

**ARLINGTON COUNTY LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
DESIGNATION FORM**

**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

**Historic Names:** Hyman's Grocery; Green Valley Pharmacy  
**Current Name:** Green Valley Pharmacy

**2. LOCATION OF PROPERTY**

**Address:** 2415 Shirlington Road  
Arlington, Virginia 22206

**3. TYPE OF PROPERTY**

**A. Ownership**

Private  
 Public  
 Local  
 State  
 Federal

**B. Category**

Building  
 District  
 Site  
 Structure  
 Object

**C. Number of Resources**

<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>	
<u>1</u>	___	<b>Buildings</b>
___	___	<b>Sites</b>
___	___	<b>Structures</b>
___	___	<b>Objects</b>
<u>1</u>	___	<b>Total</b>

**D. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places**

Yes       No

**4. FUNCTION/USE**

**Historic Functions:** Grocery store; pharmacy and lunch counter

**Current Functions:** Pharmacy and lunch counter

## 5. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

### **Architectural Description:**

The commercial building at 2415 Shirlington Road is one-story in height with a rectangular-shaped plan. It is constructed of 12-inch cinder blocks faced in textured stucco. Wooden shingles cover the overhanging false mansard roof line that extends along the northern, western, and southern sides of the building. The large single-pane windows have aluminum surrounds and rest on brick rowlock sills; the sills on the smaller windows on the south elevation have been covered in stucco. The main entrance door at the southwest corner is solid glass within an aluminum surround and a fixed glass transom above. The building's simple design has minimal architectural ornamentation, with the most distinctive features being the prominent corner entrance and the built-up mansard roof line. Signage is limited to individual applied letters that spell out "Green Valley Pharmacy" centered underneath the roof line on both street-front elevations. Tube-style florescent lighting has been installed underneath the existing projecting mansard roof overhang along the Shirlington Road and 24<sup>th</sup> Road South frontages.

The building's west elevation, which faces Shirlington Road, has one large off-center window that frames the primary entrance to the pharmacy at its southwest corner. The fenestration of the south elevation that fronts 24<sup>th</sup> Road South has a total of four openings, including one large window that frames the south side of the main door, two smaller window openings (one of which has been infilled) past the mid-point of the facade, and one door opening at the southeastern end that is fitted with a solid metal door covered by metal bars. The rear east elevation features a standing exterior brick chimney near its center. This elevation has no fenestration and the original cinder blocks are visible; only the northeastern section of this facade is covered in stucco. There is no fenestration on the building's northern elevation. A three-foot wide concrete sidewalk lines the building on the western and southern sides and separates the building from the surrounding parking lot.

Upon entering the pharmacy, the main sales counter is located to the left, with the lunch counter and seating to the right. The pharmacy office is at the far rear and is separated from the main store by a solid door and a counter area. There are several historic elements remaining on the interior, including some floor-to-ceiling wood shelves behind the sales counter, a large metal floor safe, and the pharmacy's original cash register. See Photos 1 through 15 for historic and current images of the exterior and interior of the Green Valley Pharmacy.

**Alterations:** According to County historic building permit information available for the property, several exterior and interior alterations were made over time. The most significant change made to the building was the addition of the false mansard roof line in 1983. The recorded alterations include the following changes, with building permit approval dates noted in parentheses:

- Installation of a walk-in cooler (10/9/44);
- Alteration of a bay window (5/27/48);
- Installation of a closet (10/4/73);

- Replacement of the front door and windows, and building signage (5/9/83);
- Building of a parapet to create a mansard roof line (8/29/83); and
- Installation of a drop ceiling and a door replacement (10/3/83).<sup>1</sup>

**Setting:** The Green Valley Pharmacy is located in the Nauck neighborhood at the northeastern corner of the intersection of Shirlington Road and 24<sup>th</sup> Road South. There is a small paved one car deep parking area for customer use on the two sides of the building that front the street intersection. A small grassy area is located immediately behind the building.

In July 2004, the Arlington County Board adopted the Nauck Village Center Action Plan. This property is within the boundaries of the Nauck Village Center Special Revitalization District, the overall goal of which is “to revitalize the commercial area and to encourage a balanced range of housing, recreation, employment, community services, retail, and entertainment opportunities to present and future Nauck neighborhood residents and businesses....”<sup>2</sup>

The pharmacy is in an area zoned for service commercial type uses, with a mix of older and newly built small businesses, single family homes, multi-family housing, and hotels in the immediate vicinity. The Lomax AME Zion Church and Cemetery at 2704 24<sup>th</sup> Road South (designated an Arlington Historic District in 1984 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2004), the Drew Model Elementary School, and Drew Park also are nearby. To the immediate north of the pharmacy on the adjacent lot is a single-family residence, formerly known as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center. See Maps 1 through 4 for an understanding of the building’s location.

<b>Materials:</b>	Foundation:	Slab on grade
	Walls:	Cinder block, faced with stucco
	Roof:	Wood shingles
	Windows:	Aluminum, fixed, single pane
	Doors:	Glass with aluminum, metal

## 6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### A. Applicable Designation Criteria as described in Section 31A, Historic Preservation Districts:

Green Valley Pharmacy meets three of the eleven designation criteria as listed in Section 31A, Part C.1.d. See Section K of this report for a detailed description.

**B. Areas of Significance:**

The building located at 2415 Shirlington Road originally was built in 1942 as a grocery store for Joseph Hyman. The current owner, Dr. Leonard Muse, and his initial business partner officially opened the Green Valley Pharmacy in the existing building in September 1952. In 1955, Muse purchased the property and his business has remained in continuous operation for 60 years. The historic significance of the Green Valley Pharmacy lies not in its physical architectural history, but rather in its cultural history, its contributions to African American commercial history in Arlington County, and the individual importance of Dr. Muse to the Nauck community.

**C. Period of Significance**

1942; 1952 - Present

**D. Significant Dates**

See “Period of Significance” dates above.

**E. Significant Person**

**Leonard Muse (May 8, 1923 - ):** Born in Del Ray Beach, Florida. Moved to Washington, DC, in 1944 to attend the Howard University School of Pharmacy. Graduated in 1948 and began his career working at the Johnson Pharmacy in Southwest DC. First partnered with former classmate Waverly Jones to establish a pharmacy in Arlington County, which officially became known as the Green Valley Pharmacy in 1952. Dr. Muse, since 1955, is the sole owner of the pharmacy that has remained in continuous operation.

**F. Cultural/Social Affiliation**

African American pharmacists and pharmacies in Arlington County; and African American-owned businesses in Arlington County.

**G. Architects/Builders**

**Sanford Leslie Bransom (July 3, 1917 – April 2, 1999):** Born in Washington, DC. Attended DC public schools, including Garnet-Patterson and Armstrong Technical High School. May have studied architecture at Howard University in the late-1930s. Employed as an architectural designer and architect in the 1930s and 1940s, predominantly in Washington, DC. Designed the Green Valley Pharmacy in Arlington County, VA, which likely is his only known work in Arlington. Died in Colorado Springs, Colorado.<sup>3</sup>

## H. Narrative Statement of Significance

### Overview of Nauck History

The community of Nauck, which is located in south Arlington and roughly bounded by Shirley Highway/Interstate 395, South Four Mile Run Drive, and South Walter Reed Drive, has a rich African American history dating back to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Levi and Sarah Ann Jones, who were among the first free Blacks to own land in the area, built their home around 1844 and also sold portions of their property to other African Americans.<sup>4</sup> Many present day residents are descendants of families who have lived in Nauck since the Civil War era, some even settling in Nauck directly from Freedman's Village.<sup>5</sup>

The Nauck area originally was known as Green Valley. Green Valley Manor was a 46-acre farm with a 2½-story residence that stood near 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South and South Arlington Ridge Road. The home, with a prominent view overlooking what is now the site of the golf course of the Army Navy Country Club,<sup>6</sup> presumably was built ca. 1821 by Anthony Fraser and later inherited by his daughter Presha and her husband Jackson E. Sickles.<sup>7</sup> Legend states that a member of the Fraser-Sickles family did not believe in slavery, thereby freeing his slaves and giving them land and money to build their own homes.<sup>8</sup> The Fraser mansion was destroyed by fire in 1924.<sup>9</sup> The namesake of the community is John D. Nauck, Jr., who lived in Washington, DC, and bought 46 acres of land to subdivide in Alexandria County (in what is now south Arlington) in 1874.<sup>10</sup>

From the late-19<sup>th</sup> through the early-20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Nauck neighborhood thrived with several churches, schools, and commercial businesses serving its residents. The arrival of streetcars at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the catalyst for new residential construction as the Washington, Arlington, and Falls Church Electric Railway connected Nauck to Rosslyn and the Nation's Capital.<sup>11</sup> But like other African American communities throughout the South, Nauck was impacted by the tribulations of racial segregation. Despite such challenges, Nauck prospered and became a self-sufficient and successful enclave that defined south Arlington. Several of Nauck's earliest businesses, including the Green Valley Pharmacy, Naomi's TV, and Chinn's Funeral Home, remain vital staples of the community today. As explained in a recent documentary project about the heritage of Nauck:

There has always been an entrepreneurial spirit in the Nauck/Green Valley community, a spirit born of necessity. Community businesses represent efforts by local entrepreneurs to carve a living out in difficult or problematic social and economic times that were a more or less standard feature of African American life from the Civil War onward. Nauck businesses, like so many other facets of the community, evolved in the shadow of segregation and business people in Nauck stepped up to supply services to their community that were often denied to them...[such as] places to sit down and

eat, to play, to purchase groceries or to get a haircut or a permanent.<sup>12</sup>

### **Construction of 2415 Shirlington Road**

The origins of the commercial building at 2415 Shirlington Road date to 1942 when it was built as a grocery store. Between 1896 and 1901, Max and Fannie Hyman and their eight children immigrated to America from Eastern Europe, fleeing anti-Semitic persecution in what is now Belarus.<sup>13</sup> From the 1880s to 1910, a large number of Orthodox Jews fled Russia due to pogroms, poverty, and forced military service.<sup>14</sup> Many Jewish immigrants moved to existing commercial areas and opened small businesses (i.e., groceries, meat markets, or candy stores) and resided above the store.<sup>15</sup> In August 1910, the Hymans purchased two lots in the East Arlington subdivision off Columbia Turnpike in Alexandria County,<sup>16</sup> which was a predominantly African American neighborhood with several Jewish families.<sup>17</sup> In the early-20<sup>th</sup> century, Jewish immigrants tended to provide goods and services needed in African American communities throughout the country.<sup>18</sup> More than likely, the Hymans operated a grocery store from their residence until 1916 when Max Hyman acquired the adjacent lot known as the “East Arlington Store lot.”<sup>19</sup> He owned this property until the government exercised eminent domain in order to build the Pentagon. Although the value of the land was assessed at only \$3,380, he received more than \$35,000 for his land.<sup>20</sup> Upon Max’s death in 1938 and the loss of the family’s grocery store, his sons William and Joseph Hyman purchased a corner property in Nauck from Lawrence Parks on March 31, 1942, to continue the family business.<sup>21</sup>

According to Arlington County Building Permit #16052, the commercial building at 2415 Shirlington Road was approved for construction on August 20, 1942.<sup>22</sup> Only Joseph Hyman, whose address of record at that time was on South Arlington Ridge Road, was listed as the owner on the building permit.<sup>23</sup> Various members of the Hyman family retained ownership of the property until September 14, 1955, when William and Agnes Hyman sold the property to Leonard Muse.<sup>24</sup>

The architect of the building was S. Leslie Bransom, whose office was located at 1729 8<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, in Washington, DC.<sup>25</sup> The legal property description of the parcel was lots 5 and 6 of the Johnson & Thompson subdivision. The one-story store was to be constructed of 12-inch cinder blocks with two rooms totaling 2,295 square feet. It had an estimated value of \$4,500. The building permit also stated that the builder or owner was required to begin construction within 60 days of the permit approval date.

Unfortunately, little is known about the architect who designed the Green Valley Pharmacy. Adding to the confusion is the fact that research for this project has revealed an inconsistency in the spelling of Bransom’s name. While Leslie Bransom seems to be the most common spelling in building permit records, some sources include an alternate name and spelling of S. Leslie Branson. This alternate name was found in several references to building permits in *The Washington Post*, and in a brochure about African American architects and builders published by the Eastland Gardens community in Northeast Washington, DC. Given that the

majority of references found to date use Bransom as the surname – particularly the Arlington County building permit for the pharmacy – that name will be used in this designation report.

Leslie Bransom grew up and attended school in Washington, DC. After graduating from Armstrong Technical High School, he may have taken courses at Howard University.<sup>26</sup> Bransom was not a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).<sup>27</sup> Because neither Virginia nor Washington, DC, maintains historic professional licensing records, it remains unknown if Bransom was a registered architect in either locality.<sup>28</sup> He also was not listed in an index of District of Columbia architects.<sup>29</sup> However, Bransom may have worked in some capacity as an architect, engineer, or draftsman for the Federal government and then completed projects on the side in private practice.<sup>30</sup> Another possibility is simply that Bransom had training or experience in the construction trades and was a building designer by profession as opposed to a licensed architect.

In Arlington County, the Green Valley Pharmacy is the only known building identified to date that is attributed to Leslie Bransom. His work in Washington, DC, however, was quite extensive. He designed three single-family homes in the Eastland Gardens community in Northeast DC (including 4133 Lee Street built in 1947), as well as other homes in Lincoln Heights and Central Northeast.<sup>31</sup> Historic building permit records maintained in the District reveal that Bransom designed at least 65 projects throughout the city, ranging from building repair work and additions to new construction, from March 1938 to May 1948.<sup>32</sup> His projects included 50 dwellings, six flats, one apartment, six stores or offices, one church, and one ice room. Bransom's most substantial projects, valued at a total of \$28,000 each, were a two-story doctor's office at 617 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, SW, and four two-story flats located at 1606-1622 K Street, NE.

### **Dr. Leonard Muse and the Green Valley Pharmacy**

Among the most successful, well-known, and cherished businesses in Nauck, and one that has helped shape and define the community for six decades, is the Green Valley Pharmacy. The original owner of the business, Dr. Leonard Muse, often called Doc Muse by friends and customers alike, still continues to operate and manage the pharmacy today. Muse was born on May 8, 1923, in Del Ray Beach, Florida, and grew up and attended school there.<sup>33</sup> After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Army on March 26, 1943, at Camp Blanding, Florida.<sup>34</sup> In 1944, Muse moved north to attend the Howard University School of Pharmacy in Washington, DC. Muse graduated June 6, 1948, and was one of 13 graduates in his class.<sup>35</sup> At the time of graduation, his place of residence listed in school records was 3610 25<sup>th</sup> Street South in Arlington, Virginia.<sup>36</sup> Muse began his professional career employed by Johnson Pharmacy, located at 600 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Southwest DC<sup>37</sup> and worked there for two years.

At the time, Muse was a registered pharmacist only in the District of Columbia. He was surprised to learn that there were no pharmacies in nearby Arlington that allowed African Americans to come into their stores. Typically, Black customers had to use rear entrances and were not treated well with their medical prescriptions. A friend from Norfolk, Virginia, Waverly W. Jones, who was a classmate of his at Howard and a member of the same graduating class<sup>38</sup>,

suggested they go into business together and open a pharmacy in Virginia. Several pastors from the local African American churches in Nauck met with Muse and Jones and introduced them to people in the area. Reverend Brown of Lomax AME Zion Church was especially encouraging, recognizing a need in the local community for a pharmacy.

While Muse and Jones sought a commercial space for their business venture, the former grocery store at 2415 Shirlington Road stood vacant. Muse formally purchased the property from William and Agnes Hyman on September 14, 1955.<sup>39</sup> Yet as early as the Fall of 1952, Muse and Jones were tenants of the building and had converted it for use as a pharmacy. On September 9, 1952, Muse applied for his business license in Arlington County under the trade name of Green Valley Pharmacy and he was listed as the sole owner of the business.<sup>40</sup> Two assumptions can therefore be made: 1) Muse and Jones were only partners for a short period of time; and 2) Muse and Jones began their pharmacy business by first renting the commercial space from the Hymans until Muse assumed ownership in 1955.

When asked about the early days of the store, Muse remarked that the prescription department at the rear originally was the grocery's meat department. Several drug companies stocked Muse and Jones with their medical supplies on a credit basis. In addition to the prescription services offered, the pharmacy was especially popular for its dine-in food counter. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, beverages, and an abundance of ice cream desserts were available. Customers of all ages could dine at the counter, which is still located on the right-hand side of the store just past the front door. Muse takes pride in the fact that he is still able to keep food prices at a minimum, realizing upon opening his business what it meant for his customers to be able to come to his store and spend their hard-earned money. From the very beginning, Muse felt it was very important to convince customers that his business did not intend to rob them of their earnings, but it was there to help them and unite the community. Muse recalls how children loved to come by the food counter on Sunday afternoons after Sunday school, indulging on hot dogs or sandwiches, sodas, milk shakes, or sno-cones, a customer favorite. An order of two hot dogs originally cost only 25 cents!

Upon opening, the pharmacy was the largest store in the Nauck community. Other nearby businesses included a delicatessen, a beer garden with a billiards room, a barber shop, and a Gulf service station. The pharmacy clientele included both African American and white customers. At first, however, not everyone in the community appreciated or understood Muse's desire to open a pharmacy in an African American neighborhood. He speculated that some folks simply were wary of a Black-owned drug store, while others thought the medicine would be different than what one could buy at a white-owned store. As early as the mid-1950s, Muse said the biggest challenge he encountered upon opening his business was the younger people in the community. He explained how they were disrespectful when they visited the store, stole items, and damaged the windows and doors whenever he called the police to report their behavior. Police Chief William Fawver encouraged Muse to befriend the youth. Muse eagerly took the advice and the situation quickly improved, resulting in both Muse and his pharmacy being considered a true part of the community by patrons of all ages.

This year the Green Valley Pharmacy will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Dr. Muse continues to operate the pharmacy, with the assistance of his granddaughter and his volunteer staff, and remains the friendly and most recognizable face of the business. The pharmacy is open every day of the week, including holidays. In more than six decades of operation, Muse closed the pharmacy for maybe a total of only two weeks due to deaths in the family.<sup>41</sup> As they have for years, the staff continues to deliver prescriptions to customers upon request and customers, both new and loyal patrons alike, still frequent the pharmacy for medicines, refreshments, and lively camaraderie and conversation. As it was upon opening in 1952, the Green Valley Pharmacy remains a vibrant and cherished icon of the Nauck community.

### **African Americans in the Pharmaceutical Profession in the Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Little historical data is available or has been compiled to truly understand the significant mid-20<sup>th</sup> century contributions of African Americans to the pharmaceutical profession. However, some limited statistics do exist. Dr. John J. Mallowney, President of the Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, gave an address to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in August 1932. Founded in 1876 as the Medical Department of Central Tennessee College, Meharry was the first medical school in the South for African Americans and is now the nation's largest private historically Black institution dedicated to educating healthcare professionals and scientists.<sup>42</sup>

Mallowney explained how Meharry faculty had distributed a survey to 48 pharmaceutical colleges and received responses from 38 of the schools.<sup>43</sup> Results revealed that between 1927 and 1932, there were 90 graduates from pharmaceutical colleges, including 75 male and 15 female students. In comparison, Meharry Medical College alone had 95 graduates within that same five-year period. The survey also showed that in 1932 there were 330 registered African American pharmacists; of these, nearly 76% (or 250) were registered in the South versus only 80 total in the Northern states. Of the registered African American pharmacists, only between 10 to 20% owned their own stores, with the majority of 50 to 60% employed by African American drug store owners.

Mallowney stated that many college graduates in the medical, dental, and pharmaceutical fields were “rushing to the cities” to seek employment, thereby neglecting the needs of smaller towns.<sup>44</sup> It was Mallowney's assumption that a geographic area with a minimum population of 1,800 to 2,500 Black residents would be necessary to sustain a “fairly well-stocked and efficient drug store.” Towns of such size would allow African American pharmacists the opportunity to “make not only a good living, but also...very good money.”

Mallowney also obtained statistics from the Department of Commerce in Washington, DC.<sup>45</sup> It can be assumed this data also dates to 1932, though it was cited that these statistics were not final numbers. At that time, the government reported there were 672 African American-owned drug stores in 33 states. There were one or more African American drug stores in each of 127 towns and cities nationwide. It was not uncommon for an owner to be the store's only

registered pharmacist, and often several drug store owners would buy supplies together and purchase joint advertising in local newspapers.

According to its original by-laws, the Virginia Pharmacists Association (historically known as the Virginia Pharmaceutical Association and established in 1881) was open only to white members.<sup>46</sup> In 1947, Chauncey Cooper, dean of Howard University, became the founder and first president of the National Pharmaceutical Association (NPhA), which “was created to provide a welcoming atmosphere for minorities to exchange ideas, build community relationships, and eventually enter the pharmacy field.”<sup>47</sup> Throughout the nation in 1948, the year that Leonard Muse graduated from Howard University’s School of Pharmacy, there were only 59 African-American pharmacy school graduates.<sup>48</sup> By 1950, the number of African-American pharmacy graduates increased to 80.<sup>49</sup>

Another source reveals that by 1952, there were 51,747 drug stores in the United States, of which only 484 were operating as self-service stores.<sup>50</sup> This data was from the first survey of its kind completed by the *American Druggist*. In the survey, a self-service drug store was defined as one with nearly all its merchandise, except for the prescription department and the soda fountain, sold on a self-service basis. Of the nearly 500 stores of this type, more than half were located on the West Coast in California, Oregon, and Washington state. It is unknown if this particular study also included pharmacies owned by African Americans. Regardless, the Green Valley Pharmacy could be classified as a self-service store, one that was established and operated by a minority business owner in the segregated South and continues to thrive today.

Although common local legend claims that Leonard Muse was the first African American pharmacist to practice in Arlington County, the first was technically his original business partner Waverly Jones. Although not in business together very long, Jones was a licensed pharmacist in both Washington, DC, and Virginia when the Green Valley Pharmacy opened in 1952. The Green Valley Pharmacy first appeared in the Commonwealth of Virginia’s *List of Registered Pharmacies* in August 1953.<sup>51</sup> Waverly W. Jones was listed as the pharmacist of record<sup>52</sup> since Muse still was only licensed in the District of Columbia. At that time, there were 32 pharmacies in operation in Arlington County; however the ethnicity of the pharmacists in charge of each business was not indicated.<sup>53</sup> On November 14, 1954, the Virginia State Board of Pharmacy in Richmond awarded Muse with his certification of reciprocity and he officially became a registered pharmacist in the Commonwealth.<sup>54</sup>

Given research conducted to date, Dr. Leonard Muse is the owner of the longest operating African American pharmacy in both Arlington County and the Nauck neighborhood, and likely his was the first African American owned pharmacy in the County. In addition, the Green Valley Pharmacy is likely the second oldest business still in operation in Nauck, the first being the Friendly Cab Company.<sup>55</sup>

## **I. Significant Features**

The most significant features of the Green Valley Pharmacy are its historic, cultural, and social significance and the building's prominent location in the heart of Nauck at the intersection of Shirlington Road and 24<sup>th</sup> Road South.

## **J. Areas exempt from Designation**

There are no areas exempt from the designation, as the proposed historic district boundary consists of the legal property boundary.

## **K. Designation Criteria**

The Green Valley Pharmacy meets designation criteria two, four, and eleven as listed in Section 31A, Part C.1.d:

**Two: Its character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the county, state, or nation:** Association with: 1) mid-20<sup>th</sup> century African American pharmacists and pharmacies in Arlington County; 2) mid-20<sup>th</sup> century African American-owned businesses in Arlington County; and 3) history of the Nauck neighborhood.

**Four: Its association with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the county, state, or nation:** Dr. Leonard Muse, who has owned and operated the Green Valley Pharmacy for 60 years, became a registered pharmacist in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1954 during the challenging era of racial segregation and inequality. He established his Arlington business in the hopes of bringing much needed services to the local African American community. Muse is the owner of the longest operating African American pharmacy in both Arlington County and the Nauck neighborhood, and likely his was the first African American owned pharmacy in the County. His longstanding contributions continue to have a positive impact on Nauck.

**Eleven: Its suitability for preservation or restoration:** The Green Valley Pharmacy has been continuously operated by founding owner Dr. Leonard Muse since September 1952. Although the building itself is nondescript and pre-dates its use as a pharmacy by nine years, it is most historically and culturally significant as the first known African American-owned pharmacy in Arlington County. Additionally, the pharmacy serves as an important physical reminder of Dr. Muse's contributions to the Nauck community specifically and Arlington's

mid-20<sup>th</sup> century African American commercial history in general. Despite some alterations over time, most of which are reversible, the original form of the historic building remains. Preservation of the Green Valley Pharmacy by local historic district designation will guide the appropriate maintenance of and future alterations to the building, as well as promote the importance of the pharmacy to the African American heritage of both the Nauck community and Arlington County.

## **L. Conclusion**

This request for local historic district designation was initiated by the long-term property owner Dr. Leonard Muse; see Attachment A for a copy of his designation request letter to the HALRB. The County's Historic Preservation Program staff has been in close collaboration with Dr. Muse and has received his and his staff's full cooperation and support throughout the project.

As stated in the *Nauck Village Center Action Plan*, it is envisioned that the central intersection of Shirlington Road and 24<sup>th</sup> Road South will be transformed into a vibrant mixed-use and pedestrian-friendly town square concept and will become the neighborhood's main shopping, entertainment, and social core; yet the Green Valley Pharmacy is located within this proposed town square area. Local historic district designation of the Pharmacy will insure that this historic building is protected over time, and can help guide the development of sensitive and compatible new design adjacent to the historic district.

The Green Valley Pharmacy retains sufficient historic, cultural, and physical integrity to be recommended for local historic district designation by Arlington County. Although the building itself is of modest construction and has undergone some minor aesthetic alterations, it is Arlington's only surviving example of an African American owned and operated pharmacy that has remained in continuous operation for 60 years. The pharmacy is the second oldest business in Nauck and has witnessed six decades worth of cultural and social history under management by the same owner. Into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Green Valley Pharmacy continues to be a popular community gathering place, still serves as an important anchor of the Nauck neighborhood, and is an important physical reminder of both the impacts of racial segregation and Arlington's mid-20<sup>th</sup> century African American commercial heritage.

## **7. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

<b>Acreage of Property</b>	Approximately 0.15-acre (6,518 square feet)
<b>RPC Number</b>	31-025-008

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The Green Valley Pharmacy is located at the northeastern corner of Shirlington Road and 24<sup>th</sup> Road South and consists of part of Lots 5 and 6 of the Johnson and Thompson subdivision. The proposed historic district boundary contains approximately 6,518 square feet.

## **Boundary Justification**

The proposed historic district boundary is limited to the parcel's current legal property boundary.

### **8. FORM PREPARED BY**

**Name/title** Cynthia Liccese-Torres, Arlington County Historic Preservation Planner, with assistance from:  
Jennifer Brennan, Former research intern (Spring/Summer 2010);  
John Liebertz, Former research intern (Fall 2010)

**Organization** Arlington County Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board

**Date** October 2012

**Address** 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22201

**Telephone** 703.228.3830

### **9. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

See appendices for photographs, maps, and other figures.

### **10. PROPERTY OWNER**

**Name** Dr. Leonard Muse

**Address** 2415 Shirlington Road, Arlington, VA 22206

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### Arlington County Sources

*African American History in Arlington, Virginia: A Guide to the Historic Sites of a Long and Proud Heritage.* Arlington Economic Development and Arlington Convention and Visitors Service. Undated. Copy on file in the Neighborhood Services Division, Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development (DCPHD).

Arlington County Land Records (available in the Land Records Division, Arlington County Circuit Court):

Deed Book 110, page 546  
Deed Book 125, page 383  
Deed Book 151, page 46  
Deed Book 583, page 376  
Deed Book 1266, page 439

Trade Name Book 6, page 30

Will Book 17, page 1771

Arlington County Building Permit #16052 for 2415 South Glebe Road, dated 20 August 1942. Permit available on microfilm at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library.

Arlington County historic building permit record for 2415 Shirlington Road. Permit card on file in the Neighborhood Services Division, DCPHD.

*Community Voices: The Nauck Community Heritage Project.* Harold Anderson, with Arlington County Cultural Affairs Division (Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources) and Arlington County Neighborhood Services Division (DCPHD). August 2008. Copy on file in the Neighborhood Services Division, DCPHD.

*Nauck Village Center Action Plan.* Adopted by the Arlington County Board July 10, 2004. Available in the Neighborhood Services Division, DCPHD.

### Federal Records

United States Census Records (available at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com))  
1910  
1920  
1930

World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946 (available at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com))

World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942 (available at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com))

### Internet Sources

Colorado Obituaries (listing for Sanford Leslie Bransom). Available at:  
[www.womack.net/obit/wobitsco.htm](http://www.womack.net/obit/wobitsco.htm).

Eastland Gardens Flower Club. "Eastland Gardens – African American Architects and Builders, 1928-1955." 2009. Brochure available at:  
[www.eastlandgardensdc.org/eastland\\_gardens\\_flower\\_club](http://www.eastlandgardensdc.org/eastland_gardens_flower_club).

Mullowney, M.D., John J. "What Future Is There for the Negro Pharmacist?" *Journal of the National Medical Association*, Volume 24(3). November 1932. Available at:  
[www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2623722/?page=1](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2623722/?page=1).

National Pharmaceutical Association information. Available at:  
[www.pharmacyforme.org/index.php/the-411-on-pharmacy/learn-about-pharmacy/11-the-411-on-pharmacy/80](http://www.pharmacyforme.org/index.php/the-411-on-pharmacy/learn-about-pharmacy/11-the-411-on-pharmacy/80).

Rose, Peter I. "Blacks and Jews: The Strained Alliance." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 54. March 1981. Available at [www.jstor.com](http://www.jstor.com).

Wienryb, Bernard D. "East European Immigration to the United States." *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 45, No .4. April 1955. Available at [www.jstor.com](http://www.jstor.com).

Wikipedia entry for Meharry Medical College. Available at:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meharry\\_Medical\\_College](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meharry_Medical_College).

### Maps

"Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Arlington, Virginia." Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. 1936, sheet 55.

"Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Arlington, Virginia." Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. 1959, sheets 47 and 55.

### Newspaper Articles

"2 Pentagon Land-Owners Paid 26 Times Value, Engle Says." The Washington Post. 15 September 1944, p. 1.

"24 Awarded Certificates in Pharmacy." Richmond News Leader. 24 November 1954.

“Change Comes with Hesitation to Green Valley.” The Washington Times. 14 July 1983, p. 10A.

“Classified Ad No. 2 – No Title.” The Washington Post. 21 April 1939, p. 33.

“Grade Schools List Colored Graduates.” The Washington Post. 19 June 1932, p. S8.

### Oral History Interview

Interview with Leonard “Doc” Muse conducted by Pastor Mike Hood, 19 August 2006. Conducted as part of the “Community Voices: The Nauck Community Heritage Project.” Original recording available at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library. Copy of recording available in the Neighborhood Services Division, DCPHD.

### Personal Communications

E-mail communications between Cynthia Liccese-Torres and:

Tewodros (Teddy) Abebe, Howard University Library Archives, 14 June 2012 and 22 June 2012.

Jodi Koste, Medical College of Virginia Campus, Virginia Commonwealth University, 29 March 2012 and 2 April 2012.

Jerry McCoy, Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King Jr., Memorial Library, 21 July 2010.

Personal conversations between Cynthia Liccese-Torres and Dr. Leonard Muse (owner), Ms. Zakia Alamin (pharmacist and granddaughter of owner), and Ms. Hazel Brown (store volunteer), various dates.

Telephone conversations between Cynthia Liccese-Torres and:

AIA Library reference librarian, 20 July 2010.

District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, 20 July 2010.

Howard University Library Archives, 21 March 2012.

Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 20 July 2010.

### Published Works

Cohen, Marcie Ferris and Mark I. Greenberg. *Jewish Roots in Southern Soil: A New History*. Lebanon, NH: University Press of England, 2006.

Cooper, Chauncey I. "The Negro in Pharmacy." *The General Report of the Pharmaceutical Survey, 1946-1949*. 1950.

Higby, Gregory. "A Backward Glance at American Pharmacy – 50 Years Ago," *Apothecary's Cabinet*, No. 4, Spring 2002.

Kraft, Brian D. "Washington, DC Building Permits Database." Available at the Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, Washington, DC.

Scott, Pamela. "A Directory of District of Columbia Architects, 1822-1960." 1999. Available at the Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, Washington, DC.

Templeman, Eleanor Lee. *Arlington Heritage: Vignettes of a Virginia County*. New York: Avenel Books, 1959.

*Virginia Department of Health Board of Pharmacy Proceedings*, Minutes 1952-1956. Available from the Library of Virginia.

*The Virginia Pharmacist*. August 1953. Available from Virginia Commonwealth University, Tompkins-McCaw Library.

## ENDNOTES

---

<sup>1</sup> Arlington County historic building permit record for 2415 Shirlington Road. Permit card on file in the Arlington County Neighborhood Services Division, Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development.

<sup>2</sup> *Nauck Village Center Action Plan*, as Adopted by the Arlington County Board July 10, 2004, p. 39. Available in the Neighborhood Services Division, Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development.

<sup>3</sup> Obituary for Sanford Leslie Bransom. Available online at: [www.womack.net/obit/wobitsco.htm](http://www.womack.net/obit/wobitsco.htm).

<sup>4</sup> Harold Anderson, *Community Voices: The Nauck Community Heritage Project*, August 2008, p. 11. Available in the Arlington County Neighborhood Services Division, Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 4 and 12-13.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 11.

<sup>7</sup> Eleanor Lee Templeman, *Vignettes of a Virginia County*, (New York: Avenel Books, 1959), p. 60.

<sup>8</sup> *Community Voices*, p. 11.

<sup>9</sup> Templeman, p. 60.

<sup>10</sup> *Community Voices*, p. 11.

<sup>11</sup> Arlington Economic Development and Arlington Convention and Visitors Service, *African American History in Arlington, Virginia: A Guide to the Historic Sites of a Long and Proud Heritage*, undated, p. 17.

<sup>12</sup> *Community Voices*, pp. 24-25.

<sup>13</sup> Max and Fannie were the parents to Anna (age 18), Dora (17), Harry (16), William (15), Sarah (13), Nathan (12), Gertrude (8), Jack (4), and Joseph (2). All of the children were born in Russia except Jack and Joseph who were born in the District of Columbia. National Archives and Records Administration, *1910 United States Federal Census* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006). For information relating to the Hymans' country of origin, see National Archives and Records Administration, *1910 Census Miracode Index* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010).

<sup>14</sup> Bernard D. Wienryb, "East European Immigration to the United States," *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 45, No. 4 (April 1955): pp. 515-516. [www.jstor.com](http://www.jstor.com) (accessed September 8, 2010).

<sup>15</sup> Marcie Ferris Cohen and Mark I. Greenberg, *Jewish Roots in Southern Soil: A New History* (Lebanon, NH: University Press of England, 2006), 11.

<sup>16</sup> The family may have previously rented the home prior to purchasing it since the 1910 Census lists Max Hyman as renting his residence on Columbia Turnpike. In addition, Hyman operated a grocery from the first floor of his rented residence. He purchased lots 61 and 62 in East Arlington subdivision for \$600. For more information on the 1910 census, National Archives and Records Administration, *1910 United States Federal Census* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006). For information on the land transaction, Arlington County Deed Book 125, pp. 383-384. For information relating to the subdivision of East Arlington, Arlington County Deed Book 110, pp. 546-

---

549.

<sup>17</sup> In the 1930s census, four Eastern European families lived in East Arlington. For example, Richard Johnson, a Romanian immigrant, worked as a coppersmith in a sheet metal shop and Harry Siebel, a Polish immigrant, owned a variety store. National Archives and Records Administration, *1930 United States Federal Census* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006).

<sup>18</sup> Peter I. Rose, "Blacks and Jews: The Strained Alliance," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 54 (March 1981): p. 62. [www.jstor.com](http://www.jstor.com) (accessed September 8, 2010).

<sup>19</sup> Lot number 63 contained 16,595 square feet of land. The address for the store was noted on William Hyman's draft card as 1225 Columbia Pike, Arlington, Virginia. For information on the purchase of the lot, Arlington County Deed Book 151, pp. 46-47. For information on the store's address, National Archives and Records Administration, *U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010).

<sup>20</sup> "2 Pentagon Land-Owners Paid 26 Times Value, Engle Says," *The Washington Post*, 15 September 1944, p. 1. <http://www.proquest.com> (accessed September 8, 2010).

<sup>21</sup> Max Hyman died on November 11, 1938. For information on Max Hyman's estate, see Arlington Probate Records, *Will Book 17*, pp. 1771-78. For information on deed history, see Arlington County Deed Book 583, p. 376. According to historic telephone directories available in the Virginia Room at Arlington Central Library, there was still a Hyman's Market located at 701 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South in 1942.

<sup>22</sup> Arlington County Building Permit #16052, Arlington County, Virginia Division of Public Safety, Department of Zoning and Building Inspection. The original address of the building was 2415 South Seminary Road. Permit available on microfilm at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library.

<sup>23</sup> Federal Census records from 1910, 1920, and 1930 indicate the owner would have been either Jack or Joseph Hyman, sons of Max and Fannie Hyman. The Arlington County deed records reveal that Joseph was indeed the original owner of the existing building.

<sup>24</sup> Arlington County Deed Book 1266, pp. 439-440.

<sup>25</sup> Building Permit #16052. All subsequent information in this paragraph is from this source.

<sup>26</sup> Personal communication via e-mail between Cynthia Liccese-Torres and Tewodros (Teddy) Abebe, Howard University Library Archives, 14 June 2012. Bransom was not listed as a student in any of the 1930s University course catalogues. Additional information may be revealed in the University's student records via the Registrar's Office.

<sup>27</sup> Personal communication via telephone between Cynthia Liccese-Torres and the reference librarian of the AIA Library in Washington, DC, 20 July 2010.

<sup>28</sup> Personal communication via telephone between Cynthia Liccese-Torres and staff at both the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation and the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, 20 July 2010.

<sup>29</sup> Pamela Scott, "A Directory of District of Columbia Architects, 1822-1960," 1999. Available at the

---

Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library.

<sup>30</sup> Personal communication via e-mail between Cynthia Liccese-Torres and Jerry McCoy, Special Collections Librarian/Archivist, Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, 21 July 2010.

<sup>31</sup> Eastland Gardens Flower Club, Brochure entitled “Eastland Gardens – African American Architects and Builders, 1928-1955,” 2009. Available online at: [www.eastlandgardensdc.org/eastland\\_gardens\\_flower\\_club](http://www.eastlandgardensdc.org/eastland_gardens_flower_club).

<sup>32</sup> Washington, DC Building Permits Database, compiled by Brian D. Kraft. Available at the Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. All subsequent information in this paragraph is from this source. References to additional permits, primarily for building repair work, were found in The Washington Post.

<sup>33</sup> Oral history interview with Leonard “Doc” Muse conducted by Pastor Mike Hood on 19 August 2006. Interview conducted as part of the “Community Voices: The Nauck Community Heritage Project.” Original recording available at the Virginia Room, Arlington Central Library. Copy available in the Neighborhood Services Division, DCPHD. All subsequent information in this section of the report is from this source, except as noted.

<sup>34</sup> U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946, National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 64. Accessed 30 August 2010 in online database on [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>35</sup> Personal communication via telephone between Cynthia Liccese-Torres and Clifford Muse, Howard University Library Archives, 21 March 2012.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> “Classified Ad 2 – No Title,” *The Washington Post*, 21 April 1939, p. 33.

<sup>38</sup> Personal communication via e-mail between Cynthia Liccese-Torres and Tewodros (Teddy) Abebe, Howard University Library Archives, 22 June 2012. Jones’s address of record upon graduation from Howard University was 211 Norwich Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA.

<sup>39</sup> Arlington County Deed Book 1266, p. 439.

<sup>40</sup> Certificate of Trade Name for Green Valley Pharmacy, dated 9 September 1952, Trade Name Book 6, p. 30. Available in the office of the Arlington County Circuit Court Clerk, Wills and Estates.

<sup>41</sup> Personal interview on site with Dr. Leonard Muse by Cynthia Liccese-Torres, 13 December 2011.

<sup>42</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meharry\\_Medical\\_College](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meharry_Medical_College).

<sup>43</sup> John J. Mullooney, M.D., “What Future Is There for the Negro Pharmacist?,” *Journal of the National Medical Association*, Volume 24(3), November 1932, pp. 27-29. Available online at: [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2623722/?page=1](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2623722/?page=1). All subsequent information in this paragraph is from this source.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Personal communications via e-mail between Cynthia Liccese-Torres and Jodi Koste, Archivist, Medical College of Virginia Campus, Virginia Commonwealth University, Tompkins-McCaw Library, 29 March 2012 and 2 April 2012.

---

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., 2 April 2012, and [www.pharmacyforme.org/index.php/the-411-on-pharmacy/learn-about-pharmacy/11-the-411-on-pharmacy/80](http://www.pharmacyforme.org/index.php/the-411-on-pharmacy/learn-about-pharmacy/11-the-411-on-pharmacy/80).

<sup>48</sup> Chauncey I. Cooper, "The Negro in Pharmacy," *The General Report of the Pharmaceutical Survey, 1946-1949*, 1950, pp. 181-187.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Gregory Higby, editor, "A Backward Glance at American Pharmacy – 50 Years Ago," *Apothecary's Cabinet*, No. 4, Spring 2002. Original source was *American Druggist*, February 18, 1952, p. 5. Available online from the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy at [www.aihp.org](http://www.aihp.org). All information in this paragraph is from this source.

<sup>51</sup> Listing for the Green Valley Pharmacy in *The Virginia Pharmacist*, August 1953, p. 414. Available from Virginia Commonwealth University, Tompkins-McCaw Library.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> "24 Awarded Certificates in Pharmacy," *Richmond News Leader*, 24 November 1954. See also the Minutes of the Board of Pharmacy, 14 November 1954, in Department of Health Board of Pharmacy Proceedings, Minutes 1952-1956. Both available from the Library of Virginia. Muse's official registration number was R-694.

<sup>55</sup> *Community Voices*, p. 25. According to this publication, the Friendly Cab Company began in 1943 by the father of Charles E. Collins. However, in the County's trade names database, there are two entries of interest: 1) Friendly Cab Company, whose name was established February 27, 1963 by Charles Collins, and 2) Friendly Taxi Cab Company, which was created January 31, 1952 by William Collins and at the business address of 2217 South Seminary (Shirlinton) Road in Nauck. Further research could reveal which trade name is referenced in *Community Voices*. If indeed it is the latter name, then the Green Valley Pharmacy opened approximately eight months afterwards, thereby making it the second oldest business in Nauck.