

14. The glorious **white oak** in front of you may have witnessed the Quakers' arrival here in 1733, as well as construction of the dam. Its long, low branches indicate that it did not grow in a forest. Local villagers have nicknamed it "Old John" in memory of John Hough (1720-1797), a Waterford Quaker who owned thousands of acres and a number of mills in Loudoun. White oaks were favored by early settlers for building, baskets, barrels, flooring, furniture, and many other uses. Native Americans made flour from the acorns.

15. The **mill dam**, like the race, dates from about 1760. Consider how laborers managed to collect, move, and place such large boulders with no more than human and animal muscle. The dam once stood a few feet higher—enough to raise the level of the impoundment more than 12 feet above the outflow from the wheel at the mill. In 1908 at the near end of the dam, miller William M. Fling signed his name in wet concrete he used to cap and reinforce the dam.

A bit beyond the dam, in 1814, African American Benjamin Kins and wife Letitia bought two acres spanning the creek and built a house. They were among the first black families in the area to own their own land. Benjamin had been born a slave in Calvert County, Maryland, about 1770, but owner John Talbott freed him when the Quakers abolished the use of slaves in 1776. Talbott Farm remains today just southeast of the village.



As you enjoy the history and geography of this trail, you also may observe many bird species that make the farm their home:

- Bluebird • Tree, Northern rough-winged, and Barn swallows
- Great blue heron • Green-backed Heron
- Belted kingfisher • Carolina wren
- Cedar waxwing • Eastern phoebe • Common yellowthroat
- Red-winged blackbird • Baltimore and Orchard orioles
- Red-bellied and Downy woodpeckers
- Ruby-crowned kinglet • Blue-gray gnatcatcher
- Red-tailed and Red-shouldered hawks • Barred owl
- Osprey • Black and Turkey vultures



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Printed on 100% recycled paper.

Access Policy for the Phillips Farm

Welcome!

Since 1943, the community of Waterford has worked hard to preserve the open spaces within and around the Village. We invite you to visit and enjoy these spaces, and to treat them with care so that future generations may enjoy them, too.

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) holds a conservation easement on the Phillips Farm, ensuring that it will be preserved much as you see it today in perpetuity. Its significance to the Waterford National Historic Landmark District is such that any change to its use or appearance could threaten this national heritage designation.

Therefore, we ask that you join with us, VOF, and our other partners to ensure that this farm will still be here for future generations to learn from and enjoy. We ask you to walk only on the mowed trail and observe the following *Rules of the Trail* designed to enhance your enjoyment of the property and to protect your health and safety. They also serve to protect the environmental quality, agricultural value and open space integrity of the farm.

We extend a warm invitation to become directly involved in the Phillips Farm's ongoing activities. Please email the Foundation, info@waterfordfoundation.org, for more information.

Rules of the Trail

Please help us protect the farm's resources.

- For your safety, please stay on the posted trail.
- Please keep pets on a leash and remove their waste.
- So that others may enjoy this special place in the future, help us protect all animals, plants and cultural resources. Please do not collect or distribute plant or animal life or feed the wildlife. Metal detecting is prohibited.
- For public health and safety reasons, there is no hunting, trapping, swimming, horseback riding, biking, use of motorized recreational vehicles, camping, smoking, firearms, fires, fireworks, or illegal use of drugs or alcohol.
- Please carry out what you carry in.



Waterford Foundation
40222 Fairfax Street
Post Office Box 142
Waterford, VA 20197-0142
Phone 540.882.3018

Our Mission

The mission of the Waterford Foundation is to preserve the historic buildings and the open spaces of the National Historic Landmark District of Waterford, Virginia; and through education, to increase the public's knowledge of life and work in an early American rural community.

Join the Waterford Foundation

When you become a member of the Waterford Foundation, you will be joining other citizens who are concerned about the preservation of this very special place. You will also assist us in our goal of providing educational opportunities so that the knowledge of life and work in a early rural community is not forgotten.

There are many benefits to membership with the Foundation: free tickets to the annual Fair, discounts on our publications, seasonal newsletters, and invitations to our various and always interesting programs and activities.

Call 1-540-882-3018 to sign up or visit us on the web at www.waterfordfoundation.org

Name _____
Address _____
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State _____ Zip _____
Email _____
Phone _____

\$50 Single Membership \$100 Family Membership

Check enclosed

(Please make check payable to Waterford Foundation, Inc.)

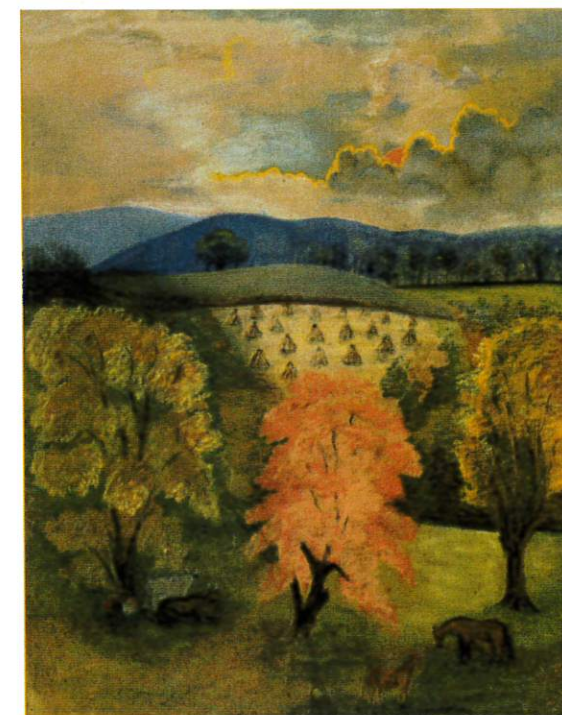
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WATERFORD PHILLIPS FARM

A Self-Guided Tour



"The Phillips Farm circa 1900," by Mary F. Dutton Steer

The present-day Phillips Farm is a portion of a 220-acre parcel assembled by Thomas Phillips between 1798 and 1832. Thomas Phillips was born in Philadelphia in 1776, a few weeks after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. He made his way to Waterford and became a partner in a prosperous tannery operation with local Quaker Asa Moore. He married Moore's niece, joined the Religious Society of Friends, and became a pillar of the community. After Moore died, Phillips acquired the mill and acreage on both sides of Catoctin Creek. He sold the mill in 1832 to focus exclusively on farming. He employed white and black workers, but never slaves since Quakers prohibited that practice. Phillips' descendants continued to farm the property for 150 years. The Farm has produced beef, pork, hay, corn, honey, dairy products, wool, and wheat. A local farmer now leases it to cut hay for his cattle.

The Waterford Foundation acquired 144 acres of the original Phillips Farm acreage on December 18, 2003, to protect it from residential development. It conveyed a conservation easement to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) in order to "protect the Farm's agricultural soils, viability, and productive capacity, and its water quality... and to preserve the integrity of the Waterford Historic District by protecting the traditional and scenic rural character of the Farm."