

Rixeyville, Area of Historic Interest

Rixeyville became a post office in 1818, and the village grew because of its location on the stagecoach line between Washington, Richmond, and points south. William Green described the community in 1835 as "situated handsomely on a healthy and high position...containing 12 dwelling houses, a mercantile store, new house of entertainment, tanyard, show factory, cooper's shop, wheelwright, blacksmith; and ... is rapidly improving, the vicinity being occupied by wealthy and industrious farmers." With heavy damage to the surrounding area during the Civil War, the closing of the stagecoach line, improvement of the road to Culpeper town, and the coming of the automobile, Rixeyville's growth stalled. And while there are still some twelve houses in the village, and a store, most of the auxiliary businesses went with the Depression.

In years to come there will probably be a bypass around the village, and as with Catalpa, the store will be a casualty. But saved will be two early 19th century houses, a late 19th century home and church, and a 1900 school. All other buildings are not overbearing. William Burke even had the moxie to get the post office to move to a converted early 20th century garage, remodeled nicely.

BS

Scheel, p. 354.

E. M. Scheel, Feb., 1994

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Rixeyville Store & Post Office

The original store, which extends from the front to the wall of the present fireplace, may date from the late 1870's, when it was operated by Richard Lewis. John W. Smith then ran the store for about a decade, followed by C. Wood Tanner, then William E. Turner. During those years it was the traditional *Democratic Post Office* - the post when Democrats had the Presidency. Frank and Grace Rosenberger ran the store from the late 1920's, and she and her second husband, Tom F. Curtis, Jr., operated the store during the '40's and '50's. Mrs. Rosenberger (Curtis) was Rixeyville postmistress from 1932-1983. June Peters was the last postmistress at the store and in 1993 the post moved to its present location. John and Rochelle Levi Yowell ran the store in the 1970's, trading as Rixeyville Mercantile, and since 1980 the operator has been William Burke. William Burke named the store "Maw and Paw's," after the Hackley's Country Mall in Amisville. All of Graham Hackleys' friends call them "Maw and Paw".

Maw and Paw's now has a second story, formerly an apartment, and is vinyl sided. The roof is gabled, and has a new interior brick chimney. A one-story shed-roof wing on the south side, which housed the post office, blends into a four-bay porch facing the road to the east. The original building is weatherboard and has a stone foundation. The post-office wing was tin-sided and has a concrete-block foundation.

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Scheel, p. 354; William Burke, Jackson Kerrick Yowell, Robert O'Bannon, Diane Lohr; dates and information revised per discussion with June Peters, dated Oct. 1994.

E. M. Scheel, Feb., 1994

Rixeyville School

Despite its being remodeled into a home shortly after the elementary school closed in 1951, the building still looks like a country school. Built in 1900 as a one roomer, it became a two roomer in the 1920's. Generally grades one through five occupied the rooms. The 1½ story building is weatherboard and has a gabled roof. The octagonal window in the gable of the front bay is post 950, as is the Federal Style door. The T-shaped building rests on a stone foundation, now concreted. The central brick chimney is original.

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Steve Lundy, Robert O'Bannon

E. M. Scheel, Feb., 1994

Rixeyville School (Negro)

As with the Brandy and Maddensville Schools of similar date, the style and care in construction of the Rixeyville School was a great step forward, considering the small frame one and two roomers, by then scores of years old, which they replaced. But in terms of economics the schools were hardly cost-effective, in operation not fifteen years, closed due to consolidation and desegregation. The Rixeyville School dates from 1950, had two classrooms holding four grades - one through four, and closed in the early 1960's.

Unlike the Brandy and Maddensville Schools, which had been plastered, this school has its concrete block exposed. It is one story, with a low pitched gabled roof with returning cornices. Five large windows flank each side of a Greek Revival brick entrance portico with pediment. The entrance door below the portico once had a large fanlight and sidelights. The gables feature half round windows, outlined by brick headers. There are no windows on the west side of the building. There are two tall brick interior chimneys at the center of the building.

BS

Carol Ferguson Sturdivant

E. M. Scheel, Feb., 1994

