

VLR- 9/17/97

NRHP- 12/12/97

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name **John D. Ballard House**  
other names/site number **Ballard-Worsham House (preferred); DHR file no. 141-14**

### 2. Location

street & number **525 Longwood Avenue** N/A not for publication  
city or town **Bedford** \_\_\_ vicinity  
state **Virginia** code **VA** county **Bedford (city)** code **515** zip code **24523**

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide  locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

10/20/97  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet.	_____ Signature of the Keeper	_____ Date of Action
___ determined eligible for the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet.	_____ Signature of the Keeper	_____ Date of Action
___ determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____ Signature of the Keeper	_____ Date of Action
___ removed from the National Register.	_____ Signature of the Keeper	_____ Date of Action
___ 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	
2	2	buildings
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	sites
<input type="radio"/>	1	structures
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	objects
2	3	Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Bedford Historic District (DHR file no. 141-73)

2

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

*Category*  
DOMESTIC  
DOMESTIC

*Subcategory*  
single dwelling  
secondary structure

*Category*  
DOMESTIC  
DOMESTIC  
RECREATION/CULTURE

*Subcategory*  
single dwelling  
secondary structure  
sports facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

foundation	concrete
walls	brick
	wood
roof	terra cotta
other	wood
	marble
	vinyl

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past fifty years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

**ARCHITECTURE**

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

**Period of Significance**

**1915**

**Significant Dates**

**1915**

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

**N/A**

**Architect/Builder**

**Johnson, Stanhope S.  
(McLaughlin & Johnson)**

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

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

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository:  
**Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg**

**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property**            **1.181 acres****UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	631080	4133330	3		
2				4		

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title	<b>Leslie A. Giles and J. Daniel Pezzoni, Architectural Historians</b>		
organization	<b>Landmark Preservation Associates</b>	date	<b>July 24, 1997</b>
street & number	<b>PO Box 7825</b>	telephone	<b>(540) 366-0787</b>
city or town	<b>Roanoke</b> state <b>VA</b>	zip code	<b>24019-0825</b>

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****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.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name	<b>Kathleen Bonnie Worsham</b>		
street & number	<b>525 Longwood Avenue</b>	telephone	<b>(540) 586-9493</b>
city or town	<b>Bedford</b>	state	<b>VA</b> zip code <b>24523</b>

**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. 470 et seq.).**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Ballard-Worsham House  
Bedford, Va.

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## DESCRIPTION

### *Summary*

Located in Bedford, Virginia, at 525 Longwood Avenue, the Ballard-Worsham House is an imposing brick dwelling in the Colonial Revival style, situated on one of the city's most prestigious residential streets. The house, a 1915 design of Lynchburg architect Stanhope S. Johnson, occupies a residential lot of over one acre at the northwest corner of Longwood and Westview avenues. The prominent site, slightly elevated above the street level, features an expansive front lawn, boxwoods lining a poured concrete front walk, several mature deciduous and evergreen trees, and distant views of the Blue Ridge Mountains, especially the reknowned Peaks of Otter. One historic outbuilding, a nineteenth-century meat house associated with a previous dwelling, is located at the property's northeast corner. Modern outbuildings and structures on the grounds include a three-bay brick-veneered garage/workshop, a classically designed garden pavilion, and a small rectangular pool.

### *Inventory*

1. House (1915, 1991). Contributing building.
2. Meat house/tool shed (19th c.). Contributing building.
3. Garage/workshop (1991). Noncontributing building.
4. Pavilion (1996-1997). Noncontributing building.
5. Pool (1996). Noncontributing structure.

### *House: Exterior*

The Ballard-Worsham House is a two-story brick dwelling designed in a freely interpreted version of the Colonial Revival style with Georgian overtones and Spanish Mission accents. The dominant, symmetrical central block, facing south on Longwood Avenue, is three bays wide focused on a centered entry. Three tall interior end brick chimneys, along with a steep deck-on-hip roof covered in terra cotta Spanish roofing tiles, create a vertical emphasis in tension with the house's overall horizontality as expressed by wide overhanging eaves and a tripartite form. All brickwork is laid in stretcher bond, and a plain wooden frieze defines the junction of roof and wall. On the first floor level, door and window openings invariably incorporate eared architrave surrounds. Windows throughout the house retain louvered and paneled shutters hung on Lull and Porter blind hinges.

The formal front facade is enlivened by segmentally arched windows with marble lintels and twelve-

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## Description (continued)

over-one sash. The central entrance is similarly detailed and incorporates an oversized six-panel door with a multi-pane transom and operable six-over-one sidelights. A one-story front portico, with grouped Doric columns, paneled pilasters, a triglyph-and-patera frieze, and a geometric balustrade with paneled end piers, shelters and draws attention to the main entry. A wraparound terrace, paved with bluestone, with paneled wooden piers and a simple balustrade, links the front entry to flanking one-story side porches. The second story features an engaged central sleeping porch with multi-pane casements, framed by an eared surround. Original wooden flower boxes supported by ornamental brackets adorn the other two windows on the second story. A pair of hipped dormers with six-over-one sash light the attic level on this side.

The house's west elevation, facing Westview Avenue, features two double-leaf French doors and a twelve-over-one window sheltered below the roof of a hip-roofed *porte-cochere*. Fluted Doric columns, matching those of the front portico, support the *porte-cochere* and shelter stairs that lead from ground level to the first-story terrace. Near the northwest corner of the house, an original plate glass picture window provides an unobstructed view of the Peaks of Otter. A large bay window on the adjacent north elevation frames a similar scene. The north elevation is dominated by a two-story ell with a shallow hipped roof. Eight pair of multi-pane casement windows ventilate the ell's second-story sleeping porch; a small balcony, supported by wooden brackets, externally links the northwest corner bedroom to the sleeping porch. At the northeast corner of the ell, a first-story engaged porch with brick piers and a simple balustrade provide a service entrance to the kitchen. A shed dormer pierces the hipped roof plane on this side of the main part of the house, and a small one-story projection fills the northeastern re-entrant corner between the main block and the ell. The building's east side has a two-story, hip-roofed bay that also projects beyond the main block of the house, and a one-story porch, matching the *porte-cochere* on the opposite side of the house, that shelters a single-leaf door linking the house and side yard.

*House: Interior*

The interior of the Ballard-Worsham House features two main living levels, plus a full-height basement and attic. Finishes throughout the house are of plaster on wooden lath or plaster on brick, excepting the basement level, where exposed poured concrete has been painted. White oak strip flooring surfaces the principal first and second floor rooms and stair landings, while pine is used for utilitarian spaces. According to the architect's specifications, mantels throughout the house were to be provided by the Ballards; these exhibit a wide range of styles, and may have been salvaged from other houses or obtained from mail-order sources. Original woodwork in the house includes the

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## Description (continued)

baseboards, chair rails, door and window surrounds, transoms, sliding pocket doors, and other items as noted below. During the 1991 restoration of the house, the Worshams installed crown moldings, ceiling medallions, and crystal chandelier fixtures in the building's principal first floor rooms.

The first floor plan has a wide central reception hall and rear stairhall flanked by two rooms on each side. An unfluted Doric column screen (decoratively painted in the 1990s to resemble polished marble) marks the opening between the entry hall and the adjoining library. The library fireplace features a tripartite Federal-style mantelpiece with gougework, beading, paired colonettes and a convex-oval central plaque. Two pair of French doors with operable transoms flank the room's fireplace and open onto the adjacent terrace. Across the entry hall from the library, a pair of tall sliding pocket doors screens the music room, which also features a Federal-style mantelpiece with reeded panels, pilasters, and gougework below a stacked-molding mantelshelf. A double-leaf French door with transom is centered on the room's north wall. The stairhall is dominated by a grand open-well staircase that ascends three levels. Attenuated, closely spaced (four per tread) turned balusters, square newels, and curved handrails define the stairwell and such unusual details as the apsidal projection on the first floor landing (perhaps meant to hold a plant stand?). The dining room, just west of the staircase, is the largest ground-level room; it communicates with the adjoining library via a pair of large sliding pocket doors, and to the stairhall and kitchen through single-leaf doors. Dominant features in the room are the bow window and window seat on the north wall and the picture window on the west wall, which affords views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Across the stairhall from the dining room is a first-floor bedroom (now used as the family room) with an eared fireplace surround and bracketed mantelshelf. A partition wall, defining a transverse passage from the stairhall to the east porch, was removed in 1991 to enlarge the space. A small modernized bathroom is located on the north side of the family room, in a projecting bay that links to the rear ell. A passageway through a former storage pantry leads from the family room into the kitchen ell. The original narrow servants' stair remains intact between the family room and the main stair. In the ell behind the main stair, the modernized kitchen (occupying space that historically accommodated both the original kitchen and a large butler's pantry) retains original doors and windows.

The second floor employs a modified center-hall, double-pile plan, with four bedrooms, two full baths with their original fittings, and front and rear sleeping porches. Several original ceiling light fixtures, rewired and moved from their first-floor locations, are located in the hallway and bedrooms of this level. Doorways retain operable transoms, original hardware, and simple architrave-like surrounds; the doorway to the front sleeping porch features a double-leaf French door with crackle-glazed panes. Only the southwest corner room has a fireplace; of an ornate Rococo style, the

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**Description (continued)**

painted wooden mantel and mirrored overmantel feature carved floral and shell motifs. The two bathrooms--each situated between and accessed by two bedrooms--retain original hexagon mosaic tile floors and white tile wainscoting, built-in mirrored medicine cabinets, light fixtures, plumbing fixtures, and nickel-plated solid brass hardware and accessories. Small closets fit into spaces between bedrooms on each side of the hall. The rear sleeping porch, now used as an office and music room, remains unpartitioned, and includes along its south wall a row of low crackle-glazed windows that help light the adjacent stairwell.

The attic, which has not been modernized and is presently being used as a storage area, is a large open space lit by two south-facing dormers and one interior north-facing window that borrows light from the dormer-lit stairwell. Small original closets along the perimeters of the room provide closed storage spaces and access to mechanical areas. A stair leads from the kitchen down to the basement, which includes mechanical rooms, a full bath, exposed poured concrete piers, and modern finishes that render most of the space suitable for casual living. Direct exterior access is available through a below-grade door beneath the kitchen area.

***Outbuildings and Landscape Features***

Outbuildings on the property include a small gable-front frame meat house, dating to the nineteenth century and associated with an earlier house formerly located on the property. Although it is clad in composition weatherboards (over the original weatherboards), the original hewn wall studs and roof framing remain exposed on the interior, and early standing-seam-metal roofing remains intact. A shed addition to the west side of the meat house includes a one-bay garage door; the building is used principally today as a tool shed. Modern buildings constructed since 1991 on the property include a Doric-columned, hip-roofed open-air pavilion with terra cotta Spanish roofing tiles; and a brick-veneered, hip-roofed three-bay detached garage with a gabled front dormer facing Westview Avenue. A small rectangular pool, completed in 1996, adjoins the pavilion and is integrated with the landscaping of the rear yard.

The landscape around the house is dominated by an expansive front lawn; on center with the front entry is a wide poured-concrete walk that connects to the public sidewalk along Longwood Avenue. Bordered on each side by large boxwoods, the front walk connects to the entry portico via a short flight of steps. On the west side of the property, a curved crushed-brick entry drive links Westview Avenue to the porte-cochere and an adjacent parking area. Brick-faced retaining walls define the parking area and driveway, while brick-faced piers mark two access points of the drive into the grounds. A scalloped wooden privacy fence screens a portion of the rear yard from the street. On

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*Description (continued)*

the east side of the house, a new brick and wrought iron fence encloses but does not obstruct the side and rear yards. A new poured concrete and brick patio occupies the yard area closest to the northeast corner of the house, and links to the nearby open-air pavilion and the pool.

*Integrity Statement*

Exterior alterations to the Ballard House are minor and reversible: vinyl siding has been installed on the soffits of the wide overhanging eaves; and second-generation wooden porch decking has been replaced with 18" x 18" squares of bluestone that recall the original terrazzo flooring. Exterior woodwork has been repaired where necessary and has been repainted in appropriate colors. Interior alterations to the house also have been minor and are basically reversible: repair and repainting of plaster walls and ceilings and woodwork throughout; replacement of outdated electrical, HVAC, and other mechanical systems; installation of new light fixtures and low-profile ceiling medallions in the main public rooms downstairs; removal of a partition wall; and rehabilitation of service areas, including the kitchen and basement. In all areas, care has been taken to retain the original materials and fixtures, including push-button light switches; as previously mentioned, reuseable ceiling fixtures have been retained; and those not reused remain in storage on the premises for potential future installation.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Summary*

The Ballard-Worsham House, located at 525 Longwood Avenue in Bedford, Virginia, is a sophisticated Colonial Revival-style residence, one of the more impressive homes in the National Register-listed Bedford Historic District. Designed in 1915 by the Lynchburg architectural firm of McLaughlin & Johnson (a work of one of the firm's principals, Stanhope S. Johnson), the two-story brick dwelling was built for the family of John D. Ballard, a prominent Bedford businessman and civic leader. Built in 1915-1916 on the site of a previous house on Bedford's prestigious Longwood Avenue, the Ballard-Worsham House was occupied by members of the Ballard family for most of the twentieth century. As a result, few changes or modernizations were undertaken over the years, until the Worshams purchased the property in 1990 and began to restore and rehabilitate the house for modern use.

*Justification of Criteria*

The Ballard-Worsham House is eligible for the state and federal registers under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as one of Bedford's chief domestic examples of early-twentieth-century Colonial Revival architecture, and as a prominent local example of the early residential work of Lynchburg architect Stanhope S. Johnson. The house is eligible at the local level of significance. At present, only two properties in the City of Bedford are individually designated: the Bedford Meeting House and Avenel, neither of which represents the same historic context as the Ballard-Worsham House. A contributing resource in the Bedford Historic District, the Ballard-Worsham House was highlighted throughout the nomination report as one of the district's most significant residential properties.<sup>1</sup>

*Acknowledgments*

The authors wish to thank the following individuals for their assistance with research or for reviewing the nomination report: Anne Beckett, Suzanne Durham, John Kern, and Marc Wagner of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources; property owners Bonnie and Raleigh Worsham; Ellen Wandrei and volunteers at the Bedford City/County Museum; Al Chambers, for valuable insights on the career of Stanhope S. Johnson; local informants Peggy Ballard Maupin and Ruth (Mrs. Claiborne) Ballard; staff of the Virginia Room, Roanoke Public Library; and staff of the Bedford Public Library.

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<sup>1</sup> VHLC, "Bedford Historic District," continuation sheets 7:3, 8:7; and photo documentation.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

*Historical Background*

The Ballard-Worsham House was built in 1915-1916 for John D. Ballard (b. ca. 1868-d. 1932) and his wife Virginia [Jennie] L. Wyatt Ballard (b. ca. 1861-d. after 1945). John Ballard, a Bedford County native from the Centerville area, was a prominent local business and civic leader during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Among his earliest enterprises was the J. D. Ballard & Co. livery stable, which operated on North Bridge Street in Bedford in 1897. For locals and out-of-town businessmen, and for excursionists to the nearby tourist attraction Peaks of Otter, Ballard's livery service advertised "handsome rigs, both double and singles, fine saddle horses, [and] coach and four" guided by "polite, careful and attentive drivers."<sup>2</sup>

By 1910--a year he served as city councilman--Ballard had branched into the railroad construction business, working at times with his brother James W. Ballard, then owner of Bedford's historic Avenel house. During the 1910s, John Ballard's reputation as a responsible businessman was reflected in his appointment as a Director of the Citizens' National Bank of Bedford. In 1912, Ballard and two others formed Ballard, Herring & Severs, Inc., listing as its purpose the building of railroads, tunnels, roads, sewer, waterworks, houses, and "all such other works as are generally within the scope of the business of a general contractor for the construction of railroads or other works." This business, in which Ballard served as president, was later renamed Ballard-Herring Company, Inc., and operated until 1930. At the time of his death due to complications of stroke in late 1932 or early 1933, Ballard also owned a farm near Bedford known as Otterburn, the Heller's Drugstore property in downtown Bedford, and other property.<sup>3</sup>

In 1914, Alleghany County native Jennie Ballard (married to John Ballard since 1893) purchased the 14.19-acre Smith Homeplace in the prestigious Longwood Improvement Company neighborhood developing north of downtown Bedford, and immediately began planning with her husband to replace the aging mid-nineteenth century dwelling on the site with a new, modern residence. To that end, the Ballards engaged the services of Lynchburg architect Stanhope S. Johnson, of McLaughlin & Johnson, Architects. By 1916 John and Jennie Ballard's house, a stately Colonial Revival residence that presently stands on the property, was completed.

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<sup>2</sup> U.S. census; *Bedford Democrat*.

<sup>3</sup> *Pollard's 1910 Directory*, pp. 2 and 123; Bedford County Charter Book 2, pp. 4 and 66; and Bedford County Will Book 41, p. 221.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Lynchburg native Stanhope S. Johnson (1882-1973) attended the Scranton School of Architecture, receiving his diploma in 1906; and undertook additional training in Paris at the DeHoultlieu School of Architecture and in London in the atelier of H.C.L. Smith. A sketching tour of Europe filled out his foreign educational experience.<sup>4</sup> At age seventeen he began his architectural career in the office of Lynchburg architect Edward G. Frye. For two years beginning in 1909, Johnson was a partner in the firm of McLaughlin, Pettit & Johnson, and for five years afterwards continued to work with McLaughlin.<sup>5</sup> In April 1915, while still in partnership with McLaughlin, Johnson prepared plans and specifications for the John D. Ballard Residence. Johnson is regarded as one of Lynchburg's most active architects of the 1910s, with commissions extending beyond Lynchburg to such distant locales as Georgia and Florida. Bedford, less than thirty miles southwest of Lynchburg, was certainly within Johnson's sphere of influence. Al Chambers notes in his architectural history of Lynchburg that, in the decade of 1910-1919, "Johnson's output was stylistically quite diverse, and began to show a marked originality . . . In his residential work in the city, Johnson combined a number of seemingly disparate elements into surprisingly harmonious compositions."<sup>6</sup> The Ballard-Worsham House illustrates an eclectic "Spanish Georgian" design formula of Johnson's, most grandly executed in 1912-1914 at the James R. Gilliam, Sr. House on Lynchburg's Madison and Fourth streets and repeated in modified fashion several times in that city. Elements of the formula that found regional favor included the following features: a two-story, three-bay central block of brick or stucco; a rear ell service area; an academic center-hall, double-pile plan; a central entry portico flanked by a side portico and a *porte-cochere*; a hipped roof with Spanish tile roofing and broad overhanging eaves; tall interior end chimneys; and Georgian-influenced classical columns, doors, and windows.<sup>7</sup>

In Bedford, the Ballard-Worsham House is the only example of Johnson's eclectic early work; more conservative than eccentric, perhaps in keeping with Bedford traditionalism, the house has only a few Spanish touches and is predominantly Georgian in character. The house is not the first or only building in Bedford to incorporate Spanish influence; just down the street, at the intersection of

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<sup>4</sup> Glass and Glass, Jr., *Virginia Democracy*, pp. 562-565.

<sup>5</sup> Wells and Dalton, *Virginia Architects*, pp. 227-230, 287-290.

<sup>6</sup> Chambers, *Lynchburg*, p.412.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 426-427.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Longwood Avenue and Peaks Street, the 1912 Spanish Colonial Revival Bedford Elementary School, a work of Heard & Cardwell, Architects, features a stucco exterior, Spanish tile roofing, decorative tile accents, and ornamental oculus windows. Only one other Johnson design has been identified in Bedford: a 1920 brick bungalow and garage designed for Mrs. Dean Stark and built on the corner of Avenel and Bedford avenues.<sup>8</sup> The Stark House is a rather reserved example of Arts and Crafts style, without the grand scale and eclecticism so evident in the Ballard-Worsham House. The Stark House does exhibit similar brickwork and window surround detailing to that seen at the Ballard-Worsham House, and may have been directly influenced by the earlier building.

In 1920, according to the federal census of that year, the Ballard household included John and Jennie, their adult children Mary M. and J. Claiborne (another son, Garrett G., had moved out of the household already), and relatives Lelia W. Wyatt and Susan James. The census did not list servants in the household, an absence reflected in the architecture of the home, which has only a nominal servant's room (with a toilet room but no bathing facilities) in the basement. Work often took John Ballard out of town to oversee construction projects, but the family nonetheless regularly entertained guests in their commodious Longwood Avenue dwelling. Following John's death, in 1937 Jennie subdivided and began selling off portions of the fourteen-acre tract. She reserved the largest parcel for her house and created an additional twenty-two town lots that extended north from Longwood Avenue along the east side of Westview Avenue. In 1945, more than a decade after the death of her husband, Jennie transferred her home to daughter Mary and son Garrett. In 1948, Mary Ballard conveyed her interest in the property to Garrett, but continued to live in the house until shortly before her death in 1990. "Miss Mary" selectively accommodated roomers in the house, including such diverse individuals as a group of engineers working on the Blue Ridge Parkway in the period prior to World War II, and respected local author and clergyman T. Bowyer Campbell (after 1963). Mary also regularly hosted social events in the house, especially parties and dances for the children of her friends and neighbors. At some point during the late twentieth century, Mary created two apartments, each with their own kitchen and bathroom facilities, within the house. Garrett's widow Mabel Wright Ballard, who lived with Mary in the house after her husband's death in 1975, sold the property out of the family in July 1990, and the present owner, K. Bonnie Worsham, purchased it the same year.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Wells and Dalton, *Virginia Architects*, pp. 186-187, 229.

<sup>9</sup> U.S. census; Bedford County Deed Book 110, p. 363; 209, p. 264; 222, p. 446; 772, p. 186; and 779, p. 665; Bedford County Will Book 92, p. 542; and Maupin interview.

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**Statement of Significance (continued)**

Since their purchase of the property in 1990, the Worshams have steadily undertaken necessary restoration and rehabilitation of the house and grounds. Raleigh Worsham, a retired electrical engineer, designed and executed much of the work, which included removal of the inappropriate apartment facilities and finishes, rewiring of the electrical system and historic light fixtures, repair and replacement of plumbing fixtures, and design and installation of a new oil-fired boiler. Raleigh also undertook substantial repairs to the Spanish tile roofing and underlayment and replaced deteriorated tin linings of hidden gutters. Raleigh replaced the deteriorated porch decking with bluestone squares on a poured concrete slab supported by steel framing and decking, and had brick infill added between the extant brick piers. Bonnie Worsham assisted with paint removal, preparation, and refinishing of exterior and interior woodwork. Contractors who helped the Worshams with the rehabilitation included plasterer Robert Lovelace of Long Island, Virginia, and brick mason Charles Comer and carpenter Randy Tomlin of Bedford. Considering themselves as stewards of the property, the Worshams have taken great care to preserve original materials throughout the house wherever possible, and new work has been inserted with minimal disturbance to the building's historic fabric and architectural character.

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### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (continued)

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated parcel includes the entire 1.181-acre tract, known as tax parcel 194-11-23, which is depicted on the enclosed sketch map of the property, drawn at a scale of 1" = 50'. The sketch map is derived from a survey map prepared June 11, 1991 by Donnie W. Slusher of Slusher, Simkins, Loyd and Associates, P.C.

#### Boundary Justification

The area nominated for listing encompasses the present legal boundaries of the property associated with the historic dwelling.

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

All photographs are of: Ballard-Worsham House, 525 Longwood Avenue, Bedford, Virginia.  
DHR File No. 141-14  
DHR Negative no. 15828  
All negatives filed at the Library of Virginia, Richmond.

1. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles      DATE: January 1997  
VIEW OF: General view of property, facing northeast  
PHOTO 1 of 6
2. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles      DATE: January 1997  
VIEW OF: View of side and rear of house, and showing part of pool; facing southwest  
PHOTO 2 of 6
3. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles      DATE: January 1997  
VIEW OF: View of entry hall, with front door at left  
PHOTO 3 of 6
4. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles      DATE: January 1997  
VIEW OF: View of stair hall  
PHOTO 4 of 6
5. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles      DATE: January 1997  
VIEW OF: Detail view of Library mantelpiece  
PHOTO 5 of 6
6. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles      DATE: January 1997  
VIEW OF: View of meat house/tool shed  
PHOTO 6 of 6

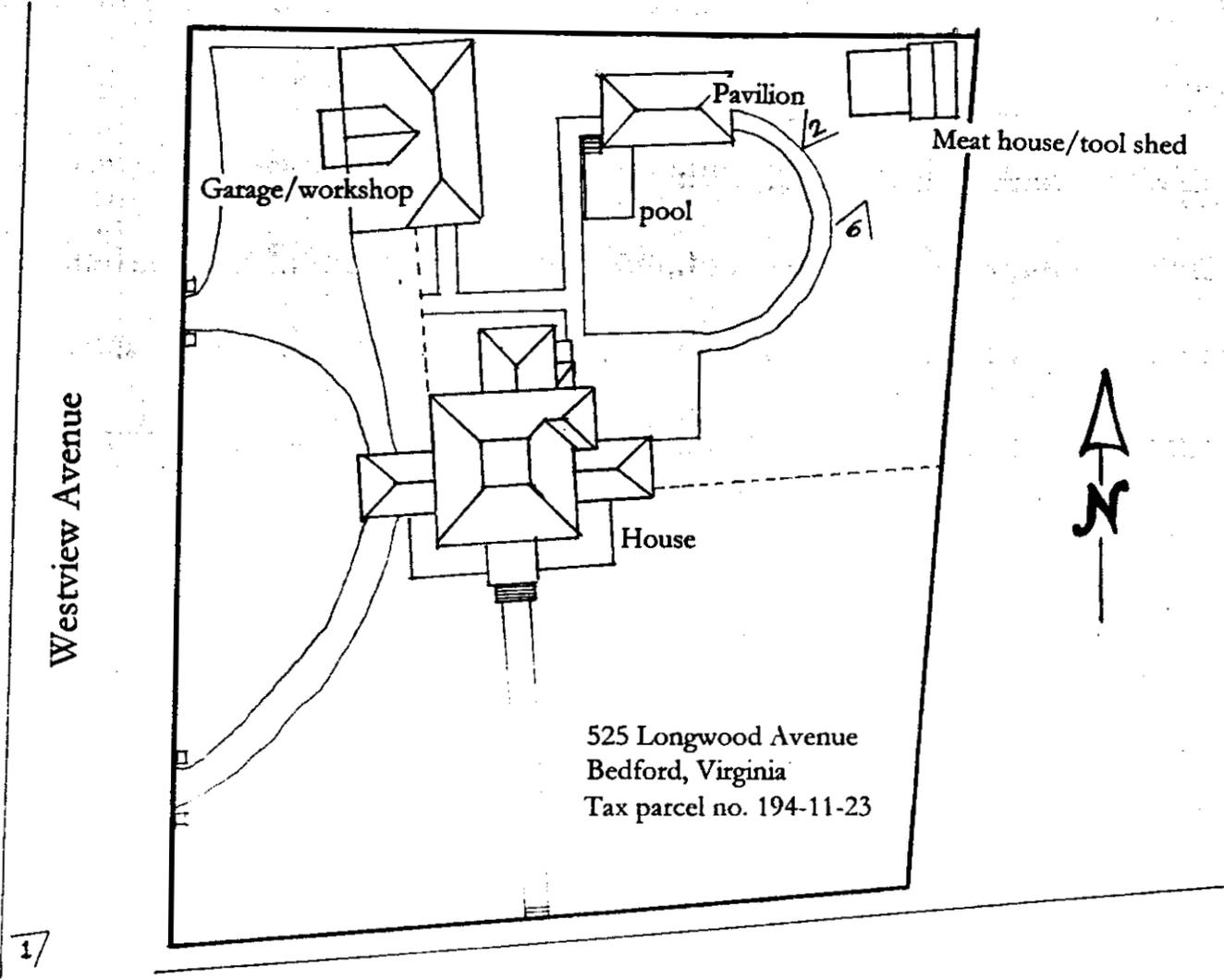
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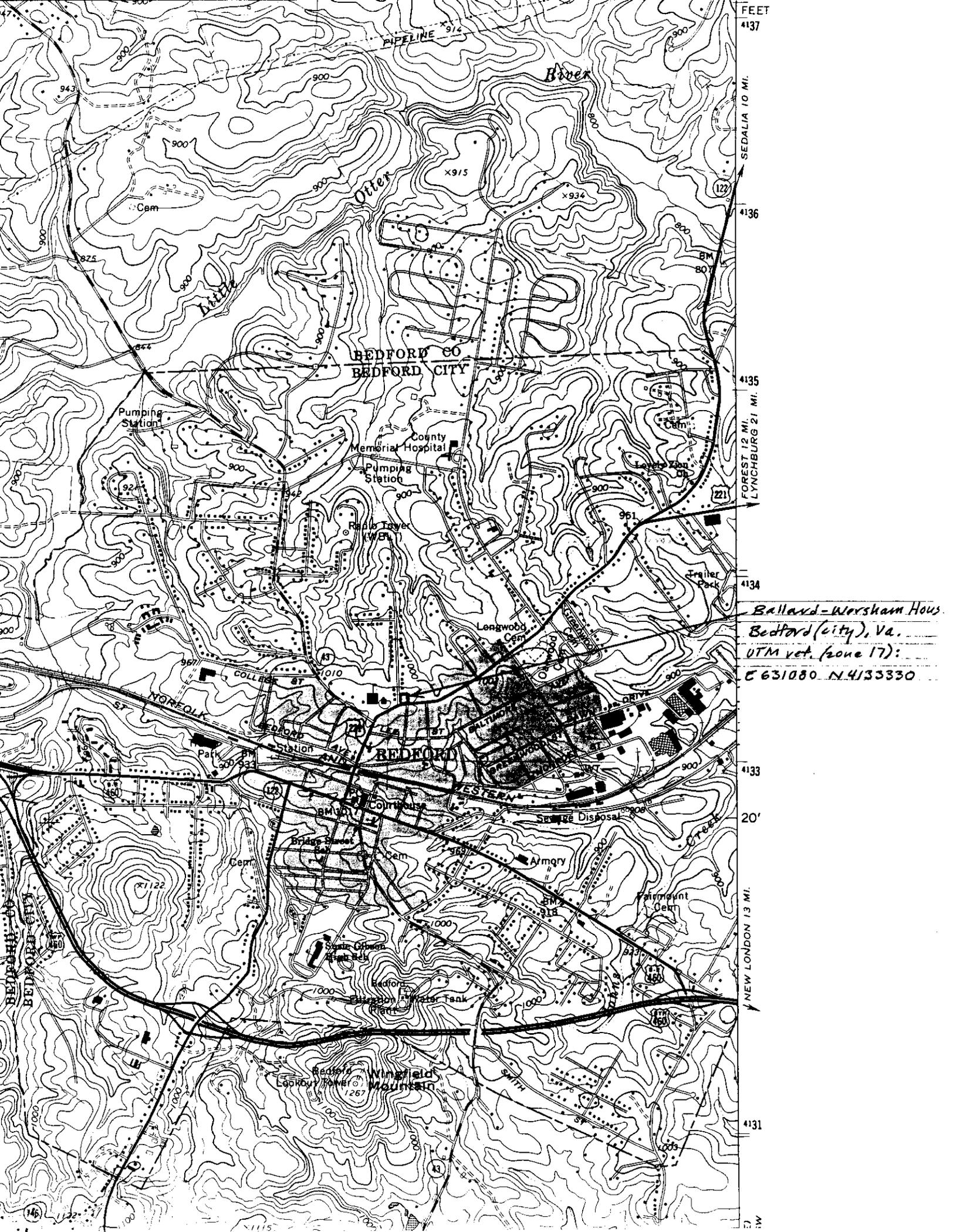
Sketch map of nominated property, prepared by Leslie A. Giles and derived from survey map prepared June 11, 1991 by Donnie W. Slusher of Slusher, Simkins, Loyd and Associates, P.C.



Scale: 1" = 50'



Numbered arrows indicate location and direction of view of accompanying photographs



FEET  
4137  
SEDALIA 10 MI.  
4136  
4135  
FOREST 12 MI.  
LYNCHBURG 21 MI.  
4134  
4133  
20'  
NEW LONDON 13 MI.  
4131

*Ballard-Warsham House*  
*Bedford (city), Va.*  
*UTM ref. (zone 17):*  
*E 631080 N 4133330*

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