

The Wilderness
Name of Property

Bath County, Virginia
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:)

Patrick Andrews

Signature of the Keeper

8/21/2017

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>5</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>7</u>	<u>5</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

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL: Georgian

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD, BRICK, STONE, METAL, ASPHALT, CONCRETE

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

The Wilderness is located at 13954 Deerfield Road in the Mill Creek valley of northeastern Bath County, Virginia. The property centers on a two-story Georgian style brick house apparently built about 1816. The house is constructed of Flemish and common bond brick on a stone foundation and has an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof with a center pediment. The pediment crowns a shallow pavilion which historically featured a two-story entry porch but now has a replacement one-story porch. On the back of the house projects an integral two-story brick ell with historic and newer frame additions. The additions connect to a brick carriage house that appears to be contemporary with the house. The center passage-plan interior retains most of its Georgian mantels, paneled wainscots, and a stair with chamfered newels and balusters, plus fabric added in the 1960s and a more recent renovation. Near the house are the stone foundation and lower walls of a kitchen, which was converted to a patio in the mid-twentieth century, and to the south of the house is a newer farm building complex. Historic-period farm buildings are scattered around the property and at the northeast end is the ca. 1950 Pond House and associated resources, reached by a driveway from Bright Hollow Road which touches the nominated area at the north end. The property has 7 contributing (6 buildings and 1 site) and 5 non-contributing

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buildings; the non-contributing resources either postdate the property's period of significance or lack integrity to illustrate their historic associations.

Narrative Description

Inventory

1. The Wilderness. Ca. 1816; 1960s. Contributing building.
2. Kitchen feature. Ca. 1816; mid-20th century. Contributing site.
3. Sheep barn. 2nd quarter 20th century. Contributing building.
4. Hay barn. 1960s. Contributing building.
5. Lower Barn. 1960s. Contributing building.
6. Pond House. Ca. 1950. Contributing building.
7. Pond House springhouse. Ca. 1950. Contributing building.
8. Pond House garage. Ca. 1950. Non-contributing building.
9. Upper Barn. Ca. 2005. Non-contributing building.
10. Shed (metal). Ca. 2010. Non-contributing building.
11. Shed (wood). Ca. 2010. Non-contributing building.
12. Fuel Depot. Ca. 2005. Non-contributing building.

Setting

The Wilderness's 1,003.2 acres is rolling, with hay fields, water meadows, and woods. Mill Creek, an upper tributary of the James River drainage, flows through the property from northeast to southwest, joined near the house by a branch known as Back Draft. Elevations on the property range from around 2,000 feet above sea level to around 2,200 feet. Behind (east of) the property is the ridge of Walker Mountain, which rises to elevations in excess of 3,100 feet, and across the valley to the west is Short Ridge, the boundary between Bath and Augusta counties, which rises to peaks around 3,800 feet in elevation.

House: Exterior

The Wilderness is distinguished by a symmetrical, seven-bay, west-facing front elevation (in actuality the house faces northwest, but to simplify description the cardinal directions are used). The three center bays consist of an entry on each story, flanked by tall windows in lieu of sidelights with eight-over-six sashes in the lower windows and six-over-four sashes in the upper windows. The sashes are newer, simulated divided light replacements. These three bays are in the slightly projecting pavilion section of the façade. The gable end walls also project slightly to create pilasters at the corners of the façade. The windows to the right and left of the center pavilion have twelve-over-nine sashes on the first story and nine-over-six sashes above. The windows have molded surrounds, late nineteenth-century shutter pintels and heavy bullnose and cavetto sills. (Louvered shutters appear in a photo taken for a 1937 Virginia Historical Inventory survey.) Nailer blocks for the window sills are visible under the cavetto moldings.

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The front elevation brickwork is Flemish bond with closer bricks around windows, jack arches over the windows (deepest over the first-story windows), and traces of a red oxide wash and penciling. The gable ends with their slightly projecting chimneys are also Flemish bond, as is the south elevation of the ell. The rear or east elevation of the main section of the house, the north side of the ell, and the ell gable are laid in 3:1 common bond (three courses of stretcher bricks to each course of header bricks). There are areas of reconstructed and repointed brickwork on all elevations of the house. The walls stand on a foundation of brown ashlar sandstone blocks. Originally the foundation was more exposed, with full or nearly full-height basement windows on the front, but in the 1960s the basement windows were infilled with cinder block, vents were inserted at the top of the openings, and a terrace was created in front of the house.

The one-story front porch, which appears to date to the 1960s, has Doric columns and half-round pilasters, a low-pitched roof, a roof balustrade with vertical and x-form balusters, and a soapstone flagstone floor on a concrete pad. The first-story entry has a non-historic surround with a blank transom panel above. A 1937 photograph shows a similar configuration although the detail is obscure (recent investigation failed to find evidence of a true transom in the brickwork behind the transom panel, although one is noted in a 1980 survey). To the left of the entry is a brick with the initials WEE carved onto its face in serif letters. There is a fourth letter in the line, now illegible. Nearby is a brick carved with the letter W. The letter forms suggest the graffiti are antebellum in date.

Above the porch are the ghost impressions of pilasters for the former upper porch tier. The second-story entry has a three-pane transom. Painted onto the transom panes is a faded lattice design in translucent white paint. At the top of the walls, on the front, rear, and ell side elevations, is a cornice composed of small modillion-like blocks above stacked moldings. At the top of the corner pilasters are molded capitals. The center pavilion pediment has Flemish-bond brickwork that is redder in color than the other brick and may have been reconstructed. In the tympanum is a round-arched window opening with impost blocks and a keyblock in the arch. The six-pane window sash in the opening may be an alteration, although it appears to be present in a 1937 photo. At the top of the house's gables, flanking the chimney stacks, are triangular louvered vents with a modern appearance (the gables may have been reconstructed).

From the end of the ell projects a two-story frame kitchen wing that is lower than the ell. The 1937 photo shows it to have had weatherboard siding and two-over-two windows. The original window sash arrangement and cut-nailed construction suggest the wing was added in the late nineteenth century. The wing currently has replacement six-over-six window sash and cementitious weatherboard siding. The same siding appears on a modern one-story frame addition in the angle of the ell which has a hipped roof, a bow window, and a glassed-in corner porch. In a walkway area behind the house is a millstone used as a landscaping accent. At the center of the stone is set a small lozenge of brown sandstone carved with the points of the compass (N, E, S, W). The historic function and provenance of this stone are unknown. The provenance of the millstone is also unknown.

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A small hyphen connects the modern rear addition of the house to a formerly detached or semi-detached carriage house. The carriage house appears contemporaneous with the house and like it is constructed of Flemish bond and 1:3 common bond brick with the Flemish bond on the west and north elevations and the common bond on the south and east elevations. The south gable end has a round-arched carriage entry with a non-historic garage door and, in the arch, wood boards in a fanned sunburst pattern, also not historic. (In the 1937 photo the carriage entry is filled in with wood siding and has a smaller doorway.) Set into the concrete of the carriage entry threshold is a smooth brown stone with a pecked letter W and a date that may be 1800 or 1880. (1800 seems more likely. The original provenance of the stone is unknown, although the W suggests an association with The Wilderness. Perhaps it was an entry threshold for an earlier dwelling on the property. It may have been placed at its current location when the carriage house was converted to a garage, which may have been in the 1960s, or it may have served as the threshold for the smaller doorway shown in 1937.) A newer shed-roofed garage with metal siding and open ends has been added to the east side. An ashlar foundation, constructed of the same brown sandstone as the main house foundation, is visible on the west side elevation. One of the foundation stones has shell-like brachiopod fossils.

House: Interior

The interior of The Wilderness is characterized by plaster wall and ceiling finishes and wood flooring. Molded panel wainscots of pegged construction with plane marks visible on the boards appear on the first and second floors throughout the house. Walls added in recent decades for the creation of closets and, in the upstairs, a bathroom in the center passage have wainscots of similar appearance. Doors are either historic, of four-panel form with replacement hardware, or newer French doors with narrow double leaves. The doorway through the brick wall that separates the downstairs south and ell rooms has flush beaded panels on the reveal. Crown moldings were added throughout the house in recent decades and built-in shelving was added in the recesses beside the chimney breasts in some rooms.

Most mantels are Georgian; one, in the downstairs north room, has a Greek Revival pilaster-and-frieze form with a bed molding under the shelf and pilaster caps consisting of fillet moldings (a somewhat similar mantel in a 1960s addition appears to be based on this mantel, or both date to the 1960s). The Georgian mantels are of two types: two in the downstairs that rely on fluted pilasters for their basic visual effect, and three in the upstairs with triglyph-like tablets above the fireplace architraves. Of the downstairs mantels the one in the ell room is least altered. Its fluted pilasters zigzag or jog outward at the upper corners of the fireplace surround. The mantel has a frieze with two recessed panels, a shelf with a heavy cyma recta bed molding, and a dentil-like band at the base of the bed molding with narrow beaded elements between the dentil-like elements. The mantel in the downstairs south room, which was originally identical to the one in the ell, has had its pilasters straightened by the removal of the jogs (diagonal seams are visible where the jogs were removed). The shelves of both mantels step out over the pilasters.

The form of the three second-floor mantels consist of molded fireplace architraves on which rest three triglyph-like blocks at the center and ends of the frieze. Like triglyphs the blocks have v-section indentations although unlike triglyphs the indentations create four shanks instead of

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three. The blocks are molded at top and bottom. Above the blocks the mantels are similar to the ones downstairs, with dentil-like bands and heavy cyma recta bed moldings. The mantel shelves step out at the center and ends, over the three blocks. The mantel in the upstairs ell room shows damage at one end. Fireplace surrounds and hearths vary throughout the house. Most surrounds have a painted concrete finish. The fireplace surround in the upstairs ell room is brick. Hearths are brick or a hard, painted material, probably concrete or possibly iron (an iron hearth once existed in the house).

The main, center-passage stair has three runs with winders at the lower turning and a landing at the upper turning. The newels and balusters are chamfered and the top newel projects down to a diamond-pointed pendant. The scrolled tread brackets have incised s-shaped decoration. The secondary or servant's stair rises in the ell against the back wall of the front south room. It has steep, narrow steps which are deeply worn from use. There are winders at the turning and a plain railing at the top with a square newel, thick rectangular balusters, and a beveled hand rail with beaded lower edges. This railing, and the main stair railing, are pegged to their newels. A third stair, located in the two-story frame addition, was also likely a servant's stair. It has a railing at the top with a rectangular newel with beveled corners and a discoid finial. The complex molded hand rail may be a reused trim piece. The railing is not pegged but appears to be constructed with cut nails.

The basement was originally entered by stone steps on the rear elevation, presumably once covered by a bulkhead (the steps survive in the crawlspace of the 1960s addition). The current access is under the stair in the center passage. Originally a small closet existed at this location, but in the twentieth century the closet was enlarged and stairs were built down into the basement. The change encapsulated finishes that once belonged to the center passage. The earliest of these is decorative wall painting consisting of a pink field color with a scalloped band of blue and green at the top. There may be a fourth color, a narrow band of gray at the joining of the wall and the (now missing) soffit under the stair. Later, an embossed floral wallpaper of off white color was added over the painting (the paper may be Anaglypta). The part of the space that was originally the closet formerly had baseboards and it preserves traces of paper coverings: a thin paper on the panel of the stair spandrel, nineteenth-century newspaper on the wall plaster (possibly remnants of a Staunton newspaper), and twentieth-century newspaper on the back of a stair riser. The heads of the nails used to build the stair are visible and have a peaked or double-faceted appearance.

The basement is divided into three rooms conforming to the plan of the house above. Typical features include concrete or dirt floors, parged brick and stone walls, and up-and-down mill-sawn joists, many with traces of whitewash. The north and south rooms formerly had full or nearly full-size windows on their front walls. The north room has a bricked up segmental-arched fireplace and key stains on the ceiling joists indicate a former plaster-and-lath ceiling. The room was probably used as a kitchen. A wide doorway with a pegged frame communicates with the middle room which was probably used for root storage as indicated by its lack of front windows (its front wall was covered by the entry porch outside) and by a vertically barred pegged wood vent in the wall between it and the north room. A seam in the parging at hip height in this room

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suggests a former chair rail-like feature. In the south room is a pile of handmade bricks from a dismantled building or buildings, perhaps the former detached kitchen.

Other Resources

Off the north side of the ell is the rectangular stone foundation which constitutes the **kitchen feature**. The detached kitchen was probably built around the same time as the house (ca. 1816) and presumably fell into disrepair before its superstructure was removed and the remaining foundation converted to a patio for barbecuing and outdoor entertainment, a change that may have occurred in the 1960s. The foundation is constructed of brown sandstone blocks similar to those under the house and carriage house, and it has a brick floor with the bricks laid in stretcher pattern in concrete mortar. On the north wall is a barbecue, probably converted from the former fireplace, with a fire pit half and a range half. The fire pit has a concrete floor with leaf impressions cast into the concrete and at its top are cast iron racks that formerly supported a spit for roasting meat. The cast iron range has six round lids, one stamped with the words "Down Draft," and, set into the brick below, an iron firebox door cast with a simple geometric Art Deco pattern.

In the south part of the nominated area, on a grassy hill top overlooking Mill Creek, is the early- to mid-20th century **sheep barn**, which features a two-level, gable-fronted core section of wire-nailed circular-sawn frame construction with a one-level, shed-roofed, pole-built section wrapped around it on the sides and back. The barn is clad in vertical board siding, faded red in color, and has metal roofing. The interior features mangers, roof beams made from reused hewn timbers, and an upper-level hay mow. Historically the barn was used for birthing lambs.

A **hay barn** stands in a field to the west of Deerfield Road. It is a one-story side-gabled building of pole construction with corrugated metal siding and roofing and open sides for parking machinery and loading and offloading hay. The **Lower Barn**, of similar construction but larger, stands closer to the house on the same side of the road. It has a gable roof, pole construction, corrugated metal siding and roofing, and replacement garage doors on the gable ends. These two barns appear on a 1967 USGS topographic map and were probably built in the early 1960s.

The ca. 1950 **Pond House** is a two-story frame dwelling with simple Colonial Revival detail. The house has composition shingle siding, a metal-sheathed side-gable roof, and a poured concrete foundation. A stone chimney, constructed of brown sandstone with brachiopod fossils, rises on the north gable end. It has flat (non-stepped or sloped) shoulders and concrete mortar. The front entry is sheltered by a small gabled porch on square posts and is flanked by pairs of eight-over-eight windows (the windows above are six-over-six). A one-story ell with a brick and cinder block interior flue projects to the rear. The center passage-plan interior has plaster-type walls and ceiling, wood floors, a stair with rectangular balusters and a paneled bottom newel, and a fireplace with a stone surround and a shelf supported by stone corbels. Behind the house stands the ca. 1950 **Pond House springhouse**, a small frame building with vertical board siding, a metal-sheathed gable roof, and a batten door. There are two window-like openings, one with wood lattice, the other with vertical wood slats. Outflow from the springhouse flows directly into

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the pond that lies on the south side of the house. Also behind the house but on the north side is the ca. 1950 **Pond House garage**, an altered and deteriorated one-story frame building with a metal-sheathed front-gable roof and remnants of weatherboard siding.

Four early 21st century farm buildings stand to the south of the house. These are the **Upper Barn**, a **Shed (metal)**, a **Shed (wood)**, and the **Fuel Depot**. Except for the wood frame shed, which is a prefabricated building with a gambrel roof and T1-11-type siding, these buildings have metal-sheathed shed and/or gable roofs and red-colored metal siding. The Upper Barn, the largest of the group, has two ventilation cupolas on its roof ridge. The fuel depot stands apart from the other buildings, further south and at a lower elevation.

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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. 1816-1967

Significant Dates

Ca. 1816

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.)

The Wilderness, a large estate in the mountains of northeastern Bath County, Virginia, was developed by farmer-politician Samuel Blackburn in the early nineteenth century. At the center of the property is the house known as The Wilderness, a two-story Georgian-style brick residence probably built about 1816. The house is distinguished by its pedimented front pavilion, pilaster corners, and original interior finishes including mantels of unusual form and detail. Behind the house is a contemporaneous brick carriage house—no doubt a rare refinement in early Bath County—and nearby is the stone foundation of a detached kitchen. The Wilderness stood beside a main road connecting the springs resorts of Bath County with the Shenandoah Valley, and it and its famous occupant Samuel Blackburn, the author of anti-dueling legislation and a noted orator, figured in period descriptions of the farm. The estate was later owned by the Frazier family, the proprietors of important springs resorts including Bath Alum Springs and Rockbridge Alum Springs. For much of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries The Wilderness operated as a stock farm; census schedules and other sources indicate large herds of sheep and cattle. The Wilderness is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C in the Architecture area of significance as an important example of late Georgian architecture in Bath County and for its associated historic-period resources and landscapes. The period of significance extends from ca. 1816, the apparent date of construction of the house, to 1967, embracing the construction of barns and a tenant house complex during the twentieth century, with the most recent historic-period resources dating to the early 1960s. The Wilderness is eligible at the local level of significance.

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

Historic Context

In 1771 the Crown conveyed to Sampson and George Mathews 2,080 acres on Mill Creek in a part of Augusta County that would become, in 1791, the northeastern corner of newly formed Bath County. The patent noted that 1,200 acres of the area had formerly been granted to William Beverley in 1743, with “the residue never before granted.” Sampson Mathews (d. 1807) and George Mathews (1739-1812) were brothers and business partners. According to Bath County historian Oren Morton, writing in 1917, the two opened a mercantile business in Staunton in 1762 or earlier and later opened branch stores including, shortly before the outbreak of the American Revolution in 1775, a store on their Mill Creek land which they called Cloverdale. Both men distinguished themselves in civic and military affairs. Sampson represented Augusta County in the Virginia legislature in 1776. George Mathews removed to Georgia about 1783 and served as Governor of the state in 1787-1789 and 1793-1796.¹

Ann Mathews (ca. 1760-1840), daughter of George, married Samuel Blackburn (1759-1835). Samuel attended Lexington’s Liberty Hall Academy, the predecessor of Washington and Lee University. He fought in the Revolution, moved to Tennessee (or Kentucky, accounts vary), and

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then to Georgia where he served in the state legislature and married Ann in 1785. In the mid-1790s George Mathews was embroiled in the scandal known as the Yazoo Land Fraud, which tarnished his reputation and prompted his daughter and son-in-law to leave the state. The Blackburns returned to Virginia where Samuel was elected to the state legislature. In the 1840s historian Henry Howe described Blackburn as the “father of the anti-dueling law of the state, which we believe was the first passed in the country after the war of the revolution.” Blackburn’s political career occasionally made national news. On April 26, 1809, the Federalist *Litchfield Gazette* of Litchfield, Connecticut, reported: “We stop the press to announce the glorious intelligence from Bath. At the close of polls yesterday . . . Gen. Samuel Blackburn and Sampson Matthews, Esq. two genuine Federalist[s] are elected to the [Virginia] assembly. Last fall the Federalist[s] of Bath could give no more than 24 votes for the federal ticket.”²

With George Mathews and Samuel Blackburn in Georgia for much of the 1780s and 1790s, Sampson Mathews or his agents were probably most responsible for managing the Cloverdale property. An important product of the farm would have been cattle, and there are letters from Sampson Mathews to Thomas Jefferson regarding war-time deliveries of cattle on the hoof. One of these letters, reprinted in Morton, was written from Cloverdale on September 26, 1781. Samuel Blackburn, upon his return to Virginia about 1796 or 1797, appears to have joined Sampson in farming activities at Cloverdale. A compilation of Bath County personal property tax lists for the period 1791 to 1801 first lists Blackburn as possessing personal property in the county in 1797 when he was taxed on ten tithables and five horses; he also was recorded as holding five enslaved persons.³

Blackburn first appears in the Bath County land books (real estate records) in 1802 at which time he was listed as owning 439 acres. This acquisition is not reflected in the Bath County deeds at the time (the first mention of Blackburn as a grantee is in 1815), however the amount is essentially the same as the 438-plus acres described in an 1805 memorandum of agreement between Blackburn and other parties preserved in the Augusta County records. The memorandum noted that Blackburn had purchased two tracts from Samuel Clarke and Jacob Kinney, trustees of Sampson Mathews Sr.: the 438/439-acre tract, which was “part of the old Clover Dale tract and lying between the improvements on said old tract and the land of said Blackburn on the waters of Mill Creek,” and a 474-acre tract that adjoined Blackburn and John Fowler known as “the big Spring tract.” The 439-acre measurement remained the same in Bath County land book records into the 1850s when it was first identified by name as the Wilderness tract, although the name was in use much earlier.⁴

Although Blackburn owned property in Bath County in the late 1790s/early 1800s period, there is at first no evidence that he lived in the county permanently. In fact, he owned valuable real estate in Staunton, Virginia, including two brick dwelling houses by 1805, and presumably lived in one of the houses. This is also indicated by Augusta County deeds which list his place of residence during the period. Deeds dated 1800, 1804, 1805, and 1806 describe Blackburn as being “of the County of Augusta” or similar wording, or in the case of the 1805 deed, “of the Town of Staunton.” A change occurred in 1807 when a deed dated July 14 described Blackburn as being “of the County of Bath.” Subsequent deeds in 1808, 1812, and 1815 also listed his

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residence as Bath County (the 1815 deed was a Bath County deed). These records suggest a permanent change of residence from Augusta to Bath in 1806/1807 and a growing commitment to the Wilderness tract ultimately leading to the construction of the brick house.⁵

The first strong documentary evidence for construction of the brick house is the 1820 Bath County land book which places a \$5,062.50 value of improvements on Blackburn's lands. Although that value may have been for all buildings standing on Blackburn's various tracts, the amount is high enough to indicate it included the brick house. The year 1820 was the first year building/improvement values were listed separately from land values in Virginia. Prior to 1820 the land book records do not appear to clearly indicate a rise in value equating to construction of the brick house, although because of the possibility of a lag in the reported values or other factors this should not be interpreted to mean the house was built in 1820.⁶

The evidence described above seems to bracket construction of the house between 1806/1807 and 1820, a timeframe also supported by the architectural character of the house, as described in the architectural discussion at the end of Section 8. Additional evidence suggests the date can be narrowed further. When Samuel Blackburn agreed to purchase the Wilderness tract in 1805, title was complicated by various factors that were not fully resolved until 1815. Two deeds that year formalized Blackburn's ownership of the Wilderness tract and other tracts and are reflected in an increase in his acreage in the land books, from 439 acres in 1815 to 2,173 acres in 1816. It is reasonable to assume that Blackburn would wait until he had clear title to the Wilderness tract before making the substantial investment represented by the brick house. It so happens that the 1937 Virginia Historical Inventory report dates the house to 1815. The reason for the date is not explicitly stated, however the researcher listed owners and dates including Samuel Blackburn in 1815 and apparently assumed Blackburn built the house that year. The researcher also interviewed a Mrs. Earl Vincent of Bath County who may have provided corroboration, although Vincent's association with the property is unknown. The two 1815 deeds are dated the months of July and November, which would suggest construction was not likely to have been completed by the end of the year. The weight of evidence therefore points to the second half of the 1810s as the date of construction for The Wilderness. The date ca. 1816 is chosen for the purposes of this report.⁷

Cloverdale Tavern is mentioned in traveler accounts of the era. Thomas Jefferson lodged at the tavern on August 6, 1818, on his way to Warm Springs. Jefferson was noted for dispensing architectural advice to Virginia compatriots, and his presence at Cloverdale during the apparent approximate period of the construction of The Wilderness is interesting, although to date no correspondence or other evidence of contact between Jefferson and Blackburn has come to light. As political figures they would likely have known each other, however, and had Blackburn been in the area when Jefferson stayed at the tavern, it seems likely Blackburn would have greeted Jefferson, although given Blackburn's Federalist politics perhaps any meeting would have involved a difference of opinion.⁸

Earlier, in May 1810, a traveler named Thomas R. Joynes lodged at Cloverdale after traveling from Staunton through a gap in the mountains known as Jennings Gap. Joynes complained that

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the road through the gap “is one of the most unpleasant, dreary roads I ever saw. You’re surrounded on every side by the North mountains (which are of considerable height), and they approach so near together that there is just space enough for a rough, stony and circuitous way through them. There are very few houses, and scarce a single verdant field to cheer the eye of the solitary traveler.” The cleverly pseudonymed travel writer Peregrine Prolix “obtained a good dinner” at Cloverdale in 1834. In later years the tavern was styled the Cloverdale Hotel and it was the location of a post office during the middle decades of the nineteenth century. A late reference to the Cloverdale Hotel appeared in an 1873 issue of the *Staunton Spectator*. The tavern/hotel may have ceased operations by 1880.⁹

Blackburn’s brick house is described in glowing terms in an account first published in the New York *Saturday Evening Post* and reprinted in Samuel C. Atkinson’s miscellany *Atkinson’s Casket* in 1836:

In journeying westwardly from Staunton, Va., towards the Warm Springs, in Bath county, after a ride of about thirty miles, through a country generally wild and uncultivated, but occasionally picturesque and beautiful, the attention of the traveller is arrested by a handsome country seat, in full view of the stage road, and distant on the left hand, probably two hundred yards, from it. The mansion is of brick, and in much better taste than most of the dwelling houses in that section of Virginia, and the numerous out-houses and negro [sic] cabins which surround it, indicate the wealth of the proprietor . . . This seat is called ‘The Wilderness,’ and was the residence of the late General Samuel Blackburn.¹⁰

The earliest surviving visual representation of the house and farm is a series of sketch plans made during the “location” or preliminary survey of the Warm Springs and Harrisonburg Turnpike through the Mill Creek valley in 1831 or 1832. The plans, which may be the work of an engineer named Peter Scales, include a schematic representation of the house that is detailed enough to show the distinctive pediment. The label “Gen^l S. Blackburns” makes the identification unmistakable. A handsome fence with a decorative gate on axis with the main entry enclosed the front yard, and a lane led from the gate down the hill and across the creek to join with Deerfield Road. The lane followed the current course of the driveway and although the sketch does not show it presumably it wrapped around to the carriage house as it does presently. A small building is shown at the approximate location of the kitchen foundation, and beyond it a wide avenue lined with worm fences (shown as squiggly lines) that may have been a droveway, the route by which cattle were herded from the back parts of the farm on Walkers Mountain to Deerfield Road. Northeast along Deerfield Road a short distance was the “barn lot” with a schematic representation of a barn and a complex arrangement of worm-fenced pens. Across the road on the west side were two large rectangular worm-fenced pens, possibly corrals. On the rise behind the barn lot, about a fifth of a mile north of the main house, were what is shown as two small buildings, perhaps farm buildings or some of the quarters for the plantation’s enslaved workers mentioned in the ca. 1836 account. To the southwest, several pages after the sketches showing the Wilderness house and barn lot, the artist depicted “Clover Dale Tavern By Walter Richards” (Richards would have been the tavernkeeper). The sketch shows the tavern, which

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appears to have been a two-story building with a one-story porch across the front, as well as a stable, an office (possibly the post office), a “milk house” (a dairy and/or springhouse), and other outbuildings. An apple orchard covered a nearby hill and may have supplied apples for making apple brandy, a staple of taverns during the period. In all the sketches the main road is shown lined with worm fences, which were necessary to keep the herds of cattle that passed along the road out of the Wilderness farm fields. Not only was Blackburn’s farm recorded for the turnpike, Blackburn was a principal stockholder in the road, with thirty shares to his name in 1832, the largest number of any stockholder that year.¹¹

In his will, signed in 1830, Samuel Blackburn directed “that all the slaves of which I may die seized and possessed without distinction of age or sex be, and they are hereby declared, free and forever emancipated from all claim to future services to me, my heirs, and executors.” But Blackburn added a stipulation. “As soon as the necessary arrangements can be made by my executors they shall be transported to the American Colony in Liberia and the expense of transportation be charged upon my estate real and personal. It is however expressly and explicitly understood that if any of my slaves aforesaid refuse to accept this boon it will be the duty of my executors, and they are hereby requested so to do, to sell to the highest bidder in terms of the sale all who thus refuse and persevere in the refusal as slaves for life. And here let me admonish and warn those people how they let slip this golden moment of emancipating themselves and their posterity forever from that state of slavery and degradation in which I found them and in which many of them have long served me.”¹²

Blackburn died in March 1835 and the inventory made of his Wilderness estate in July 1835 listed forty-six enslaved people by name plus a number of unnamed children. One individual, Solomon, was identified as a blacksmith; it was not unusual for an enslaved person to be skilled in such a trade. The African American workers were manumitted as Blackburn directed. The requirement that these persons agree to travel to Liberia in Africa was in keeping with one strain of anti-slavery thought during the antebellum era, which essentially accepted that slavery was morally corrupt but adhered to white supremacist beliefs that African Americans were inferior to whites and thus each group would be better off if segregated from one another and the United States as a whole would benefit from the removal of African Americans. Various abolitionists supported this theory up to the Civil War, during which the Emancipation Proclamation freed all enslaved people that had attempted to secede from the Union without requiring relocation of any kind.

The household belongings enumerated in the 1835 inventory indicate Blackburn’s home was finely furnished, with mahogany chairs and dining tables and “fine damask tablecloths,” and a library stocked with the works of Shakespeare, a twenty-three-volume encyclopedia, and “Malthus on Population.” Livestock on the farm included 14 horses, 20 hogs, 70 sheep, and 235 cattle.¹³

Tax records show the Wilderness farm and other parcels as belonging to Samuel Blackburn’s estate after his death, but eventually the property went to Blackburn’s nephew, Samuel Blackburn Jr., as stipulated in the elder Blackburn’s will. In April 1849 Samuel Jr. sold “the

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Wilderness or home tract” consisting of an estimated 462 acres to John W. Frazier (1810-53). Frazier was a rising star among the county’s springs resort owners. An account of his ownership in an 1884 legal compendium states: “John W. Frazier departed this life, intestate, on the 9th day of April, 1853, seized of a large estate in the counties of Bath, Rockbridge and Augusta. Many years before his decease, he had purchased the Cloverdale estate, consisting of several large and valuable tracts of land, including the Cloverdale Hotel, and had made thereto large additions; so that he was possessed of six thousand acres there. In 1848 he purchased the Bath Alum Springs property, leased his Cloverdale estate, and moved to the said Springs in 1850; and also owned and kept a large store at Fairview, in Bath county. In August, 1852, he purchased the Rockbridge Alum Springs property for \$150,000.” Ledgers from Frazier’s Fairview Store are archived at the Library of Virginia and note the sale of whiskey, tobacco, sugar, coffee, dry goods, and other commodities.¹⁴

The 1850 agricultural census appears to record Frazier’s farming operation at The Wilderness and adjacent parcels. The farm, valued at \$28,500, encompassed 800 improved acres and 800 unimproved acres and produced 750 bushels of oats, 400 bushels of corn, 325 bushels of wheat, and 100 bushels of rye. The main focus was livestock production: 22 horses, 50 milk cows, 475 other cattle, and 525 sheep. The milk produced by the dairy herd went into making 500 pounds of butter. It seems likely the farm supplied food to guests and workers at Frazier’s Bath Alum Springs and perhaps other of the county’s large springs resorts.¹⁵

Following John W. Frazier’s death in 1853, his brother William Frazier and other executors advertised the “large and valuable body of lands known as the Cloverdale and Wilderness Farms” for sale. The 1854 notice in the *Richmond Enquirer* described the Cloverdale Hotel (“long known as an important tavern stand”) and “The WILDERNESS, or Home Place.” The latter was “the residence, in his life time, of the late Gen. Samuel Blackburn. The buildings are extensive and complete, mostly of brick. Area, 1985 acres; under cultivation, about 500 acres; meadows, 25 acres to which more could be added.” The advertisement noted the existence of a limestone quarry on the Wilderness tract, presumably used for burning agricultural lime, as well as iron ore deposits and stands of oak, hickory, and pine timber. “Heretofore these lands have been chiefly valuable as grazing farms,” the advertisement stated, implying that railroads then penetrating the region might support more intensive agriculture.¹⁶

As happened often from the late 1850s through 1890s, with the physical privations, economic disruptions, and dissolution of the institution of slavery brought on by the Civil War, The Wilderness passed through several owners in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. One owner, the Highland Development Company, described in county records as a “foreign corporation,” advertised a “clean sweep public auction sale” on the farm in 1916. In addition to household furniture, farm machinery, and blacksmith tools the auctioneer would sell “work horses, driving horses and colts, 105 head of yearling and two-year-old stock cattle, heifers and cows.” Photographs in a ca. 1958 real estate brochure show the mix of open land suitable for grazing and forested land that characterize the property today, with farm buildings scattered about the acreage. The brochure noted the existence of cattle barns and a “good 8-room tenant house,” presumably the house now known as the Pond House. One photo shows the level fields

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across from the house, with the caption: “A large portion of the meadow land has not been plowed for over 100 years and furnishes hay to winter the large number of cattle carried on this farm at all times.” The sale of the property was to include 125 head of Hereford cattle, hay and grain crops, and farm machinery. One hundred fifty acres were forested in oak, yellow pine, maple, and poplar timber, and the brochure touted the farm’s suitability for large-scale dairying. The standing timber was attractive to lumbering interests who built a system of tramways through the property in the late nineteenth and/or early twentieth century.¹⁷

Thomas and Marion Peters purchased the Wilderness tract of 730 acres in 1961 and made additions and alterations to the house. Photographs from earlier in the century (1937 and ca. 1958) had shown a two-tier porch of apparent late Greek Revival form and detail with a shallow pedimented gable and possibly sawn railings; this the Peters replaced with the present one-story porch. The Peters also created the terrace in front of the house which resulted in the burial of most of the original raised basement elevation. The Wilderness was purchased by current owners Robert and Roberta Koontz in 2003. The Koontzes have restored the house and added a number of modern farm buildings to the property.¹⁸

Architectural Discussion

The Wilderness house proclaimed the affluence and social standing of its original owners, Samuel and Ann Blackburn, through its brick construction and architectural refinement. The house has the symmetrical two-story façade that was the hallmark of fine Virginia houses during the eighteenth century and well into the nineteenth, and it is further distinguished by its pedimented central pavilion. A well-known example of the pedimented pavilion type is Blandfield (ca. 1750; NRHP 1969), the Essex County seat of William Beverley who was instrumental in the early development of Staunton. Closer to The Wilderness in form and date is the pedimented pavilion house Piedmont (Robert Worthington House) in Jefferson County, West Virginia, which has a Georgian-style brick main section thought to have been built in the 1780s. Piedmont has three bays in its center pavilion—an entry flanked by narrow windows—the same configuration as at The Wilderness.¹⁹

The longevity of the pedimented central pavilion form limits its usefulness as a dating tool, but other features of the construction and finish of The Wilderness provide clues to the date of the house. The brick construction is, in and of itself, somewhat diagnostic. Brick construction was a relative latecomer to the architectural traditions of western Virginia counties, present by the end of the eighteenth century but rare. Cherry Row, built in 1794 in populous and early-settled Frederick County, is one of that county’s earliest surviving brick houses, and the oldest known brick house to survive in Staunton is the Archibald Stuart House (NRHP 1972), built in 1791 and esteemed the town’s “first grand residence.” A tally of Staunton buildings insured by the Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia before 1800 points to the rarity of brick construction in the town, which was a style center of the Shenandoah Valley during the period. Of forty-seven insured buildings, thirty-seven (79%) were wood, three were brick (6%), and seven were stone, other materials, or unknown (15%). These insured buildings represented the cream of the crop of Staunton and Augusta County architecture; the actual percentage of brick buildings before 1800

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would have been much lower. The Wilderness was built as an architectural statement by one of Bath County's leading early citizens, factors that might point to early use of brick, but judging by the sequence of brick construction in the broader region it would be unlikely for the house to have been built before 1800.²⁰

Brickwork details of The Wilderness provide additional dating clues. Architectural historian Michael Pulice, an authority on Virginia brickwork, notes that the lack of uniformity in the brickwork, such as inconsistency in brick size and shape and the thickness of the bed (mortar) joints, suggests construction before about 1820. "By 1820 brickmaking and laying is generally more refined, even in fairly remote areas," Pulice writes. Another broadly datable feature of the brickwork is the bond, the pattern in which the bricks are laid. The front and sides of the house are Flemish bond whereas the rear elevation is common bond, which first came into use in Virginia at the very end of the eighteenth century. Cleridge (NRHP 2011), a two-story brick house built in Frederick County in the first decade of the nineteenth century, has this hierarchical bond arrangement. The carriage house at The Wilderness also combines Flemish and common bond, but here the hierarchy appears muddled; the front of the building, defined by its arched carriage entry, is common bond instead of Flemish bond.²¹

Nail chronology is another diagnostic tool. Nails in their original construction context at The Wilderness are most accessible under the center passage stair where they join the back edges of the treads to the risers. The nails have a characteristic two-faceted head which some researchers identify as a transitional wrought/cut nail type popular in the early nineteenth century. However, Michael Pulice, relying in part on the observations of architectural historian Robert Self, formerly with Monticello, states, "My interpretation is that they were among the first generation of fully machine-made cut nails, and were somewhat common between ca. 1812 and 1820, tapering off toward the end of the period." One of the facet-headed nails, which was nailed into the back of a riser for use as a hook when the space was a closet, has a shank that appears cut.²²

Lastly, stylistic aspects of The Wilderness help define the period of its construction. The mantels have two attributes of the Georgian style: boldly expressed classical elements and an architrave or frame treatment of the fireplace surround. The upstairs mantels are also tripartite, with three triglyph-like elements in the frieze, although the tripartite symmetry is weak compared to tripartite mantel design in the succeeding Federal style. (The tripartite character of the upstairs Wilderness mantels may be regarded as a Federal influence.) The triglyph-like elements have a close parallel in the 1821 section of the Albemarle County house Red Hills (NRHP 1998), which has a mantel with "fluted or triglyph-like frieze elements" that rest on an architrave-form fireplace surround. Another notable feature of The Wilderness mantels, the mannerist zigzag pilasters in the downstairs mantels, is potentially diagnostic although no close parallels have come to light. The possibility that the zigzag and triglyph mantels are 1960s additions has been considered, but evidence of wear (damage) on an upstairs mantel, the "correction" of the zigzag on one of the downstairs mantels to bring it in line with modern aesthetic expectations, and the dissimilarity of the mantels to normative twentieth-century Colonial Revival mantel design suggest that the mantels are indeed original. Also potentially helpful as a diagnostic feature but at present apparently unattested in other period Virginia houses are the unusual chamfered balusters

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on the main stair. These architectural features of The Wilderness—its brick construction, nails, and stylistic attributes—agree well with the late 1810s date suggested by the documentary evidence.²³

Other features of the house deserve comment. The pilaster treatment of the front corners is an unusual feature for a house from the early nineteenth century, more common in Greek Revival houses from ca. 1840 and later. The secondary stair in the ell is remarkable for its narrowness and steepness. This can be attributed to its role as a servant's stair, but even so it is so cramped as to be almost non-functional. The intent appears to have been to minimize its size, and that suggests the influence of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, which is known for its parsimonious stairs. It may be, however, that the same economizing impulse was felt by other homebuilders during the period, and another example therefore inspired The Wilderness, or that Samuel Blackburn and his builder arrived at the idea independently. The survival of early decorative painting under the center passage stair and the vestige of lattice painting on the second-story entry transom hint at the vibrant decorative finishes that once embellished the house.²⁴

Endnotes

¹ Virginia State Land Office Patents No. 40 (1771-1772), p. 532; Morton, *Annals of Bath County*, 162-164; Ebel, "George Mathews." A number of individuals assisted with the preparation of this report, foremost among them the owners of The Wilderness and sponsors of the nomination, Roberta and Robert Koontz. Assistance was also provided by Carl Lounsbury and by Lena Sweeten McDonald, Michael Pulice, and Aubrey Von Lindern of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

² Morton, *Annals of Bath County*, 166; Koontz, "The Wilderness;" *Catalogue of the Officers and Alumni of Washington and Lee University*, 47; Ebel, "George Mathews;" Howe, *Historical Collections of Virginia*, 186; *Litchfield Gazette*, April 26, 1809. The Litchfield notice was a reprint of an earlier item in a Philadelphia paper.

³ Mathews, Sampson, to Thomas Jefferson, January 13, 1781; Morton, *Annals of Bath County*, 163; Jones, *Bath County Personal Property Tax Lists, Volume 1, 1791-1801*.

⁴ Bath County deed grantee indexes and land books; Augusta County Deed Book 2-A, p. 299.

⁵ Augusta County Deed Book 31, p. 81; Deed Book 32, p. 514; Deed Book 2-A, p. 299; Deed Book 33, p. 499; Deed Book 34, p. 202; Deed Book 35, p. 1; Deed Book 38, p. 246.

⁶ Bath County land books.

⁷ Bath County land books and Deed Book 4, p. 527, and Deed Book 5, p. 78; Wood, "Wilderness."

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⁸ Jefferson, "Memorandum Books, 1818."

⁹ "Memoranda Made by Thomas R. Joynes," 149; Prolix, *Letters Descriptive of the Virginia Springs*, 8, 108; *Table of Post Offices*, 288; Edwards, *Statistical Gazetteer*, 213; *Staunton Spectator*, October 28, 1873; Chataigne, *Chataigne's Virginia Business Directory and Gazetteer, 1880-81*, 123.

¹⁰ Atkinson, *Atkinson's Casket*, 202.

¹¹ Warm Springs and Harrisonburg Turnpike Fieldnotes and April 27, 1832 stockholder list. James A. Frazier owned the second largest number of shares in 1832 with twenty shares.

¹² Bath County Will Book 4, p. 263.

¹³ Bath County Will Book 4, p. 304; Bruns, *Abstracts of the Wills*, 175.

¹⁴ Koontz, "The Wilderness;" Bath County land books and Deed Book 11, p. 149; Hansbrough, *Report of Cases*, 787-788.

¹⁵ U.S. census.

¹⁶ *Richmond Enquirer*, May 5, 1854.

¹⁷ Koontz, "The Wilderness;" *Highland Recorder*, March 17, 1916; Bath County Deed Book 57, p. 312; "The Wilderness" (ca. 1958).

¹⁸ Koontz, "The Wilderness;" Bath County Deed Book 70, p. 412; Wood, "Wilderness."

¹⁹ "Blandfield;" Brown and McCue, *Staunton*, 16; McGee, "Piedmont."

²⁰ Kalbian, *Frederick County*, 29-30; Brown and McCue, *Staunton*, 21; Mutual Assurance Society Index. Brick construction was even less common in Frederick County before 1800, according to the Mutual Assurance Society policies. One of the brick buildings insured in Staunton before 1800 was Archibald Stuart's residence. The only building in Bath County to be insured by the Mutual Assurance Society was the three-story stone Anthony Mustoe House (NRHP 2002), insured in 1797.

²¹ Michael Pulice personal communication; Pulice, *Nineteenth-Century Brick Architecture in the Roanoke Valley and Beyond*, 48; Kalbian, *Frederick County*, 40.

²² Michael Pulice personal communication.

²³ Pezzoni and Giles, "Red Hills," 3. Architectural historian Carl Lounsbury suggests an early nineteenth century date of construction for The Wilderness based on an overall impression of its construction features (Lounsbury notes).

²⁴ McLaughlin. *Jefferson and Monticello*, 5-7.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

_____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

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- 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# 008-0011

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1,003.2 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: 38.136950 | Longitude: -79.501670 |
| 2. Latitude: 38.146800 | Longitude: -79.488960 |
| 3. Latitude: 38.145050 | Longitude: -79.481320 |
| 4. Latitude: 38.138430 | Longitude: -79.472060 |
| 5. Latitude: 38.123370 | Longitude: -79.488370 |
| 6. Latitude: 38.120520 | Longitude: -79.494850 |
| 7. Latitude: 38.125659 | Longitude: -79.502460 |

Or

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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: |
| 5. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 6. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

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

The nominated area's historic boundary coincides with the lot lines of Bath County tax parcels 36-01 (273.87 acres) and 37-05 (729.33 acres). The true and correct historic boundaries are shown on the attached Tax Parcel Maps.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated area is coterminous with the tax parcels on which The Wilderness and its associated historic resources stand, being a major portion of the acreage historically associated with the house as well as capturing the property's historic setting and all known historic resources.

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
telephone: (540) 464-5315
date: February 14, 2017

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.

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- **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: The Wilderness
City or Vicinity: Deerfield vicinity, Bath County, Virginia
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni

Photo 1 of 12: VA_BathCounty_TheWilderness_0001
Date Photographed: January 2017
View: Front (west) and south elevations of house, view facing east.

Photo 2 of 12: VA_BathCounty_TheWilderness_0002
Date Photographed: January 2017
View: South elevation of house and carriage house, view facing northeast.

Photo 3 of 12: VA_BathCounty_TheWilderness_0003
Date Photographed: February 2017
View: Center passage stair.

Photo 4 of 12: VA_BathCounty_TheWilderness_0004
Date Photographed: January 2017
View: Mantel in first-floor south room.

Photo 5 of 12: VA_BathCounty_TheWilderness_0005
Date Photographed: February 2017
View: Mantel in first-floor ell room.

Photo 6 of 12: VA_BathCounty_TheWilderness_0006
Date Photographed: January 2017
View: Decorative painting under center passage stair.

Photo 7 of 12: VA_BathCounty_TheWilderness_0007

The Wilderness

Name of Property

Bath County, Virginia

County and State

Date Photographed: January 2017

View: Kitchen feature, view facing east.

Photo 8 of 12: VA_BathCounty_TheWilderness_0008

Date Photographed: January 2017

View: House (left), modern farm complex (middle), Lower Barn (right), view facing southeast.

Photo 9 of 12: VA_BathCounty_TheWilderness_0009

Date Photographed: February 2017

View: Modern farm complex (left), house (right; east and north elevations), and hay barn (center distance).

Photo 10 of 12: VA_BathCounty_TheWilderness_0010

Date Photographed: February 2017

View: Sheep barn, view facing southeast.

Photo 11 of 12: VA_BathCounty_TheWilderness_0011

Date Photographed: February 2017

View: Pond House and garage, view facing south.

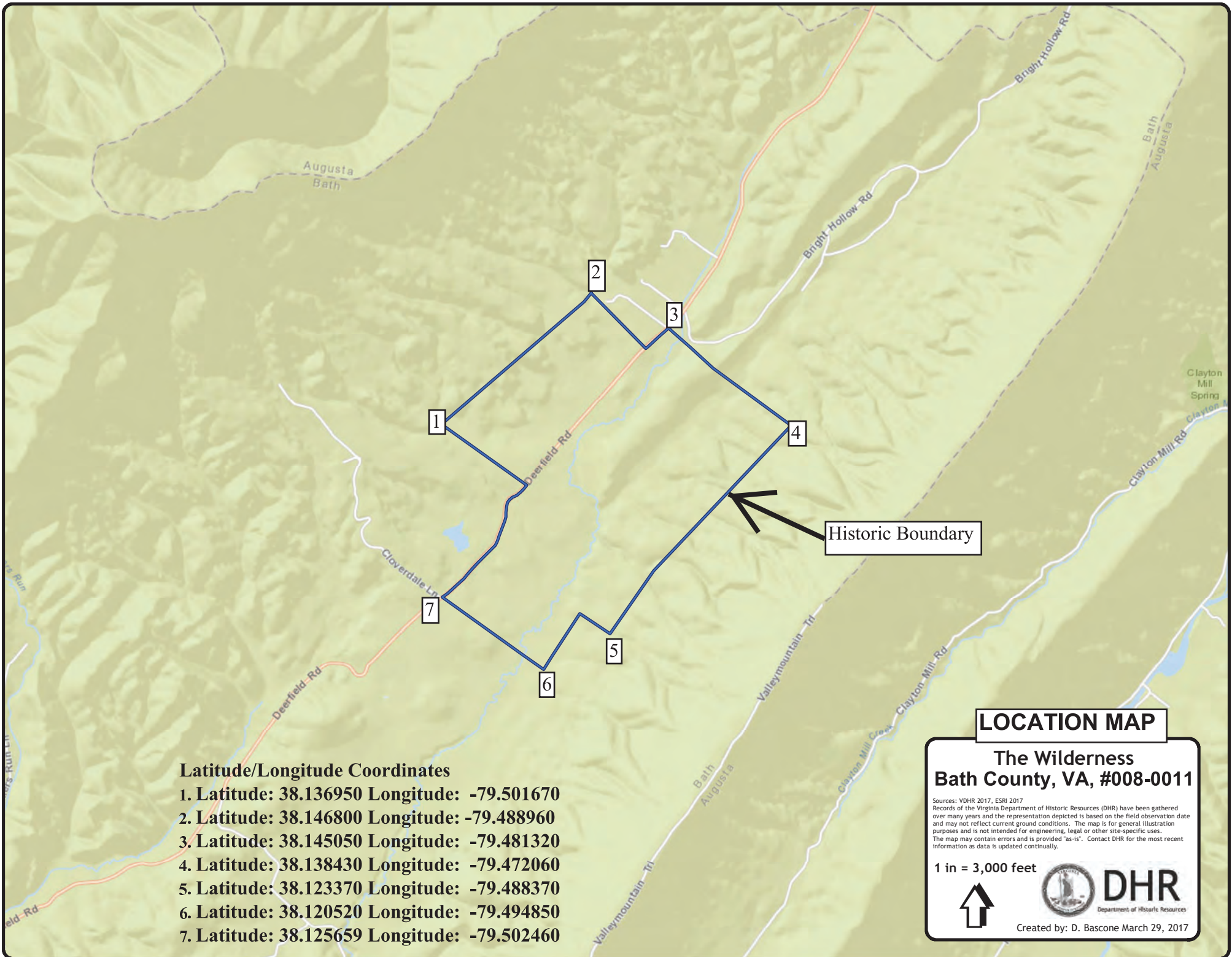
Photo 12 of 12: VA_BathCounty_TheWilderness_0012

Date Photographed: February 2017

View: Pond House springhouse with pond, view facing southwest.

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.



- Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**
- 1. Latitude: 38.136950 Longitude: -79.501670
 - 2. Latitude: 38.146800 Longitude: -79.488960
 - 3. Latitude: 38.145050 Longitude: -79.481320
 - 4. Latitude: 38.138430 Longitude: -79.472060
 - 5. Latitude: 38.123370 Longitude: -79.488370
 - 6. Latitude: 38.120520 Longitude: -79.494850
 - 7. Latitude: 38.125659 Longitude: -79.502460

LOCATION MAP

**The Wilderness
Bath County, VA, #008-0011**

Sources: VDHR 2017, ESRI 2017
Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years and the representation depicted is based on the field observation date and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general illustration purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. The map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". Contact DHR for the most recent information as data is updated continually.

1 in = 3,000 feet



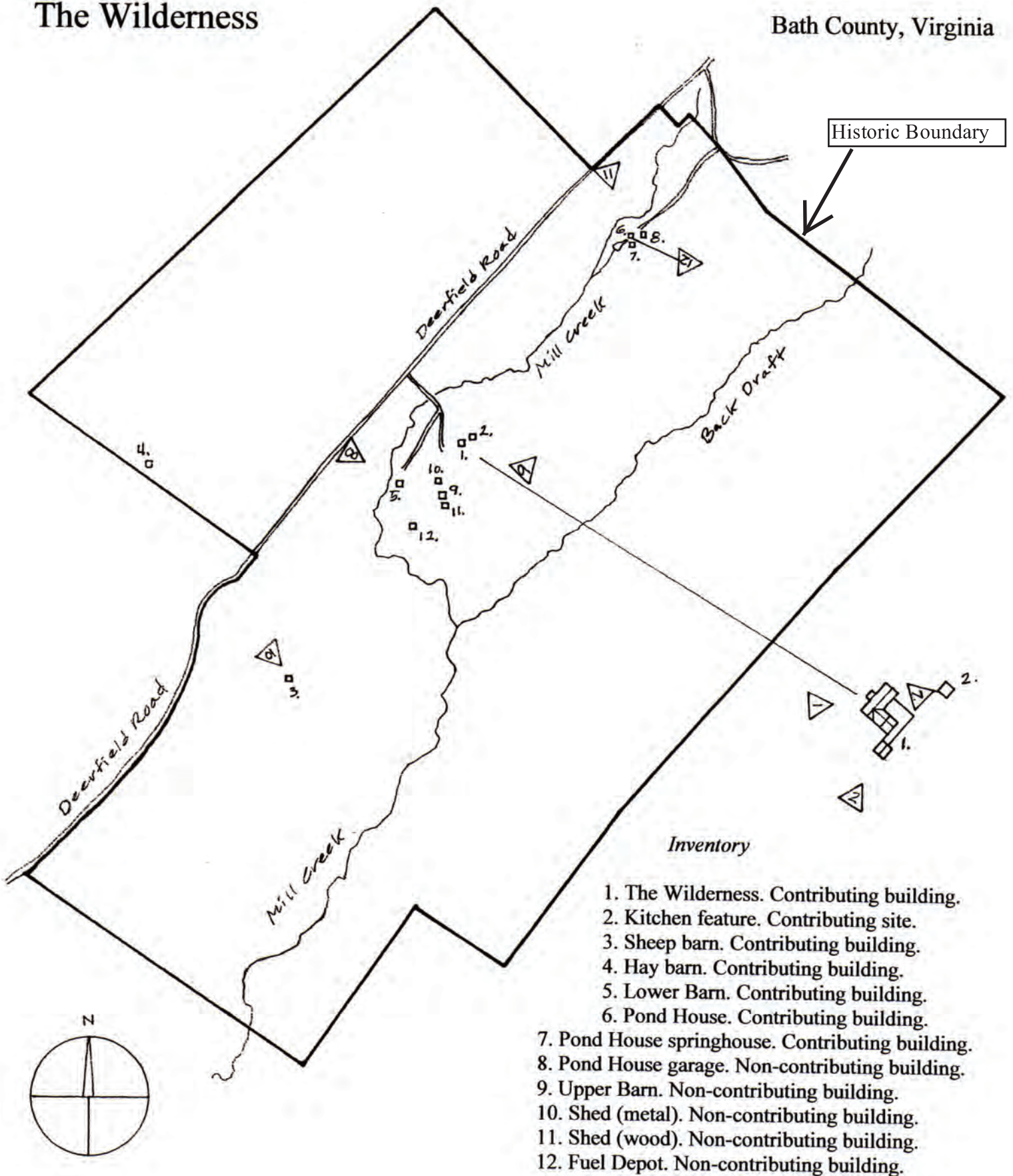
Created by: D. Bascone March 29, 2017

SKETCH MAP/ PHOTO KEY

DHR No. 008-0011

The Wilderness

Bath County, Virginia



Map not to scale; resource locations approximate. Number and direction of view of nomination photos indicated by triangular markers. Resources keyed to nomination inventory above.

























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Wilderness, The

Multiple Name:

State & County: VIRGINIA, Bath

Date Received:
7/7/2017

Date of Pending List:
8/2/2017

Date of 16th Day:
8/17/2017

Date of 45th Day:
8/21/2017

Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100001494

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Accept

Return

Reject

8/21/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria Accept, National Register Criterion C.

Reviewer Patrick Andrus

Patrick Andrus

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2218

Date

8/21/2017

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
Fax: (804) 367-2391
www.dhr.virginia.gov

June 28, 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: The Wilderness, Bath County, Virginia

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for **The Wilderness** 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

Western Region Office
962 Kime Lane
Salem, VA 24153
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