

7. PURVIS STORE



Purvis Store - Current State

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: *Built in the early 1900s, the store and adjacent outbuilding are listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a Contributing Resource to the Southern Albemarle Rural Historic District and is listed on the Albemarle County Important Country Stores list along with two other stores in Esmont: Payne's Store and Pace's Store.*

For many years Purvis Store was the hub of activity in the Historic Village of Esmont (the Village). The store played many roles in serving the Village and nearby residents other than selling groceries and gas and making home deliveries. It was also a message center for those who had no telephone, a recreation center for those who had no television, and a place to go when they needed help.

Restoring this property as the hub of the Village again, instead of allowing its collapse, will bring new life to the Village and surrounding area. The vision is to provide a marketplace for crafts people to sell their wares, and perhaps make them on-site, along with a small grocery. Items sold in the Purvis Store Market will be locally made or tied to the history of the area. A small museum will be included for local artifacts, and the Esmont History Book will be displayed there. A care-taker's apartment will be included in the design of the building.

BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY: Purvis Store Market will attract artists, craftspeople, history buffs, and visitors to the area, providing economic opportunities. The shed next door will be converted into the Trailhead with amenities such as bathrooms, seating, bicycle repair. The care-taker resident will benefit from lower rent.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROJECTS: Visitors to the Wildlife Refuge and those on the Esmont-Alberene Quarry Line Trail will enjoy and extend their time in the Village by stopping by the Purvis Store Market and availing themselves of the Trailhead amenities.

ESTIMATED COST: \$300,000 - \$500,000

SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT: The headquarters for Friends of Esmont, Inc. will be housed in the Purvis Store along with other shops bringing in rental revenue.