



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Molly Joseph Ward  
*Secretary of Natural Resources*

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[www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov)

January 11, 2018

Mayor Cathy Lowe  
Town of Abingdon  
133 W. Main Street  
Abingdon, VA 24210

**Re: Retirement and the Muster Grounds, Town of Abingdon, Washington County**

Dear Mayor Lowe:

The Department of Historic Resources, Virginia's historic preservation office, has received a completed nomination for the above referenced resource. The DHR is planning to present the proposed nomination to the Virginia State Review Board and the Virginia Board of Historic Resources for recommendation to the National Register of Historic Places and for inclusion in the Virginia Landmarks Register.

Because this resource is within your Certified Local Government, the Architectural Review Board (ARB) is entitled to a sixty-day comment period during which the ARB may review the draft nomination and relay any comments or concerns to the DHR. For your review and comment, **enclosed** is a copy of the draft nomination as it is to be presented to the Boards on **Thursday, March 15, 2018**. A copy of the nomination has also been sent to your local CLG coordinator. Your comments will be forwarded to the SHPO Director and the Boards along with the nomination for consideration. Should you have any questions regarding the nomination or the register process, please call me directly at 804-482-6445.

Sincerely,

James Hare  
Director, Survey and Register Division

cc: Greg Kelly; Sean Taylor

Enclosure

Western Region Office  
962 Kime Lane  
Salem, VA 24153  
Tel: (540) 387-5443  
Fax: (540) 387-5446

Northern Region Office  
5357 Main Street  
PO Box 519  
Stephens City, VA 22655  
Tel: (540) 868-7029  
Fax: (540) 868-7033

Eastern Region Office  
2801 Kensington Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23221  
Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391

# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources (DHR), 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221  
(804) 482-6446; [www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov)

## Rights of Private Property Owners to Comment and/or Object to a Nomination for Listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and/or the National Register of Historic Places

The Department of Historic Resources (DHR) is Virginia's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). DHR administers the Virginia Landmarks Register on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia and, as the SHPO, administers Virginia's participation in the National Register of Historic Places, which is managed by the National Park Service. DHR is your primary point of contact for all matters related to the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

### Supporting and/or Commenting on a Nomination

A private property owner who supports a nomination for listing in either or both the VLR and the NRHP is invited to send a letter of support but is not required to do so in order for the nomination to proceed. Private property owners also are welcome to comment on a nomination even if they do not seek to go on record with either a vote of support for or an objection to a nomination. Copies of letters of support and/or comment are provided to the State Review Board (SRB) and the Board of Historic Resources (BHR) for review, along with the nomination to which they refer, and are included with the nomination if the SRB has recommended it to proceed to the NRHP.

### Objecting to a Nomination

A private property owner has the right to object to listing in either the VLR or the NRHP, or object to listing in both registers. For a private property that is being individually nominated, each owner or partial owner of the private property may object to listing regardless of the portion of the property that party owns. For a historic district that is being nominated, each owner of private property in the proposed historic district is counted as one individual regardless of how many properties that party owns, and regardless of whether the properties contribute to the significance of the district.

The private property owner's objection to listing must be provided to DHR in writing. Any owner or partial owner of private property who chooses to object to listing shall submit to DHR a written statement of objection that has been attested and notarized by a notary public and that references the subject property by address and/or parcel number and certifying that the party is the sole or partial owner of the private property, as appropriate. Only upon such submission shall such objecting owner be counted by DHR in determining whether a majority of private property owners has objected to a nomination. An objection to both the VLR and NRHP designations can be submitted in the same letter. However, in order for an objection to listing in the VLR to be counted, it must be submitted to DHR a minimum of 7 business days prior to the scheduled Board meeting listed in the notification letter. An objection to NRHP listing will stand even if the letter arrives too late for consideration of the VLR listing.

For an individually nominated private property, if a **majority** of the private property's owners object according to the process described herein, the nomination will not proceed. For a historic district nomination, if a **majority** of the private property owners within the historic district boundary object according to the process described herein, the nomination will not proceed. In both types of cases, as the SHPO, DHR shall submit the nomination to the National Park Service's Keeper for a determination of eligibility of the property for listing in the NRHP. If the property is then determined eligible for listing, although not formally listed, Federal agencies will be required to allow for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to have an opportunity to comment before the agency may fund, license, or assist a project which will affect the property.

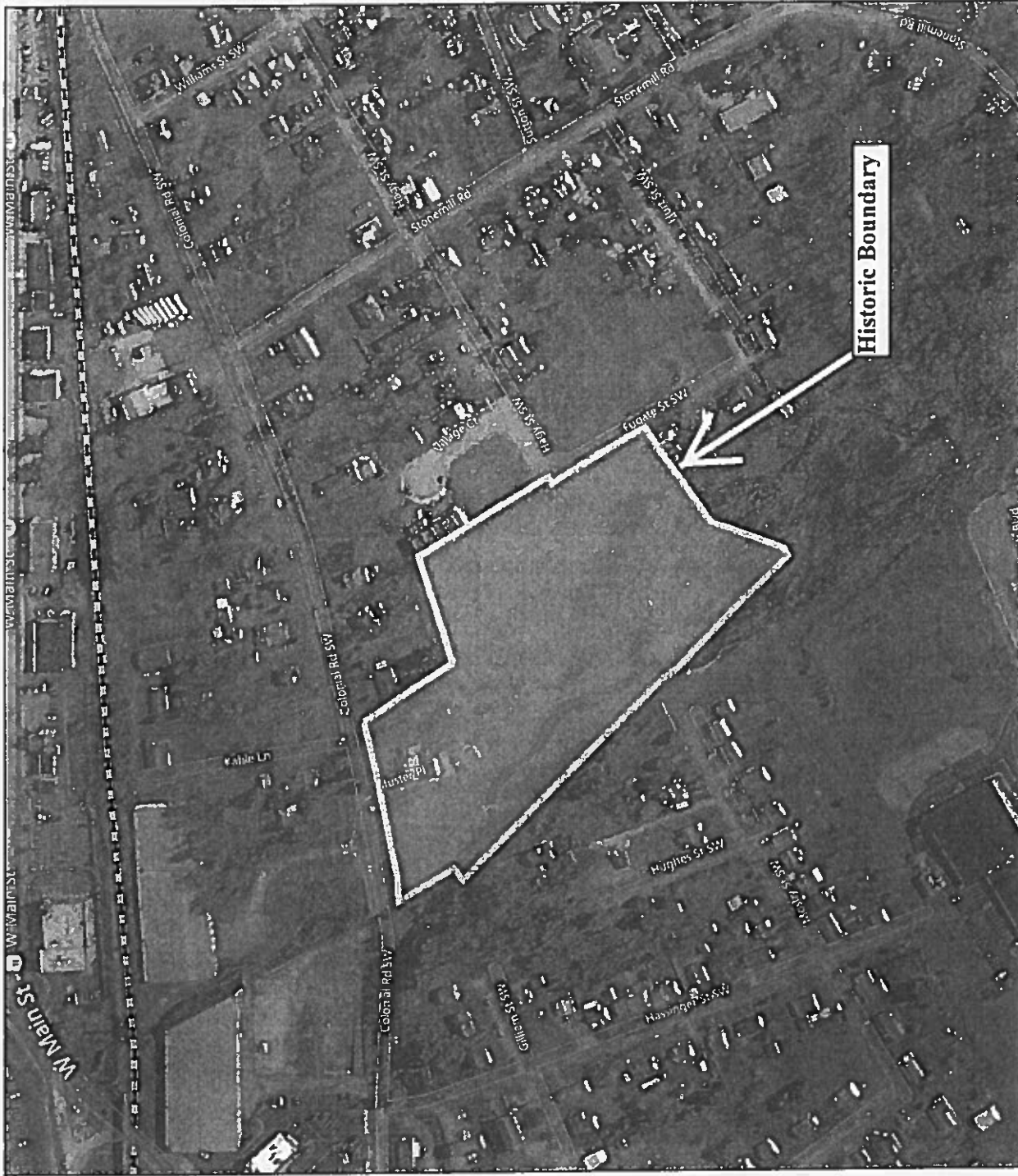
Letters of objection must be addressed to the State Historic Preservation Officer at the Department of Historic Resources, 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221.

Letters of objection received a minimum of 7 business days prior to the Board meeting will be copied to the members of the SRB and BHR for review, along with the nomination to which they refer. If, at the Board meeting, the nomination is approved to proceed to the NRHP, all letters of objection will be forwarded to the National Park Service to consider with their review of the nomination, along with any letters of support or comment that DHR has received. Letters of objection to listing in the National Register of Historic Places may be submitted to DHR even after the Board meeting at which the nomination is approved. DHR will forward any letters of objection to the National Park Service. The National Park Service continues to accept letters of objection up to the date of listing in the NRHP. The National Park Service typically concludes review and approval of a nomination within approximately 55 days of receipt of the nomination from DHR.

## **Retirement and the Muster Grounds, Town of Abingdon, Washington County, DHR No. 140-0006**

Retirement and the Muster Grounds is composed of 8.88 acres in its entirety, located in the town of Abingdon, Washington County, Virginia. The property is the starting point of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (NHT), which follows the route of assembly of the American Patriot Army that decisively defeated an American Loyalist army at the battle of Kings Mountain, South Carolina, in the fall of 1780. The route was designated an NHT in September 1980. The 330-mile trail extends from Abingdon through eastern Tennessee and then into North and South Carolina, ending at the Kings Mountain National Military Park in South Carolina. The two primary contributing resources are Retirement, a ca. 1808 Federal style dwelling with later Greek Revival, Italianate, and Classical Revival embellishments, and the Muster Grounds, also known as "Dunn's Meadow," where the Washington County militia mustered prior to marching south to fight in the Kings Mountain Campaign. The Muster Grounds served the same purpose for local militia during the War of 1812, the American Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and World War I. Contributing structures are the late 18<sup>th</sup> to early-19<sup>th</sup> century stone springhouse located adjacent to Wolf Creek, and the limestone retaining wall next to the main dwelling. The property's four non-contributing buildings are a ca. 1980, one-story, frame garage (now used as a visitor's center), a ca. 1960, frame potting shed, a ca. 1930, one-and-one-half story refinishing shed with a later one-story rear addition, and a ca. 1930, four-bay horse run-in shed. Two non-contributing objects, a kiosk and a commemorative plaque affixed to a granite boulder, are associated with the property's current use as an interpretive center. A non-contributing footbridge, built in 2015, extends across Wolf Creek. The property's integrity overall is very good, as the Muster Grounds has been largely undisturbed and remains an open, grassy space. Retirement is in deteriorated physical condition but has seen few unsympathetic alterations. The non-contributing resources are small in scale and compatible with the property's historic use as a dwelling and small farm. Thus Retirement and the Muster Grounds retains good integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Retirement and the Muster Grounds is significant at the statewide level under Criterion A in the area of Military. On September 23, 1780, approximately 400 militiamen under the command of Colonel William Campbell gathered at the Muster Grounds in Abingdon and departed for Sycamore Shoals, near present-day Elizabethton, Tennessee. By September 25, the Virginia militia had joined with forces from modern Tennessee, Kentucky, and North Carolina, and were known as the "Overmountain Men". They marched south, and with others from the colonies of South Carolina and Georgia, defeated British forces under Major Patrick Ferguson at the Battle of Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780. This battle is considered to be a turning point in the war because it forced Cornwallis to retreat into South Carolina and abandon the British plan to attack Washington's American army on two fronts. The property also is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The dwelling known as Retirement, constructed ca. 1808 and expanded in 1858, the 1880s and 1910-1920, is significant for its architectural character and quality of workmanship. The property's period of significance begins in 1780 when the Mustering Grounds first served as a gathering place for local militiamen and extends through the last use of the Muster Grounds in 1945. Significant dates are September 23, 1780, when the militiamen first gathered, ca. 1808 when the dwelling now known as Retirement was first built, 1858, when Retirement was expanded, and April-May 1861, when Retirement's owner permitted local Confederate soldiers to gather and train at the Muster Grounds.



Historic Boundary

Title:

Date: 1/9/2018

**DISCLAIMER:** Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

N

Feet

0 100 200 300 400  
1,4514 / 1"=376 Feet

## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources (DHR), 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

### Key Points about the National and State Register Process for Property Owners

- Listing in the national and state registers is honorary. It recognizes a historic property's importance to its community, the State, and/or the Nation as well as encouraging good stewardship of the historic property.
- National and state register listings do not place restrictions on private property owners. Owners have no obligation to open their properties to the public, to restore them, or even to maintain them, if they choose not to do so.
- Under Federal and State laws, private property owners can do anything they wish with their Register-listed property, provided that no Federal or State license, permit, or funding is involved.
- If a listed property is destroyed or its integrity is greatly altered, it is removed from the registers.
- To ensure public participation in the nomination process, property owners and local officials are notified of proposed nominations to the National Register and provided the opportunity to comment. In addition, once a nomination is submitted to the National Park Service another public comment period is published in the *Federal Register*. Further details about the public participation process are available at [http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/GuidanceMaterials/LegalNotificationForm\\_2016.pdf](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/GuidanceMaterials/LegalNotificationForm_2016.pdf)
- Federal agencies whose projects affect a listed property must give DHR (Virginia's State Historic Preservation Office) an opportunity to comment on the project and its effects on the property. Further details are provided below.
- Federal and State Investment Tax Credits for rehabilitation and other provisions are available, should a property owner choose to use them. Further details are provided below.
- Owners may also qualify for Federal grants for historic preservation when funding is available. Refer to the National Park Service web site for Federal grant information. Currently, Virginia has no grants available for privately owned properties.

### National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)

Established under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, the national historic preservation program is a partnership between the Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments; private organizations; and the public. The Act and its provisions establish the framework within which citizens plan, identify, evaluate, register, and protect significant historic and archeological properties throughout the country. Central to this framework is the NRHP--the Nation's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation, administered by the National Park Service (NPS), Department of the Interior. Properties listed in the NRHP include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.

Historic places are nominated to the NRHP by nominating authorities: the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), appointed by the Governor of the State in which the property is located; the Federal Preservation Officer (FPO) for properties under Federal ownership or control; or by the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) if the property is on tribal lands. Anyone can prepare a nomination to the NRHP, at which time the SHPO, FPO or THPO reviews the proposed nomination, and notifies property owners and local officials of the intent to nominate. Nominations submitted through the State must first be approved by a State Review Board (SRB) before being reviewed by the NPS. The members of the SRB, who are appointed by the SHPO, use the same criteria as the National Register to evaluate properties and then recommend them to the NPS for listing in the NRHP.

The NRHP continues to reflect the desire of Americans, as expressed in the NHPA, that "the historical and cultural foundation of the nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people."

### Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR)

In 1966, the Virginia General Assembly established the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, now the Department of Historic Resources (DHR). DHR is the State Historic Preservation Office responsible for managing



the VLR, the state's official list of properties important to Virginia's history. The Historic Resources Board (HRB), appointed by the Governor of Virginia, is responsible for listing properties to the VLR. Just as the same evaluation criteria are used for the National and State registers, the same register form is also used for both the VLR and the NRHP. Nearly 2300 historic properties are listed in the VLR. This number does not include the tens of thousands of properties within each listed historic district.

### **Federal and State Tax Provisions**

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 revises the historic preservation tax incentives authorized by Congress in the Tax Reform Act of 1976, the Revenue Act of 1978, the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980, the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981, and the Tax Reform Act of 1984, and, as of January 1, 1987, provides for a 20% Investment Tax Credit (ITC) with a full adjustment to basis for rehabilitating historic commercial, industrial and rental residential buildings. The former 15% and 20% ITCs for rehabilitations of older commercial buildings are combined into a single 10% ITC for commercial or industrial buildings built before 1936. The Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980 provides Federal tax deductions for charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures. Whether these provisions are advantageous to a property owner is dependent upon the particular circumstances of the property and the owner.

Owners of properties listed in the VLR may be eligible for a 25% ITC for the certified rehabilitation of income-producing and non-income producing certified historic structures such as commercial, industrial, or rental or non-rental residential buildings. Owners who rehabilitate an income-producing building listed in both the National and State registers may use both Federal and State ITCs. Tax Credits are only available if a property owner chooses to use them and individuals should consult the appropriate local IRS office for assistance in determining the tax consequences of the above provisions. Refer also to 36 CFR 67 at the Heritage Preservation Services web site or to the Tax Credit Program on the DHR web site.

### **Results of Federal and State Listing**

Property owners, historic district sponsoring organizations, and/or local governments may purchase an attractive official plaque noting designation for properties in historic districts and individually listed properties. Owners of recognized historic properties are also eligible for the Virginia Preservation Easement Program, as well as technical assistance from the staff of DHR. Professional architects, architectural historians, and archaeologists are available to provide technical guidance in the care and maintenance of buildings and sites.

Planning for Federal, federally licensed, and federally assisted projects includes consideration of historic properties. Section 106 of the NHPA requires that Federal agencies allow the SHPO an opportunity to comment on all projects affecting historic properties either listed in or determined eligible for listing in the NRHP. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation ([www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov)) oversees and ensures the consideration of historic properties in the Federal planning process. Buildings listed in the VLR may also be considered as part of a state-funded project, such as highway planning. Register listing also requires consideration in issuing a surface coal mining permit. In accordance with the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201-1328; 91 Stat. 445), there must be consideration of historic values in the decision to issue a surface coal mining permit where coal is located. Staff at DHR are available to provide more information about these requirements.

Local governments may have laws to encourage the preservation of their historic places. Such programs are established at the local level and therefore are entirely separate from the Register process managed by DHR. Some local governments have enacted their own identification procedures; some use listing in the National and State registers as an indicator of historic significance. Local historic preservation programs can provide some protection against the possible harmful effects of State-funded, -licensed, or -assisted projects. Some provide limited financial assistance to owners in the form of grants, loans, or tax benefits. They may establish other protections or reviews for preservation purposes. Your local government's planning department can provide more information.

### **Websites with Additional Information**

[www.nps.gov/history](http://www.nps.gov/history) - National Park Service's main website for Historic Preservation and History programs

[www.nps.gov/nr/](http://www.nps.gov/nr/) - National Register of Historic Places main website

[www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/nhpa1966.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/nhpa1966.htm) - Provides the full text of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

[www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov) - Department of Historic Resources (DHR) main website

[www.dhr.virginia.gov/register.htm](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/register.htm) - Registers Homepage of DHR's website

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

**1. Name of Property**Historic name: Retirement and the Muster GroundsOther names/site number: Dunn's Meadow; Craig-Fulkerson Farmstead; Old HurtResidence: DHR No. 140-0006

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**2. Location**Street & number: 702 Colonial Road SWCity or town: AbingdonState: VACounty: WashingtonNot For Publication: N/AVicinity: N/A**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:    national     X statewide     X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X     A     B     X C     D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

Retirement and the Muster Grounds  
Name of Property

Washington County, VA  
County and State

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register  
☐ determined eligible for the National Register  
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register  
☐ removed from the National Register  
☐ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☐

Public – Local

☒

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

##### Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s)

☐

District

☒

Site

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐



Retirement and the Muster Grounds  
Name of Property

Washington County, VA  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary structure

DEFENSE: Military Facility: muster grounds

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Museum

LANDSCAPE: Park

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Retirement and the Muster Grounds  
Name of Property

Washington County, VA  
County and State

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; WOOD; METAL

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### Summary Paragraph

Retirement and the Muster Grounds is composed of 8.88 acres in its entirety, located in the town of Abingdon, Washington County, Virginia. The property is the starting point of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (NHT), which follows the route of assembly of the American Patriot Army that decisively defeated an American Loyalist army at the battle of Kings Mountain, South Carolina, in the fall of 1780. The route was designated an NHT in September 1980. The 330-mile trail extends from Abingdon through eastern Tennessee and then into North and South Carolina, ending at the Kings Mountain National Military Park in South Carolina. The two primary contributing resources are Retirement, a ca. 1808 Federal style dwelling with later Greek Revival, Italianate, and Classical Revival embellishments, and the Muster Grounds, also known as "Dunn's Meadow," where the Washington County militia mustered prior to marching south to fight in the Kings Mountain Campaign. The Muster Grounds served the same purpose for local militia during the War of 1812, the American Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and World War I. Contributing structures are the late 18<sup>th</sup> to early-19<sup>th</sup> century stone springhouse located adjacent to Wolf Creek, and the limestone retaining wall next to the main dwelling. The property's four non-contributing buildings are a ca. 1980, one-story, frame garage (now used as a visitor's center), a ca. 1960, frame potting shed, a ca. 1930, one-and-one-half story refinishing shed with a later one-story rear addition, and a ca. 1930, four-bay horse run-in shed. Two non-contributing objects, a kiosk and a commemorative plaque affixed to a granite boulder, are associated with the property's current use as an interpretive center. A non-contributing

Retirement and the Muster Grounds  
Name of Property

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footbridge, built in 2015, extends across Wolf Creek. The property's integrity overall is very good, as the Muster Grounds has been largely undisturbed and remains an open, grassy space. Retirement is in deteriorated physical condition but has seen few unsympathetic alterations. The non-contributing resources are small in scale and compatible with the property's historic use as a dwelling and small farm. Thus Retirement and the Muster Grounds retains good integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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## Narrative Description

### Setting

Retirement and the Muster Grounds is near the historic juncture of two major American Indian routes with which modern Routes 58 and 11 are roughly aligned, and was also on the 18<sup>th</sup>-century "Great Road" through the Appalachian Mountains to Tennessee and Kentucky envisioned by William Byrd III and explored by Daniel Boone. The site of Abingdon was first surveyed in 1748 on behalf of Dr. Thomas Walker, and numerous settlers of Scots-Irish descent purchased land grants from Walker in the ensuing years. During Lord Dunmore's War in 1774, Joseph Black constructed a log fort as a refuge for local settlers and the town was known as "Black's Fort" until 1778 when it was incorporated as Abingdon.

Retirement and the Muster Grounds is located on low ground near Abingdon's main commercial district, in a small dell beside Wolf Creek. The Muster Grounds site is low, flat bottomland, characteristic of the surrounding valley between two steep ridges of the Appalachian Mountains. North of the property are the North Fork of the Holston River and the Clinch mountain range, and to the south and east are the River Knobs, the Holston Range, and the Virginia Iron Range. Wooden split rail fences are present around the Muster Grounds and along the main road. The fences were constructed ca. 2005 and are made of split timbers stacked in a serpentine arrangement.

A short distance to the northwest, Retirement is constructed on a small rise just east of Wolf Creek, which flows south toward the Holston River. The land is covered in lush grass and provides important habitat for local wildlife, plants, and migratory birds. The house site features landscaping typical of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> century, with large shade trees, foundation plantings, and a paved service court. A late 20<sup>th</sup> century, dressed and mortared, limestone retaining wall is located along the historic entry lane adjacent to the main dwelling ("Retirement"), used to reach the service yard at the rear. Earlier stone retaining walls follow the rising ground east toward the barn and shed, which stand southeast of the dwelling. The kiosk and commemorative plaque are located at the head of the entry drive, while the garage/visitor's center is at the end of the drive, just southwest of the house.

A 2010 survey indicated the potential location of a prehistoric camp site on the area known as the Muster Grounds, on the banks of Wolf Creek. The site appears to have been occupied on multiple occasions by Native American groups native prior to European contact, and artifacts recovered from the site include lithic flakes, a crude biface, and a chert core fragment.

Retirement and the Muster Grounds  
Name of Property

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Professional archaeological testing, however, has not yet been conducted to assess if significant cultural deposits are present.

### Inventory

The following resources lists all of the contributing and non-contributing resources associated with Retirement and the Muster Grounds, including date of construction, contributing status, and resource types. Non-contributing resources postdate the property's period of significance.

1. Retirement (dwelling)	1808	Contributing building
2. Muster Grounds	ca. 1770	Contributing site
3. Spring house	ca. 1800?	Contributing building
4. Garage	ca. 1980	Non-contributing building
5. Potting shed	ca. 1960	Non-contributing building
6. Refinishing building	ca. 1930	Non-contributing building
7. Horse run-in shed	ca. 1930	Non-contributing building
8. Interpretive kiosk	ca. 2005	Non-contributing structure
9. Commemorative plaque	2007	Non-contributing object
10. Limestone retaining wall	ca. 1930	C-contributing structure
11. Pedestrian footbridge	2015	Non-contributing structure

### Detailed Description

#### **Retirement (Dwelling, contributing building)**

The house known as "Retirement" was constructed ca. 1808 on the site of an earlier log dwelling by Revolutionary War veteran Captain Robert Craig, Sr. Craig owned mills on Wolf Creek south of the Muster Grounds, and himself led militia from Washington County during the American Revolution. The house was acquired by Judge Samuel Fulkerson in 1857, and sources indicate the Judge permitted Confederate soldiers to camp and drill on the property during the Civil War. Originally rectangular, the house has evolved into an L-shaped plan with a late-19<sup>th</sup> century frame addition. A two-story Classical Revival porch was added around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Originally a Federal-style house, Retirement is two-and-one-half stories, built of brick on a brick and stone foundation, with a five-bay façade. The side-gable roof is clad in standing-seam metal, pierced by three gabled dormers. An interior chimney is located at either end of the main dwelling, topped by a short corbelled stack. A wide cornice with paired modillions, evocative of the Italianate style, was added at an unknown date. An ca. 1920-1930, one-story, five-bay Classical Revival porch spans the northern façade, with a simple balustrade around the top to allow the roof to serve as a balcony.

The oldest part of the house is the two-story, two-bay northeast section, built of brick laid in four-course American bond with flat jack-arch headers over the windows. This section

Retirement and the Muster Grounds

Name of Property

Washington County, VA  
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reportedly contained five rooms and was originally known as "Mount Pleasant." The upper gable appears to have been rebuilt, as the coursing is inconsistent, and may reflect modification of the chimney when the house was enlarged. The windows in this section have 6/6 wooden sashes, with frames noticeably wider than the frames on the western section of the house.

The house was substantially enlarged in 1858 when it was purchased by Judge Samuel Fulkerson and it is around this time that it seems to have been renamed "Retirement." The main house was expanded by three bays to the west, adding a central stair hall (likely replacing a stair in the original block's southeast corner).<sup>1</sup> The addition is also laid in four-course American bond, though the brick is visibly darker. The primary entry added in 1858 is roughly centered on the north façade and features a single-leaf door flanked by paneled, multiple-light sidelights and a rectangular transom topped with a molded cornice. The rectilinear character of the entry is more evocative of the Greek Revival style but blended well with the original block's Federal style. The windows in the northwest section are narrower and have wooden lintels. The addition's first story windows have 6/6 sash and these type sash once were in the second story windows, as indicated by a ca. 1880 photograph; it is unclear why the sashes were replaced in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The rear window in the stair hall has an unusual 9/6 sash.

A lateral extension was appended to the house's east gable end in 1858 for use as Judge Fulkerson's law offices. The main part of the office addition is brick, laid in five-course American bond, comprising a single gable-roofed chamber to the north and a small shed-roofed lean-to directly behind.

The house was again enlarged in the 1880s by the Hurt family (related to the Fulkersons through a daughter, Kate Fulkerson Hurt).<sup>2</sup> The improvements included a two-story rear, frame ell, and possibly also the modillioned cornice and addition of dormers into the roof of the existing house. The rear ell is three bays long, with three windows in the upper story and two windows and a door in the lower story facing west onto the entry lane. The windows have 6/6 wooden sashes with slightly peaked integral wooden hoods. The exterior is clad in wooden siding and historically may have had a shed or flat roof. The ell was substantially altered in 1965<sup>3</sup> when the south end wall and the east wall were rebuilt with concrete block, and the south part of the lower floor converted to a two-car garage by the Dunn family.<sup>4</sup> The lower part of the south wall was

<sup>1</sup> Meade Campbell, "Miss Kate Fulkerson's Wedding was Very Rudely Interrupted". Washington County News, Abingdon, Va. Feb. 29, 1968.

<sup>2</sup> Id.

<sup>3</sup> A 1969 photo shows the rear of the house shortly after the renovation and expansion of the ell. The caption reads "This is the rear view of this lovely home. When we visited Abingdon in 1969 we were shown the downstairs. We were told that the frame addition was very old. I think it was most likely part of the original house, perhaps where the kitchen was located. The present owners keep it in beautiful shape. It is furnished with lovely antiques." The photo is in the family collection of Dorothy Mitchell McClure, and is available online at <http://evermore.imagedjinn.com/blg/1036/home-of-capt-robert-craig-at-abingdon-virginia/>

<sup>4</sup> Meade Campbell, "Miss Kate Fulkerson's Wedding was Very Rudely Interrupted". Washington County News, Abingdon, Va. Feb. 29, 1968: "In 1965, the Dunns expanded the ell and enclosed the back porch,

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rebuilt with brick cladding over the block, the roofline extended to the east in a shallow-pitched gable, and two sets of paired 6/6 sash windows inserted into the south wall.

A one-story, five bay Classical Revival porch with Tuscan columns and a plain rail balustrade on the upper roof was added ca. 1920-1930, and a similar two-bay porch was added to the east addition. The roofs over the entire house are clad in standing-seam metal, and most of the windows are flanked by late 20<sup>th</sup> century louvered wooden shutters.

The interior of the house reflects the several building periods, with details ranging from fine Greek Revival mantels and wooden wainscoting in the east and west parlors, to late 20<sup>th</sup>-century built-in bookcases and closets in the second-floor bedrooms. The stair hall features Greek Revival molded trim and the stair itself has a turned newel, simple balusters, and a round rail. The historic second floor of the south ell (connected to the first floor of the main house) was converted into a kitchen during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, but retains historic ca. 1890 wooden flooring and some historic trim including a chair rail, baseboards, and window and door casing. The historic wooden flooring on the second floor of the main house was sanded and refinished during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, while the historic wooden floors on the first floor were covered by carpet around the same time and only lightly restored ca. 2015. The house retains some historic hardware, including 19<sup>th</sup> century doorknobs, hinges, and locks, window hardware, and some late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century light fixtures, including the etched glass pendant lamp in the stair hall.

#### **Muster Grounds (contributing site)**

The Muster Grounds is a low, open meadow partially bisected by Wolf Creek, which flows north-south through the property. The meadow is in grass, well-watered by the creek, and is ringed by trees. The trees on the property are a mixture of deciduous hardwoods and evergreen cedars and pines. The banks of the creeks are well-defined and the creek spans 10-15 feet at its widest. The land rises slightly to the northeast up to a small ridge occupied by the house known as Retirement. A footbridge, built in 2015, spans Wolf Creek directly west of the garage outbuilding and southwest of the main dwelling.

#### **Springhouse (contributing structure)**

The springhouse is a low, one-story stone structure located adjacent to Wolf Creek, due south of the main dwelling. The springhouse is constructed using random-rubble stonework, with a gable roof clad in wooden shingles. A stone outflow channel runs from the spring to the creek, and there is also a long pool extending north from the building's wooden entrance door. The interior of the springhouse is unadorned, with bare stone walls and a pool for cold storage.

#### **Garage (non-contributing building)**

The ca. 1980 garage is one-and-one-half story, frame building located southeast of the main dwelling. The garage is clad in vertical, wooden board-and-batten siding, and has an open carport on the east side. The garage's side-gable roof is clad with standing seam metal with

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thus enlarging the kitchen and adding two more rooms; an informal sitting room, where a Franklin stove and a color television are at peace, and a bedroom adjoining the kitchen, handy for snack-prone guests or people with flu."



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wooden rake boards, and the carport has a subordinate gable roof with a cat's head extension, also clad in standing-seam metal. The garage rests on a concrete foundation, which extends out to the carport. The garage is accessible on the north and east sides by large, sliding wooden barn doors. The building was rehabilitated for use as a visitor's center in 2010; alterations included adding a metal door frame inside the north doors with metal and glass swinging doors, interior wall cladding, and a one-story addition on the south side to incorporate climate control systems, restrooms, and an extension of the main visitor's center display area.

**Potting Shed (non-contributing building)**

The ca. 1960 potting shed is a small, one-story frame building constructed of wood, plywood and vertical-board cladding, and salvaged windows. The building has a shallow, end-gable roof clad in asphalt shingles, and rests on a concrete block foundation. The interior is unadorned and used for storage.

**Refinishing Building (non-contributing building)**

The refinishing building was constructed in three parts, including the original one-and-one-half story frame building, a one-story shed-roofed rear lean-to on a concrete block foundation, and a subsequent one-story lean-to on wooden piers. The original section was constructed ca. 1930, and the additions appear to have been built in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century when the building was renovated for use as a part-time dwelling. The original section is clad in vertical-board siding, with a high end-gable roof clad in metal sheathing. The first (now middle) addition is clad in split-pole vertical siding, with an exposed concrete-block foundation and a shed roof. The rearmost addition also has a shed roof, and is clad in vertical-board siding.

**Horse Run-in Shed (non-contributing building)**

The ca. 1930 horse run-in shed is a long, low, one-story building with two stalls facing a center hall, and a run-in pen on the west side under a single end-gable roof clad in metal sheathing. The main barn building is clad in vertical-board siding, and the pen is open on three sides. The pen roof is supported by undressed wooden posts.

**Kiosk (non-contributing structure)**

The kiosk, constructed ca. 2005, is a three-sided structure composed of three metal stanchions and polymer display panels. The kiosk is set in a poured-concrete foundation, and is sheltered by a small pyramidal metal roof.

**Commemorative Plaque (non-contributing object)**

The commemorative plaque is a metal plaque affixed to a large granite boulder, assembled ca. 2007 to memorialize the Battle of Kings Mountain, and located just west of the kiosk near the road.

**Limestone Retaining Wall (contributing structure)**

A limestone wall close to the west side of the main dwelling dates to at least the early 20<sup>th</sup> century but may be earlier, and is constructed of unmortared, dry-laid and undressed fieldstone.

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A short section at the rear (south) of the main dwelling is also dry-laid fieldstone, but has been mortared.

**Pedestrian Bridge (non-contributing structure)**

A wooden pedestrian bridge was constructed in 2015, and is a simple arched bridge with a wooden handrail that spans Wolf Creek.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MILITARY

ARCHITECTURE

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**Period of Significance**

1780-1945

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**Significant Dates**

September 23, 1780

Ca. 1808

1858

April-May 1861

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

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**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Retirement and the Mustering Grounds is significant at the statewide level under Criterion A in the area of Military. On September 23, 1780, approximately 400 militiamen under the command of Colonel William Campbell gathered at the Muster Grounds in Abingdon and departed for Sycamore Shoals, near present-day Elizabethton, Tennessee. By September 25, the Virginia militia had joined with forces from modern Tennessee, Kentucky, and North Carolina, and were known as the "Overmountain Men". They marched south, and with others from the colonies of South Carolina and Georgia, defeated British forces under Major Patrick Ferguson at the Battle of Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780. This battle is considered to be a turning point in the war because it forced Cornwallis to retreat into South Carolina and abandon the British plan to attack Washington's American army on two fronts. The property also is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The dwelling known as Retirement, constructed ca. 1808 and expanded in 1858, the 1880s and 1910-1920, is significant for its architectural character and quality of workmanship. The property's period of significance begins in 1780 when the Mustering Grounds first served as a gathering place for local militiamen and extends through the last use of the Muster Grounds in 1945. Significant dates are September 23, 1780, when the militiamen first gathered, ca. 1808 when the dwelling now known as Retirement was first built, 1858, when Retirement was expanded, and April-May 1861, when Retirement's owner permitted local Confederate soldiers to gather and train at the Muster Grounds.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **Military**

During the early years of the American Revolution, the men of Fincastle aligned themselves with the disaffected settlers of the Watauga, Sycamore Shoals, Nolichucky, and Carter's Valley settlements for the duration of the Revolution, finding common cause in their hatred of Dunmore and the colonial government, who proclaimed the eviction of all settlers south of the Big Island of the Holston (modern Kingsport, TN) in 1770<sup>5</sup>. These settlements were thereafter known as the Overmountain settlements, as they were "over the mountains" from the permitted settlement areas.

In 1775, the Watauga and Nolichucky settlements took the initiative and declared themselves the independent (short-lived) District of Washington<sup>6</sup>. This provoked Cherokee raiding, and the local militia saw intermittent fighting against the Cherokee and Shawnee (encouraged by the British) throughout 1776-1778. The local troops never committed to regular service, instead preferring to harass the borders and return home at intervals to plant and harvest.

<sup>5</sup> See the Treaty of Lochaber.

<sup>6</sup> Washington, later the fledgling State of Franklin, eventually became nine counties in modern Tennessee.

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After Lord Cornwallis' decisive victory at Camden, SC in August 1780, Major Patrick Ferguson (a Highland Scottish officer) was dispatched to the subdued rebel militia in the mountains. Ferguson had a reputation for brutal reprisal, and the Overmountain men quickly gathered for what they saw as a mission to defend their homes.

Four hundred men gathered at the Muster Grounds adjacent to Wolf Creek, setting off on September 23, 1780 to meet militia from the other Overmountain settlements. Robert Craig served as a captain under Col. William Campbell. They arrived at King's Mountain, SC on October 7, 1780 in the company of around 1300 men and flanked the British forces under Patrick Ferguson who occupied the high ground. Famously, Campbell rode through the lines and shouted "Here they are, my brave boys, shout like hell, and fight like devils!"<sup>7</sup> The Overmountain troops won the day, thanks to unrelenting rifle fire from the militia's sharpshooters, and quickly retreated upcountry with seven hundred British prisoners.

Defeat at King's Mountain caused Cornwallis to abandon his campaign to join Gen. Henry Clinton in New York, instead retreating to South Carolina where a subsequent defeat at Cowpens on January 17, 1781 broke the strength of the British in the South. Cornwallis pursued American troops northward after Cowpens and won a narrow victory at Guilford Courthouse, but his force was so depleted he was forced to retreat to what he believed was safe harbor at Yorktown. Cornwallis surrendered after the Battle of Yorktown on October 19, 1781.

During the War of 1812, Washington County men served in the 70<sup>th</sup> and the 105<sup>th</sup> Virginia militia regiments, gathering and drilling at the Muster Grounds.<sup>8 9 10</sup> The 70<sup>th</sup> was commanded by Baptist minister Andrew Patterson, and the 105<sup>th</sup> by Col. John Preston of Walnut Grove, who also served as Presiding Justice of Washington County between 1820-1852. Capt. Abram Fulkerson, Sr., and his brother John, served together in the 105<sup>th</sup> and fought at Craney Island. It was Abram's son who later purchased Retirement in 1858.

The Muster Grounds also saw service during the Civil War, and the War came to the doorstep of Retirement as well. Two of the Fulkerson family saw service with the Confederate army: Judge Samuel "Uel" Vance Fulkerson, was made a Colonel of the 37<sup>th</sup> Virginia and killed at the battle of Gaines' Mill, and Abram Fulkerson, Jr., an 1857 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute

<sup>7</sup> See Lyman Draper, King's Mountain and Its Heroes, (Cincinnati, Ohio: 1881) p 586.

<sup>8</sup> See List of Pensioners on the Roll, January 1, 1883; Giving the Name of Each Pensioner, the Cause for Why Pensioned, the Post-Office Address, the Rate of Pension Per Month, and the Date of Original Allowance... Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1883. FHL Book 973 M2Lp v. 5; digital versions at Google Books and Internet Archive. [See Vol. 5, Virginia, Washington County, p. 106-107. Identifies War of 1812 veterans living in this county in 1883.]

<sup>9</sup> See also Stuart Lee Butler, Guide to Virginia militia units in the War of 1812, Athens, Ga: New Papyrus Press (2011).

<sup>10</sup> See also Clark, Gerald H. The Militia of Washington County, VA: Officers, 1777-1835, Militia Men, 1798-1835. Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press (1979).



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who was a Captain of Co. K, 19<sup>th</sup> Tennessee, wounded at the Battle of Shiloh, and later promoted to full colonel by Jefferson Davis on Feb. 12, 1864<sup>11</sup>.

Judge Fulkerson was promoted to Colonel (from his Mexican War rank of First Lieutenant) by Virginia Governor John Letcher in April 1861 with instructions to raise a regiment from Washington County. He issued the call and, for some weeks, drilled his recruits on the Muster Grounds adjacent to his estate (by then known as "Retirement"). In early May, 1861, Fulkerson and the 37<sup>th</sup> Virginia Volunteer Regiment were ordered to Richmond. The 37<sup>th</sup> served in the Shenandoah with Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson at First Kernstown, First Winchester, Port Republic, and later fought at Richmond during the early summer of 1862. Fulkerson was killed at the Battle of Gaines Mill outside Richmond on June 27, 1862, and his command was assumed by Titus V. Williams. Fulkerson's unit went on to fight at Second Manassas, Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania Courthouse, and Gettysburg, surrendering with Lee at Appomattox Courthouse in April 1865.<sup>12</sup>

Catherine "Kate" Fulkerson was teaching at the Martha Washington College (now Martha Washington Inn) during the War when she met local businessman Floyd B. Hurt. Hurt was initially a railroad employee, then later worked for the firm of Stuart & Palmer as superintendent of the Holston Salt and Plaster Company.<sup>13</sup> At the outbreak of war, Hurt was a widower with a young daughter named Eulalie, and was judged not fit for military service due to a persistent hernia<sup>14</sup>.

Kate Fulkerson's wedding to Floyd Hurt was planned for December 14, 1864. An oral history given by a former slave named "Aunt Lou" describes Hurt galloping up to the house on the day shouting that Union troops were marching toward the town. Hurt then quickly took up the money he had collected selling Confederate bonds and fled with his slave, a man named White Chappell, leaving the ladies to fend for themselves<sup>15</sup>. Aunt Lou and Kate buried the family silver in the garden, and were shortly informed that the Union commander, General Stephen G. Burbridge, would be requisitioning their house as a temporary headquarters. The advance Union troops took full advantage of the wedding feast laid out in the dining room, despite the best efforts of Kate Fulkerson who advanced on them brandishing the fireplace poker. General Burbridge arrived just in time to forestall grave injury to his troops and cleared them out with many apologies to the ladies, though this did not forestall him from consuming the remainder of the wedding feast himself. Kate Fulkerson's wedding ring, hidden in the cake, was stolen but

<sup>11</sup> This information, and Kate Fulkerson's letter to her brother dated Sept. 4, 1852 can be found here: <https://sparedshared14.wordpress.com/2017/01/25/1852-kate-e-fulkerson-to-abram-fulkerson-jr/>

<sup>12</sup> Dustin T. Aldridge, *Samuel V. Fulkerson and his 37<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry* (paper dated 4/6/2011). Cited by 'Draft Historic Structures Report for Retirement, Town of Abingdon, Virginia'. Davis Buckley Architects and Planners, July 25, 2014, p 8-9.

<sup>13</sup> "Obituary of Floyd B. Hurt", *Tazewell Republican*, Vol. 18, No. 50, Dec. 9 1909.

<sup>14</sup> Mary F. Landrum, "Unique Wedding Feast Took Place in Abingdon", *Bristol Herald Courier*, Sunday January 10, 1965.

<sup>15</sup> Mary F. Landrum, "Unique Wedding Feast Took Place in Abingdon", *Bristol Herald Courier*, Sunday January 10, 1965

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later returned by a "northern Congressman". Kate's brother Abram was elected to Congress in 1881 for the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and apparently met the man who had bitten down on it, and who still carried the ring on his watch fob many years later<sup>16</sup>.

The Muster Grounds were used for their eponymous purpose again at the outset of the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II<sup>17</sup>.

### Property Owners

#### Robert Craig

Robert Craig came to Washington County (founded 1776) in the early 1770s, having spent time among the Scots-Irish settlements in Augusta County and in the vicinity of Lancaster and Carlisle, Pennsylvania<sup>18</sup>.

Many Scots-Irish settlers were encouraged to take up homesteads in Augusta and Rockbridge counties, on the southern headwaters of the Shenandoah, but they were evicted in 1771-1772 after a ruling by the General Court in Williamsburg. Essentially, Lord Fairfax considered that area to be part of the Northern Neck Proprietary and issued land grants to that effect, giving large amounts of land to investors like William Beverley who, in turn, recruited large numbers of settlers. Beverley hired James Patton, a Scots-Irish ship captain turned tobacco trader, to transport willing families of Scottish exiles living in the 'plantations' in Northern Ireland<sup>19</sup> to his grant known as Beverly Manor on a tributary of the Shenandoah River<sup>20</sup>.

<sup>16</sup> Mary F. Landrum, "Unique Wedding Feast Took Place in Abingdon", Bristol Herald Courier, Sunday January 10, 1965. See also, Meade Campbell, "Miss Kate Fulkerson's Wedding was Very Rudely Interrupted". Washington County News, Abingdon, Va. Feb. 29, 1968.

<sup>17</sup> Meade Campbell, "Miss Kate Fulkerson's Wedding was Very Rudely Interrupted". Washington County News, Abingdon, Va. Feb. 29, 1968.

<sup>18</sup> The date of Craig's arrival is given as 1777 in an 1898 letter from Robert Chambers Craig to John Thompson Craig, written at Benham, March 26, 1898, citing the obituary written by Stephen Bovell, second husband of Ann Middleton "Nancy" Craig. A photocopy of this obituary is in the collection of Jim Mitchell, and a transcript giving the date as 1787 is published at <http://evermore.imagedjinn.com/blg/9659/obituary-of-capt-robert-craig-february-8-1834-abingdon/>. An image of the original is not available, but may be contained within the records of the Library of Congress, which maintains microfilm copies of the Virginia Republican, a weekly newspaper in Abingdon that published editions between March 5, 1831 and July 28, 1834. The 1787 date may be correct because Robert Craig received a land grant on Wolf Creek in 1789 (that would become Retirement and the Muster Grounds), but he was a signatory of the call to Rev. Charles Cummings to preach at Sinking Spring and Ebbing Spring churches sent to the Presbytery at Tinkling Spring (Augusta County) in 1773 and led a company of the Overmountain Men during the Revolution 1780-1781. Craig was also sheriff of Washington County in 1786, along with two of his brothers. See the Campbell Family Papers, 1731-1969, in the collection of Duke University, specifically letters from (fmr. Governor) David Campbell regarding the history of Holston Valley settlement dated November 1851.

<sup>19</sup> The origin of the term "Scots-Irish", referring to a large number of Presbyterian Scottish individuals from the Borders and Lowlands of Scotland who emigrated to Northern Ireland to escape religious oppression, war, and a severe famine in the 1690s. English landlords found the Scots hardy, and a useful

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While Lord Fairfax was engaged in settling his grants, the colonial government was granting the same land to its own investors, causing a dispute that lasted over eighty years. One land agent named Jost Hite sued on behalf of several wealthy Tidewater investors acting with the support of the Virginia General Assembly. Fairfax filed suit in London, *Fairfax v. Virginia*, and the Privy Council upheld his claim in 1745<sup>21</sup>. The Virginian General Court, predictably, ruled in favor of Hite in 1771, and Fairfax was later disenfranchised entirely as a British noble after the American Revolution.

The *Hite* ruling resulted in the eviction<sup>22</sup> of many of the Scots-Irish settlers from land in Augusta and Rockbridge Counties if they could not pay the buyout price of £3 per hundred acres<sup>23</sup>, and some migrated south to new grants on the Holston River. The Holston River land was explored and surveyed as early as the 1740s, and James Patton himself was famously killed at the tiny settlement of Draper's Meadows (near modern Blacksburg) in 1755<sup>24</sup>. The migration tended to seed tiny church communities, connected to other Scot-Irish settlements via "presbyteries" or church associations in the Scottish Presbyterian Church, which provided support and communication.

The settlers in Washington County founded Sinking Spring and Ebbing Spring churches, and in 1773 wrote to the meeting of the local presbytery at Tinkling Spring in Augusta County<sup>25</sup> to

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buffer against the warlike, dispossessed, Catholic Irish natives. Many found life in Ireland so intolerable that they emigrated again a generation later to Pennsylvania, where they were heavily encouraged by pacifist Quakers, among them William Penn himself, to settle the western frontier as a buffer against the warlike, dispossessed, Indian natives. As English landowners continued to clear the frontiers, pushing the Scots-Irish tenants off their homesteads, they moved south along the Proclamation Line to found settlements at Opequon Creek (Frederick County) and Tinkling Spring (Augusta).

<sup>20</sup> Generally, the land settled by the Scots-Irish of Beverly Manor and the Borden Tract was located between the South River (South Fork of the Shenandoah) and the Pasture rivers (tributaries of the South Fork of the Potomac) in modern Augusta, Highland, and Bath counties.

<sup>21</sup> See McClinton, Arthur (ed.), The Fairfax Line: A Historic Landmark, including "The Fairfax Line: Thomas Lewis's Journal of 1746," The Henkel Press, New Market, VA, 1925 (reprinted by Shenandoah County Historical Society, 1990), p.12

<sup>22</sup> Most of the records of the court process were lost to fire during the Richmond Evacuation Fire in 1865. However, Elizabeth H. Hyman's work patching together related sources for her 1996 article is revelatory, and includes the memorable quote by the Hite lawyers: "recover of all intruders tho it should appear that we actually sold the land to others". See Elizabeth H. Hyman, "Hite v. Fairfax and the Case of Terrapin Neck," Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society, LXII (1996), 44-82.

<sup>23</sup> The Robert Craig that patented a parcel in the northeast quadrant of the Beverley Manor Tract in 1740 may have been this Robert Craig's father, uncle, or cousin. The minister to the Tinkling Spring congregation was the Rev. John Craig. See Lyman Chalkley, The Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia: 1745 to 1800, (Rosslyn, Va., 1912-1913; reprint, 1965).

<sup>24</sup> The incident was made more notorious because of Mary Draper Ingles, a woman captured during the attack who was transported west to near modern Big Bone Lick, Kentucky, escaped from her Shawnee captors, and walked over 500 miles following the New River back to her home.

<sup>25</sup> Augusta County retains one of its 18<sup>th</sup> century churches, Augusta Stone Church in the town of Fort Defiance, built as a sister church to Tinkling Spring in 1740.

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request or "call" a minister. Robert Craig, along with many others, signed the letter to which the Rev. Charles Cummings was instructed to answer<sup>26</sup>.

Cummings, notably, drafted the Fincastle Resolutions of 1775 which have been described as a precursor to the Declaration of Independence. The Resolutions enumerates the grievances of the Scots-Irish settlers, for "even to these remote regions the land of unlimited and unconstitutional power hath pursued us, to strip us of that liberty and property with which God, nature, and the rights of humanity, have vested us... [t]hese are our real, though unpolished sentiments, of liberty and loyalty, and in them we are resolved to live and die"<sup>27</sup>.

Though Robert Craig was not a signatory to the Fincastle Resolutions, he was certainly aware of them and participated in the Revolution as a captain of militia. General ill-feeling toward the Tidewater elites after the Augusta evictions was exacerbated by the poor treatment of the Virginia militia by British regular troops during Lord Dunmore's War, and the furor over the Battle of Point Pleasant in which British troops failed to appear in support of Virginia militia against the Shawnee. Importantly, Lord Dunmore (John Murray, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Dunmore) was governor of Virginia from 1771-1776, presiding over the Augusta evictions, the war against the Shawnee, and the early days of the Revolution. There was even widespread speculation that Lord Dunmore purposely orchestrated the war to deplete the Virginia militia in anticipation of rebellion<sup>28</sup>.

By the time of the Overmountain Men's Revolutionary expedition in 1780, Robert Craig was an experienced military commander. He, along with his two brothers<sup>29</sup>, fought in the Fincastle militia during Lord Dunmore's War, and later led troops during the Cherokee Expedition in 1776<sup>30</sup>. He was promoted to captain during the Overmountain campaign, and was commended in dispatches by the Overmountain men's colonel, William Campbell<sup>31</sup>. Craig also served as a Commissioner of the Provision Law for the Virginia General Assembly, organizing supplies for the militia and arranging payment from 1780-1783<sup>32</sup>.

<sup>26</sup> Cummings' cabin still exists, and has been relocated from its original location to Sinking Springs Cemetery in Abingdon.

<sup>27</sup> See Lyman Draper, King's Mountain and Its Heroes, (Cincinnati, Ohio: 1881).

<sup>28</sup> When in reality, he orchestrated the war to open settlement of lands in which he had a vested interest through the Illinois Company and was using the militia as private troops. See Norman K. Risjord, Jefferson's America, (Rowman & Littlefield, 2010), pp. 104-105.

<sup>29</sup> David Craig and James Craig.

<sup>30</sup> Cherokee warriors, encouraged by the British and fearful of American encroachment, led raids east of the treaty lines in the summer of 1776. Around 1800 Virginia militia under Col. William Christian marched southwest into east Tennessee. There was little active fighting, but the fort system established during this campaign directly influenced settlement patterns after the Revolution. Note: the Craig brothers cannot be found on the pay lists of those men under Capt. Campbell, or any other commander, during Lord Dunmore's War, but several secondary sources claim their participation.

<sup>31</sup> Lyman Draper, King's Mountain and Its Heroes, (Cincinnati, Ohio: 1881) 405.

<sup>32</sup> "Robert Craig", General Claims Approved (APA 238): Folder 26. Public Service Claims. Commissioner's Books (Nos. 1-3, reel 5; Nos. 4-5, reel 6) (1775-1783). Library of Virginia.

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Robert Craig also served as a town trustee for Abingdon in 1778, tax commissioner in 1779, coroner of Washington County in 1780, and road surveyor on behalf of the Commonwealth after the Revolution. He was elected to the General Assembly in 1800, and was a founding trustee of the Abingdon Male Academy in 1803<sup>33</sup>. In 1803, Craig sold a substantial portion of his land along Wolf Creek to the town of Abingdon to be incorporated into the town<sup>34</sup>, and was a reasonably wealthy individual with six slaves in his household<sup>35</sup>. Craig died in 1834<sup>36</sup> after a long and full life, having raised fifteen children and greatly contributing to the white settlement of Washington County.

#### Judge Samuel "Uel" Vance Fulkerson

Samuel "Uel" (pronounced "Ewell") Vance Fulkerson was born in Abingdon, Virginia on October 21, 1822, and returned after an interval in Estillville (Gate City) to practice law in Abingdon between 1850 and his death in 1864.

Fulkerson had barely begun his practice in his adopted town of Estillville when he volunteered to serve in the Mexican War between 1847-1848, and was deployed to Mexico though the war ended before he saw battle. He returned to Estillville and was named a delegate to the convention to 'reform' the Virginia Constitution in 1850<sup>37</sup>.

Fulkerson returned to Abingdon in the mid-1850s and was elected to be a judge of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District in 1857. Shortly thereafter, he purchased the Craig property at the edge of town from one Robert Carmichel<sup>38</sup>. He lived there with his parents, his sister, Catherine "Kate" Fulkerson, and his sister-in-law, Selina Johnson Fulkerson (wife of Col. Abram Fulkerson, Jr.).<sup>39</sup>

In April 1861, Fulkerson was promoted to Colonel and given command of a regiment of local militia. The unit saw service in the Shenandoah in 1861 and then Richmond in 1862; during the

<sup>33</sup> Victoria Alice Gilliam. "Survey report, Retirement: 1937 Mar. 4", Works Progress Administration. Library of Virginia.

<sup>34</sup> "An Act Enlarging the Towns of Berryville, Abingdon, and Staunton" passed by vote January 10, 1803. See Shepherd's Statutes at Large of Virginia from October Session 1792 to December Session 1806, (continuation of Hening's Statutes), pub. Richmond 1835. Reprinted J. Casey: New York, 1896.

<sup>35</sup> "Robert Craig, Sr." 1806 Washington County Personal Property Tax List. Record indicates Craig owned one slave under 16, and five over 16.

<sup>36</sup> A photocopy of Robert Craig's obituary is in the collection of Jim Mitchell, and a transcript giving the date as 1787 is published at <http://evermore.imagedjinn.com/blg/9659/obituary-of-capt-robert-craig-february-8-1834-abingdon/>. An image of the original is not available, but may be contained within the records of the Library of Congress, which maintains microfilm copies of the Virginia Republican, a weekly newspaper in Abingdon that published editions between March 5, 1831 and July 28, 1834.

<sup>37</sup> Mary F. Landrum, "Tales Told by Walls of House—"Retirement"". The Historical Society of Washington County, Virginia, Virginia Bulletin II. No. 41 (2004): 1-8).

<sup>38</sup> Carmichel was an associate of Robert Craig's daughter Harriet Smith who, with her husband, removed to Georgia before Robert Craig's death in 1834.

<sup>39</sup> Mary F. Landrum, "Unique Wedding Feast Took Place in Abingdon", Bristol Herald Courier, Sunday January 10, 1965.

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period from April 1st to June, 13th, 1861, the Confederate armory at Richmond issued "15,000 Musket Cartridges" and Caps and "490 Cartridge Boxes and Belts" to "Colonel S.V. FULKERSON"<sup>40</sup>.

Fulkerson was killed during the Seven Days' Battles, at the Battle of Gaines Mill, on June 27, 1862. The letter notifying his family of Fulkerson's death was written by Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, reading: "Col. S.V. Fulkerson was an officer of distinguished worth. I deeply felt his death. He rendered valuable service to his country, and had he lived, would probably have been recommended by me before this time for a brigadier generalcy. So far as my knowledge extends, he enjoyed the confidence of his regiment and all who knew him. I am Sir your obdt. servt, T.J. Jackson."<sup>41</sup> Fulkerson's remains were transported home and he is buried in Sinking Springs Cemetery in Abingdon.<sup>42</sup>

### Criterion C, Architecture

The property contains two resources that are significant in the area of architecture, namely the main dwelling house known as "Retirement" and the stone springhouse adjacent to Wolf Creek.

The house known as "Retirement" was originally constructed ca. 1808 for Captain Robert Craig, who died in 1834 at the age of 90 after a distinguished career. There is some evidence to indicate that Craig purchased the land on which the house is located in 1807, but he may not have started construction of the brick house until he purchased the remaining 8 acres making up the full parcel in 1813<sup>43</sup>.

A small dwelling was already on the property at that time and was converted into a detached kitchen when the main house was built. This log dwelling was likely associated with the extant stone springhouse, and may date to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The building was described as a "log cabin, a hundred feet back of the house...this kitchen topped most in inaccessibility"<sup>44</sup>. Another building, used as a dining room, may also have predated the brick house; "The builder [in 1965?] took one more step and banished the dining room, too...it was on the basement level, an outside

<sup>40</sup> Bob Fulkerson, "Samuel Vance Fulkerson" Fulkerson Family History, available: <http://www.fulkerson.org/1-samv1.html>

<sup>41</sup> Letters from and regarding Samuel V. Fulkerson are available in Bob Fulkerson's collection here: <http://www.fulkerson.org/1samv2.html#SEPT2>. The originals are contained within the "Fulkerson Family Papers 1835-1925", MS 0363, Collection of the Virginia Military Institute Archives, Lexington, Virginia. See also the memoirs of Capt. James Wood, Co. D, 37<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment, published as James. H. Wood, The War: Stonewall Jackson-- His Campaigns and Battles-- The Regiment-- As I saw Them, Cumberland, Maryland: Eddy Press Corp. 1910.

<sup>42</sup> Victoria Alice Gilliam. "Survey report, Retirement: 1937 Mar. 4", Works Progress Administration. Library of Virginia.

<sup>43</sup> "Draft Historic Structures Report for Retirement, Town of Abingdon, Virginia". Davis Buckley Architects and Planners, July 25, 2014, p 5.

<sup>44</sup> Meade Campbell, "Miss Kate Fulkerson's Wedding was Very Rudely Interrupted". Washington County News, Abingdon, Va. Feb. 29, 1968.



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stairway its only connection with the parlors and bedrooms above<sup>45</sup>. This structure may have been the south ell, constructed in the 1880s, or an earlier building incorporated into the ell. Photographs from 1937 show the east side of the ell, which appears to incorporate two distinctly different structures with a clear demarcation between the east and west sections, and a survey from the period notes a "quarter-circular closet with a curved door" which may have contained a stair<sup>46</sup>.

The original house was substantially expanded and renovated in 1858 by Judge Samuel Vance Fulkerson. The contract between Judge Fulkerson and his contractor, William Fields, exists and states the following:

"William Fields agrees to build for Sam'l V. Fulkerson a brick house at the east end of and adjoining to the house on which said Fulkerson now lives. Said house is to be twenty feet long and as wide and high as the hold house with a room below and one above. Shingle roof, two doors framed with hinges, locks, etc complete. Eight windows, sash glass, with venetian blinds. Said windows to be of a larger size and larger glass than the windows of the old house. Good and neat cornice on both sides of the house. Chimney with fire place in both rooms. Both rooms [unreadable] wash boards [baseboards] etc. Said Fields is also to do the excavation necessary to place the new house on a level with the first floor of the old house. Said Fields is also to build for said Fulkerson an office of brick sixteen feet square in the clear and proper height for one story to be set at the east end of and adjoining the said new house. Said office to be covered with shingles, two doors with locks, hinges, etc complete, two windows of the size of the windows in the old house with venetian blinds. The office to be plastered, to have a fireplace, mantle, and wash boards. Said Fields is also to make the necessary excavation to give the office a good foundation.

Said Fields is also to put a good and neat frame door, with lock, etc. complete and with side lights, where the eastern front window of the old house now is, and he is to remove the said window and place it where the front door of the old house now is, so as to make it correspond with the other windows of the old house in the same room.

Said Fields is also to open the passage (now the little room on the first floor of the old house) and is to construct a flight of stairs from said passage to second floor. Said stairs to be properly bannistered. Said Fields is also to take down the chimney at the east end of the old house and to repair the plastering which had fallen off in the two upper rooms [unreadable] done in a workmanlike manner and to be completed in this ensuing spring or as early in the following summer as practicable.

For all of which work said Fulkerson is to pay said Fields the sum of \$980. But if said Fulkerson should choose to have [unreadable] in the new buildings,

<sup>45</sup> Meade Campbell, "Miss Kate Fulkerson's Wedding was Very Rudely Interrupted". Washington County News, Abingdon, Va. Feb. 29, 1968.

<sup>46</sup> "Draft Historic Structures Report for Retirement, Town of Abingdon, Virginia". Davis Buckley Architects and Planners, July 25, 2014, Appendix B.

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any of the old doors and casing or mantles, he is be at liberty to do so, and said Fields is to deduct from said sum \$9 for old door and casing so used and \$4 for each mantle so used.

Given under our hands this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1858...<sup>47</sup>

After Judge Fulkerson was killed at the Battle of Gaines Mill in 1862, the house passed to his sister, Catherine Fulkerson Hurt. Hurt died in 1903, and her husband, Floyd B. Hurt, followed in 1909. The house passed to their daughter, Catherine "Kate" Lamar Hurt, who lived there with her brother Samuel Fulkerson Hurt.

Kate Lamar Hurt was apparently an accomplished woodcarver and cabinetmaker, who installed at least one carved fireplace mantel in Retirement prior to 1949. Since there is no evidence of this mantel today, it is believed that this mantel may have been in the south ell and removed by the Dunn family in the 1960s. The Classical Revival porch was added to the façade between 1909 and 1931, possibly after Floyd Hurt's death when his children inherited the property and made improvements. The Hurts also added a small bathroom at the rear of the east addition (the judge's chambers) to convert it into a small separate apartment. Kate Lamar Hurt died in 1949, leaving the property to a niece, Catherine Wharton Gray. Gray did not live in Abingdon, and sold the property to Paul and Rose Dunn.<sup>48</sup>

The Dunns were responsible for the extensive rebuilding of the south ell and, presumably, the demolition of the log kitchen. They also extensively renovated the interior, adding closets and cased shelving, and a bathroom on the second floor. Their daughter, Paula Hoskins, sold the property to the town of Abingdon for use as a museum.

<sup>47</sup> "Draft Historic Structures Report for Retirement, Town of Abingdon, Virginia". Davis Buckley Architects and Planners, July 25, 2014. Appendix A.

<sup>48</sup> "Draft Historic Structures Report for Retirement, Town of Abingdon, Virginia". Davis Buckley Architects and Planners, July 25, 2014."

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA; Town of  
Abingdon, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR No. 140-0006

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8.88 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 36.703210 Longitude: -81.993280

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting: Northing:

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The historic boundary coincides with the lot lines for the tax parcel recorded by the Town of Abingdon as parcel no. 017-1-37. The true and correct historic boundaries are shown on the attached Tax Parcel Map.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic boundary is drawn to coincide with the property current tax parcel, which encompasses the extent of the acreage associated with the property since ca. 1813. In addition to capturing the property's historic setting, the boundary is drawn to include all known historic resources.

## 11. Form Prepared By

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Washington County, VA  
County and State

name/title: Gray O'Dwyer, Michael Pulice, and Lena Sweeten McDonald  
organization: Department of historic Resources  
street & number: 2801 Kensington Avenue  
city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23221  
e-mail: lena.mcdonald@dhr.virginia.gov  
telephone: 804-482-6439  
date: January 10, 2018

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Retirement

City or Vicinity: Abingdon

County: Washington State: VA

Photographer: Michael Pulice

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:



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1 of \_\_\_\_.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

