

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

LISTED ON:	
VLR	06/16/2011
NRHP	09/29/2011

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Hanshill
other names/site number Rough House, Camp Suhling, Camp Merry Minglers, VDHR No. 005-5329

2. Location

street & number <u>142 Leftwich Road</u>	N/A	not for publication
city or town <u>Madison Heights</u>	X	vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Amherst code 009 zip code 24572

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 ___ national statewide X local

[Signature] _____
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register
 ___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register
 ___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	1	buildings
1	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
7	1	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / camp = seasonal residence

DOMESTIC / camp = summer camp

DOMESTIC / single dwelling = house

AGRICULTURE / storage = corn crib

RECREATION / outdoor recreation = tennis court

DOMESTIC / secondary structure = spring box

DOMESTIC / secondary structure = garage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / camp = seasonal residence

DOMESTIC / single dwelling = house

DOMESTIC / secondary structure = garage

DOMESTIC / secondary structure = storage shed

RECREATION / outdoor recreation = tennis court

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS:

Rustic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: STONE; CONCRETE

walls: WOOD: board-and-batten, log

roof: ASPHALT

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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)

Property is:

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1910-1935

Significant Dates

1918, 1925

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Clark, Pendleton S.

Crowe, Walter R.

Merkey, Clyde Adrian

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Hanshill (VDHR# 005-5329)
Name of Property

Amherst County, Virginia
County and State

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Virginia Department of Historic Resources,
Richmond, VA; YWCA of Central Virginia,
Lynchburg, VA

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 87.69
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>17S</u> Zone	<u>0663235</u> Easting	<u>4149066</u> Northing	3	<u>17S</u> Zone	<u>0663043</u> Easting	<u>4148148</u> Northing
2	<u>17S</u> Zone	<u>0663506</u> Easting	<u>4148538</u> Northing	4	<u>17S</u> Zone	<u>0662547</u> Easting	<u>4148569</u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. Scott Breckinridge Smith, Principal
organization HistoryTech, LLC date 9 March 2011
street & number Post Office Box 75 telephone 434-401-3995
city or town Lynchburg state VA zip code 24505
e-mail scott@historytech.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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 18 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.

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Summary Description

The *Hanshill* property occupies approximately 88 acres on the south side of Elon Road (State Route 130) in the Winesap area of Amherst County between the communities of Madison Heights and Elon. The subject property consists of two clusters of buildings: those associated with *Rough House*, the Suhling's first summer home on the property, and those associated with *Hanshill*, which was constructed 15 years after the family purchased the land that contained *Rough House*. *Hanshill* and its outbuildings (including the tennis court) are sited on a small ridge that is approximately 720 feet above sea level. The west (primary) elevation of the house overlooks a large field as well as the Fawn Creek valley. *Rough House* is located approximately 600 feet north of *Hanshill*, at the foot of the ridge. The property contains 5 contributing buildings, 1 contributing structure, 1 contributing site, and 1 non-contributing building. Character-defining features of the two primary buildings include custom-made iron hardware, balusters and porch posts of unhewn sticks and logs, and masonry installations of local field stone.

The property is bounded on the east by Norfolk Southern Corporation's main rail line which connects the Carolinas to Washington, D.C. and points northward. To the south are Harris Creek (one of Amherst County's longest and most prominent streams) and several lots of the Whispering Oaks subdivision. The Hans Hill subdivision and a section of Fawn Creek form the property's western border.

Hanshill is bisected by Fawn Creek, a small year-round stream that joins with Harris Creek, forming the tract's extreme southern tip. While largely forested, a field containing approximately 10 acres of grassland occupies the center of the property. Several smaller clearings are located on the eastern and northern edges of the tract. *Hanshill* is accessed via a gravel driveway off Leftwich Road (a portion of which is a part of the historic Buffalo Springs Turnpike) and a gravel driveway off of Elon Road provides access to *Rough House*, which has a street address of 907 Elon Road. The greater area is mostly forested, and much of the surrounding countryside has been subdivided into small residential lots. A small cluster of light industrial buildings is located to the northwest of *Hanshill*, on the north side of Elon Road; these mark the location of a former Southern Railway depot referred to as "Leftwich Station," which was active into the second quarter of the twentieth century. Due to the property's topography and woodlands, *Hanshill* is largely buffered from its surrounding neighbors.

The nominated property embraces three parcels that form the historic *Hanshill* tract, which consists of three acquisitions by Johannes "Hans" Suhling (pronounced "zoo-ling") and his sister-in-law Mary Leigh Suhling in 1910, 1911, and 1929. The western portion of the nominated property is part of a larger purchase made by W. Gerhard Suhling, Jr. (Mary Suhling's son) in 1940.

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Narrative Description

Inventory of Resources

The following is a list of resources located within the boundaries of the nominated property. All resources have been evaluated as either contributing or non-contributing based upon the areas of significance identified under Criteria A and C as: Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, and Architecture, and based upon the period of significance spanning the period 1910 to 1961. All non-contributing resources have been so noted for being less than fifty years old or for having been significantly altered so that they no longer reflect their historic appearance or character.

<i>Hanshill</i>	1925	Contributing Building
Servants Quarters	ca. 1927	Contributing Building
Garage/Bunkhouse	ca. 1927	Contributing Building
Tennis Court	ca. 1915, 1960	Contributing Site
Tennis Court Shelter	2000	Non-Contributing Building
<i>Rough House</i>	ca. 1880, ca. 1935	Contributing Building
Corn Crib	ca. 1940	Contributing Building
Y.W.C.A. Spring Box	ca. 1918	Contributing Structure

Hanshill

Hanshill is a Rustic Revival summer residence designed by the noted Lynchburg architectural firm of Clark & Crowe and built during the summer of 1925 for Mary Leigh Suhling. It is a one and a half story frame building that rests on a low, continuous foundation of poured concrete faced with fieldstone. While the house is approached on the east side by its driveway, the main elevation is on the west side, which overlooks the Fawn Creek valley. The entire building is clad in vertical board-and-batten siding that was stained grey (and has not been painted since), and the side gable roof is covered in three-tab asphalt shingles (the original plans specified wood shingles, but a change order altered the specification to composition shingles). A single interior chimney is constructed of mortared random rubble stone.

The west elevation is marked by a full-length, one-story, four-bay porch which is supported by five vertical posts of round logs, and the handrail consists of smaller round logs or sticks arranged in an "x-in-square" pattern, which was a common design element in many lodges and camps of the period.¹ The southern half of the porch is enclosed by screen, and was designed to serve as a dining porch. A long, low, shed-roofed dormer is located on this side of the roof, and it is fenestrated by two pairs of four-pane sash. The porch is accessed by a semi-circular set of stone steps on the north end of

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the house (these steps were a change from the original design, and were designed by Clark & Crowe in a separate drawing).

The east elevation features a small porch that serves as the primary access to the house from the driveway. The porch roof is supported by a vertical round log post, and the baluster follows the "x-in-square" pattern found on the main elevation. A shed-roofed dormer partially cantilevers out from the main wall of the house. This portion is supported by unheewn logs that retain their bark. The dormer is fenestrated by one pair of four-light sash on the left, and a bank of four large unglazed window openings on the right, which can be secured from the weather by a series of wooden slatted shutters that lift up into the interior space of the house.

The southern gable end contains a one-story, shed-roofed wing that contains a screened porch and a storage room. Typical windows on the first floor of the house are six-light sash that open by sliding into pockets within the exterior wall cavity. Second floor windows are six-light sash as found downstairs along with paired four-light sash. All windows on the house have shutters of two types: some shutters are of the standard board and batten variety, but most are board and batten with an inset louvered panel to provide ventilation even when closed. All shutters are hung by iron strap hinges and kept open by iron shutter hooks as specified by Clark & Crowe.

The interior of the building remains unaltered, and resembles that of an early twentieth century lodge found at a National Park. All wall and ceiling surfaces are covered by grey-stained vertical board and batten paneling. Typical interior and exterior doors are board and batten, and are trimmed with hand-wrought iron strap hinges and iron door pulls as specified in the original plans. The entry hall (accessed from the small porch on the east elevation) contains a 180° return staircase that features a balustrade made of logs and thin sticks which retain their bark. The living room on the first floor contains a massive stone fireplace with a split-log mantel and an iron pot crane. The room is accessed from the interior by a doorway from the entry/stair hall, and has two exits onto the large porch on the western elevation of the house. A small kitchen is also accessed from the entry/stair hall, and has a doorway which leads out to the dining porch. A third doorway in the kitchen connects to the small screened porch and store room in the wing on the southern gable end.

The second floor contains two designated bedrooms, a sleeping porch, and a bathroom, all of which are accessed by an extension of the second floor stair hall. The sleeping porch features a large bank of unglazed window openings that can be secured from the weather by a series of wooden slatted shutters that lift up into the interior space of the room. The sleeping porch and both bedrooms also contain small storage closets.

The present condition of the building is remarkably similar to Clarke & Crowe's February 1925 specifications and drawings. The interior, for example, has changed so little that the original penciled guide lines, assisting the carpenters in the proper placement of screws, can still be seen on the board and batten doors. All noted modifications appear to have been made

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during the construction process rather than later. Some of these modifications include the removal of a designed large staircase on the western elevation that connected the main porch to grade (this was replaced by a small set of semi-circular stone steps on the north elevation); also the doors and shutters were built with vertical, rather than diagonal, battens. Prior to construction, the designed chimney was changed from corbelled brick with a "rough stone cap" to "local stone, which will be picked up off place and hauled to building site by the Owner." It was noted that the foundation would also be changed from brick to dry-laid stone, but it was built as stone-faced concrete.²

Servants Quarters

Just to the south of the house is a small side gable-roofed building built circa 1927 and used as servants quarters. It rests on a foundation of concrete piers, and is clad in vertical board-and-batten siding. The shallow side gable roof is covered by three-tab asphalt shingles, and a small front porch that is supported by two vertical logs is located on the north elevation. The building is fenestrated by small 6/6 double-hung sash, and a small shed-roofed wing projects from the south elevation. The quarters originally contained two separate living spaces, and had two entry doors under the porch roof. The interior dividing wall was removed in 1986, and the left entry door was removed in 2010. Interior door hardware consists of wrought iron strap hinges on pintles, and matches the hardware specified for the main house. The rear wing contains a small bathroom.

Garage/Bunkhouse

To the east of the servants quarters is a larger building known as the "bunkhouse." It is covered by a low-pitch gable roof of asphalt shingles, and is clad by vertical board-and-batten siding. The northern gable end contains a two-bay garage that is accessed by a large wooden sliding door. A smaller entry door is also located on this elevation and provides access to the sleeping quarters found within the building. This building was likely constructed circa 1927 along with the adjacent servants quarters. Two small shed-roofed additions project from the rear of the building; one contains a primitive lead-lined shower, and the other is an open storage shed.

Tennis Court

An outdoor tennis court is located approximately 450 feet to the northeast of *Hanshill*, on the highest (and flattest) point of the ridge. The court was originally clay, and was likely built circa 1915. It was used for both tennis and volleyball by Y.W.C.A. campers, and has been used by five generations of the Suhling Family. Edward C. Suhling covered the court with asphalt in the early 1960s, and the shelter, which consists of a simple side gable roof supported by ten cedar posts, is a recent replacement.

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Rough House

Approximately 600 feet to the north of *Hanshill* is a small dwelling that was called *Rough House* as early as 1918, according to newspaper articles. The core of the house is a cabin built of V-notched hewn logs that likely dates to the second half on the nineteenth century. The side gable roof is covered by three-tab asphalt shingles, and a shed-roofed porch is located on the front (north) elevation of the house. The porch is supported by natural log posts (with bark removed) with upper "brackets" made of smaller curved tree limbs, which was a common feature of camps and lodges of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.³ The porch railing is also constructed of tree limbs, and the balustrade consists of two horizontal members on the upper and lower sides of an "X" of sticks flanked by vertical members. The ends of the shed roof are clad by vertical board and batten siding with a saw-tooth detail at the bottom. Typical fenestration on the first floor of the cabin consists of pairs of 1/1 casement sash, and the garret is lit by a pair of four-pane casement sash on each gable end. The upper gable ends of the cabin are sheathed in horizontal weatherboard topped by a band of vertical board and batten siding with the same saw-tooth bottom that is found on the porch. The cabin and porch rest on mortared fieldstone piers.

To the rear (south) of the cabin is an addition or series of additions that were added circa 1935 by W. Gerhard Suhling, Jr. in preparation for T.A. Horsley and his family to move into the house. (Other "rustic" details may have also been added at this time, as they do not appear in an earlier photograph taken during the Y.W.C.A. camp period). The addition is covered by a shed roof, and rests on a foundation that is a combination of poured concrete and fieldstone piers. Most of the addition is sheathed in vertical board and batten siding, and windows are 6/6 double-hung sash and six-pane fixed sash. A small section of the rear addition has the appearance of a sun porch, and may actually be the remnant of a diminutive gable-roofed cabin that appears in the same approximate location in a circa 1920 photograph.

Most windows on the log cabin and addition are sheltered by small gable or shed roofs that are supported by stick brackets. A gable-roofed addition on the east side of the cabin that may have been constructed circa 1950, is clad in horizontal weatherboard, and is fenestrated by 6/6 double-hung sash as well as a nine-pane fixed sash. The house is served by two modern brick flue chimneys; one is in the interior of the shed addition and the other is on the exterior gable end of the newer addition.

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Corn Crib

Approximately 150 feet southwest of *Rough House* is a small, gable-roofed corn crib. The roof is covered by five-v metal roofing with a molded metal ridge cap, and the building is constructed of dimensional studs on 16" centers. The gable ends and bottom two-thirds of the sides are clad in galvanized metal, and the upper third of the sides have half inch wire mesh; both measures were intended to foil hungry rodents. Each gable end displays a large metal access door, and the building appears to rest on a foundation of short masonry piers.

Y.W.C.A. Spring Box

Located approximately 250 feet north of *Rough House* is a small concrete structure that serves as the only known extant reminder that a Young Women's Christian Association summer camp operated on the property from 1918 through 1922. The spring box measures approximately two and a half feet in width by three feet in height and is built into the hillside. Spring boxes are designed to "control" the point where a spring comes to the surface of the ground, providing a sheltered location that can be kept clean and free of debris and mud, along with a pool of water that is deep enough to extract water by dipping a gourd, canteen, or bucket. The letters "Y.W.C.A." are molded into the front top section of the box opening, and several local residents and members of the Suhling Family recall a date being inscribed into the structure, but it has not been relocated (it may be in the bottom concrete section, which is currently covered by soil).

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Summary Statement of Significance

Designed in 1925 for Mary Leigh Suhling (pronounced “zoo-ling”) by noted Lynchburg architects Pendleton S. Clark and Walter S. Crow, *Hanshill* is a rare and remarkably intact example of an early twentieth century Rustic Revival style summer retreat home in Virginia’s Piedmont province. Used as a seasonal vacation lodge for the Suhling Family and guests for over 85 years, the building features custom-designed iron hardware, rustic details such as balustrades of sticks and logs, and stained vertical board and batten siding both on exterior and interior walls. A significant departure from Clark & Crowe’s more typical Colonial Revival buildings, the presence of board and batten siding on *Hanshill* is unusual when compared to other rustic camps of the period and region.

In the early 20th century, the property also served as the first semi-permanent summer camp for white girls organized by the Young Women’s Christian Association (Y.W.C.A.) of Lynchburg. In Virginia at this time, the Y.W.C.A., its programs and camps held on the Hanshill property or elsewhere were not integrated. Between 1918 and 1922, camp activities centered around *Rough House*, the original log cabin on the property. Camp Suhling (also referred to as “Camp Chummy Suhling” or “Camp Merry Minglers”) was specifically geared towards members of the Y.W.C.A.’s “Industrial Girls” club, which aimed to provide fresh air, “middle-class values”, better working conditions, and a Christian environment to young white female employees of Lynchburg’s factories.

Hanshill has a period of significance ranging from 1910 to 1935, beginning with the initial purchase of the land by Johannes “Hans” Suhling and ending with the approximate year in which the final character-defining alterations or additions to the buildings on the property were made. It is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of social history for its role in the development of outdoor leadership programs for girls and young women by the Y.W.C.A. of Lynchburg. The property is also locally significant under Criterion C for its extraordinarily-intact Rustic Revival style architecture, the gem of which is *Hanshill* itself, which was designed by the regionally prominent architectural firm of Clark & Crowe.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

In 1911, Johannes Suhling of Lynchburg purchased a 25-acre parcel on Fawn Creek and the Buffalo Springs Turnpike (now State Route 130 or Elon Road) from local farmer George B. Carpenter and his wife Alice.⁴ On this land was a small log cabin that would soon serve as the Suhling Family's country retreat.

Johannes, known to family and friends as "Hans", was born in Bremen, Germany in 1862. Hans was the middle of three sons of Heinrich and Johanna Suhling. Christopher H. was born in 1856 and W. Gerhard was born in 1869. Seeking fortunes in America, Christopher and Johannes settled in Lynchburg by 1883, followed by Gerhard two years later.⁵ The brothers went into the tobacco business under the name of Edmunds Suhling & Co. which soon became Suhling & Co. In 1896, Christopher returned to Germany (where he would live until he died in 1916) leaving his two younger brothers in Virginia to continue the business. All three brothers settled in Diamond Hill (118-0060), one of Lynchburg's premier neighborhoods. Also in 1896, Gerhard married Mary Leigh Williams, daughter of industrialist J. Peter Williams (d. 1893) and Anna P. Kinckle (b. 1847). Gerhard and Mary took an "extended Northern tour" for their honeymoon, and may have visited some of the great lodges and resorts of Upstate New York and New England.⁶

During this time, German-born Harry Alberti (b. 1873), a business associate of the Suhlings, documented the family's travels throughout Virginia and beyond. A recurrent theme in his 1898 photograph album is outdoor recreation. He documents visits to Bath Alum Springs, Warm Springs Hotel, Cold Sulphur Springs, Hot Springs Hotel, Peaks of Otter Hotel, Natural Bridge Hotel, and Rockbridge Baths. In addition, the album contains a number of photographs of people swimming in natural water sources (probably the James River) as well as men socializing at the "Men's Gun Club."⁷ Clearly, the Suhlings and their contemporaries were very interested in outdoor recreation and the sporting life, which was fueled by increased availability of leisure time, expendable income, mobility (by train followed by the automobile), and a desire to discard the tight constraints of Victorian-era style and society. These trends combined with westward expansion and the ideas of visionaries like George Catlin, John Muir, and Theodore Roosevelt to create the National Parks and our modern idea of "wilderness" travel, camping, and outdoor recreation in general.

Finally, to satisfy the Suhling Family's yearning for the rustic country life, Hans purchased the previously mentioned 25-acre tract of land in Amherst County in 1911. The parcel lay on the east side of Fawn Creek, a tributary of Harris Creek, one of Amherst County's most prominent waterways. Carved out of John Cralle Long's nearby *Triple Oaks* property, the tract contained a small one and a half story log cabin (later to be called *Rough House*) that was likely the former homeplace of a tenant farmer. Two years later, Hans and his new bride Shirley conveyed, "for love and affection," most of the parcel to Mary Leigh Suhling (two acres had been sold to Swiss immigrant Herman Schmidt a few months earlier).⁸

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In May of 1915, Gerhard Suhling died at age 45 in Lynchburg, leaving Mary and their 16 year-old son, W. Gerhard Suhling, Jr., to support themselves. At the time of Gerhard's death, he was President of the Young Men's Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.) of Lynchburg, which had been in operation for about sixty years. In 1912, the organization established what was likely the Lynchburg area's first youth summer camp on Treasure Island (also known as Jones' Island) on the James River, approximately 2.5 miles south of the Suhling property on Fawn Creek.⁹

One year later, Lynchburg newspapers announced the death in Bremen, Germany of 60 year-old Christopher Suhling, the oldest of the three Suhling brothers. This left Johannes as the sole adult male of the family, and since he had no children of his own, he felt a great deal of responsibility for his nephew, Gerhard Suhling, Jr. A few days after the announcement of Christopher's death, Hans and Shirley presented Mary Leigh Suhling with a complement to her Amherst County land: a 21.25 acre tract to the east of, and adjacent to, the Fawn Creek parcel.¹⁰

During this time, the newly-formed Young Women's Christian Association (Y.W.C.A.) in Lynchburg determined a need for an outdoor leadership, recreation, and health education experience for its teenage members. In the early 20th century, Lynchburg's Y.W.C.A., like most organizations and institutions in Virginia, was segregated. In 1919 Lynchburg's Y.W.C.A. formed a Phyllis Wheatley Association for African-American women after being directed to do so by the National Y.W.C.A. organization the year before. Because no study has been undertaken on the Phyllis Wheatley Association, information about its programs and the number of women and girls participating in them is unknown at this time. Whether or not African-American women and girls were given opportunities to attend camp at the Hanshill property or whether a camping experience was provided for them elsewhere is not currently known. Given the situation in Virginia in the early 20th century it can be assumed that white and African-American women did not make use of Camp Suhling at the same time. The white and African-American Y.W.C.A. groups in Lynchburg were not merged until 1978. The histories of Lynchburg's segregated Y.W.C.A. organizations are, no doubt, typical when compared with other local Y.W.C.A. organizations in Virginia. By comparison, Richmond's Y.W.C.A. was desegregated by the mid-1960s.¹¹

Following the lead of the national Y.W.C.A. organization, Lynchburg's branch focused primarily on city-dwelling, working young women in order to provide them with the "guidance of middle-class values and the protective embrace of a Christian environment." By the time the Lynchburg branch had formed, the Y.W.C.A.'s efforts expanded to include the improvement of poor working conditions in factories.¹² Many of Lynchburg's industrial operations were well-suited (in the minds of corporate leaders) for female employees, and women soon became a common sight at factories including Craddock-Terry Shoe Company and the Lynchburg Cotton Mill.¹³ The onset of World War I hastened Lynchburg-area women's entry into the workforce. Historian Philip Lightfoot Scruggs noted that "...in Lynchburg there were no true war boom industries. Existing ones operated full time and overtime and many women were employed to replace men..."¹⁴ In June of 1918, *The News* announced that "Lynchburg banks have been forced to employ women to take the place of men who have gone to

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war." A few days later, it reported that twenty girls between the ages of seventeen and twenty had volunteered to work at the Jobbers Overall Factory.¹⁵

By this time, the YWCA began more overt programs to advocate for the rights of working women, forming "Industrial Girls" Clubs and other programs (by 1934, the national Y.W.C.A. officially endorsed collective bargaining rights).¹⁶ During the week of July 7, 1914, twenty of the Y.W.C.A.'s Industrial Girls group camped on the farm of Mr. P.C. Edmunds near Elon in Amherst County under the supervision of Misses Ethel Eaton and Hazel Pettingell. The one-week experiment was apparently a success, and summer programs were also conducted for a short time on the Y.M.C.A.'s "Treasure Island" on the James River.

Prominent Lynchburg architect Stanhope S. Johnson (who would soon design the organization's new building at 7th and Church Streets) volunteered the use of his cabin and farm on Trent's Ferry Road for the operation of "Camp Mingle" during the summers of 1915 and 1916.¹⁷ Accessibility and convenience were major selling points for the camp, and the Y.W.C.A. brochure boasted that it was a mere twenty minute walk from the end of the Peakland Trolley Line, and that the camp was "open to every girl who cares to come for a vacation, for week-ends, for nights, going back and forth from work each day or for single meals."

As the success of the Lynchburg Y.W.C.A.'s camping program grew, the board likely expressed interest in locating a more permanent location for the summer camp. In May of 1918, a Lynchburg newspaper announced that Mrs. W. G. Suhling had offered her log cabin "near the station of Leftwich" for the new summer camp. Leftwich was the designation for the rail siding and station at the point where the Buffalo Springs Turnpike (SR 130) crossed the Southern Railway line just east of the Suhling property. The article noted that "the furnishing of the cabin, and the natural situation and scenery, makes this an ideal camp, which will probably be open from June 1 to October..." The camp was to be geared towards white girls and young women in grammar and high school as well as those working in sectors that typically employed women at the time, including retail, telecommunications, offices, and the public school system.

The press release that accompanied the article boasted that there was a "clear stream [Fawn Creek] of rippling water flowing through the camp site which will afford wading and bathing at the same time being safe." Other amenities mentioned included a pine forest, good drinking water, and a "tennis court laid out which can be readily placed in good order if it is desired." The announcement continued by noting that there was ample space amongst the trees in which to erect tents placed on wooden foundations.

In early June, it was announced that twenty-five girls from the Craddock-Terry Corporation's Southland shoe factory in Lynchburg would travel to the camp for an afternoon outing via a "large motor truck." The Old Dominion Patriotic League

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also planned to spend the weekend at the camp. Later that month, a large number of the Y.W.C.A.'s Industrial Girls would spend a ten-day period at the camp. The primary activities at this particular camp event included swimming, hiking, campfire programs, and military drill. The tight daily schedule, which ran from 7 o'clock in the morning to 10 o'clock at night, was conducted according to bugle commands. The use of military structure in girls' camps at this time was not accidental; there was a concerted national effort during World War I to increase female patriotism and assist the war effort by gaining greater participation in programs such as the Y.W.C.A.'s Industrial Girls club. In addition, these organizations were, according to art history professor Abigail Van Slyck, "attempting to create a new kind of girl—one who embraced her role as wife and mother, without imposing Victorian standards of gentility (now condemned as overcivilization) on her husband and children."¹⁸

During this time, Hazel Pettingell of Ohio was in charge of the summer camp at Mrs. Suhling's summer retreat property. Born in Ohio in 1889, Hazel attended Agnes Scott College (a liberal arts women's college in Decatur, Georgia) where she chaired the Devotional Committee of the College's Y.W.C.A. Cabinet in 1912. She then returned to her native state, where she served as the General Secretary of the Y.W.C.A. in Newark, Ohio during 1913-14. While in that position, she was the Chief Guardian of the local Camp Fire Girls (now known as Camp Fire USA), a group that was founded in 1910 (two years before the Girl Scouts) with the purpose of "doing for the girls what the Boy Scout movement is designed to do for the boys." In the spring of 1914, Hazel accepted a position as Industrial Secretary for the Lynchburg, Virginia Y.W.C.A. By 1920, she was living in Manhattan and was an employee of the Y.W.C.A. in New York City.¹⁹ As the Newark, Ohio Y.W.C.A. organization operated a summer camp during Pettingell's tenure there, it is not a stretch of the imagination to surmise that she was instrumental in establishing camping activities in Lynchburg.

By July of 1918, the camp had been dubbed "Camp Chummy Suhling," which was a term coined by Mary V. Krise (wife of banker Phillip A. Krise) and the first group of girls spending the weekend at the camp. Over time, the common name of the camp became "Camp Suhling." A set of operating rules for the camp (likely dating to 1918), explain that Mary Leigh Suhling had made the property "an ideal private family camp. There are in the woods and around the buildings many flowering bushes and much shrubbery, including ferns, small trees, and other things, to make the place picturesque and to add to nature some of the ideal things. These should not be disturbed or broken down."

The fees for attending the camp during this period were twenty-five cents per week, five cents for overnight or weekend stays, and five cents for two people for picnics. Campers were expected to bring their own blankets, sheets, and towels. It was noted that "the young women in camp may live in their bloomers and they will also find bathing suits convenient."

Holidays at Camp Suhling were often marked by special events. Over eighty-five campers spent Independence Day 1918 at the "beautiful Suhling bungalow in Amherst," and presented a portrayal of Tennyson's poem, "The Lady of Shalott." The

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girls also became involved with the surrounding community, providing Sunday school entertainment at a nearby Methodist church, as well as being entertained for dinner at nearby *Triple Oaks*, the home of Fannie Long. In August, Y.W.C.A. General Secretary Netta Chase announced that, for the remainder of the summer, "in an effort to keep the camp as well-attended as it has been since the first of the season," Camp Suhling would be available to all young white women of Lynchburg, rather than just Y.W.C.A. members.

Camp Suhling opened for a second season in 1919, and was promoted by a brochure featuring a photograph of smiling girls in front of a military-style canvas tent with the caption, "air, air, everywhere!" The brochure announced that the camp was scheduled to run between June 25th and September 15th, and that train fare from Lynchburg to Leftwich was only twelve cents. Camper fees had increased significantly from the previous year, rising to one dollar per day. The Camp Committee Chairman was Ms. Mary Watts (daughter of hardware dealer R.T. Watts), and the Industrial Secretary was 24-year-old Margaret Leach of Mississippi. Canadian Hazel Stetler arrived on June 16th to serve as the Camp Counselor, and a Mrs. Gage was hired as the housekeeper. Stetler had attended Berea College in Kentucky, and was later referred to as the Camp Director, rather than Counselor.

In 1919, the National Board of the Y.W.C.A. made an \$850.00 appropriation to the Lynchburg branch to help pay for a camp counselor (Stetler) and for camp improvements, including tents, cots, bedding, and the construction of a screened dining room. An undated newspaper article reported that 85 girls had attended the camp so far that summer (41 participated in weekend parties, 8 for Sunday parties, 18 for picnics, and 18 guests). With the addition of a number of tents, the capacity of the camp was increased to 24 beds (the tents augmented sleeping quarters in Mrs. Suhling's cabin called "Rough House").

In June of 1921, Madge Burgard of Greenville, North Carolina arrived to take charge of the camp and relieve Margaret Leach, who was returning to her home of Mount Holly, Mississippi. It appears that Hazel Stetler likely worked at Camp Suhling for just one or two summers before moving on. The 1930 Census indicates that she was the General Secretary of the Shamokin, Pennsylvania Y.W.C.A.²⁰ The camp continued successful operation on the Suhling property, playing host to many individuals as well as groups of girls and young women from organizations including the Firefly Club, Business Women's Club, Ivy Club, Y.W.C.A. Girls' Reserve, and from factories including Jobbers Overall Company, A.C. Barrow & Company, and the Craddock-Terry Corporation.

The sleeping capacity of the camp was again expanded by adding a large tent (likely the equivalent of a modern military "General Purpose Medium" tent). In 1922, the camp opened on June 15th with a week especially geared towards school girls, and the rest of the summer was reserved for young women who were employed. Ms. Burgard was to again serve as director, and the Camp Committee expressed strong interest in having a "man and his wife" stay at the camp for safety

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reasons. It is unclear if this measure was reactionary or preventative, or if it was enacted. It is possible that the camp received unwelcome attention from passers-by on Elon Road, a state primary highway, which was only about 100 yards away from the camp.

In September of 1922, Madge Burgard reported to the Board of Directors that 350 registrations were received for Camp Merry Minglers during the preceding summer, and that each week averaged two supper parties from various factories. She also reported that the Camp Committee expressed the desire to locate a "permanent camp" (likely one that would be owned by the Y.W.C.A., not borrowed) in a "more accessible and better protected location." Indeed, Mrs. Barrow (likely the spouse of industrialist A.C. Barrow) had been appointed head of a subcommittee to search for a new camp location that preceded April. In May, the Board of Directors discussed potential locations for a new camp, including a site formerly occupied by J.R. Millner & Company on Y.M.C.A. (Treasure) Island, which was deemed to be unsatisfactory. The Board committed to publically advertise for a new summer camp location.

In May of 1923, the Lynchburg Y.W.C.A. Board of Directors voted to purchase "Ruthers," the property of Dr. Dunn, in nearby Forest (Ruthers [009-5065] was just outside of Lynchburg in Bedford County. The property is adjacent to Thomas Jefferson's *Poplar Forest* [009-0027]). The first summer session was held at Ruthers in 1923, which must have created an uneasy, or at least unfamiliar, silence on Mary Leigh Suhling's property that season. During the Y.W.C.A. camp period, the property was by no means abandoned by the Suhlings. As a teenager, W. Gerhard Suhling, Jr., for example, hosted weekend sledding parties with guests from Richmond and other locales.²¹

The extent to which the Y.W.C.A. activities left a physical mark on the Suhling property is unclear. In some accounts, multiple cabins are referred to as being present, and in other accounts, the primary building on the property seems to be solely *Rough House*, Mrs. Suhling's cabin or "bungalow." A photograph of *Rough House* taken during the camp period shows a small cabin or hut to the rear of the main cabin. This diminutive building measured approximately eight feet by ten feet and was covered by a low-pitched gable roof. A screened door was located in the eastern gable end, and the upper three-quarters of the walls appear to have been built of horizontally-laid sticks to provide shade and ventilation. While a terra cotta vent can be seen above the roof, the lack of a visible chimney raises the question of whether it served a wood stove or rather was the vent for a privy contained in the building. This building is no longer extant or was incorporated into additions to the rear of the cabin constructed by W.G. Suhling, Jr. circa 1935.

Another photograph of the period, labeled "Y.W.C.A. Camp in Amherst, Mrs. Suhling" depicts three female campers washing dishes on a wrap-around porch that surrounds a small gable-roofed hut that is constructed of small (perhaps 4 or 5 inches in diameter) horizontal logs with no chinking. A building known as the "Play House" was documented in a 1957 insurance survey commissioned by W.G. Suhling, Jr. It was sited on the hillside midway between *Rough House* and

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Hanshill and elements of the building somewhat match the cabin where the girls were photographed washing dishes some forty years earlier. The location and appearance of the “screened dining room” that was funded with a grant from the national Y.W.C.A. organization in 1919 is unknown. It may have been an addition to an existing building, or may have been a simple post and beam shelter enclosed by screen.

Tents were also used at Camp Suhling, and were likely arranged in a military style along a “company street,” which was popular for both boys’ and girls’ camps of the 1910s.²² While building foundations or other structures may be discovered in the future, *Rough House*, the concrete spring box, and the tennis court serve as the remaining vestiges of the Y.W.C.A.’s camping activities on Fawn Creek.

In November of 1923, Johannes, the last surviving Suhling brother, died unexpectedly in New York City, the same day he arrived from Bremen, Germany on the S.S. Muenchen. A frequent international traveler, Johannes was savvy enough to have written a will several years prior. He left half of his considerable estate to his wife Shirley, a number of gifts to various individuals and organizations, and the remainder of his estate went to his sister-in-law Mary Leigh Suhling and her son W. Gerhard Suhling, Jr. (they were to receive their shares when Gerhard turned 30 years old in 1928).²³

In December of 1924, fire destroyed the American Foursquare-style house that served as the center of the new Camp Ruthers, and by February of 1925, it was reported that the Lynchburg architectural firm of Clark & Crowe (Pendleton Clark and Walter Crowe) were designing a new building for the camp *pro bono*. The design of the lodge was a significant departure from other known Clark & Crowe creations of the period. The overwhelming majority of the firm’s work consisted of Colonial Revival residential and institutional buildings. A survey of over 300 extant Clark & Crowe plan sets confirms that styles other than Colonial Revival were in the extreme minority. However, these rare examples are generally exquisite and elegant edifices, including the Normanesque barn complex at Mount San Angelo in Amherst County (005-0027). Instead, the new Camp Ruthers Lodge (009-5065) was “of logs, designed to emphasize the rambling, picturesque qualities of the old mountain cabins.” Indeed, the lodge was a classic Rustic Revival building, complete with round log construction, a massive field stone chimney, and a low hipped roof with deeply overhanging eaves. Built by local contractor A.E. Weeks, the lodge was complete by mid-June, just in time for the next camp season.

In February of 1925, the same month that Clark & Crowe was engaged in designing the new lodge at Camp Ruthers, Mary Leigh Suhling commissioned the firm to design a new, larger retreat house on her Amherst County land. Suhling does not appear to have been directly involved with the Y.W.C.A., and thus, was not likely to have been involved with their discussions regarding the lodge at Ruthers, but it is clear that the timing of her commission for the design was not merely coincidental. Mary Leigh Suhling had a number of friends and associates who were on, or had served on, the Y.W.C.A. Board, including Mrs. John Cralle Long and Mrs. W.C. Ivey, and she may have connected with the firm through them.

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Mary Leigh Suhling was well-traveled, having visited her late husband's homeland of Germany several times along with other parts of the world including Japan. Mary was fascinated by the alpine architecture of Germany, and wanted to incorporate some of the features of those buildings into her new retreat home. One of these design elements was the wooden window sash that slid horizontally into pockets within the exterior walls as are found in chalets throughout the Alps as well as rustic camps in the United States, including Camp Pine Knot on Raquette Lake in New York State.²⁴

The new retreat house, which would be called *Hanshill* (in honor of Johannes "Hans" Suhling, who gave the land to Mary more than a decade earlier), was somewhat unusual when compared to other examples of rustic architecture in the region. It has already been established that Clark & Crowe's design for the lodge at Camp Ruthers was a significant deviation from their normal style, so certainly, the design for *Hanshill* took them a step further into seemingly uncharted territory. The entire exterior and interior (even the ceilings) of the camp were clad in rough-cut, grey-stained, vertical board and batten siding. While Albert Good noted in 1938 that this exterior treatment was "typical of a number of park cabin groups in the Old Dominion," it is definitely in the minority when compared to other area rustic houses and camps of the period.²⁵ A recent architectural survey of Amherst County only revealed about a half dozen extant buildings of the genre in the county, all of which are built with more traditional horizontal round logs, save rustic Craftsman style *Ardeevin Lodge* (005-5001), less than a mile to the southeast of *Hanshill*, which is clad in vertical siding with both vertical and horizontal battens.²⁶ The largest concentration of rustic architecture in the area can be found at Timberlake on the southwest edge of Lynchburg, which features approximately thirteen weekend houses of the period and style, all of which exhibit round log construction.

Construction of *Hanshill* was well underway in July of 1925, when Lynchburg carpenter and shoe factory employee Clyde Adrian Merkey (1892-1959) signed and dated the reverse of a siding board, which was discovered during the building's rehabilitation in March of 2011. In addition to Merkey, employees of the Suhling & Company tobacco factory were also paid to help construct the house and outbuildings. Amherst County's Real Estate Tax records for 1926 indicate that buildings valued at \$1,000.00 had been added to the tract that contained *Hanshill* (for comparison, "Rough House" was valued at a mere \$130.00).²⁷

The outbuildings, including the Servants Quarters, were likely built after the main house. A page from the June 25, 1927 *Saturday Evening Post* was discovered in the walls of the Servants Quarter building during a recent renovation. Interestingly, advertisements on this page were geared specifically towards families like the Suhlings. The makers of Johnston's Chocolates touted that the product was appropriate for "Town or Country in smartest gathering places of smartest America," and named popular upper-class resort towns of the day, including Newport, Sag Harbor, Southampton, and Asheville. An ad by the Ocean Bathing Suit Company encouraged readers to write for their "What to Wear" catalogue, which would "show you the correct styles for beach, pool, and camp."

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A photograph likely taken just after the house was constructed shows that *Hanshill* appears today almost exactly as it did in the late 1920s. The reverse of the photo contains a note written by Mary Leigh Suhling, which says, "This is '*Hanshill*,' the little place in the country—isn't it sweet?" At this point is it probably appropriate to opine of the significance of a woman (Mary Suhling) owning the property and commissioning the design and construction of *Hanshill*. For some time, Johannes Suhling had felt a connection to his brother's family. While Hans was married (in 1913, he wed Shirley Torrey [*nee* Moore] [1878-1945], daughter of tobacconist Israel Moore and Cornelia Wise), he and Shirley never had children, and Hans assumed a degree of responsibility for W. Gerhard Suhling, Jr. after his father's death in 1915. In a 1918 letter to Hans, the younger Gerhard thanked his uncle for making it possible that, "I can go wherever is best and not have to worry about where the money is to come from."

While there is no doubt that Mary Leigh Suhling was an empowered, affluent woman of Lynchburg society, her commissioning of the design and construction of *Hanshill* had more to do with necessity than with a desire to make a statement for gender equality. With the passing of Gerhard, Christopher, and Johannes, W. Gerhard Suhling, Jr. was left the only Suhling male in the area, but was likely preoccupied with a new family (he married Tina Cleveland Colhoun in 1920, and by 1925, had two children with another on the way) and the business of Suhling & Company. Three years later, in 1928, Hans' widow Shirley would follow the lead of her sister-in-law by commissioning Clark & Crowe to design alterations to a rental property on Rivermont Avenue. In 1947, Gerhard Suhling, Jr. would hire Pendleton Clark to design an addition to his newly-acquired Edgehill (005-0005) in Amherst County.²⁸ The preceding statement is not intended, however, to minimize the importance and significance of Mary Leigh and Shirley Suhling commissioning designs by the male-dominated architectural firms of Lynchburg. A survey of 746 extant plan sets drawn by Lynchburg architects from 1895 through 1940 indicates that only 36 (just under 5 percent) of the commissions during the period were originated by women.

In the spring of 1929, Mary Suhling made her third and final acquisition of land for the *Hanshill* property by purchasing from neighbor S.L. Loving, Jr. and his wife Massie 26.25 acres on the opposite (west) side of Fawn Creek from *Hanshill*. The purchase price of \$1,680.00 was likely funded by part of Hans' bequest to Mary, which would have been released to her following W. Gerhard, Jr.'s 30th birthday the preceding autumn.²⁹

Over the years, the Suhling Family would spend summers at *Hanshill*, playing tennis, swimming and wading in Fawn and Harris Creeks, and exploring the countryside. In the early 1930s, Mary Suhling's brother, William Kinckle Williams, would marry his fiance Annis at Hanshill. Attendees recall that mountain laurel was used as decoration, and that "Big Bill" and Annis spent their wedding night at nearby *Ardeevin Lodge* (built by tobacconist William King circa 1913³⁰. King was a close associate of the Suhlings, and served as a pall-bearer in W.G. Suhling's 1915 funeral). The property even saw life in the winter, when day-trips for sledding would be completed by a warm, hearty meal of Hungarian goulash prepared by the

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household staff, which would have attended the party. These attendants, all African Americans, who likely resided in the servants quarters during the summers, included Herbert (a driver), and Frances (a cook) (surnames unknown). Others may have included Mary Dabney, Mary Suhling's 27-year-old maid, and two employees of Shirley Suhling: 39-year-old cook Rebecca Mitchell and 18-year-old maid Margaret Brown (all were African-Americans.)³¹

Mary Leigh Suhling died in April of 1939 at the age of 65, leaving her entire estate to her son, W. Gerhard Suhling, Jr. The next year, Gerhard added over 250 acres to the family's property at Leftwich by purchasing the *Triple Oaks* property from Fannie Perry Long, widow of John Cralle Long.³² Gerhard had likely become involved in the operation of *Hanshill* prior to the death of his mother, as he hired T. A. Horsley to serve as the caretaker for the property circa 1935. At that time, he expanded "Rough House," the log cabin that served as the center of the Y.W.C.A. camp, with several rooms to the rear so that the house could accommodate Horsley and his family. The family initially used the concrete spring box built by the Y.W.C.A. for drinking water, and eventually began drawing water from the spring that was used by *Hanshill*. "Rough House" was occupied by the Horsley Family until about 1960, when they moved to another cabin closer to the center of the *Triple Oaks* property.³³

Gerhard's decision to have someone take care of the property was wise, as he would soon become deeply involved in the Second World War. Initially, he was executive officer of the University of Virginia Evacuation Hospital No. 8, and then served overseas with the OSS (Office of Strategic Services [predecessor to the Central Intelligence Agency]). As an OSS officer, Suhling commanded the agency's operations in Italy.³⁴ In 1947, Suhling purchased *Edgehill* (005-0005) at Walker's Ford in Amherst County and resided there for a number of years. His second wife, Mary Stamps, died in 1952, and Gerhard died at his then home at Cobbs Creek in Mathews County, Virginia in 1973. His will devised his farm of 325 acres, "situated on Elon Road" to his son Edward C. Suhling (1924-2010). In 1984, Edward Suhling sold the western 239 acres of the property to enable the development of the Hans Hill Subdivision. In 2003, Edward gave his children the remaining land surrounding Mary Leigh Suhling's summer residence, and they immediately placed the property into an entity known as *Hanshill* Farm, LLP. The family partnership conveyed *Hanshill* to Leigh Gregory Suhling Barth and her husband Bradley James Barth in March of 2011. The Barths plan to convert the house to serve as their year-round residence.

The *Hanshill* house is significant in that it served solely as the summer home of the Suhling Family for more than 85 years without any significant modifications. It retains a high degree of architectural integrity, and the surrounding property played a significant role in the development of the Lynchburg Y.W.C.A.'s outdoor leadership development program for white girls and young women in the early 20th century.

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The 87.69 acre property consists of three Amherst County parcels: 146-A-54, 146-A-55, and 999-168. The property is bounded on the north and east by SR 130 (Elon Road) and the right-of-way of the Norfolk Southern Railroad, on the south by Harris Creek and several parcels of the Whispering Oaks Subdivision, and on the west by Fawn Creek and several parcels of the Hans Hill Subdivision.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries of the property represent the remnants of the three parcels that were acquired by Mary Leigh Suhling between 1913 and 1929 in order to create the *Hanshill* property. The property also contains approximately 25 acres of the 252 acre *Triple Oaks* property acquired by W. Gerhard Suhling, Jr. from Fannie Long in 1940. *Hanshill* is centrally located within the property and is visually buffered from residential development that has occurred in the general area.

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Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: *Hanshill*
City or Vicinity: Madison Heights Vicinity
County: Amherst State: Virginia
Photographer: W. Scott Smith
Date Photographed: November 2010, January 2011

View: Façade (west elevation)

VA_Amherst County_Hanshill_0001.tif

View: Garage/Quarters (North & West Elevations)

VA_Amherst County_Hanshill_0011.tif

View: Rear (east) Elevation

VA_Amherst County_Hanshill_0002.tif

View: Tennis Court Shelter (North & West Elevations)

VA_Amherst County_Hanshill_0012.tif

View: South and west elevations

VA_Amherst County_Hanshill_0003.tif

View: Tennis Court

VA_Amherst County_Hanshill_0013.tif

View: South Elevation

VA_Amherst County_Hanshill_0004.tif

View: Rough House (East Elevation)

VA_Amherst County_Hanshill_0014.tif

View: Exterior Window & Shutter Detail

VA_Amherst County_Hanshill_0005.tif

View: Rough House (North & West Elevations)

VA_Amherst County_Hanshill_0015.tif

View: Interior Stair Hall

VA_Amherst County_Hanshill_0006.tif

View: Rough House (West & South Elevations)

VA_Amherst County_Hanshill_0016.tif

View: Interior Sleeping Porch (2nd Floor)

VA_Amherst County_Hanshill_0007.tif

View: Corn Crib (North & East Elevations)

VA_Amherst County_Hanshill_0017.tif

View: Interior Door Hinge Detail

VA_Amherst County_Hanshill_0008.tif

View: Y.W.C.A. Springbox

VA_Amherst County_Hanshill_0018.tif

View: Interior Living Room (1st Floor)

VA_Amherst County_Hanshill_0009.tif

View: Servants Quarters (North & East Elevations)

VA_Amherst County_Hanshill_0010.tif

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County and State Amherst County, Virginia

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ENDNOTES (Sections 7 and 8)

- ¹ Comstock, William Phillips. "Bungalows, camps, and mountain houses." New York: Skyhorse Publishing, Inc., 2007 (originally published 1908). pp. 120, 124, 135, 134.
- ² Clark, Pendleton S. and Walter R. Crowe. "Summer Residence for Mrs. W.G. Suhling, Amherst County, VA. Commission No. 210." February 1925 (original blueprints and specification book in possession of Leigh Gregory Suhling Barth, Lynchburg, Virginia). March 25, 1925 Addendum to Specifications.
- ³ Comstock, William Phillips. "Bungalows, camps, and mountain houses." New York: Skyhorse Publishing, Inc., 2007 (originally published 1908). pp. 114, 127.
- ⁴ Deed Book 66, page 448. 12/28/1911. G.B. & Alice Carpenter to Johannes Suhling. Amherst County Clerk of Court, Amherst, Virginia.
- ⁵ Year: 1885; Arrival: New York, United States; Microfilm Serial: M237; Microfilm Roll: M237_491; Line: 56; List Number: 1379; Ancestry.com. *New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.
- ⁶ October 7, 1896 "Lynchburg News"
- ⁷ Averett, Lewis Hobgood and Phillip Wayne Rhodes. "Harry Alberti's Photo Album" *Lynch's Ferry: A Journal of Local History* Fall/Winter 2004/2005, pp. 24-29. Alberti Album images accessed online at www.lynchburghistory.com
- ⁸ It is interesting that Hans gave this property directly to Mary Leigh, his sister in law, without any mention of her husband or son in the deed. The reason for this is unknown at this time. Deed Book 70, page 421. 12/24/1913. Johannes & Shirley Suhling to Mary Leigh Suhling. Deed Book 70, page 303. 10/24/1913. Johannes & Shirley Suhling to Hermann Schmid [sic]. Amherst County Clerk of Court, Amherst, Virginia. 1910 United States Census, Population Schedule, Elon District, Amherst County, Virginia.
- ⁹ Tomlin, Gene W. "A History of the YMCA in Central Virginia." Lynchburg, Virginia: Warwick House Publishers, 2006. Page 91.
- ¹⁰ Deed Book 74, page 510. 5/31/1916. Johannes & Shirley Suhling to Mary Leigh Suhling.
- ¹¹ See the National Register nomination for the Young Women's Christian Association in Richmond for an excellent history of the YWCA in that city, including a discussion of Richmond's own Phyllis Wheatley Branch for African-American women. Brinson, Elizabeth S., and H. Christopher Slusher. "Young Women's Christian Association National Register of Historic Places Nomination." 1983.
- ¹² Hagen, Katrina. "From 'Industrial Girls' to 'Career Girls': Postwar Shifts in Programs for Wage-Earning Women in the Portland YWCA." *Journal of Women's History*. Volume 15, Number 3, Autumn 2003
- ¹³ Smith, W. Scott & Emmett Lifsey, AIA. "Kemper Street Industrial Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination." Lynchburg, Virginia: The Antiquaries, LC & CJMW Architects, PC. 2008.
- ¹⁴ Scruggs, Philip Lightfoot. "The History of Lynchburg, Virginia: 1786-1946". Lynchburg, Virginia: J.P. Bell Company, Inc. 1946. page 200.
- ¹⁵ Elson, James M. "Lynchburg, Virginia: The First Two Hundred Years." Lynchburg, Virginia: Warwick House Publishers, 2004. page 288.
- ¹⁶ Hagen, Katrina. "From 'Industrial Girls' to 'Career Girls': Postwar Shifts in Programs for Wage-Earning Women in the Portland YWCA." *Journal of Women's History*. Volume 15, Number 3, Autumn 2003
- ¹⁷ Scrapbook, Camp Mingle Brochure (1916). Archives, YWCA of Central Virginia.
- ¹⁸ Van Slyck, Abigail A. "A Manufactured Wilderness: Summer Camps and the Shaping of American Youth, 1890-1960." Minneapolis: University of Minneapolis Press, 2006. pp 14-21.
- ¹⁹ Ancestry.com. *The Newark Advocate (Newark, Ohio)* [database on-line]. May 15, 1913, June 23, 1913, April 25, 1914, May 2, 1914. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006. Pettingell, John Mason,. *A Pettingell genealogy: notes concerning those of the name*. Boston: unknown, 1906. 1920 United States Census, Population Schedule, Manhattan, New York, New York.
- ²⁰ 1930 United States Census, Population Schedule, Shamokin, Northumberland, Pennsylvania
- ²¹ Barth, Leigh Gregory Suhling. Oral interview with Eleanor Cleveland Suhling Dillard (daughter of W. Gerhard Suhling, Jr.), January 2011.
- ²² Van Slyck, Abigail A. "A Manufactured Wilderness: Summer Camps and the Shaping of American Youth, 1890-1960." Minneapolis: University of Minneapolis Press, 2006. pp 14-21.
- ²³ Will Book K, page 474. Lynchburg City Clerk of Circuit Court, Lynchburg, Virginia.
- ²⁴ Smith, W. Scott. Oral interview with Leigh Gregory Suhling Barth (great granddaughter of Mary Leigh Suhling), January 2011. Krattinger, William E. "Camp Pine Knot National Historic Landmark Nomination." Waterford, New York: New York State Office of Historic Preservation. October 2002.
- ²⁵ Good, Albert H. "Patterns from the Golden Age of Rustic Design: Park and Recreation Structures from the 1930s." Lanham, Maryland: Roberts Rinehart Publishers, 2003 (originally published 1938). pp 35, 132 (Volume III).

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²⁶ Pezzoni, J. Daniel. "Amherst County Historic Resources Survey Report." Lynchburg, Virginia: HistoryTech, LLC (in partnership with Landmark Preservation Associates). 2010. p. 26. Note: The count of Amherst County Rustic Revival buildings mentioned in this nomination does not take into account buildings and structures associated with the Blue Ridge Parkway Historic District (080-5161).

²⁷ 1926 Real Estate (Land) Tax Records, Amherst County Clerk of Court, Amherst, Virginia.

²⁸ Smith, W. Scott. Oral interview with Leigh Gregory Suhling Barth (great granddaughter of Mary Leigh Suhling), January 2011. Architectural Archives, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, Virginia (LAA 1382, F-4, D-4) (LAA 1381, F-4, D-4).

²⁹ Deed Book 98, page 161. 4/13/1929. S.L. Loving, Jr. & Massie Loving to Mary Leigh Suhling. Amherst County Clerk of Court, Amherst, Virginia.

³⁰ Linebaugh, Doinald W. and Willie Graham. "A Phase II Architectural Evaluation of the Ardeevin Lodge and Cox-Mantiply Farm Complex, Amherst County, Virginia." Williamsburg, Virginia: William & Mary Archaeological Project Center, 1990. Page 4.

³¹ 1930 United States Census, Population Schedule, City of Lynchburg, Virginia. Barth, Leigh Gregory Suhling. Oral interview with Eleanor Cleveland Suhling Dillard (daughter of W. Gerhard Suhling, Jr.), March 2011

³² Deed Book 116, page 192. 7/8/1940. Fannie Perry Long to W.G. Suhling, Jr. Amherst County Clerk of Court, Amherst, Virginia.

³³ Smith, W. Scott. Oral interview with T.A. "Skip" Horsley, Jr. February 2011.

³⁴ "A Guide to the Papers of William Gerhard Suhling II" <http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaead/published/uva-sc/viu01354.document>

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- FIGURE 2.** c. 1918-1922 photograph depicting two Y.W.C.A. campers at the spring box
- FIGURE 3.** c. 1918-1922 photograph depicting three Y.W.C.A. campers washing dishes on the screened porch of an unknown building. The reverse of the photos is labeled, "Y.W.C.A. Camp in Amherst, Mrs. Suhling"
- FIGURE 4.** c. 1926 photograph depicting an unknown female subject in front of the recently-completed *Hanshill*. The reverse is labeled, "This is 'Hanshill', the little place in the country -- isn't it sweet?"

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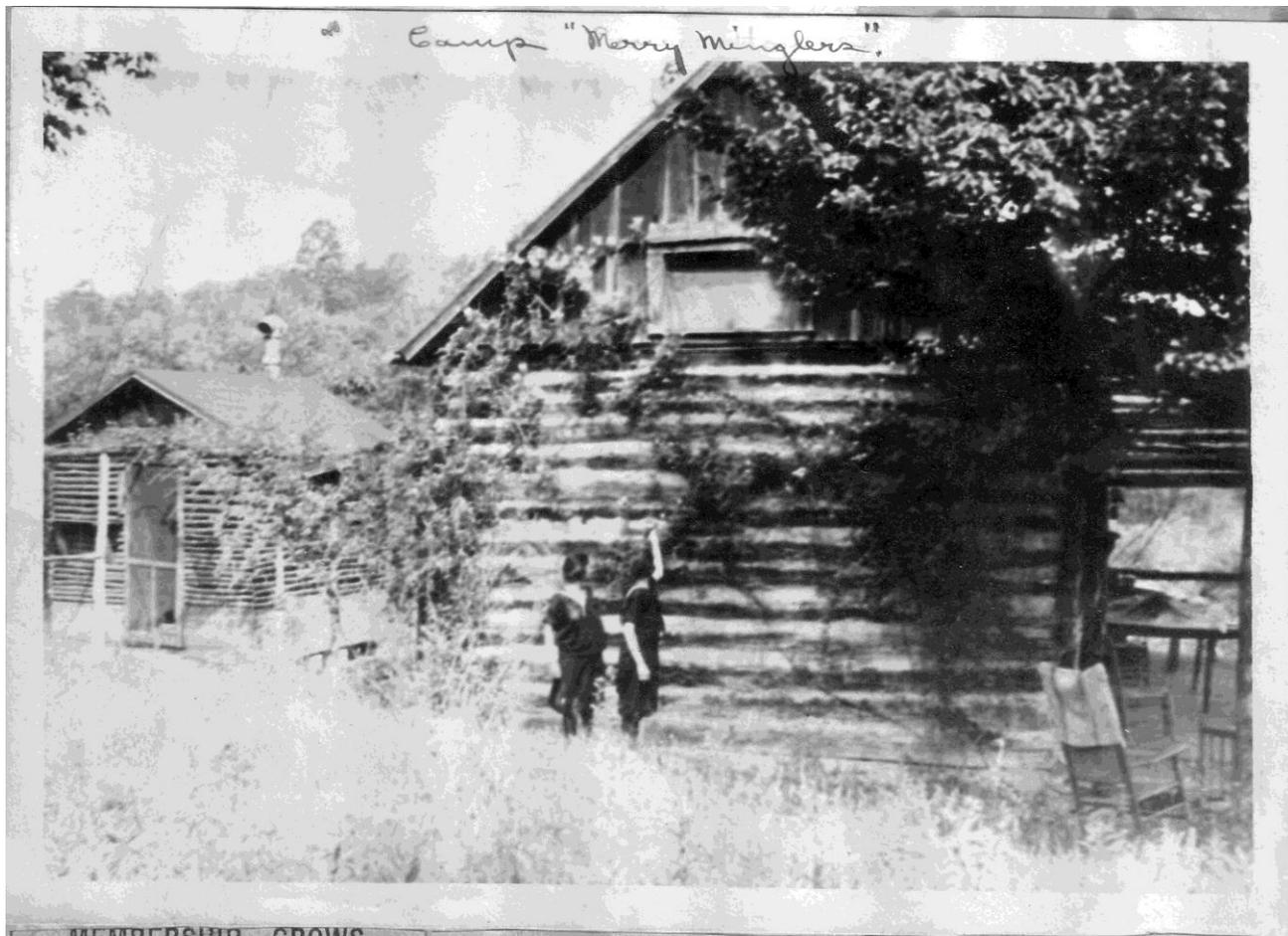


FIGURE 1. c. 1918-1922 photograph labeled "Camp Merry Minglers" showing two Y.W.C.A. campers in front of the east elevation of *Rough House* (Repository: Y.W.C.A. of Central Virginia Archives, Lynchburg, VA)

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FIGURE 2. (left)

c. 1918-1922 photograph depicting two Y.W.C.A. campers at the spring box (Repository: Y.W.C.A. of Central Virginia Archives, Lynchburg, VA)

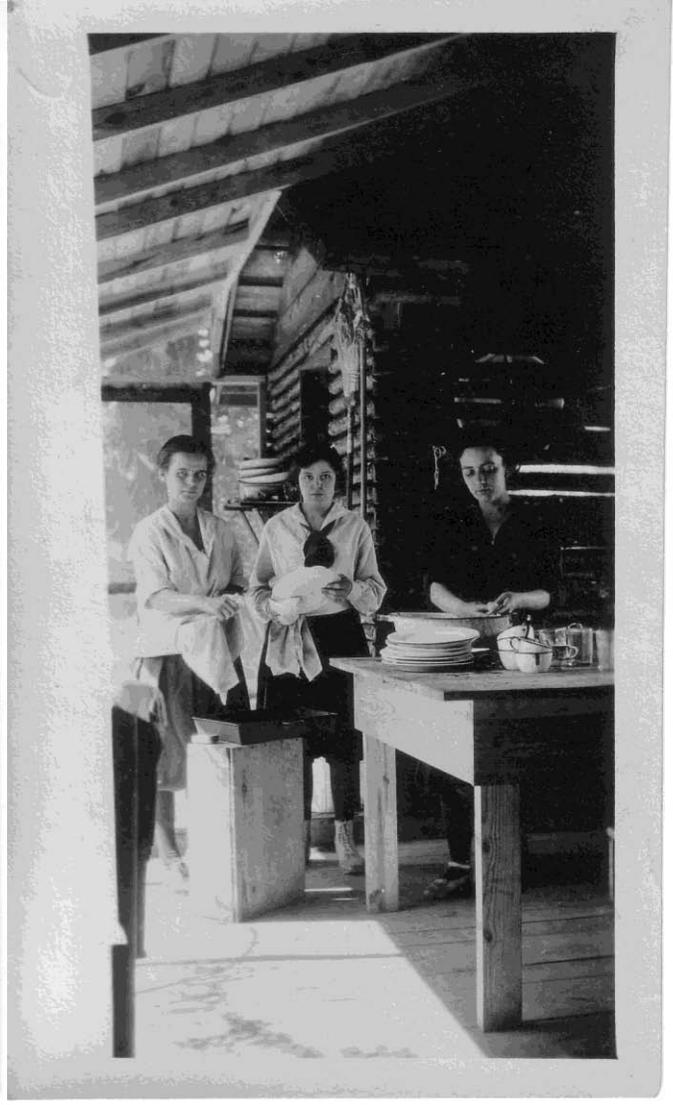


FIGURE 3. (right)

c. 1918-1922 photograph depicting three Y.W.C.A. campers washing dishes on the screened porch of an unknown building. The reverse of the photos is labeled, "Y.W.C.A. Camp in Amherst, Mrs. Suhling" (Repository: Y.W.C.A. of Central Virginia Archives, Lynchburg, VA)

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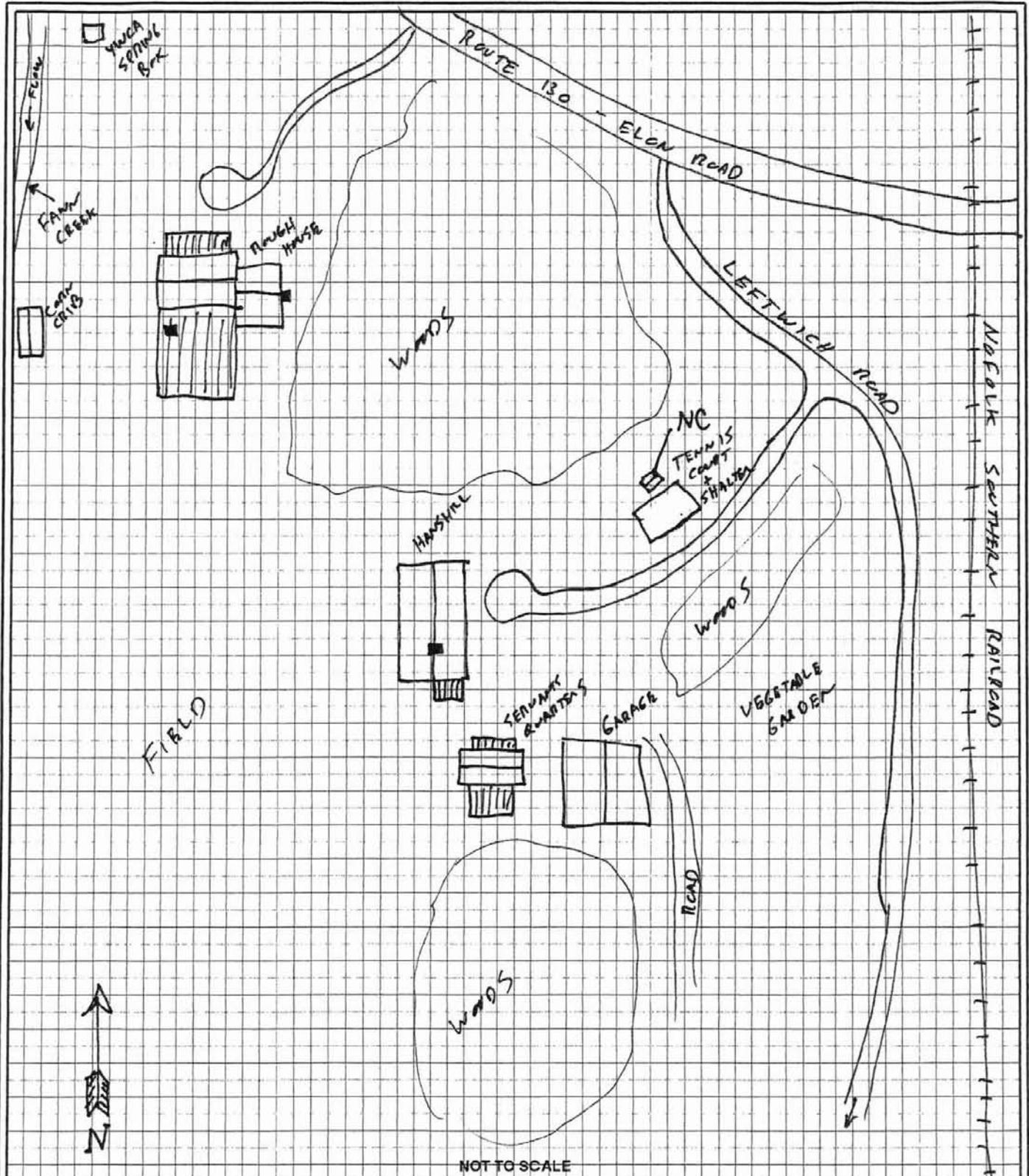
County and State Amherst County, Virginia

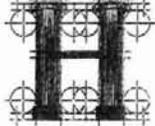
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FIGURE 4. c. 1926 photograph depicting an unknown female subject in front of the recently-completed *Hanshill*. The reverse is labeled, "This is 'Hanshill', the little place in the country -- isn't it sweet?" (Repository: Leigh Gregory Suhling Barth, Lynchburg, VA)

FIGURE 5. Site Plan of Hanshill property, 2011. Not to scale.




HistoryTech
 The Future of History
 PO Box 75
 Lynchburg, VA 24505

Hanshill
 142 Leftwich Road, Madison Heights
 Amherst County, VA Lynchburg Quadrangle
 DHR# 005-5329

FIGURE NUMBER:
5 of 5

DRAWN BY: W.S. Smith	DATE: March 2011	DHR FILE NUMBER: 005-5329
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LYNCHBURG QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NW/4 LYNCHBURG 15' QUADRANGLE
CHARLOTTESVILLE 55 MI 79°07'30"
AMHERST 8 MI

5159 11 SE
(AMHERST)

17N) 61 48' 00" 22 MI
62 10' 63 1 810 000 FEET 64
37° 30'



HANSHILL
MADISON HEIGHTS, VA
AMHERST COUNTY
VDNR #005-5329

420 000 LYNCHBURG GUND
FEET NAO 1927

- UTMS
- 7S 0663235
4149066
 - 8S 0663506
4148538
 - 9S 0663043
4148148
 - 0S 0662547
4148569

-WSB 2MMH
2/2/11

0.3 MI. TO U.S. 29
4148
27'30"
4147
4146
4145
(KELLY)
5159 11 NE

United States Department of the Interior
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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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Hanshill
other names/site number Rough House, Camp Suhling, Camp Merry Minglers, VDHR No. 005-5329

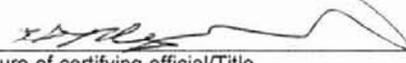
2. Location

street & number 142 Leftwich Road

N/A
X

 not for publication
city or town Madison Heights vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Amherst code 009 zip code 24572

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
___ national ___ statewide X local
 _____
Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Hanshill

other names/site number Rough House, Camp Suhling, Camp Merry Minglers, VDHR No. 005-5329

2. Location

street & number 142 Leftwich Road

N/A	not for publication
X	vicinity

city or town Madison Heights

state Virginia code VA county Amherst code 009 zip code 24572

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 ___ national statewide X local

[Signature] _____
 Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
 State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

 Signature of commenting official _____ Date

 Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register _____ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register _____ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

 Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action