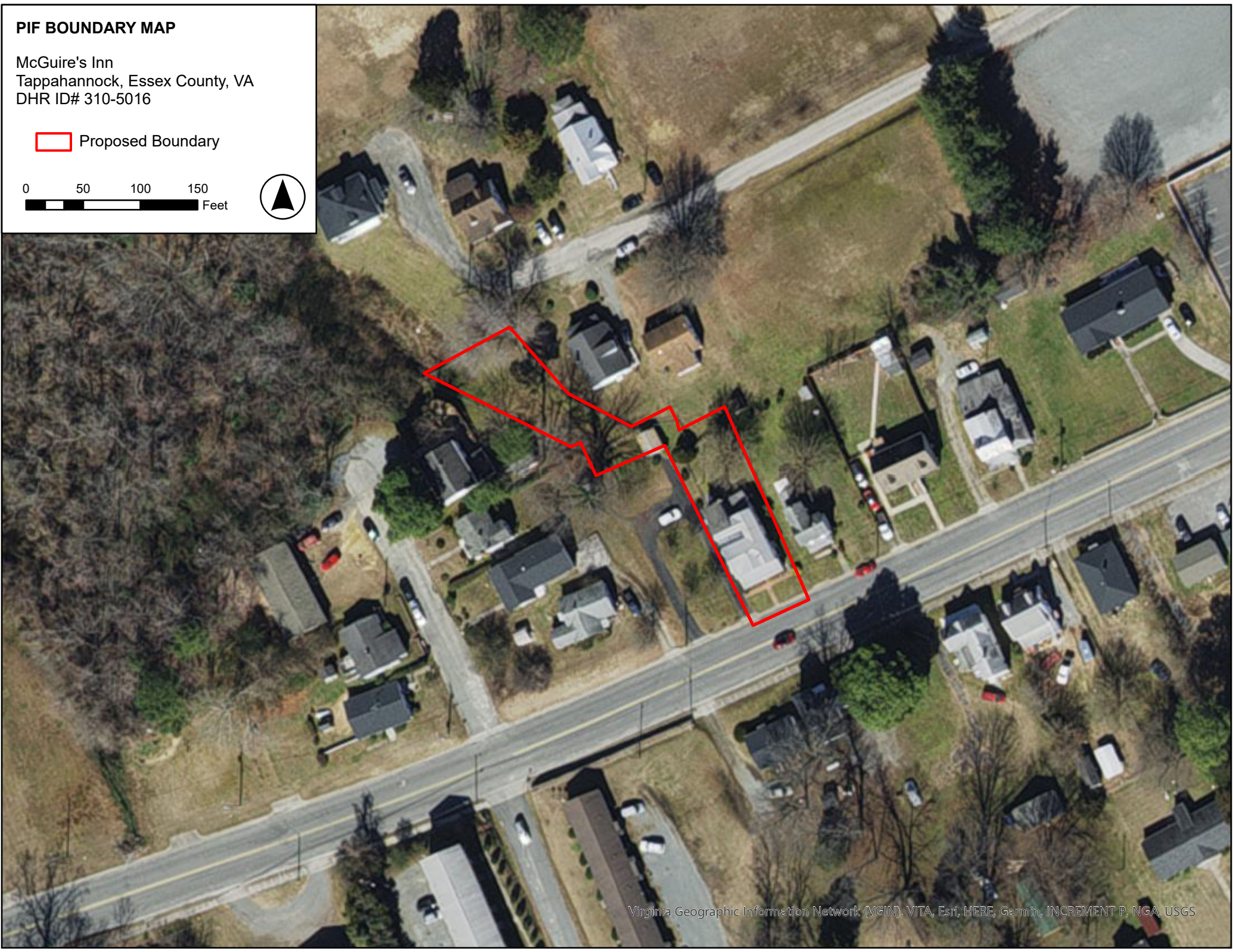
PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH CONTINUATION SHEETS TO THIS FORM. THANK YOU!

PIF BOUNDARY MAP

McGuire's Inn
Tappahannock, Essex County, VA
DHR ID# 310-5016


 Proposed Boundary

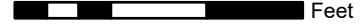
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 Feet



PIF AERIAL-VICINITY MAP

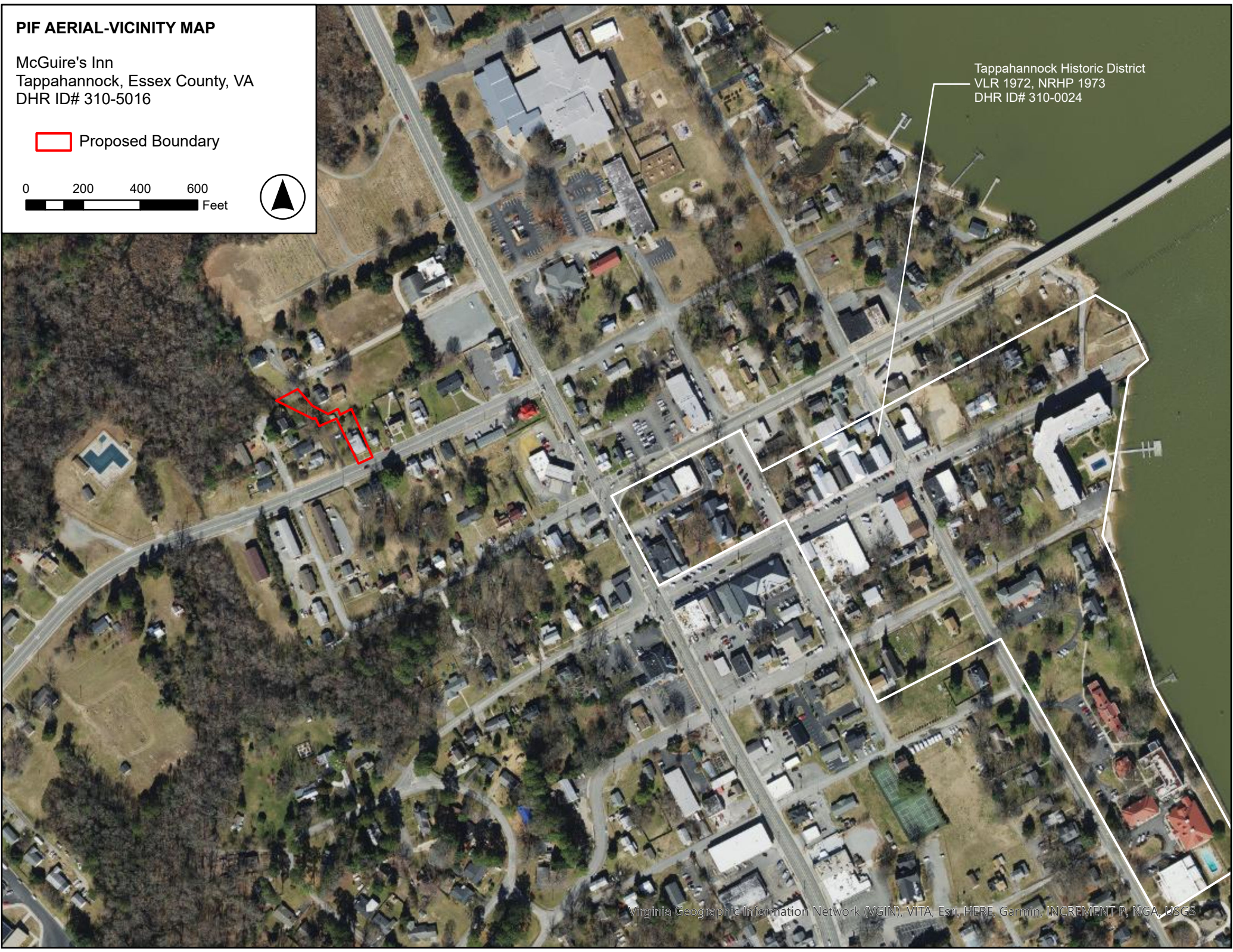
McGuire's Inn
Tappahannock, Essex County, VA
DHR ID# 310-5016

 Proposed Boundary

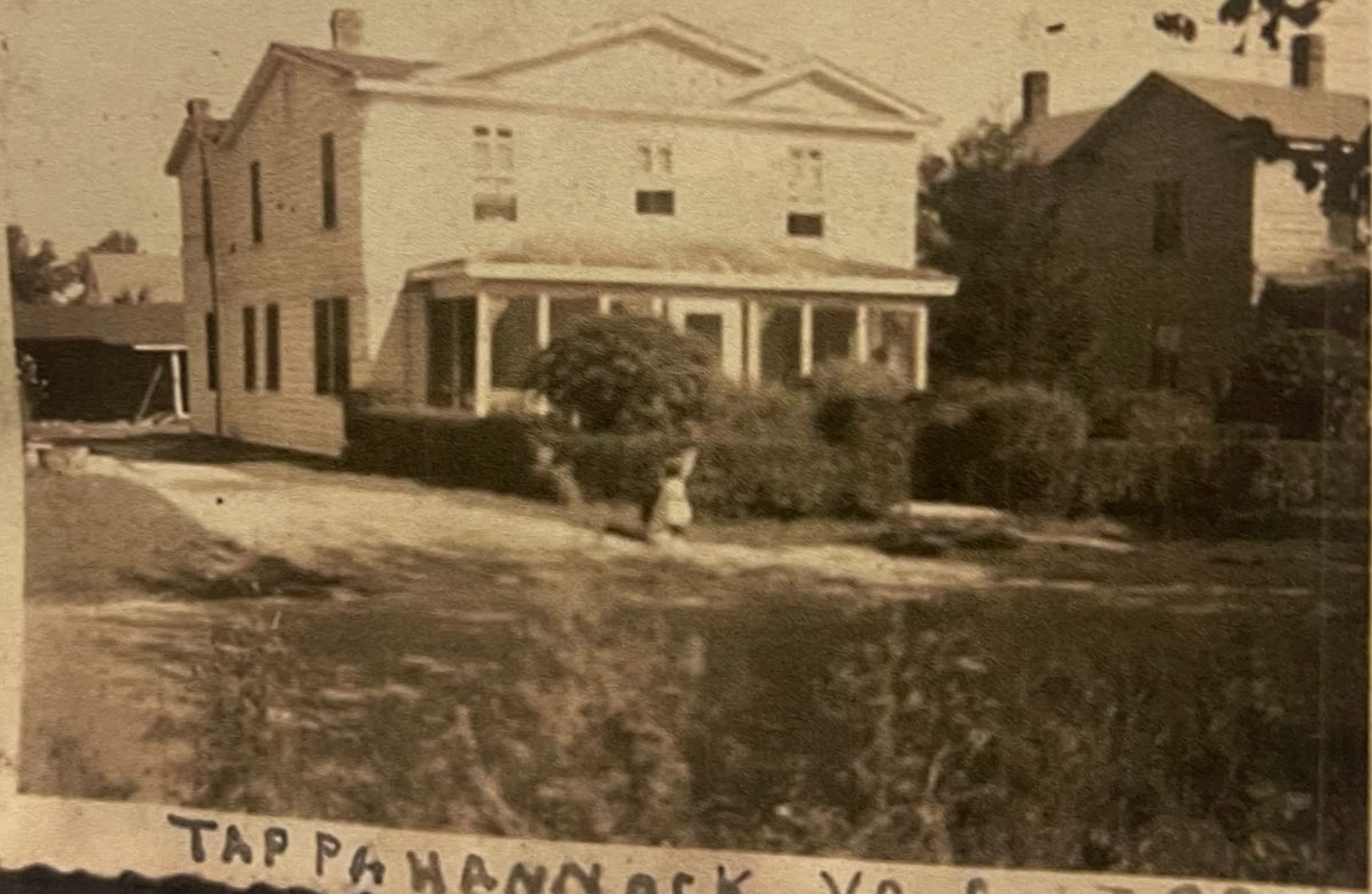
0 200 400 600
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Tappahannock Historic District
VLR 1972, NRHP 1973
DHR ID# 310-0024



Mc GUIRE Inn.



TAPPAN HANNOCK, VA. SEPT. 28, 1945

THE
EARLY FACE of MCGUIRE'S INN



Photo taken in 1945

CIRCA The Late 1800s — 1960

— DESIGN —

NOTE: Beginning during the latter part of the year 1960 and extending into the early part of the year 1962, McGuire's Inn was undergoing an extensive renovation — interior and exterior. The renovation...

FRAME

THE
RENOVATED FACE OF MCGUIRE'S TAVNA



1962

Photo taken in 1969

CURRENTLY

— DESIGN —

ROOMERS'
RECEIPTS
(PARTIAL LIST)



Duplicate Receipts

No. 730

CHAS. G. STOTT & CO., INC.

No. July 3 19 71
RECEIVED OF Mrs. & Mrs. Spencer Garnett
Twelve ⁰⁰ DOLLARS
Room rent ~~two~~ ^{two} night
Lillian H. McGuire

No. _____ 19 71
RECEIVED OF _____
_____ ¹⁰⁰ DOLLARS

No. July 31 19 71
RECEIVED OF Mr. Robert Harris
Fifty ⁰⁰ DOLLARS
July 1 - July 31 rent
Lillian H. McGuire

No. August 6-9 19 71
RECEIVED OF Garnett Family
Eighty ⁰⁰ DOLLARS
Room rent three nights
Lillian H. McGuire

Date	Name	Address	
Aug 3	Mr & Mrs. Harvey Kelly	Wilmington, DE	1
" "	" " " Moore	" "	2
Aug 10	Mrs. Frances Fields	Warwick, Md.	3
Aug 12	Dianne Carnot	Chesapeake City, Md.	4
Aug 10	Ran Pitt	Chesapeake City	5
Aug 10	Judith Doughton	Chesapeake City	6
Aug 10	Robert Burnett	Chesapeake City	7
Aug 10	John Burnett	Chesapeake City	8
Aug 10	Philip & Bernice	Chesapeake City	9
Aug 10	Edie Burnett	Chesapeake City	10
Aug 10	Mary L. Conroy	Newark, Delaware	11
Aug 18	Bert & Ernest	Chesapeake City, Md.	12
Aug 10	Mrs. Laura Fice	59 Westchester Ave	13
	Howard	Dorchester, Mass.	14
	Mrs. Louise Snowden	1604 Cypress Ave	15
		Virginia Beach	16
		VA 8-6068	17
	John Hamilton	Phila.	18
Aug 22	Mrs. & Mrs. Mark Hamilton	Phila.	19
	Miss & Mrs. Donald A. Colbert	1103 E 43rd St, Balto., Md.	20
	Mrs. Lorraine Jeffersons	486 Liberty Ave	21
		Altoona, Pa.	22
	Mrs. Harriet Young	600 S. Negley Ave	23
		Pitts. Pa. HI: 1-6430	24
	Mrs. Dorothy Ellison	7426 Race St.	25
		Pittsburgh 15208, Pa.	26
		Resident - 731-8111	27
Aug	Mrs & Mrs. Wm. Buffaloe	811 N. Mountland Ave.	28
		Pgh 8, Pa.	29
	George Walden	112-35-1965	30
		St Albans, N.Y.	31

The Establishers of McGuire's Inn



Deacon Lewis McGuire
September 3, 1876-February 3, 1952



Ida McGuire
August 14, 1898-October 16, 1955

THEY LEFT A LEGACY

