

Noland Village

At Providence

Where Morton's Ferry Roads intersect in Halifax County, a piece of history has been resurrected. The Village of Noland, once a commercial hub for northeastern Halifax County, has come to life through buildings restored on-site and those moved to replicate structures that once stood in the Village. Noland, where the post office was kept, and where there was a general exchange of news, as the many farm-wagons came loaded with tobacco for the Prize Barn next door. Their owners spent a moment discussing politics or the weather, while their wives and daughters were shopping among the dress goods and ribbons.

Their owners spent a moment discussing politics or the weather, while their wives and daughters were shopping among the dress goods and ribbons. The restoration and reconstruction of the Village began in the early 1980s with Halifax Church, the oldest Presbyterian Church in Halifax County. The form and appearance of Halifax Church have survived virtually unaltered from the time of its construction in the early 1830s. Devoid of all but the simplest of ornament, the one-story, single-room, rectangular-frame structure is approximately 26 feet by 31 feet in size with gable roof and gable-end entrance. It stands as a testament to the colonialistic austerity of the community's origin and is a strong reminder of the simplicity of the Presbyterian concept of religion and worship. The building erected by the early congregation is generic to the point of not even possessing a steeple or bell tower to denote its religious purpose. The restored church building was erected when the Halifax Church was organized at a meeting held for the purpose at Halifax Courthouse on June 19 and 20, 1830. The first members were four men and six women.

Noland's next historical building to be

reconstructed was an 18th Century ordinary. This 1789 tavern was moved from Prospect in Prince Edward County and rebuilt on the site of a previous tavern. During its life as a tavern, lodging was six pence per night, dinner was one shilling six pence and breakfast cost one shilling three pence. If one had a horse, pasturage amounted to six pence per night, corn and oats were seven and one-half pence per gallon and fodder was one pence per bundle. English currency was still in circulation in those days. A shilling was one-twentieth of a pound, and it took 12 pence to equal a shilling.

Following the Ordinary's reconstruction, a 1732 colonial farmhouse called Afton was moved from King and Queen County to the Village. The building has a gambrel roof with two rooms down with a side hall and one large room on the second floor. Special to this building is an eleven foot wide double chimney enclosing a shared warming closet.

Later, Noland Village was expanded with the restoration of the Robert and John Carr Houses. The two houses belonged to members of the William Carr family.

The Robert Carr House has five major rooms with a central hall that once was a dog-trot which was filled in at some later date. The present dining room was originally a separate detached building with its own staircase.

The John Carr House is of the same basic floor plan with the main house being of logs and the newer clapboard two-story addition being separated by a space of ten feet. This ten-foot space was later filled in to create the central hall and stairway to the second floor.

The Carr Houses were originally constructed in what are now the Stovall and Liberty areas of Halifax County before being moved to Noland Village.

In the recreation of Noland Village, the existing building known as Noland Post Office/Lacks Store is being refurbished. The country store, owned by Simmie Lacks, became a post office in 1894 and operated as such until the

post office was moved to Lennig during the first World War. The building is made up of log sheathed in clapboard and will eventually be restored to resemble a country store/post office of its time.

The next addition in the renaissance of Noland Village is a double log building beside the post office known as the Baldwin House. It was moved from some five miles up the Staunton River to the Village.

The largest prize barn for the processing of tobacco from area farmers within a distance of 25 miles was also located in Noland. The processing involved packing the tobacco into hogsheads to be rolled to a dock on the nearby Staunton River and then loaded onto bateaux. These bateaux carried the tobacco down the Staunton into the Roanoke River and on to Albemarle Sound where it was loaded onto sailing vessels bound for London. The barn that represents Noland's Prize Barn is located to the rear of Noland Post Office and is known as the Hatcher Barn. The Barn was moved to this site from some ten miles away.

The latest addition to Historic Noland Village is the log house known as the Blanks-Irby House. It is a log building with two rooms down and a half room above. The house was moved from the Lennig, Virginia area some eight miles away.

The records in the local courthouse also indicate that there was once a distillery in Noland Village.

One of the reasons for recreating the Village is so visitors can have a way to celebrate their 19th Century heritage. Each spring the Village holds a Noland Fair Day which is open to the public, with crafts, farm machinery and food. During the Christmas season, area musicians present an Evensong in Halifax Church, followed by caroling and refreshments on the grounds of Noland Village.

For tour information, telephone 434.454.6962 or the Halifax County Chamber of Commerce 434.572.3085. The grounds are open to visitors daily.