

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: Bloomsburg (Watkins House)

Other names/site number: DHR ID# 041-0024

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: 9000 Philpott Road

City or town: South Boston State: VA County: Halifax

Not For Publication:  N/A

Vicinity:  X

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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


I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

	<u>6/29/17</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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**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:)

Law Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

8.28.17  
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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

FUNERARY: cemetery

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: processing

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

FUNERARY: cemetery

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: outbuilding

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD, BRICK, STONE, 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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Bloomsburg, also known as the Watkins House, is located at 9000 Philpott Road (US Highway 58) in southwest Halifax County, Virginia. The Bloomsburg house, completed in the 1840s but possibly begun in the late 1830s, is dated ca. 1839 for the purposes of the nomination. The house is two stories in height with an attic story under a metal-sheathed side-gable roof. The house has plain weatherboard siding, twelve-over-twelve and six-over-six wood sash windows, a brick foundation, and double brick chimneys on the gable ends. On the south-facing front elevation is a 1970s portico and on the back is an original one-story Greek Revival porch with replacement columns. The center passage-plan interior is two rooms deep and has plaster walls and ceilings and wood floors. Decorative plaster cornices and medallions ornament the ceilings of the center passage and two parlors. The property includes a two-room brick kitchen; a brick carriage house; a small family cemetery; and historic-period farm buildings including two tobacco barns and a corncrib. Non-historic resources include two metal-sided farm buildings, a gazebo, and a swimming pool. The house stands at the south end of the approximately rectangular 92.34-acre nominated area, on a rise at about 500 feet above sea level with sweeping views of the Dan River valley to the north. A level field extends eastward from the house and a rolling, mostly cleared ridge leads back from the house to the north end of the property. To each side of the ridge are valleys containing branches of Locust Creek, a tributary of the Dan River (one of the branches

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has been dammed to form a small pond). The property lies in the community of Danripple, known as Bloomsburg in the nineteenth century. Note: "Watkins House" is added to the historic name of the property to distinguish it from a nearby property also known as Bloomsburg or "1797 Bloomsburg."

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## Narrative Description

### *Inventory*

1. Bloomsburg (Watkins House). Ca. 1839; 1970s. Contributing building.
2. Carriage house. Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Contributing building.
3. Kitchen. Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Contributing building.
4. Building. Early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Contributing building.
5. Corncrib. Early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Contributing structure.
6. Cemetery. 19<sup>th</sup> century. Contributing site.
7. North tobacco barn. Early/mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Contributing building.
8. South tobacco barn. Early/mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Contributing building.
9. Foundation. Late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Contributing site.
10. Tobacco barn foundation. Late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Contributing site.
11. Pump house. 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 20<sup>th</sup> century. Noncontributing structure.
12. Gazebo. Early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Non-contributing structure.
13. Swimming pool. Early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Non-contributing structure.
14. Machinery shed. Early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Non-contributing building.
15. Garage. Early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Non-contributing building.

### *House: Exterior*

The primary dwelling is two stories in height with an attic story under a metal-sheathed side-gable roof. The house has plain weatherboard siding, a brick foundation, and double brick chimneys on the gable ends. Characteristic of the Greek Revival style, the south façade's fenestration is symmetrically arranged, with windows retaining twelve-over-twelve and six-over-six wood sash windows. The dominant feature of Bloomsburg's façade is the classical portico added in the 1970s. The portico features monumental Doric columns, dentil cornices, a flush-board ceiling, and a pediment with a cartouche. The lower part of the house wall under the portico combines original flush-board sheathing with a 1970s pediment to create an ornamental frontispiece that echoes the design of the portico. The flush boards are a wall treatment from an original one-story entry porch replaced by another porch in 1919, that porch in turn replaced by the 1970s portico. At the center of the frontispiece is an entry with double-leaf four-panel doors (forming an eight-panel arrangement when closed) and a decoratively gridded transom in a Greek Revival surround with blank corner blocks and symmetrical trim featuring a center fillet between lobed moldings. The portico stands on a concrete platform edged with molded bricks and reached by steps made from long granite blocks said to have been quarried in Georgia. The steps pre-date the portico and probably belong to the original entry porch. The top step is a single block; other steps are made from two blocks; and some blocks may be replacements. A modern wheelchair ramp rises to the portico platform on the west side. In the eaves of the roof to either

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side of the portico are soffits with parallel channels cut into them in imitation of fluting. The eaves on the back elevation have the same treatment.

The four gable-end brick chimneys are laid in Flemish bond and bear traces of black paint applied to the brickwork in 1967 or 1968. The chimneys have stepped bases and shoulders. Between them, on each elevation, rise narrow two-story 1970s additions with gable roofs and weatherboard siding. The east addition's east wall has an entry with a small gabled Colonial Revival porch and its north wall abuts a shed-roofed, frame one-story kitchen addition probably made in the early twentieth century. On the house's rear (north) elevation is an original one-story entry porch with a pedimented gable roof. The Doric porch columns are modern replacements although their capitals appear to be historic. The house wall under the porch is sheathed with flush boards between what are probably the original rectangular Doric pilasters which have scars where the handrail of a former balustrade attached. The porch now stands on a modern brick and concrete platform that extends on each side as raised terraces, although originally the porch would have been freestanding, and in 1937 it was described as having stone steps, presumably granite like the steps that survive on the front. To the left and right of the porch are French and sliding doors added in the late twentieth century, each set of doors under multi-pane transoms. The second story windows have twelve-over-twelve sash and operable sash matching those of the south façade.

#### *House: Interior*

Bloomsburg's interior is distinguished by plaster ceiling decoration in the first-floor center passage and the double parlors on the left (west) side of the passage. The decorative plaster in the passage consists of cornices with foliated, guilloche, and egg-and-dart designs, and includes bands of ornament which divide the ceiling into three rectangles from front to back. The end rectangles have simple annular medallions; the center rectangle has a rectangular medallion with an egg-and-dart border and scrolling/foliated decoration inside (this medallion, although unusual, appears to be historic). Door trim in the passage is symmetrically molded (as is the trim in much of the rest of the house) and features a center fillet between lobed moldings (the same section as the exterior trim around the entry). The corner blocks have square ornaments that use the same molding forms. The tall molded baseboards are crowned by paneled wainscots added in the 1970s. The doorways from the passage into the surrounding rooms are hung with eight-panel doors with molded and raised panels (most other doors in the house are similar).

At the back or north end of the passage rises a two-run stair with a landing that spans a back entrance. The stair has vasiform newels, rectangular balusters, foliated tread brackets, a molded handrail, and a molded panel spandrel of pegged construction. Modern paneled wainscoting rises with the stair. The closet under the stair has been converted to a powder room; across from it, tucked under the landing, is a modern closet. One of the upper newels projects below the landing, its bottom end ornamented with an annular button.

The double parlors on the left side of the passage are connected by a wide doorway indicating their historic use as entertaining rooms. The connecting doorway has double-leaf eight-panel

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doors. At the center of each parlor ceiling is a large circular medallion with a central acanthus-leaf rosette contained in an inner border of twining rose, thistle, and foliage motifs and a foliated outer border. The cornices around the perimeters of the rooms have foliated and Greek key-like designs. Each parlor has a simple post-and-lintel mantel made from slabs of gray-specked white marble. The south parlor mantel has a surround of similar marble with a replacement marble lintel. The door and window trim has symmetrical stepped moldings. The front window of the south parlor has a historic apron panel adorned with modern (1970s) decoration.

The front room on the opposite side of the passage, now used as a dining room, has a Greek Revival mantel of pegged construction to which reeded pilaster panels and elliptical sunburst frieze ornaments were added in the 1970s, giving it a Federal appearance. Also from the 1970s are reeding and sunbursts in the apron panel under the front window and the room's cornice, which features reeded panels and curved dentils. To the left of the fireplace, above the chair rail, is a wallpaper panel with a Chinese design of foliage and birds, a late twentieth-century addition. The door and window trim has a convex section. The room behind, now the kitchen, has a Greek Revival mantel and a secondary stair with a square bottom newel, rectangular balusters, pegged and beaded panels in the spandrel, and applied modern ornaments on the stringer. The room's door trim has a peaked section.

The landing and upper run of the center-passage stair have the same newels and balusters as the lower run. The upper handrails are gracefully ramped, and where the rail ends at the upstairs passage wall it is visually supported by a flat newel-like element that is conceived as a cutout version of the full-round newels, with the same taper and bulges. The window over the landing has trim with a concave section. Three mantels survive in the four upstairs room, each similar to the mantel in the dining room with a Greek Revival post-and-lintel form, pegged construction, and modern reeding and frieze ornaments. Some rooms have modern dentil crown moldings. The doorway from the passage into the northeast room has uncharacteristically asymmetrical molded trim, unusual cruciform corner block ornaments, and a four-panel door on decorative cast butt hinges (butt hinges elsewhere in the house are all or mostly plain).

Two historic-period stairs rise to the attic. One rises from the front of the second-floor center passage and is similar to the stair in the kitchen, with original beading and modern stringer ornaments, but its bottom newel is deeply chamfered. The other stair rises from the northeast room. The two stairs serve the two rooms of the attic, a large room at the west end (now used as a play room) and a smaller room at the east end (now used as an office). The attic was historically finished and used as living and/or storage space but its current finishes are now mostly modern.

#### *Other Resources*

The first historic outbuilding a visitor to Bloomsburg encounters is the **carriage house** (inventory no. 2) located on the west side of the circular drive in front of the house. The gable-fronted one-story building has a center carriage garage of 1:7 common bond brick to which frame side sheds were added in the modern period. (All of the property's outbuildings are one

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story/level unless otherwise noted.) The metal-sheathed roof has square-section rafters, possibly reused from another structure, that are butted and nailed at the ridge. Doric columns, apparently from the house's back porch, were cut in half and applied as ornamental pilasters to each side of the center garage opening.

East of the house stands the **kitchen** (3), which has the slender two-room form typical of the region's nineteenth-century kitchen/slave/servant quarters. The kitchen is constructed of brick laid in 1:3 common bond with penciled mortar joints. On the west-facing front elevation are two close-set entries with eight-panel doors with porcelain and pottery door knobs, lintels with blank corner blocks, and heavy quarter-round trim. The entries have granite steps. Chimneys with stepped shoulders project shallowly from each gable end and on the rear elevation are a pair of nine-over-nine windows with the same lintels and trim as the entries. Under the windows is a row of six root cellar vents. Other exterior features include metal roofing, canted bed moldings in the eaves, and the scratched initials WGW on the front elevation.

The interior is characterized by white-painted (originally whitewashed) brick walls, board floors, and beaded tongue-and-groove ceilings (a historic-period replacement of an unknown original ceiling finish). The north room, which appears to have been the kitchen, has a wide fireplace covered by a metal sheet with a stove flue hole above. Beside the chimney breast is a built-in storage cabinet of wire-nailed beaded tongue-and-groove construction. The south room, which appears to have served as lodgings for the cook (presumably an enslaved cook at first, later a free servant), has a Greek/Gothic Revival mantel with a peaked frieze profile and pilasters with chamfered inner edges. (The mantel, which appears to date to the third quarter of the nineteenth century, may have been installed in the room at that time or may be a modern borrowing from another historic building). Other interior features include trap doors in the floors of each room, beaded window trim, and a stack-panel door between the rooms.

Northwest of the house is a remnant historic farm complex of which a two-story weatherboard-sided frame **building** (4) is the larger of two surviving historic resources. The building's weatherboards are attached with cut nails suggestive of nineteenth-century construction, although it stands on poured concrete footers that are twentieth century in date. It could be that the building dates to the nineteenth century and had its original foundation replaced, or it dates to the twentieth century and represents a late use of cut nails (the latter scenario seems marginally more likely). The building's original function is also uncertain. It may have served as a tobacco pack house, although another agricultural use is possible and there are accounts of a servant's quarter in the vicinity, possibly a reference to this building. A tenant or farm hand occupied the building in the mid-twentieth century. A one-story shed wing on the north gable end, used as a stable, is integral with the concrete foundation and has exposed rafter ends typical of construction during the second quarter of the twentieth century. There are first and second-story entries, the lower with a stack-panel door and the upper with a batten door. The upper entry does not appear to have been accessed by an exterior stair and may have been for loading and offloading goods from a wagon or truck parked below (which might suggest pack house use). Other features of the building include metal roofing, circular-sawn construction, gypsum-board interior finishes, and evidence for a former ladder stair. The other historic resource in the group



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is a slatted **corncrib** (5) of wire-nailed circular-sawn construction. The corncrib has a metal-sheathed gable roof, piled rock footers, a batten door, and a side shed with vertical board siding.

The **cemetery** (6) lies at the edge of woods across a field to the east of the house. It is overgrown, which obscures its shape and extent, but it appears to be rectangular in form. Three graves are marked by marble ledgers that were formerly raised above the ground by low brick walls or piers. The ledgers are professionally carved with inscriptions in a variety of letter styles. The ledgers do not appear to be signed with the carver's name. The ledgers are for Fayett W. Watkins (1847-58), Haywood A. Watkins (1849-58), and an infant daughter of the Watkins family who was born and died in 1843. Several fieldstone markers and grave depressions are visible. Alexander Watkins, who died in 1871, and his wife, Sarah Watkins, who died after him, are said to be buried in the cemetery.

At the north end of the property stands a tobacco processing complex consisting of two tobacco barns, a tobacco barn foundation, and the foundation of what may have been a sweat house. The tobacco barns are similar in form and construction, of the flue-cured type, with diamond-notched log construction, stone foundations, tier poles with their ends projecting between the logs, and metal-sheathed gable roofs supported by sapling rafters that are butted and nailed at the ridge. They are also in ruinous condition: the **north tobacco barn** (7) has fallen off of its foundation and the **south tobacco barn** (8) has lost many of its lower logs to deterioration. Both barns lack their gable sheathings. The barns are constructed with wire nails, which considered in combination with other features suggest construction during the first half of the twentieth century (one cut nail was observed but not in a construction context).

The two barns differ in a number of ways. The north barn is well chinked with red clay daubing, suggesting it was used more recently than the south barn, which has lost most of its daubing. Porch columns from the main house are stored in the barn. The columns, which are turned from solid tree trunks and appear to be antebellum in date, are probably the original columns from the back porch. The south barn shows more evidence of its flue system with stone fireboxes on its south end (one with a sheet iron cap) and stone copings along the flue trenches interior to the fireboxes. A tobacco slide (a sledge for transporting harvested tobacco from the field) and sections of sheet iron flue are inside the barn.

To the southeast and downslope from the south barn is a rectangular stone **foundation** (9) for a building that probably served a tobacco-related function, possibly a sweat house or sweat barn. Surviving examples of the type in the county are typically small, low-slung buildings used to humidify cured tobacco leaves. At the east end of the foundation are bricks and stones that may be remnants of a hearth or support for a water trough. At the southwest end of the complex is a flue-cured **tobacco barn foundation** (10), its squarish dimensions and stone flue trenches distinct. Another tobacco barn foundation may survive next to it but is too fragmentary for positive identification.

Near the house are a **pump house** (11) of cinder block construction with a metal-sheathed pyramidal roof; an octagonal **gazebo** (12) with wood posts and railings and a metal-sheathed

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pyramidal roof; and an in-ground **swimming pool** (13). The pump house is similar in form to others in the area, such as a 1940s cinder block pump house with a pyramidal roof on the Glenwood property, although it is known to date to after 1949 and may date to the 1960s. In the farm complex to the northwest of the house are a **machinery shed** (14) with metal roofing, metal-sided gable ends, and open sides; and a large equipment **garage** (15), also with metal siding and gable roofing. Near these two buildings, and scattered around the farm, are two or more small movable structures that provide shelter for goats.

A 1937 description of Bloomsburg's grounds stated, "There are large locust trees in the yard. In front of the house is a broad walk with a semi-circle on each side; dwarf boxwood grows next to the walk and tree boxwood around the circle." The current boxwood plantings may preserve elements of the historic plantings, although they appear more open than those shown in a 1937 photo. Two large magnolias flanking the front view of the house have been planted since 1937, as have pines which line both sides of the driveway and the west property line.

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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.)

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

Ca. 1839-ca. 1950

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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.)

Bloomsburg (Watkins House), located in Halifax County, Virginia, is a finely detailed Greek Revival plantation house built for merchant-planter Alexander Watkins in the late 1830s and/or 1840s. Architectural highlights of the boxy two-story with attic story frame house include marble mantels, decorative plaster cornices and ceiling medallions, and a stair with foliated ornament. The property includes a brick kitchen of characteristic two-room form, a brick carriage house, and other historic domestic and agricultural outbuildings. Bloomsburg (Watkins House) is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C in the Architecture area of significance for the refinement of the decorative plasterwork and for other stylistic, material, and construction features of the main house and outbuildings. The period of significance extends from ca. 1839 to ca. 1950, embracing the construction of the house through the majority of the evolution of the domestic and farm outbuilding complexes. Bloomsburg (Watkins House) is eligible at the local level of significance.

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

*Historic Context*

Alexander Watkins (ca. 1803-1871) began acquiring land in Halifax County in 1829, the year he purchased a 114.8-acre tract from Stephen and Julie Palmer on the head of Licking (Locust) Creek for the sum of \$1,100, a tract that included the site where Watkins would subsequently build his plantation house. In January 1831 Watkins married Sarah Price Pate (ca. 1815-1871), and the couple are believed to have set up housekeeping in a small log house that stood in the field to the east of the current house. A 1937 photograph of this earlier house, which succumbed to decay in the 1960s, shows a steep-pitched wood-shingled gable roof and a gable-end chimney. The log construction was hidden under weatherboards.<sup>1</sup>

According to Halifax County historian Pocahontas Edmunds, the two oldest children of Alexander and Sarah's thirteen offspring were born in the log house. The birth dates of the Watkins children are not well established, although the oldest appears to have been Mary Vaughan Watkins who was born in October 1832. The oldest son, Thomas Alexander Watkins, was born in 1834, and it is possible a daughter was born in 1833. This evidence suggests the family lived in the log house until 1833 or 1834. Their next abode was the upstairs apartment of Alexander Watkins' newly completed Bloomsburg Store. This two-story brick building—a famous Halifax County landmark until its demolition in 1957—is dated in some accounts to 1832 on the basis of an 1832 deed which makes reference to “the store of said Watkins . . . on the main road that leads from Irvins Ferry to Milton, N. C.” (in other words, the ridge road that preceded the current Highway 58). Although the deed is evidence that Watkins had opened a store on his property by 1832, the store may have operated at first from a building other than the brick store.<sup>2</sup>

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In 1937 Virginia Historical Inventory researcher Lizzie Ragland wrote, “It is said that Alexander Watkins lived in the store when it was known as ‘Bloomsburg’ before he built his home.” His home, the current Bloomsburg house, took seven years to build, according to Ragland, who dated the house to about 1839. Ragland noted that she got some of her information from D. W. Owen (1852-1937) of South Boston, “one of the oldest residents of the county, who knew Mr. Watkins.” Historian Kenneth Cook surmised that the seven-year period extended from 1832 to 1839. Regarding the drawn-out construction period, the author of an anonymous ca. 1965 account noted, “One might wonder at the length of time it took to build the house, but the reason is a simple one. Mr. Watkins wanted all the materials used in it to be as nearly perfect as was possible. He would not let a piece of lumber be used if it had a knot in it, and that [which] was used was seasoned in the nearby Dan River for a period of a year before being used.” Seasoning lumber in water was a construction practice during the historic period. A contributor to the March 1915 issue of the trade journal *The Wood-Worker* claimed, “Lumber so treated not only dries more quickly, but has lost the greater part of its ferments [sap and so forth], is less likely to stain in out-door drying, and should last longer exposed to weather.” Ragland noted that Watkins was particular about construction material quality in her 1937 report. Another tradition associated with the construction of the house concerns Watkins’ decision to build it of wood instead of brick. Cook wrote that Watkins wanted the house to “breathe,” presumably meaning Watkins believed a frame house would be better ventilated or less damp than a brick house.<sup>3</sup>

Land book tax records suggest a different scenario. In 1832, early in Watkins’ ownership of the 114-acre tract, buildings on the property were valued at \$480. The amount was the same in 1837 and also in 1838, although in the latter year there is a marginal note that reads “added.” The book for 1839 appears to be missing but the book for 1840 notes an increase to \$840 accompanied, again, by the marginal note “added.” An interpretation of the records for this period suggests the addition of buildings during the 1838-40 period. The value of buildings remains constant through 1846 and then jumps again, substantially, between 1846 and 1851, to \$5,000 the latter year. This increase suggests completion of the house and perhaps other buildings in the late 1840s. It may be that both the ca. 1839 Ragland date and the late 1840s land book date are correct. If construction began in 1839 and was completed seven years later the tax records might not reflect completion of the house until the late 1840s. The ca. 1839 Ragland date therefore reconciles tradition and the evidence of the land books.<sup>4</sup>

Census statistics provide information on the composition of the Watkins household during the antebellum period. The 1850 census lists Alexander Watkins (age 47) as a merchant and the owner of \$10,000 in real estate. Living with him were his wife, Sarah P., age 35, and eight of the couple’s children, ages one to sixteen. Also in the household were three individuals with surnames other than Watkins: Mary A. Biggers, John A. Palmer, and John Farmer. Although the occupations of these individuals are not listed, the census notes that Farmer was “mulatto,” and his presence in the free schedules of the census indicates he was a free black person. Farmer appears again in the 1860 census where his occupation is given as blacksmith. He is listed just after Watkins, suggesting he lived in close proximity to Bloomsburg—perhaps in the log house in the field—and he resided with a free black woman named Martha (last name illegible) whose occupation was given as “house girl,” suggesting she worked as a servant in the Bloomsburg

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house. Pocahontas Edmunds wrote that the Watkins family “made home for friends, cousins and young employees,” including William Rogers, a future deputy clerk of Halifax County, who worked as an apprentice in the Bloomsburg store.<sup>5</sup>

Alexander Watkins was again listed as a merchant in the 1860 census. His real estate that year was valued at \$20,000 and his personal estate at \$58,280. The composition of the Watkins household had changed with the departure of two older daughters; the death of two sons, Lafayette and Haywood, in 1858; and the birth of two younger children after 1850, resulting in the presence of five offspring in the household. The oldest of these were Thomas A. Watkins, age 25, whose occupation was given as “gentleman,” and Lewis (actually Louis) S. Watkins, age 19, whose occupation was given as “salesman,” suggesting he clerked in his father’s store. Sarah Watkins’ name was recorded as Sally in the 1860 census.<sup>6</sup>

Alexander Watkins’ slaveholdings were recorded in the 1840, 1850 and 1860 censuses. The 1840 census lists a minimum of six enslaved people and possibly as many as ten. In 1850 he owned fourteen enslaved individuals and in 1860 he owned twelve enslaved persons. An unattributed ca. 1963 site plan reconstruction of the Bloomsburg plantation shows a row of seven or more slave houses extending northward from the vicinity of the corncrib; however, given the slave population on the plantation during the antebellum period, a slave quarters on that scale seems unlikely. Two slave houses were still standing in 1963, according to the plan, which also shows a blacksmith shop near the carriage house; a smokehouse, ice pit, and kitchen near the corncrib; and a formal garden on the north side of the house in the vicinity of the swimming pool. The plan’s author labeled the brick kitchen “overseer’s house.” Historian Pocahontas Edmunds wrote that the smokehouse, a dairy house, and a servant quarter on the property had beaded “clapboard” siding.<sup>7</sup>

In 1860 the Bloomsburg farm produced typical crops of the region such as wheat (320 bushels), corn (375 bushels), and oats (180 bushels), plus the standard cash crop, tobacco (6,000 pounds). The tobacco crop was relatively small compared to the quantities produced at neighboring farms in the Dan River section of the county. Watkins’ farm of 300 improved acres and 400 unimproved acres also supported five horses and small herds of cattle (14), milk cows (6), swine (18), a yoke of oxen, and a single sheep. The relatively small size and output of Watkins’ farm suggests his mercantile business was his principal occupation.<sup>8</sup>

According to Watkins family tradition, Alexander Watkins’ store did considerable business with immigrants heading westward through the area. An undated newspaper clipping states that the store was “an important place, and travelers stopped off to sample the locally distilled whiskey dispensed from kegs on the counter.” Photographs from 1937 and later show a two-story brick building of domestic form, with a side-gable roof rather than the front-gable roof that was typical of country stores later in the nineteenth century. According to Lizzie Ragland, “The walls are 18 inches thick on the first floor and 12 inches thick on the second floor . . . On the first floor there are two rooms, one of which is the store, having double doors for entrance. The other is a small room in which is the fireplace and stairway. The entrance to this room has one door. On the second floor there were originally 2 rooms.” Across the road from the store Watkins erected a

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tobacco warehouse and prizery. Kenneth Cook wrote in 1971 that local growers brought their leaf tobacco to the warehouse for sale and packing into hogsheads. The tobacco was transported overland to Clarksville and boated on the Roanoke River to other destinations. Watkins was successful in obtaining the Bloomsburg Post Office, which was established in 1811, discontinued after 1820, and reinstated with Watkins as postmaster in February 1830. The post office was located in the brick store (perhaps not initially) and operated into the 1890s. The post office then closed for a time but reopened under the new name Danripple in 1906 and remained open until 1943.<sup>9</sup>

Alexander Watkins' association with the store continued to his death in 1871, according to Kenneth Cook. Subsequently the store and the Bloomsburg house were purchased by Robert Wade, in 1875. In the 1920s or 1930s the store acquired a gabled drive-through over the double front doors, with gas pumps beyond (Shell gasoline may have been sold). In 1957 the construction of new lanes for Highway 58 resulted in the demolition of the store over the objections of local citizens. Kenneth Cook wrote, "Diligent effort on the part of the Adams family [later owners of the store] and other concerned citizens to save what was then the oldest store in Halifax County, in continuous operation since it was built, were to no avail. Progress could not be stopped—nor even curved a little—to spare something of as little consequence as an old brick store." The last storekeepers were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Heartwell. Mrs. Heartwell was the great-granddaughter of Robert Wade.<sup>10</sup>

Though Watkins retained ownership of his store until his death, financial reversals during the Civil War forced him to sell the Bloomsburg house to Sydney Walton in 1863. Watkins' son, Louis Stanfield Watkins, and Louis's wife, Laura Louise Lyon Watkins, lived on at Bloomsburg on a rental basis until about 1875 and had a daughter there in 1872. Sydney Walton did not own the place long for he died by September 1866. Robert Wade purchased the Bloomsburg house and store in 1875 and the property later passed to the Adams family. James A. Solomon purchased the property in 1922 and it passed to later members of the family, George E. Solomon Jr. and his sister Mary Bernice Solomon. George married his wife, Mildred, in 1949, and according to Solomon family tradition the couple wanted a home of their own and built the house that stands on the highway in front of Bloomsburg in the early 1950s (probably 1951 or 1952). By the mid-1960s the family apparently planned to sell the Bloomsburg property. A sale advertisement from the latter part of the decade noted that the house was "completely restored in 1965." The list of improvements made in 1965 did not include indoor plumbing, possibly an indication that that convenience was already present. The advertisement listed a horse barn, two tobacco barns, eleven acres planted in wheat, and a 4,600-pound tobacco allotment.<sup>11</sup>

In 1967 the Solomon family sold Bloomsburg to Harold E. and Phyllis J. Hite. The Hites sold the property to Kenneth E. and Lynn B. Moorefield the following year. The Moorefields are said to have undertaken a further restoration of the house but it was not until after the house was acquired by Carolyn Thomas Farthing Lawrence and Dr. Benjamin Jones Lawrence in 1972 that it acquired its current portico and two-story gable-end wings. A 1987 newspaper account states that the Lawrences added a portico "resembling the original," however no evidence has been observed to suggest a two-story porch or portico formerly existed. Later owners Dr. Frederick C.



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and Vivian G. Evans, who acquired the property in 1979, made changes to the house such as the addition of French doors on the rear elevation. The Evanses sold the property to current owners Eddie W. and Andrea P. McKinney in 2004.<sup>12</sup>

### *Architectural Discussion*

Bloomsburg belongs to Halifax County's first generation of Greek Revival plantation houses. Its pedimented Doric porches (the surviving one on the rear elevation and the conjectural one on the front), gridded front entry transom, symmetrical door and window trim, and simple post-and-lintel mantels show little evidence of the influence of the preceding Federal style. Marble, used for Bloomsburg's parlor mantels, was a prestige material of the era, used for mantels in the county's premier Greek Revival house Berry Hill (1842-44; NRHP 1969) and in the ca. 1845 house Clarkton (marble mantels also appear in the later antebellum houses Round Hill and Redfield.). Historian Kenneth Cook speculated that the marble for Bloomsburg's mantels was quarried in Italy (a reasonable assumption considering the marble trade during the period) and may have been ordered through a Richmond supplier. Bloomsburg's plaster ornament is some of the finest in the county, similar in quality if not design to work in Bellevue (ca. 1834) and somewhat more similar to work at Woodside (ca. 1840).<sup>13</sup>

Bloomsburg's builder and other craftsmen are unknown, although there are several clues to their possible identity. Two Halifax County houses with pedimented one-story Greek Revival porches are dated to the 1830s—Tranquil Hill (ca. 1834) and the Thomas Townes Carter House (ca. 1837)—and the porch on the latter house is attributed to Halifax County master-builder Josiah Dabbs (1803-62). Dabbs and brick mason Dabney Cosby are known from court documents to have worked on the Carter House. Dabbs may have been responsible for the original porches on Bloomsburg and perhaps other aspects of the construction of the house.<sup>14</sup>

Another artisan who may have had a role at Bloomsburg is free African American cabinetmaker and finish carpenter Thomas Day (1801-61), who was based in Milton, North Carolina, a short distance from Halifax County. Two details reminiscent of Day's work are the tread brackets on the stair and the trim around the doorway that connects the upstairs center passage to the upstairs northeast room. The tread brackets feature leafy tendril motifs similar to carving on the stair at Cedar Grove (1838; NRHP 2010) in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, attributed to Day's workshop. The door trim features unusual x-form corner block motifs that are reminiscent of the four-pointed stars on corner blocks in the William Long House (1856) in Milton, detailed by Day. The door is also one of the few in the house that does not have symmetrical trim, although the trim is Greek Revival in character with bold moldings characteristic of Day's work. It is possible the doorway was added later since it connects the room at the top of the secondary stair to the rest of the house. Such rooms with separate stairs were sometimes used by non-family members such as travelers and were built without direct connection to family living quarters. As with the possible Dabbs connection, the stair and trim details are suggestive but by no means strong evidence of Day's involvement. Bloomsburg lacks, for example, Thomas Day's signature newel posts.<sup>15</sup>

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Little is known about historic-period decorative finishes at Bloomsburg with one exception: a 1958 description of the house by family genealogist Helen Norwood Hamlin noted that the parlor baseboards were marbled. Another account states that the downstairs center-passage baseboards were also marbled. Hamlin noted in her description the leafy stair brackets and “frescoed” cornices and medallions in the house and claimed there was “one large room which was used for dances and large parties” in the attic. The tradition of a single large attic room for entertaining is probably spurious: the two attic stairs appear to date to the historic period, therefore the two-room division of the attic is also a historic arrangement. It is possible the attic was originally a single room, and the secondary stair was added, but it seems more likely the smaller of the two attic rooms and its stair are original features relating to the servant or traveler-oriented rooms below.<sup>16</sup>

Bloomsburg’s domestic and farm outbuildings have many interesting features. Root crop storage was a common function of cellars such as the one under the brick kitchen, although the special features related to that function—the vents on the rear elevation and the trapdoors on the interior—are unusual and innovative. Carriage houses are not uncommon on the region’s farms, although ones built of brick are relatively unusual. The tobacco barns at the north end of the property possess notable features such as flue trenches (at least the first few feet of the flues) and diamond-notched log construction. Both features probably developed, or were adopted, early in the development of flue-cured tobacco barns in the region, however the exclusive use of wire nails in the construction of the two barns indicates they are twentieth century in date, and diamond-notched log tobacco barn construction continued into the 1950s in the county. The well-defined tobacco barn foundation and the hint of another may represent an earlier generation of tobacco barns at the site. Identification of the rectangular stone foundation as the remains of a sweat house (or sweat barn) is conjectural, based on the shape, proximity to the tobacco barns, and possible remains of a hearth or water trough support at one end. Farm sweat houses are not well documented in the bright leaf tobacco-growing region of Virginia and North Carolina and may be a localism, or may be more common in Halifax County than in other areas where ordering pits and other techniques for humidifying the cured leaves were used.<sup>17</sup>

### *Endnotes*

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<sup>1</sup> Halifax County Deed Book 37, p. 467; Cook, “Construction of ‘Bloomsburg’ Required Seven Years; Edmunds, *History of Halifax*, vol. 1, 154; Hamlin, Watkins family genealogy, 19. A number of individuals contributed to the preparation of this report, foremost among them the owners of Bloomsburg and sponsors of the nomination, Eddie W. and Andrea P. McKinney. The McKinneys have gathered historical information on the property that was of use in preparing the report. The project was also assisted by Cary Perkins at the Halifax Public Library, historian Lawrence Martin, and Michael Pulice and Lena Sweeten McDonald at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

<sup>2</sup> Edmunds, *History of Halifax*, vol. 1, 154-156; Hamlin, Watkins family genealogy, 21-22; Halifax County Deed Book 40, p. 160.

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<sup>3</sup> Ragland, “Danripple Store;” Ragland, “J. A. Solomon House;” Edmunds, *History of Halifax*, vol. 2, 520; Cook, “Construction of ‘Bloomsburg’ Required Seven Years;” “‘Bloomsburg’—Residence of Alexander Watkins;” Rye, “Seasoning Lumber Under Water.”

<sup>4</sup> Halifax County land books.

<sup>5</sup> US census; Edmunds, *History of Halifax*, vol. 1, 154, 156. Martha’s last name began with a C and may have been Couzens.

<sup>6</sup> US census.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.; Edmunds, *History of Halifax*, vol. 1, 156. The author of the ca. 1963 site plan emphasized that the plan was “just a ‘food-for-thought’ picture,” suggesting an awareness that some of the information was speculative. For example, three large barns are shown at locations to the east of the main house, on the north and south sides of the brick kitchen, each barn footprint labeled “Barn?” It seems more likely the majority of farm buildings would have been located on the west side of the main house, where the current farm complex is located.

<sup>8</sup> US census.

<sup>9</sup> Ragland, “Danripple Store;” Cook, “Construction of ‘Bloomsburg’ Required Seven Years;” “Halifax County Postal Services,” 25.

<sup>10</sup> Cook, “Construction of ‘Bloomsburg’ Required Seven Years;” “Old Dan Ripple Store.”

<sup>11</sup> Eddie McKinney personal communication; Cook, “Construction of ‘Bloomsburg’ Required Seven Years;” Halifax County Will Book 29, p. 291, Deed Book 60, p. 251; Deed Book 66, p. 174; Deed Book 131, p. 103.

<sup>12</sup> Eddie McKinney personal communication; Watkins family research; Bagwell, “Dr. and Mrs. Evans to open Bloomsburg;” Halifax County Deed Book 332, p. 72; Deed 338, p. 468; Deed Book 372, p. 305; Deed Book 435, p. 83; and Deed Book 887, p. 769.

<sup>13</sup> Halifax County Historical Society Architectural Committee, *Architectural History of Halifax County*, 126, 140, 144, 146, 170, 172; Cook, “Construction of ‘Bloomsburg’ Required Seven Years.”

<sup>14</sup> Halifax County Historical Society Architectural Committee, *Architectural History of Halifax County*, 126, 128.

<sup>15</sup> Marshall and Leimenstoll, *Thomas Day*, 166, 179.

<sup>16</sup> Hamlin, Watkins family genealogy, 20.

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<sup>17</sup> Pezzoni, "Brandon-on-the-Dan;" Halifax County Historical Society Architectural Committee,  
*Architectural History of Halifax County*, 26-27.

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Name of Property

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County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bagwell, Barbara. "Dr. and Mrs. Evans to Open Bloomsburg." *The Gazette-Virginian*, April 1, 1987.

"'Bloomsburg'—Residence of Alexander Watkins." Report, ca. 1965.

Cook, Kenneth H. "Construction of 'Bloomsburg' Required Seven Years." February 18, 1971, newspaper clipping.

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McKinney, Eddie. Personal communication with the author, October 2016 and January 2017.

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Pezzoni, J. Daniel. "Brandon-on-the-Dan." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2017.

Ragland, Lizzie B. "Danripple Store." Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory Report, April 12, 1937.

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County and State

\_\_\_\_\_. "J. A. Solomon Place." Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory Report, April 13, 1937.

Rye, D. R. "Seasoning Lumber Under Water." *The Wood-Worker* 34:1 (March 1915): 49.

United States Census.

Watkins family research in the possession of the current owners of Bloomsburg.

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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: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR ID# 041-0024

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 92.34 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: 36.637590 Longitude: -79.027370

2. Latitude: 36.639690 Longitude: -79.022650

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County and State

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3. Latitude: 36.639120 | Longitude: -79.021130 |
| 4. Latitude: 36.632630 | Longitude: -79.018640 |
| 5. Latitude: 36.631830 | Longitude: -79.022010 |

**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 boundary encompasses two contiguous tax parcels recorded by Halifax County, Virginia, as parcels 12258 and 12259. The true and correct historic boundaries are shown on the attached Sketch Map/Photo Key, which uses a County parcel map as a base.

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

The nominated area includes known historic resources associated with the history of Bloomsburg. It excludes a ca. 1952 house which stands on a separate parcel in front of the nineteenth-century house. Even though that house was built by the family that owned Bloomsburg during the mid-twentieth century, the later dwelling is not closely associated with the history and significance of Bloomsburg.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: J. Daniel Pezzoni  
organization: Landmark Preservation Associates  
street & number: 6 Houston St.  
city or town: Lexington state: Virginia zip code: 24450  
e-mail: [gilespezzoni@rockbridge.net](mailto:gilespezzoni@rockbridge.net)  
telephone: (540) 464-5315  
date: March 8, 2017

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### 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: Bloomsburg (Watkins House)  
City or Vicinity: South Boston, Halifax County, Virginia  
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni

Photo 1 of 14: VA\_HalifaxCounty\_Bloomsburg(WatkinsHouse)\_0001  
Date Photographed: January 2017  
View: Main house front (south) and east elevations, view facing northwest.

Photo 2 of 14: VA\_HalifaxCounty\_Bloomsburg(WatkinsHouse)\_0002  
Date Photographed: October 2016  
View: Main house north elevation, view facing southwest.

Photo 3 of 14: VA\_HalifaxCounty\_Bloomsburg(WatkinsHouse)\_0003  
Date Photographed: January 2017  
View: Main house west elevation, view facing east.

Photo 4 of 14: VA\_HalifaxCounty\_Bloomsburg(WatkinsHouse)\_0004  
Date Photographed: October 2016  
View: Main house entry/stair passage.



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Name of Property

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County and State

Photo 5 of 14: VA\_HalifaxCounty\_Bloomsburg(WatkinsHouse)\_0005  
Date Photographed: October 2016  
View: Main house center-passage stair detail.

Photo 6 of 14: VA\_HalifaxCounty\_Bloomsburg(WatkinsHouse)\_0006  
Date Photographed: October 2016  
View: Main house first-floor southwest room.

Photo 7 of 14: VA\_HalifaxCounty\_Bloomsburg(WatkinsHouse)\_0007  
Date Photographed: October 2016  
View: Main house first-floor southwest room ceiling medallion.

Photo 8 of 14: VA\_HalifaxCounty\_Bloomsburg(WatkinsHouse)\_0008  
Date Photographed: October 2016  
View: Main house first-floor southeast room.

Photo 9 of 14: VA\_HalifaxCounty\_Bloomsburg(WatkinsHouse)\_0009  
Date Photographed: January 2017  
View: Kitchen, view facing southeast.

Photo 10 of 14: VA\_HalifaxCounty\_Bloomsburg(WatkinsHouse)\_0010  
Date Photographed: October 2016  
View: Carriage house, view facing southwest.

Photo 11 of 14: VA\_HalifaxCounty\_Bloomsburg(WatkinsHouse)\_0011  
Date Photographed: October 2016  
View: Historic and modern farm buildings (contributing building and corner crib on right; non-contributing resources on left), view facing north.

Photo 12 of 14: VA\_HalifaxCounty\_Bloomsburg(WatkinsHouse)\_0012  
Date Photographed: January 2017  
View: Fayette (Lafayette) W. Watkins tombstone in cemetery.

Photo 13 of 14: VA\_HalifaxCounty\_Bloomsburg(WatkinsHouse)\_0013  
Date Photographed: January 2017  
View: South tobacco barn (foreground on right) with north tobacco barn beyond, view facing north.

Photo 14 of 14: VA\_HalifaxCounty\_Bloomsburg(WatkinsHouse)\_0014  
Date Photographed: January 2017  
View: Foundation (foreground) with south tobacco barn beyond, view facing northwest.

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**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.



**LOCATION MAP**

Bloomsburg (Watkins House)

Halifax County, VA

DHR No. 041-0024

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 36.637590

Longitude: -79.027370

2. Latitude: 36.639690

Longitude: -79.022650

3. Latitude: 36.639120

Longitude: -79.021130

4. Latitude: 36.632630

Longitude: -79.018640

5. Latitude: 36.631830

Longitude: -79.022010



**Title:**

**Date: 5/10/2017**

*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.*



Feet

0 500 1000 1500 2000

1:18,056 / 1"=1,505 Feet



# SKETCH MAP/ PHOTO KEY

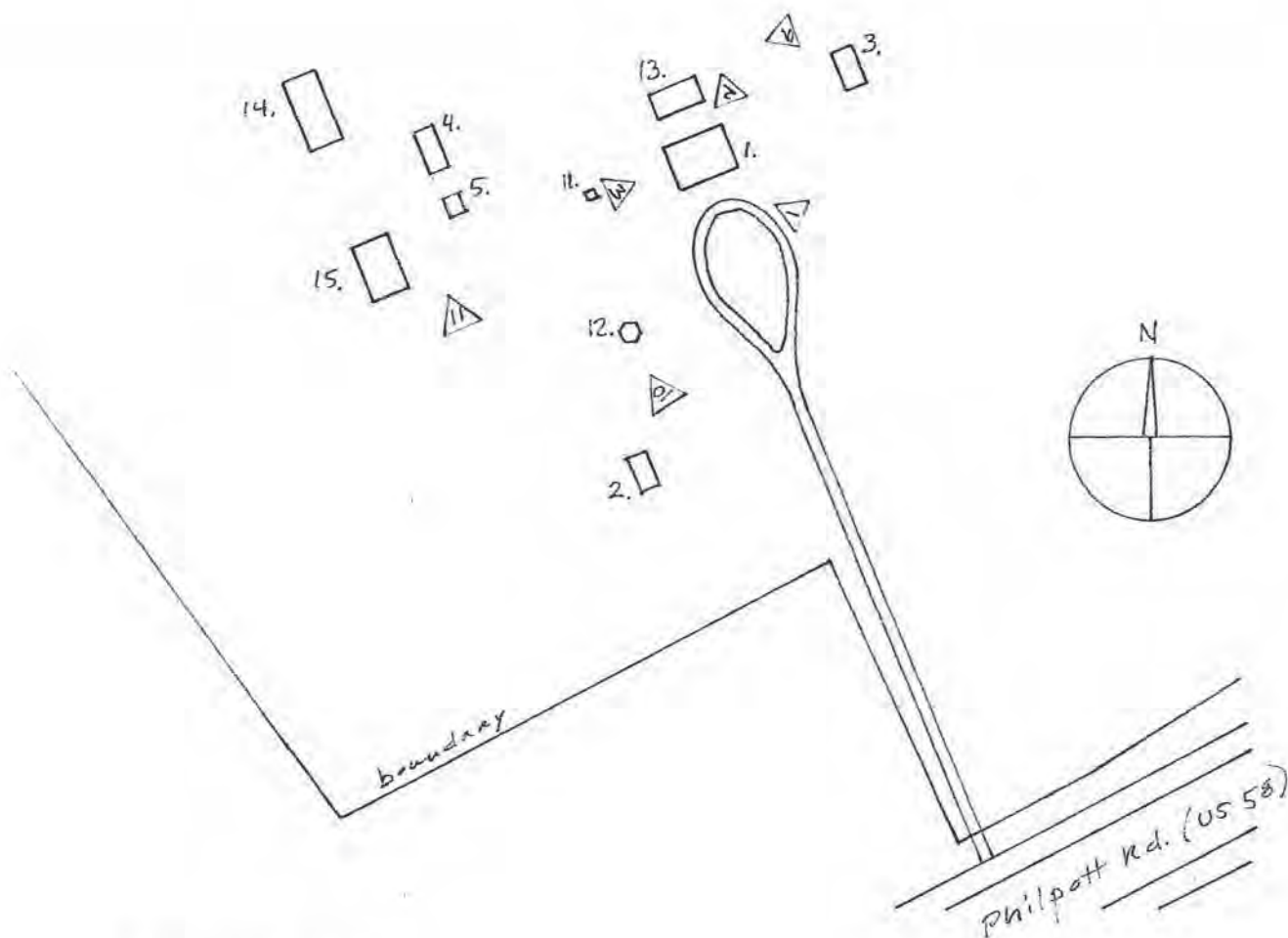
## Bloomsburg (Watkins House)

Halifax County, Virginia

DHR No. 041-0024

Map 1 of 2

Map not to scale; resource locations approximate. This map shows resources 1 through 5 and 11 through 15. The number and direction of view of the nomination photos pertaining to these resources are indicated by triangular markers. The resources are keyed to the nomination inventory.



### *Inventory (partial)*

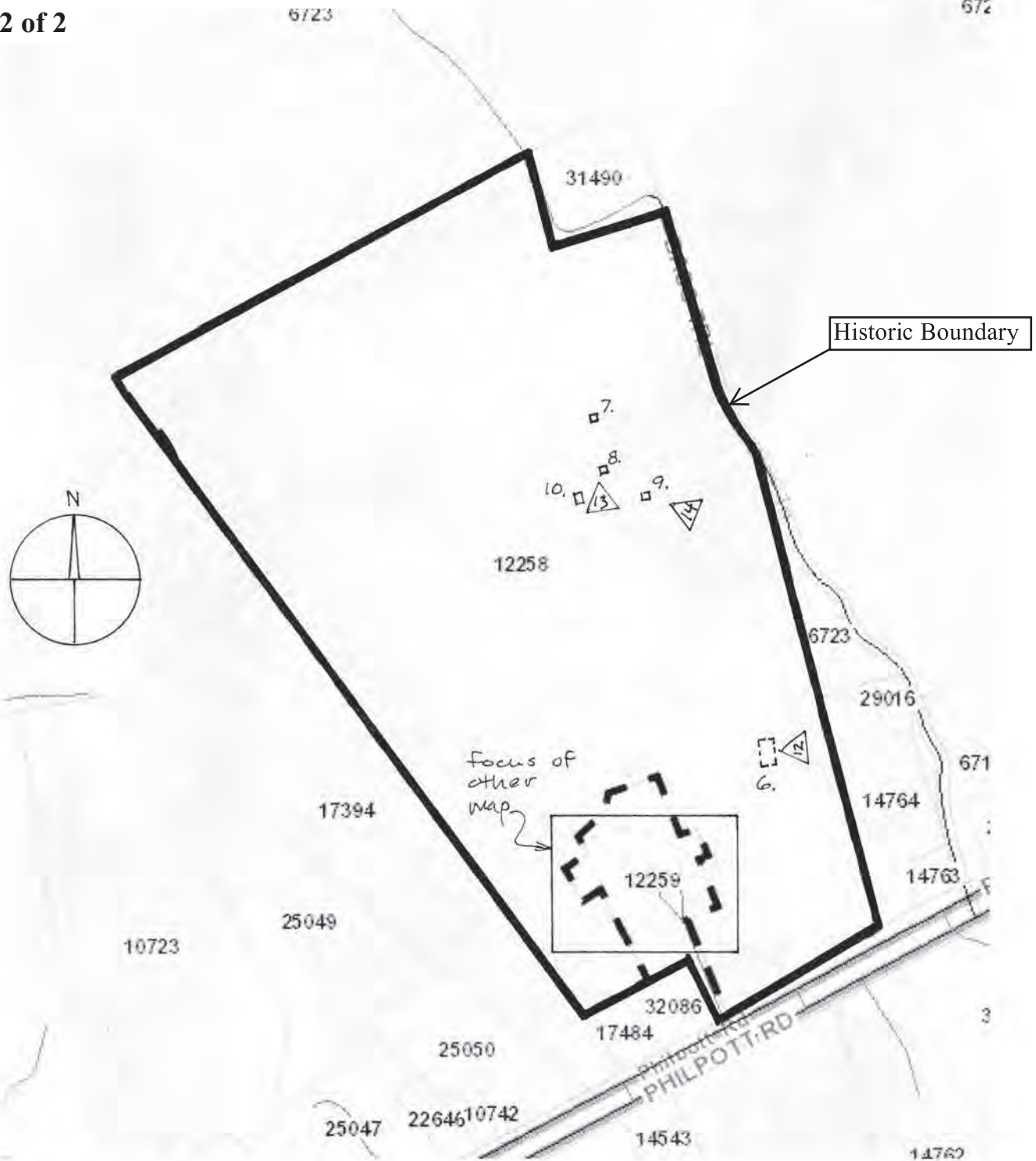
1. Bloomsburg (Watkins House). Contributing building.
2. Carriage house. Contributing building.
3. Kitchen. Contributing building.
4. Building. Contributing building.
5. Corncrib. Contributing structure.
11. Pump house. Noncontributing structure.
12. Gazebo. Non-contributing structure.
13. Swimming pool. Non-contributing structure.
14. Machinery shed. Non-contributing building.
15. Garage. Non-contributing building.

# Bloomsburg (Watkins House) SKETCH MAP/ PHOTO KEY

Halifax County, Virginia

DHR No. 041-0024

Map 2 of 2



Map 2 of 2

Map not to scale; resource locations approximate. This map shows resources 6 through 10. The number and direction of view of the nomination photos pertaining to these resources are indicated by triangular markers. The resources are keyed to the nomination inventory.

### *Inventory (partial)*

- 6. Cemetery. Contributing site.
- 7. North tobacco barn. Contributing building.
- 8. South tobacco barn. Contributing building.
- 9. Foundation. Contributing site.
- 10. Tobacco barn foundation. Contributing site.









































In memory of  
**MELBA**  
"son of"  
**W. P. WATKINS**  
BORN  
OCT 10, 1875  
DIED  
MAY 28, 1895

Though in our despair  
and darkest hour,  
when we grieve and thou art there,  
and thou art gone,  
and all its woes  
and all its fears,  
and all its sorrows,  
and all its pains,









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 7/14/2017      Date of Pending List: 8/9/2017      Date of 16th Day: 8/24/2017      Date of 45th Day: 8/28/2017      Date of Weekly List: 8/31/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      8/28/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall      Discipline Historian

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

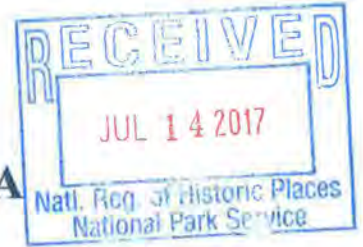




# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221



Molly Joseph Ward  
*Secretary of Natural Resources*

Julie V. Langan  
*Director*

Tel: (804) 367-2323  
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July 6, 2017

Mr. Paul Loether  
Chief, National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Programs  
National Park Service 2280  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

**Re: Bloomsburg (Watkins House), Halifax County, Virginia**

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Bloomsburg (Watkins House)** to the National Register of Historic Places. Submitted for your review, the nomination has been considered, and approved, by the State Review Board and the Virginia SHPO has recommended it for listing. Any letters of comment or objection have been copied at the end of the nomination material, along with any FPO notification letters.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct phone line is 804-482-6439.

Sincerely,

Lena Sweeten McDonald  
National/State Register Historian

Enclosures

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