



FAUQUIER TIMES STAFF PHOTO/RANDY LITZINGER

This stretch of the Little River Historic District typifies the rural beauty of northern Fauquier. The Virginia Landmarks Register recently added 23,000 acres of the district to its list of sites.

## Swath of northern Fauquier added to state landmarks register

### Little River Historic District's past chronicled

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The Virginia Department of Historic Resources moved to enshrine 23,116 acres of northern Fauquier, one of a dozen sites across the state added to the Virginia Landmarks Register.

The Little River Historic District stretches from The Plains to Middleburg, straddling the Broad Run/Little Georgetown Rural Historic District and the Cromwell's Run Rural Historic District.

Warrenton resident Cheryl Hanback Shepherd spearheaded the push to recognize the Little River district, a process that took four years of researching land that includes nearly 1,500 historic dwellings and farm buildings.

"It's honorary and doesn't place any restriction or regulation on the owners, but it's a celebration of the history of the area,"

Shepherd said.

That history is now available for all to see in the nomination she submitted to the landmarks register — but it still isn't comprehensive, Shepherd said.

"I still have more history I couldn't get into the nomination, because I'd never be finished," she said, laughing.

Shepherd's grandfather William Hanback built many of the early 20th-century homes in the district, including Whitewood Farm just north of The Plains.

Hanback's sons, including her father, worked on many of the properties in the area. Shepherd has fond memories of opening the door for candy deliveries from the Mars family each year for the holidays.

Many of the farms in the district enjoy a panoramic view of the Blue Ridge Mountains to their

west. A good way for casual motorists to get a taste of the landscape is to take a drive up Zulla or Halfway roads, Shepherd said.

"It's comforting to go through such a beautiful area," Shepherd said. "I always thought it was Fauquier County's prettiest area."

The district also includes 760 acres of land that once saw the Battle of Middleburg in the Civil War.

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources will now forward Little River Historic District for nomination to be enshrined in the National Register of Historic Places.

To see more photos and information about Little River Rural Historic District, look for its nomination form under the "Northern Region" section of [dhr.virginia.gov/registers/board-Page.html](http://dhr.virginia.gov/registers/board-Page.html).