

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 Soldier's Rest

other names/site number VDHR File No. 21-73

2. Location

street & number 3/10 mile North, off of Fairfax Ave. not for publication N/A
city or town Berryville vicinity X
state Virginia code VA county Clarke code 043 zip code 22611

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Julio M. Hemick 4-4-96
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 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.
- determined eligible for the _____
National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the _____
National Register
- removed from the National Register _____
- other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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.

- 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 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance ca. 1780-1864

Significant Dates ca. 1780,
1830s, 1864

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(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: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property 22

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
	1		2	
	3		4	
	<u> X </u> 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
=====

name/title MARAL S. KALBIAN, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN; J. DANIEL PEZZONI, PRES. CONSULT.
 organization _____ date January 30, 1996
 street & number ROUTE 1 BOX 86 telephone 540-837-2081
 city or town BOYCE state VA zip code 22620

=====
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/title O'Sullivan Corporation
 street & number Post Office Box 3510 telephone 540-667-6666
 city or town Winchester state VA zip code 22604

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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**Soldier's Rest
Clarke County, Virginia**

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Soldier's Rest is a well preserved Federal-style plantation house located on the northeastern outskirts of the town of Berryville in Clarke County, Virginia. Once the center of a larger estate, the property now encompasses twenty-two acres of pastureland. The house is a large, two-story frame structure consisting of a main rectangular block with a long two-part rear wing. The front section of the house was constructed sometime between 1774 and 1785 for William and Rebecca Morton on land first settled by Isaac Pennington in the 1730s. Originally a hall-parlor plan, the main block of the house was remodeled in the 1830s to reflect the late Federal style and the interior space rearranged into a central-passage, single-pile plan. At about the same time, half of the rear wing was added. This was then connected to an existing one-and-a-half-story detached building (probably a kitchen) that was raised to two stories. The interior of Soldier's Rest contains a number of interesting architectural details reflecting several remodelings dating from the late eighteenth century to the Civil War era. Notable as one of the earliest frame dwellings in Clarke County, Soldier's Rest also has historical associations with George Washington and Gen. Daniel Morgan. In September 1864, James E. Taylor, an artist who followed Union Gen. Philip Sheridan during his Shenandoah Valley Campaign, heard about and visited Soldier's Rest. The property was revered both as the home of Daniel Morgan and the reputed location of George Washington's survey office. Taylor produced two sketches detailing the structures in existence at the time of his visit. These are an invaluable tool for documenting the property as it appeared in the mid-1860s, and illustrate how little the house has changed since then. The log springhouse, identified in one of the sketches as George Washington's office, no longer stands. Its location at a spring southeast of the main house has been identified as a contributing site. The property includes six noncontributing buildings and a noncontributing structure: an early-twentieth-century root cellar; two barns and a chicken coop from the late 1920s; a 1920s corncrib; a 1930s garage; and a 1960s bunk feeding complex. The grounds of Soldier's Rest are surprisingly pristine and include a residential yard around the main house with pastureland beyond. Buck Marsh Run passes through the northeastern corner of the property and is joined by a branch that starts at the spring southeast of the house.

SETTING

The Soldier's Rest property now occupies 214 acres of land just northeast of the town limits of Berryville in Clarke County, Virginia, on both sides of Virginia State Route 7 by-pass. When the house was constructed ca. 1780, the farm included 157 acres. The property has recently been subdivided and the tract on which the house and outbuildings sit encompasses an area of twenty-two acres located south of the by-pass and north of a forty-one acre tract that is to be developed into residential sites (Photo 1). Fortunately, the house is sited in such a manner and

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surrounded by rolling pastureland, that the impact of adjacent future development is expected to be minimal. The view from the front porch of the house commands a sweeping vista of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the east.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Soldier's Rest is composed of a two-story, rectangular frame block with a long rear two-story frame wing (Photo 2). Except for minor alterations, the house stands essentially in the same form it did when James E. Taylor visited and sketched the property in 1864 (Photo 3). The house consists of three distinct sections; a front rectangular block, and two units that make up the rear wing. This nomination attempts to interpret the development of the house based on surface examinations. The evidence suggests that the interior was altered on many occasions. The only way a more precise chronology of the evolution of the house can be determined is through scientific paint analysis and interior archaeology.

The front block is the oldest, constructed sometime between 1774 and 1785 when the property was under the ownership of William and Rebecca Morton. Presently this section, which measures roughly thirty-four by twenty-four feet, has a central-passage plan, is clad in German-lap siding with capped corner boards, and is topped by a gable roof of standing-seam metal. Dating to the late eighteenth century, Soldier's Rest is one of the oldest documented frame dwellings in the county. Other Clarke County houses from this period are generally of stone and log, with framed houses becoming common only by the mid-nineteenth century. The fact that Soldier's Rest was built of frame, a technique then considered aesthetically superior to log, suggests that the original owner had the means to spend money on a house that would stand apart from others in the county as befitted his status.¹

The unusual feature of the front section of the house is that the openings on both levels of the front elevation do not line up (Photo 4). The first floor appears to have originally been three bays wide, but is now five bays wide with a central door. The three windows on the second floor seem to be in their original location and do not line up with any of the ones on the first floor. This unusual fenestration arrangement, the dimensions of the unit, the narrowness of the central passage, and the late Federal-style woodwork found on the interior all indicate that this section originally had a hall-parlor plan that was altered in the 1830s. When the floor plan was rearranged into the more formal central-passage, single-pile arrangement, the fenestration was changed to reflect this. The central, four-paneled front door with its two-light transom is a Victorian replacement of the original paneled door that appears in Taylor's 1864 sketch. The entrance is further enhanced by a three-bay, one-story pedimented portico with paired Tuscan columns. The porch sits on concrete piers with lattice between and features slender balusters in the railing and wooden steps leading up to the wooden floor. This section of the house sits

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on an exposed limestone foundation with basement windows of vertical wooden bars. The double-hung windows on both stories have six-over-six sash. The present louvered shutters are wooden but are modern replacements.

The side elevations of the house face north and south and feature exterior-end brick chimneys flanked by a window on each story (Photo 5). These chimneys are twentieth-century replacements of the original stone ones, whose stone foundations are still present. Other details include square four-light attic windows, gable-end returns, a plain friezeboard, and a boxed cornice. A comparison of the present house with the 1864 Taylor sketch reveals that the house basically stood in its current form by the time of Taylor's visit. Exterior alterations that have occurred since that time include the replacement of the original stone chimneys with brick chimneys, the installation of German-lap siding over weatherboard, the replacement of slate shingles as roofing with standing-seam metal, the removal of a modillion cornice found at the first- and second-story ceiling levels, the addition of a pedimented portico, and the installation of a late Victorian-period front door with a two-light transom.

Connected to the rear of the main block is a long two-story frame ell that was constructed in two sections. The earliest unit is the three-bay one closest to the main block and is composed of two large rooms; a stair hall and a dining room. An examination of the roof in this section shows that it was added to the existing front of the house, probably in the early 1830s. This coincides with the period during which the front block was remodeled. The room with the staircase has opposing doors on the north and south sides that lead out to the porches that extend along the sides of the wing. The door on the north side has a four-light transom. The dining room contains an exterior stone chimney with a brick stack at its western end. This chimney is now an interior one because of the other unit that was added to the west end of the wing. The exterior walls of the entire wing are clad in German-lap siding that is narrower in width than that found on the front of the house. The double-hung windows have four-over-four sash.

The three-bay unit at the western end of the rear wing was the last to be added to Soldier's Rest (Photo 6). The huge eleven-foot-wide stone chimney at the far gable end indicates that it was originally a story-and-a-half structure. A brick stack was added to accommodate the greater height. The exterior and interior detailing in this section is largely from the twentieth century and sheds little light on whether this was in fact a separate outbuilding that was attached to the wing or simply a unit that was added. In all likelihood, it was a detached frame building (probably a kitchen) that was raised to two stories and attached to the previous unit. It is uncertain exactly when this connection occurred, although it was certainly before the Civil War (Photo 3). This section is now clad in German-lap siding that matches that on the front of the house.

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The two rear sections of the wing have been visually united in several ways. All the windows have four-over-four sash, the standing-seam metal gable roof is continuous over the entire wing, and full-length one-story porches extend along both sides. Both porches are twentieth-century additions. The one to the south is six bays wide with a protruding pedimented portico at its third bay, chamfered supports, and a poured concrete floor (Photos 5, 6). The south porch is nine bays wide with chamfered square supports, a wooden floor, and a concrete pier foundation (Photo 7). Both porches have a step down at the seam between the two units. James E. Taylor's 1864 sketch of the house shows that the rear wing was in its present form (minus the porches) during the Civil War (Photo 3). The modillion cornice at the attic level of the rear wing that appears in the sketch has since been removed. According to an early-twentieth-century photograph of the south side of the wing, the windows in the western-most section had originally nine-over-six sash, the siding on the entire wing was wide weatherboard (maybe ship lap), and there was a three-bay porch in front of the doorway leading into the stairhall.

The interior of Soldier's Rest has remained relatively unaltered since the mid-nineteenth century. Originally having a hall-parlor plan, the front block now has a central-passage, single-pile plan that is repeated on the second floor. Most of the woodwork is of the 1830s late Federal style, indicating that the floorplan was changed at that time. However, some earlier moldings appear throughout the house. The walls and ceilings are mostly plaster and lath, with painted chair rail, baseboards, crown molding, mantels, and paneled doors still present in all the rooms on both levels of the front block. The main alteration to the rooms in this section of the house was the addition of narrow oak floorboards over the existing wide boards. This was done in the late 1970s. The installation of twentieth-century baseboard heating units along some of the walls has unfortunately resulted in the removal of the baseboard trim and the cutting of the bottom of several of the mantels. Because this changes the dimensions of the mantels, they have a somewhat odd appearance.

The south parlor measures fourteen by twenty-three feet. Centered along the south wall is a Federal-style mantel composed of paneled Doric pilasters supporting a plain frieze, roping and reeding framing the firebox, and a stepped mantelshelf (Photo 8). The hearth, surround, and firebox have all been rebuilt. The gougework pattern on the mantelshelf is repeated in the fascia of the cornice. Architrave trim with Greek Revival molding is found around the windows, while plain architrave trim is used around the door. In addition, plain wood wainscot with chair rail runs around the entire room. The six-panel door that leads into the central passage has twenty-four-inch strap hinges on drive pintels and a Carpenter lock.

The north parlor is similar in size and decoration to the south one, but is slightly less formal. The mantel is centered on the north wall and features Doric pilasters supporting a plain frieze with a dentilled cornice (Photo 9). There is no wainscoting in this room and the cornice and

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chair rail are plain. The architrave trim around the window and door openings is similar to that found in the hall and south parlor. In addition to the new flooring, the rebuilding of the firebox, hearth and surround, and the baseboard heat that resulted in the cutting of the bottom of the mantel, bookcases and a wet bar have been built along the south and west walls of this room. The six-panel door has strap hinges and a Victorian-era box lock.

The narrow central passage on the first floor measures five by twenty-three feet with doorways on both sides leading into the two parlors and doorways at both ends. The woodwork is all painted and includes plain architrave trim around the doors, baseboard, crown molding, and chair rail. The door at the far west end of the hall leads into a wide lateral stairhall in the rear wing.

The stairhall is fairly large and contains the staircase along its west wall as well as four doors; one to the front of the house, one to the dining room, and two opposing ones along the north and south walls that lead outside (Photo 10). The exterior doors have four panels and the one to the north has a four-light transom. Plain wainscot, that also runs along the staircase, as well as chair rail and modern crown molding are found in this room. A built-in closet along the north wall and a half-bath beneath the stair are twentieth-century additions. This room also has replacement narrow-board oak flooring found in the front of the house. The half-turn opening staircase is very elegant, with slender, turned, unpainted walnut balusters and a heavily-molded walnut rail, all of late-eighteenth-century character. The graceful nature of the stair and its unusual diagonal termination at the second-floor level point to the possibility that this railing was moved here from its original location in the front of the house at the same time the floorplan was changed and this section of the rear wing was constructed in the 1830s (Photo 11).

The other room that is part of the first unit of the rear wing is the large dining room located west of the stairhall. It measures sixteen by twenty-three feet and contains paneled wainscot, crown molding, double architrave trim around the doors and windows, and a magnificent folk interpretation of a Federal-style mantel centered along its west wall (Photo 12). This mantel is the most ornate one in the house and features colonnettes with spiral turnings, acanthus-leaf tops, and Ionic capitals above that support the entablature blocks that have carved floral motifs (Photo 13). The central frieze tablet has a carved oval patera encircled by garland. The entire composition is topped by a heavily-carved stepped mantelshelf. The brick surround, firebox, and hearth are modern. A door on either side of the fireplace leads into the second unit of the rear wing which currently houses the kitchen.

J. E. Norris, a nineteenth-century Shenandoah-Valley historian, describes some of the architectural features of Soldier's Rest when speaking of the property's association with one of its most notable owners, Daniel Morgan. In 1890 Norris writes:

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The dwelling was built at a time when neighbors lived long distances apart, and generally remained several days with each other when they visited. In those days of one hundred and twenty years or more ago hospitality was a foremost thought in the mind of the pioneer, and each tried to outdo the other as host, though always in the spirit of friendly rivalry. Daniel Morgan, large-hearted as he was large-limbed, rough and rugged by nature and his early surroundings, was no exception to this rule, as the rooms of his old mansion attest, for they even now have the appearance of old entertainers. The main building on the lower floor consists of two large rooms, divided by a wide hall crossed at right angles by a narrower one, which leads into an immense apartment with many windows, several doors and a huge, old-fashioned fire-place. This was the dining room in which many a hilarious company partook of the festivities of the old soldier's bounty...The hall, parlor and dining-room are wainscoted to the height of three feet from the floor, and, except for sundry coats of paint, are just as they were a century ago. There is a mantel piece that is said to have been brought from England, a little unique, it is true, but nothing extraordinary. At the time of its being placed it was considered an elaborate piece of work, and the neighbors gathered in to see it. It is of pine wood and in excellent preservation. The view from the front porch is very fine, as it commands a stretch of county that is exceptionally noted for its scenery.²

Although some of Norris's observations about Soldier's Rest are known to be inaccurate, (including its association with Daniel Morgan) his description of the house, and particularly the dining room mantel are interesting. As elaborate as the mantel is, it was undoubtedly carved by a local joiner or cabinetmaker rather than brought over from England.

The interior of the second unit of the rear wing is largely twentieth century. This section, which was originally a one-and-a-half-story detached outbuilding that was later raised to two stories and attached to the west end of the first unit of the rear wing, is now composed of two rooms; a kitchen and a family room. The kitchen is adjacent to the dining room and contains the exposed stone chimney that was originally an exterior-end one. The interior walls in this unit are sheathed with unpainted eleven-inch-wide tongue-and-groove beaded boards that run floor to ceiling. This treatment appears to be a twentieth-century addition as the boards look to be recycled from another location. The ceilings have exposed joists, with tongue-and-groove beaded boards that are nine inches wide. The huge stone fireplace and hearth that takes up the far west end of this section has been totally rebuilt and modernized. Directly across from it, against the wall to the kitchen, is a staircase leading to the second floor. When this stair was rebuilt or added in the mid-twentieth century, an attempt was made to create balusters similar

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to the ones found on the main stair. The flooring in this section of the rear wing consists of random-width pine boards that appears original.

The second floor of the front block of Soldier's Rest is identical in plan to the first floor, except for a bathroom that was installed over the east end of the central passage. The two bedrooms that are located over the two parlors feature chair rails, baseboards, modern crown molding, architrave trim, and fireplaces (now closed-in) centered along their outside walls. These mantels are less refined in design than the ones on the first floor, featuring fluted Doric pilasters, paneled entablature blocks, a plain friezeboard, and a dramatically stepped mantelshelf (Photos 14 and 15). The bottoms of both these mantels were cut off when the baseboard heat was installed. The floors in this section have been replaced with modern, narrow-width oak boards, like those on the first floor.

The second-floor stairhall that is adjacent to the front block features the unusual angle terminus of the staircase (Photo 11). This room has original random-width pine floors, a heavy crown mold, paneled wainscot, chair rail, and architrave trim. An unexplained L-shaped patch in the floor may indicate the location of an earlier staircase. A boxed, single-run attic stair is located along the west wall of the hall. Next to this stair is a door leading to a hall with an adjacent bathroom, both of which contain paneled wainscot, chair rail, and cornice. The room further to the west has the same details and includes a fireplace centered along the west wall (Photo 16). The simple, Federal-style mantel is composed of a wooden surround with a paneled frieze and an applied mantelshelf. To the right of the fireplace is a door, with three steps down, leading into the section over the kitchen and family room. All the trim in this section is plain, unpainted, four-inch pine boards dating to the twentieth century. This section consists of two bedrooms with a narrow stairhall in between. The far west room has a bathroom in its southeast corner.

The attic of Soldier's Rest is accessible by a single-run stair along the western wall of the second-story hall, behind a three-paneled door. The hand-hewn roof rafters of the front section are mortised and pinned together, and further supported by knee braces. Hand-split oak clapboards, approximately four-feet in length, are lapped and nailed to the floor joists of the front section of the attic (Photo 17). Secured to the floor joists with hand-wrought nails, they may have been possibly recycled from another location, although their lack of weathering indicates they were not used outdoors. The survival of eighteenth-century clapboards is rare and their use as attic flooring is highly unusual.³ In addition to the clapboards, traces of rectangular slate shingles were found, suggesting their use as an earlier roofing material. The attic also has a late-nineteenth-century inscription painted along a collar beam at the south gable end that reads: ASH, CONNER WINCHESTER VA 1879. The attic over the rear contains hand-hewn and sawn rafters that are mortised and secured by wooden pins. Many of the roofing members

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in this section have been replaced. The flooring is of random-width, ship-lapped pine boards. The original weatherboarding on the exterior west wall of the first unit of the rear wing survives and verifies that this section was built before the addition of the further west unit.

The basement of Soldier's Rest is accessible through a bulkhead entry on the north side of the front section. A full basement composed of four rooms is found under the original section of the house. The floors are brick laid in a herringbone pattern and the space is divided into four rooms. The walls are plaster over the stone and the ceiling joists are hand-hewn and show traces of whitewash. The basement is now used to house the furnace and oil tanks. The rear wing only has a crawl space with log joists.

The only contributing resource on the property other than the house is the site of the log springhouse that was supposedly used as George Washington's office and living quarters while he was surveying in the area in the late 1740s. Located about 100 yards southeast of the house, the site is at the spring of a branch that feeds into Buck Marsh Run. The site was recently identified by Bob Jolley, VDHR archaeologist at the Winchester Regional Office, using James E. Taylor's 1864 sketch and description of the property as guidance (Photos 18 and 19). Taylor describes the springhouse as:

The building of dressed logs was twelve feet square, comprising two rooms. The lower room, neath which the spring flowed into the marsh a few rods away, Washington used as his office and repository for his outfit of compass and chains, while the upper apartment, a V-shaped attic, reached by a ladder through a trap door, served the surveyor for a sleeping room. This room had been fitted up with a substantial flooring and the slanting walls were lathed and plastered. The sole light enjoyed by George and his assistant George Fairfax who shared his snugery, was a single window facing the spring.⁴

Ceramics dating from the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were identified at the spring verifying that a springhouse stood at this site. Whether it was used by George Washington as an office and living quarters is rather unlikely. Washington wrote about his 1748 stay at the property in his diary and describes lodging in a building that was most certainly Isaac Pennington's somewhat modest dwelling (which no longer survives). What is interesting is that during the nineteenth century, this springhouse came to be revered and associated with George Washington. James E. Taylor heard about it and came to "pay my respects to the humble structure that housed the youthful Washington while "running the chain" in the region.⁵ Perhaps future archaeological investigations of the site could yield information confirming the earlier use of the building as Washington's office and sleeping quarters.

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The seven noncontributing resources on the property are located along the northern side of the house and all post date the period of significance. The two large barns were constructed during the late 1920s using timber-frame building techniques. Both of these are timber-framed with mortise-and-tenon construction with wooden pegs and roofing rafters butted together and held with triangular wooden pieces. The barn just north of the house sits on a random-rubble stone foundation. It has vertical wood siding, exposed rafter ends, a standing-seam metal gable roof, and a side cross-gable-roofed wing (Photo 20). The second barn is located northwest of the house and is much larger (Photo 21). It is a five-bay structure clad in vertical siding that sits on a formed concrete foundation and has a gable roof of standing-seam metal. Sliding wooden barn doors are located along the east side of the building and a rectangular concrete cistern sits at the southeast corner. Just north of this barn is a late-1920s two-bay corncrib with a central storage unit. It is clad in vertical siding and has a gable roof of standing-seam metal (Photo 22). Connected to it is a four-bay chicken coop clad in German-lap siding that sits on a formed concrete foundation and has a salt-box gable roof of standing-seam metal. Located northwest of the barn is a 1960s bunk-feeder system that includes a plywooded, shed-roofed building with a garage door (Photo 23). The 1930s garage is located northeast of the house and is in fair to poor condition (Photo 24). Clad in German-lap siding, with a gable roof of standing-seam metal, it is built into a hill and sits on concrete piers. The sliding doors appear to be later additions. The root cellar is located just north of the house near the rear wing (Photo 25). The superstructure is of modern brick with a gable roof clad in wooden shingles and sits over the stairs that lead down to the concrete and brick root cellar. It appears that the cellar itself is older than the superstructure, which appears to date to the 1920s.

Soldier's Rest and its surrounding ancillary buildings are sited on twenty-two acres that are surprisingly rural in nature considering the location just outside of the Berryville town limits (Photos 1 and 18). The site contains a residential yard surrounding the house that contains mature boxwood, hardwoods, and evergreens, with pastureland beyond. To the east is a view of the spring and its rock outcropping with the Blue Ridge Mountains as a backdrop.

ENDNOTES

1. In April 1990, Jeff O'Dell of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources visited the property with Maral S. Kalbian. He made a report of his findings entitled "Soldier's Rest, Clarke County: Notes on visit of April 1990." Further research and examination of the house since then has shed more light on its evolution, and contradicts some of the points Mr. O'Dell made. For the most part, however, Ms. Kalbian still agrees with the findings made of the 1990 visit. On page 3 of the report, Mr. O'Dell writes of the significance of Soldier's Rest as one of Clarke County's earliest frame dwellings. In addition, no mention is made in Mr. O'Dell's report of the possibility of the presence of brick nogging in the walls. We discussed this matter at the 1990 site visit, but were not able to find evidence that supported or refuted this fact.

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Section 7 Page 10

Soldier's Rest
Clarke County, Virginia

-
2. Norris, J. E. A History of the Lower Shenandoah Valley. Warner and Co., 1890. Reprint by Virginia Book Company; Berryville, VA: 1972. p. 460.
 3. O'Dell, Jeff. Soldier's Rest, Clarke County: Notes on visit of April 1990. Mr. O'Dell was very impressed with these "riven clapboards" and was able to secure one to include in the VDHR archive collection. In his notes on page 2 he states, "The loft of Unit I illustrates a universal Virginia building technology that was on the wane by 1800: riven oak clapboards, four feet in length, that are lapped and nailed like weatherboards to the floor joists to serve as attic flooring. Such clapboards rarely survive in Virginia houses, and this reporter knows of no other examples used in such a fashion."
 4. Taylor, James E. The James E. Taylor Sketchbook: With Sheridan Up the Shenandoah Valley in 1864. Cleveland: The Western Reserve Historical Society. 1989, p. 287.
 5. Taylor, James E. The James E. Taylor Sketchbook: With Sheridan Up the Shenandoah Valley in 1864. Cleveland: The Western Reserve Historical Society. 1989, p. 287.

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Soldier's Rest
Clarke County, Virginia

SECTION 8:

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Soldier's Rest, located on the outskirts of Berryville in Clarke County, Virginia, ranks among the county's earliest houses. Documentary sources suggest the core of the Federal-style house was built in the late 1770s or early 1780s for William and Rebecca Morton on a parcel that was first settled by Isaac Pennington in the 1730s. In 1800, Revolutionary War hero Gen. Daniel Morgan briefly owned the property; Morgan's association with the house, and the fact that George Washington visited the farm while surveying for Lord Fairfax in 1748, became the subject of richly embroidered local lore during the nineteenth century. In the 1810s, War of 1812 veteran Col. Griffin Taylor acquired the property, and it was Taylor who probably named it "Soldier's Rest." The two-story frame house continued to evolve during the Taylor family ownership, and remains much the same as it did in 1864 when it was sketched by an illustrator travelling the Valley with Gen. Philip Sheridan. Soldier's Rest stands as one of Clarke County's earliest frame dwellings that is in relatively unaltered condition. The architectural form and details of the house together with its pristine county setting, render the property locally significant under Criterion C of the National Register. The property's historical associations with Gen. Daniel Morgan, George Washington, and Col. Griffin Taylor enhance its significance. Both architecturally and historically, the property possesses integrity of association, design, feeling, location, material, workmanship, and setting.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Soldier's Rest occupies the site of one of Clarke County's earliest European settlements. In October 1734, Isaac Pennington, formerly of New Jersey, received a crown grant for approximately 600 acres on Buck Marsh Run just east of the present town of Berryville. Pennington soon established his residence on the fertile property--among the first European habitations in the county--and lived there until he moved to South Carolina in the summer of 1754.¹

Pennington's house is the subject of an amusing diary entry made by George Washington during his first visit to the Shenandoah Valley. In 1748, while on a survey for Lord Fairfax, Washington and his companions spent two nights with Pennington. After the surveyors "got our Suppers & was Lighted in to a Room," Washington discovered that his bedding was "nothing but a little straw matted together without sheets or anything else but only one threadbare blanket with double its weight of vermin such as lice and fleas," and he resolved thereafter to "sleep in the open Air before a fire."²

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 12

Soldier's Rest
Clarke County, Virginia

Washington's account sheds some light on a hardy legend attached to Soldier's Rest. According to tradition, the future first president lodged in a log springhouse on the farm while surveying in the area. On the contrary, Washington's own words suggest that at least during his 1748 visit, he and his companions were given a room (however inadequate) in their host's own dwelling, a courtesy that would naturally have been extended to the agents of the influential Lord Fairfax. Washington did survey in the area in 1750 and perhaps on later occasions, but he evidently did not keep a diary for this period, or, if he did, it is no longer extant.³ It seems impossible to prove or disprove Washington's association with the former springhouse.⁴

From Pennington the property passed through several owners to Rebecca Morton, daughter and heir of Charles Smith, in April 1785.⁵ Rebecca had married William Morton sometime between 1774, the date of her father's will, and 1785. A month after his wife inherited the property, William Morton sold a 157-acre parcel to John Milton, including the "dwelling house of him the said Morton."⁶ This dwelling was again associated with Morton when John Milton deeded the property to Daniel Morgan in 1800.⁷ Based on architectural evidence, it seems likely that the dwelling mentioned in the 1785 and 1800 deeds is preserved as the earliest portion of the present Soldier's Rest house. The references to Morton--and not earlier owners of the property--may indicate that the house was built for William and Rebecca between 1774 and 1785. Virginia chronicler Henry Howe suggested the same in 1845: "'Soldier's Rest' . . . is a plain two-story dwelling, originally built by a Mr. Morton . . ."⁸

General Daniel Morgan (ca. 1736-1802), who purchased the property in 1800, had achieved national fame for his military prowess in the Battle of Cowpens and other Revolutionary War engagements. A native of New Jersey, Morgan is thought to have moved to Clarke County (then Frederick County) in the early 1760s.⁹ By the early 1770s, he had begun to acquire land and slaves in the county, and in 1779, after his service in the Battle of Saratoga, he is said to have begun construction of a stone mansion near Millwood which he christened Saratoga.¹⁰ Late in life, "desiring to be closer to his doctor and friends" as one biographer put it, Morgan and his wife Abigail relocated from Saratoga to Winchester.¹¹ The Morgans had apparently already moved to town when, on May 6, 1800, Daniel purchased Soldier's Rest for £1,000 Virginia money.¹² The fact that the Morgans sold the property the following month to Elisha Hall, "late of the city of Philadelphia," suggests the purchase was made as a speculation.¹³

Daniel Morgan's brief association with Soldier's Rest is the source of another persistent tradition concerning the property. According to James Graham, who published a biography of the general in 1856, "Some time before his marriage [which Graham incorrectly assumed to be about 1763], Morgan purchased from a Mr. Morton, a handsome two-story dwelling, and a valuable piece of land, situated at a short distance from Berry's tavern, which he named 'Soldier's Rest.'"¹⁴ A decade earlier, Henry Howe wrote that Morgan "resided, for a time, about half a mile N. of

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Soldier's Rest
Clarke County, Virginia

Battletown [Berryville], at a seat called "Soldier's Rest." It is a plain two-story dwelling, originally built by a Mr. Morton, and afterwards added to by Morgan.¹⁵ Clarke County historian Curtis Chappellear questioned these interpretations of the property's history in 1948 when he pointed out that Morgan owned Soldier's Rest for only a month, and that the aged general and his wife lived in Winchester at the time. "It is claimed General Daniel Morgan lived at 'Soldier's Rest';" Chappellear wrote, "if so it could not have been while he owned the place." Chappellear did, however, acknowledge the possibility that Morgan leased the farm from its previous owner prior to 1800.¹⁶

The traditions also attribute the name "Soldier's Rest" to Morgan, claiming he intended the property as a retirement home. There is a more plausible explanation for this authentic early name, however, based on the later ownership history of the property. About 1815, after passing through the hands of several owners, the property was purchased by prominent landowner Griffin Taylor of the nearby Clifton estate.¹⁷ Taylor served for many years as a Frederick County justice of the peace and a Winchester magistrate, and in 1814, with the rank of lieutenant colonel, he commanded the 1st Virginia Regiment of militia at the Battle of Baltimore.¹⁸ In his will, probated in 1818, Col. Taylor devised "Soldier's Rest"--an early use of the name in official records--to his son, John Bushrod Taylor.¹⁹ It seems likely that Griffin Taylor named Soldier's Rest in reference to his own distinguished military career, perhaps with an added allusion to Daniel Morgan.²⁰

In 1820, the first year value of buildings was enumerated separately for property in Clarke County, buildings valued at \$337.50 stood on the Soldier's Rest farm, which by then encompassed 561 acres. In 1840, during the ownership of John B. Taylor (ca. 1792-1872), the value of buildings jumped to \$534, suggesting some form of construction activity on the property.²¹ The 1850 census suggests John B. Taylor lived at the farm with his wife Susan Orrick (b. ca. 1803), seven of the couple's children (ages twenty-nine to five), and John's mother, Mary Kennon. Mary Kennon Taylor (b. ca. 1771) is listed as owning \$24,821 in real estate, whereas her son is listed as owning neither real or personal estate--possibly a consequence of John B. Taylor being "financially embarrassed" at one point in his career.²²

In September 1864, after Soldier's Rest had passed to the Barnett family, the house was visited by James E. Taylor, a "Special Artist" on the staff of Union Gen. Philip Sheridan, who was then campaigning in the Shenandoah Valley. Taylor had learned of the house and the nearby "Washington's Survey Office" during an after-dinner conversation in Berryville, and he resolved "to book these grand 'echoes of the past' ere another moon, and what wonder in one with a penchant for pilgrimages to places of Colonial and Revolutionary association." Taylor's two pencil sketches of the property show a well-kept farm dotted with log and frame outbuildings and enclosed with board fences. The house appears as a two-story, weatherboarded dwelling

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Soldier's Rest
Clarke County, Virginia

with a two-story ell. Running across the front elevation at the levels of the first- and second-story ceilings are what appear to be modillion cornices, possible eighteenth- or early-nineteenth-century features that no longer survive. While Taylor sketched the house, "Mr. B. [Barnett] enlightened me concerning its history, saying that General Morgan, after the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown and restoration of peace, took up his residence in the front building, then only standing, which he purchased of a Mr. Morton, and in time finding that he required more room, he had the L added as he designed to make it his permanent home and literally a 'Soldier's Rest.'"²³

In 1914, Soldier's Rest belonged to Edward Neville Barnett, and the farm remained in the Barnett family until 1926 when it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Clifton E. Price. Shortly thereafter, the Prices built the two barns that presently stand on the farm.²⁴ Mrs. Price owned the farm until the early 1970s; later owners included Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Ewing of Chevy Chase, Md. and Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Hannon of Berkeley Springs, W. Va.²⁵

In recent years the property has been rented out to various tenants. Currently the house is vacant and the property for sale. The present owners, O'Sullivan Corporation, have agreed to place the house and a surrounding twenty-two acre tract under an Historic Preservation Easement with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

The period of significance for Soldier's Rest begins with the estimated completion date of the earliest portion of the current house in ca. 1780 and continues until 1864, when it was sketched by James E. Taylor. Since that time, only minor alterations and additions have been made. The Taylor drawings are an invaluable record of the property's appearance at the time of the Civil War. Soldier's Rest is certainly one of the most significant historic resources in Clarke County. Not only is it one of the earliest known frame dwellings in the county, but it has a rich association with two prominent historical figures, Gen. Daniel Morgan and George Washington, as well as with Col. Griffin Taylor, a distinguished local magistrate who achieved military fame in the War of 1812 as commander of the 1st Virginia Regiment of militia at the Battle of Baltimore.

ENDNOTES

1. Chappellear, "Early Grants," 17.
2. Jackson, *Diaries of George Washington*, 9-10.
3. Abbot, *Papers of George Washington*, 26; Fitzpatrick, *Diaries of George Washington*, xv.
4. Several nineteenth-century accounts associate Washington with the springhouse that formerly stood about 200 yards from the Soldier's Rest house. Henry Howe wrote in his 1845 *Historical*

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Section 8 Page 15

Soldier's Rest
Clarke County, Virginia

Collections of Virginia (pp. 233-234) that "well-authenticated tradition" states that Washington occupied the building's garret as a "place of deposit for his surveying instruments, and as a lodging--how long, though, is not known." Howe's information presumably came from John B. Taylor, then owner of the property. Another account is given by James E. Taylor, who sketched the springhouse in 1864 (Taylor, *With Sheridan*, 287). Both Howe and Taylor regarded the springhouse as something of a patriotic shrine, a "memento of him [Washington] in humble life, ere fame had encircled his brows with her choicest laurels" as Howe put it. Later in the nineteenth century, the building was considered for an exhibit at the Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893, and it may even have been dismantled at the time (Warner, *Economic and Social Survey of Clarke County*, 15). Clarke County historian Thomas Gold wrote in 1914 that "Some one in the desire to turn everything old into money moved the building some years ago" (Gold, *History of Clarke County*, 14). A modern newspaper article states that the springhouse was "moved into Berryville where it was rebuilt" (*Clarke Courier*, November 4, 1971).

5. Chappellear, "Early Grants," 21; Frederick County Deed Book 27, p. 51.
6. Frederick County Deed Book 20, p. 454.
7. Frederick County Deed Book 27, p. 51.
8. Howe, *Historical Collections of Virginia*, 233.
9. *Clarke Courier*, March 3, 1897; Gold, *History of Clarke County*, 16.
10. Frederick County Deed Book 15, p. 400; Deed Book 16, pp. 229 and 323; and Loth, *Virginia Landmarks Register*, 105.
11. Callahan, *Daniel Morgan*, 294. The Morgan's lived at a house on Amherst Street in Winchester in June 1800 (Chappellear, "Early Grants," 24).
12. Frederick County Deed Book 27, p. 51.
13. Chappellear, "Early Grants," 24.
14. Graham, *Life of General Daniel Morgan*, 39. Morgan married Abigail Curry (not Bailey, as given in some accounts) in March 1773 (Callahan, *Daniel Morgan*, 37).
15. Howe, *Historical Collections of Virginia*, 233.
16. Chappellear, "Early Grants," 24.

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17. Ibid.; Frederick County tax records.
18. Butler, *A Guide to Virginia Militia Units*, 30, 309.
19. Chappellear, "Early Grants," 24; Frederick County Deed Book 44, p. 508.
20. In his 1890 work *History of the Lower Shenandoah Valley* (p. 459), J. E. Norris discussed the provenience of the name "Soldier's Rest." Based on Morgan's military record, and on the erroneous assumption that Morgan had acquired the property during the 1750s or 1760s, Norris concluded that the property received its name during the last years of the Revolution, prior to the construction of Saratoga (which Norris dated to 1781).

The assigning of martial names to properties following the War of 1812 may have been something of a fad in Clarke County. Norris cites another property, "Soldier's Retreat," which belonged to Provin McCormick, who like Griffin Taylor served as a colonel during the War of 1812 (p. 627).
21. Frederick and Clarke county tax records.
22. United States Census, Clarke County population schedules, 1850; Myers et al., *Some Old Families of Clarke County*, 418-419.
23. Taylor, *With Sheridan*, 285-288.
24. Gold, *History of Clark County*, 17; Brown, *Annals of Clarke County*, v. 1, 86; "Soldier's Rest Acquired By West Virginia Couple," undated *Clarke Courier* article in the collections of the Clarke County Historical Association, Berryville, Va.; Sarah Meade Dorsey Notebooks, Clarke County Historical Association; and *SPUR of Virginia*, 13.
25. Lewis, "Soldier's Rest;" "Soldier's Rest Acquired by West Virginia Couple." Undated Clarke Courier clipping at the Clarke County Historical Association.

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Section 9 Page 17

Soldier's Rest
Clarke County, Virginia

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**Soldier's Rest
Clarke County, Virginia**

SECTION 10: GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM REFERENCES:

A 18/243120/4338440	B 18/243480/4338280
C 18/243410/4338280	D 18/243560/4338030
E 18/243530/4337950	F 18/243340/4338080
G 18/243290/4338020	H 18/243140/4338200

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Note: Refer to USGS Map for Boundary Description

Beginning at a point located along the southern right-of-way of state Route 7 delineated by UTM reference point A 18/243120/4338440; thence proceed southeast along said right-of-way approximately 1,300' to a point along said right-of-way delineated by UTM reference point B 18/243480/4338280; thence proceed southwest along a property line approximately 600' to a point delineated by UTM reference point C 18/243410/4338280; thence proceed southeast along a property line approximately 600' to a point along the western right-of-way of county Route 615 delineated by UTM reference point D 18/243560/4338030; thence proceed southwest along the said right-of-way approximately 280' to a point along the said right-of-way delineated by UTM reference point E 18/243530/4337950; thence proceed northwest along a property line approximately 600' to a point delineated by UTM reference point F 18/243340/4338080; thence proceed southwest along a property line approximately 250' to a point delineated by UTM reference point G 18/243290/4338020; thence proceed in a northwesterly fashion approximately 800' to a point delineated by UTM reference point H 18/243140/4338200; thence proceed in a northwesterly fashion approximately 800' to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries for Soldier's Rest are drawn to include the main house, the spring, and a portion of the original acreage that retains integrity. Excluded are outlying parcels, shielded from view, that are slated for future development.

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Section PHOTOS Page 20

**Soldier's Rest
Clarke County, Virginia**

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are of:

SOLDIER'S REST

Clarke County, Virginia

VDHR File Number: 21-73

Date of photograph: January, 1996

Bonnie Jacobs, photographer

All negatives are stored with the Department of Historic Resources collection at the Virginia State Library and Archives.

SUBJECT: Property
VIEW: Aerial view
NEG. NO.: 14517
PHOTO 1 of 25

SUBJECT: Main House
VIEW: NE view facing SW
NEG. NO.: 14518
PHOTO 2 of 25
PHOTOGRAPHER: Maral S. Kalbian

SUBJECT: Main House
VIEW: J. E. Taylor's 1864 sketch
NEG. NO.: 14518
PHOTO 3 of 25
PHOTOGRAPHER: Maral S. Kalbian

SUBJECT: Main House
VIEW: E view facing N
NEG. NO.: 14518
PHOTO 4 of 25
PHOTOGRAPHER: Maral S. Kalbian

SUBJECT: Main House
VIEW: SE East view facing NW
NEG. NO.: 14518
PHOTO 5 of 25
PHOTOGRAPHER: Maral S. Kalbian

SUBJECT: Main House, Rear wing
VIEW: SW view facing NE
NEG. NO.: 14518
PHOTO 6 of 25
PHOTOGRAPHER: Maral S. Kalbian

SUBJECT: Main House, Rear wing
VIEW: NW view facing SE
NEG. NO.: 14518
PHOTO 7 of 25
PHOTOGRAPHER: Maral S. Kalbian

SUBJECT: Main House
VIEW: South parlor
NEG. NO.: 14518
PHOTO 8 of 25

SUBJECT: Main House
VIEW: North parlor
NEG. NO.: 14518
PHOTO 9 of 25

SUBJECT: Main House
VIEW: Stairhall
NEG. NO.: 14518
PHOTO 10 of 25

SUBJECT: Main House
VIEW: Stairhall at second level
NEG. NO.: 14518
PHOTO 11 of 25

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Section PHOTOS Page 21

Soldier's Rest
Clarke County, Virginia

SUBJECT: Main House
VIEW: Dining Room
NEG. NO.: 14518
PHOTO 12 of 25

SUBJECT: Barn, northwest of house
VIEW: E view facing W
NEG. NO.: 14520
PHOTO 21 of 25

SUBJECT: Main House
VIEW: Detail of Dining-Room mantel
NEG. NO.: 14518
PHOTO 13 of 25

SUBJECT: Corncrib and chicken coop
VIEW: E view facing W
NEG. NO.: 14520
PHOTO 22 of 25

SUBJECT: Main House
VIEW: 2nd-floor, north bedroom
NEG. NO.: 14518
PHOTO 14 of 25

SUBJECT: Bunk feeding system
VIEW: E view facing W
NEG. NO.: 14520
PHOTO 23 of 25

SUBJECT: Main House
VIEW: 2nd-floor, south bedroom
NEG. NO.: 14518
PHOTO 15 of 25

SUBJECT: Garage
VIEW: NW view facing SE
NEG. NO.: 14520
PHOTO 24 of 25

SUBJECT: Main House
VIEW: 2nd-floor, bedroom over dining room
NEG. NO.: 14519
PHOTO 16 of 25

SUBJECT: Root cellar
VIEW: SW view facing NE
NEG. NO.: 14518
PHOTOGRAPHER: Maral S. Kalbian
PHOTO 25 of 25

SUBJECT: Main House
VIEW: Attic over original section
NEG. NO.: 14519
PHOTO 17 of 25

SUBJECT: Spring Site
VIEW: SE view, looking NW
NEG. NO.: 14517
PHOTO 18 of 25

SUBJECT: Spring Site
VIEW: J. E. Taylor's 1864 sketch
NEG. NO.: 14518
PHOTOGRAPHER: Maral S. Kalbian
PHOTO 19 of 25

SUBJECT: Barn, north of house
VIEW: S view facing N
NEG. NO.: 14518
PHOTOGRAPHER: Maral S. Kalbian
PHOTO 20 of 25



Corncrib + chicken coop

barn

barn

garage

root cellar

Main House

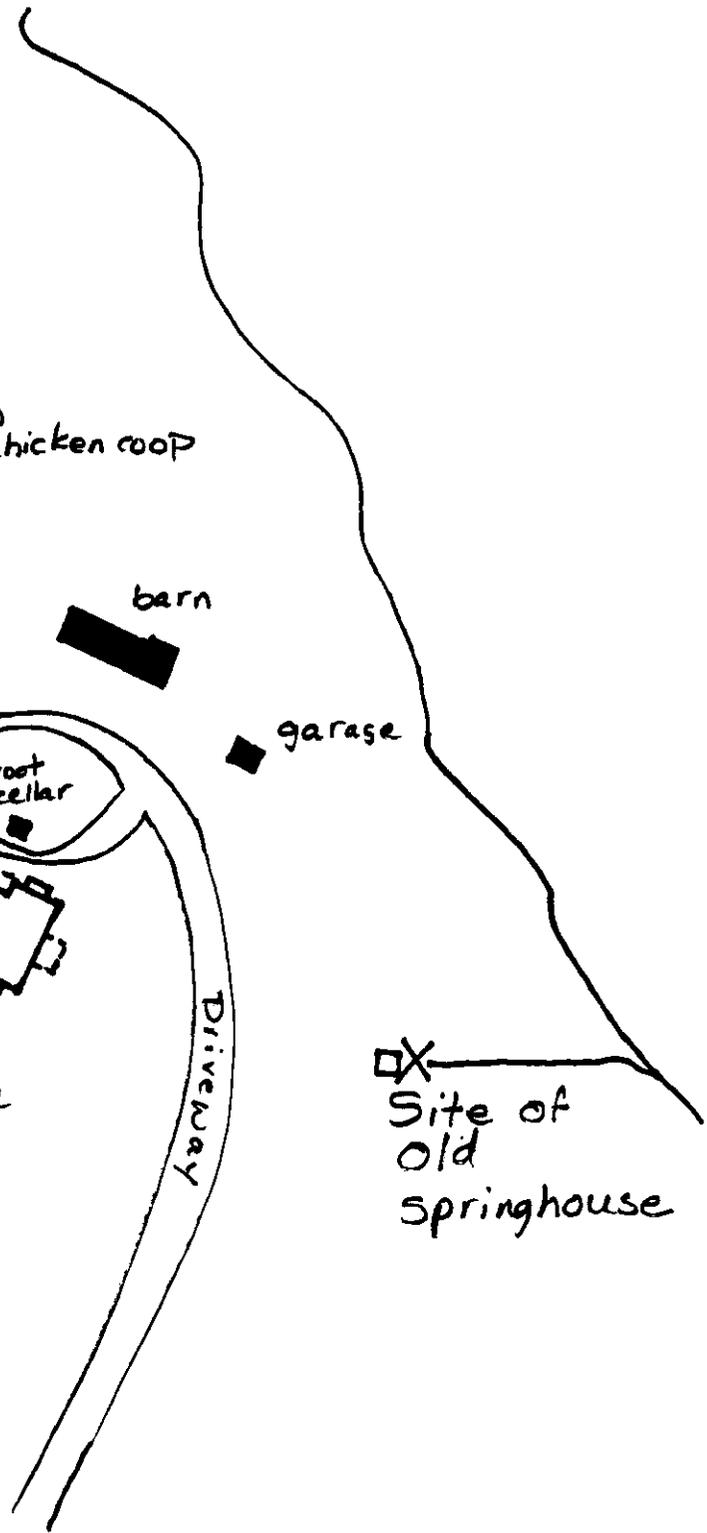
Driveway

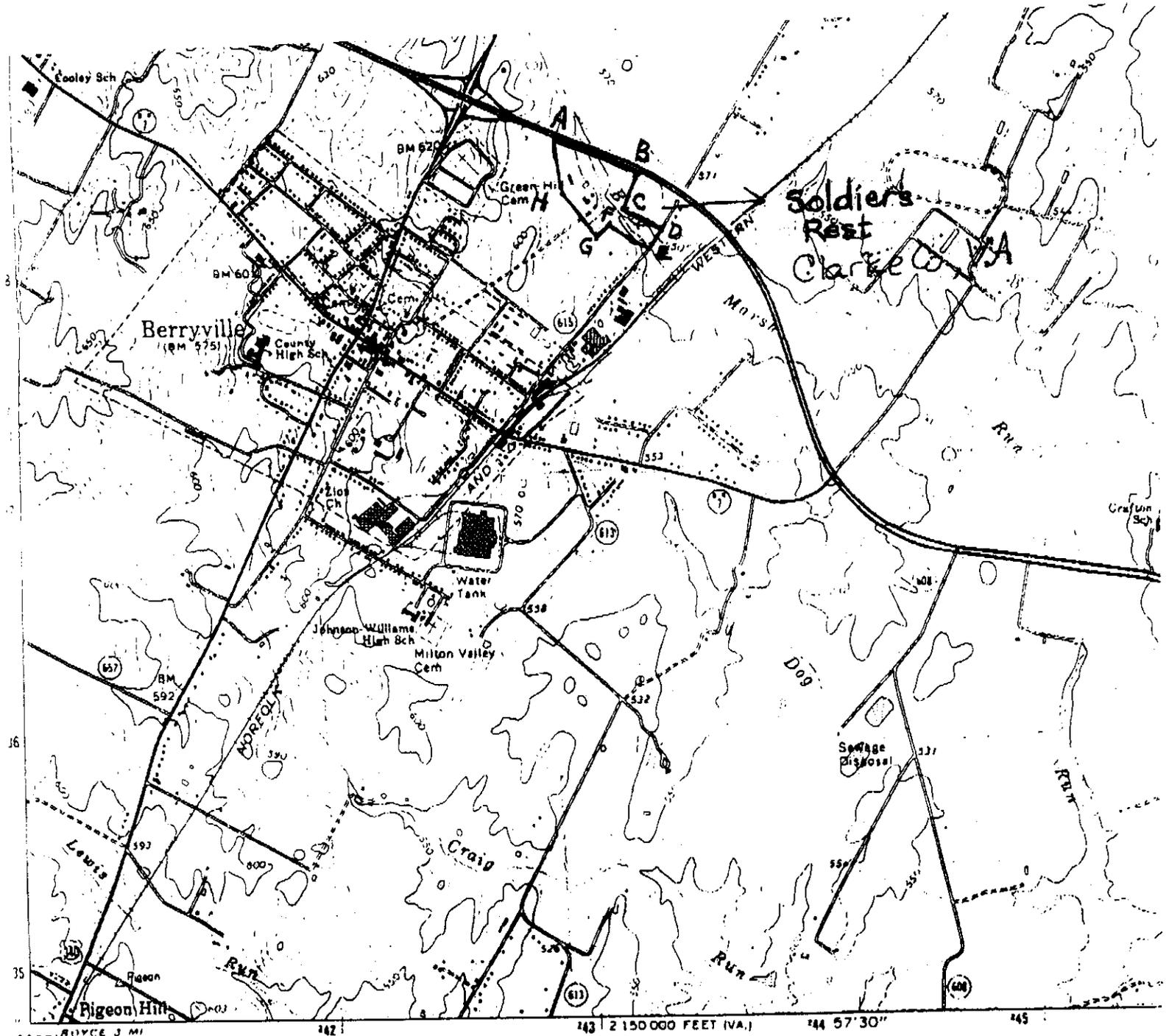
X
Site of
old
Springhouse

- contributing
- NON contributing

M. Kalbian

Not to scale





8° 00' 36" 142 143 144 145
 2 150 000 FEET (VA.) 57' 30"

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
 photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1968
 S. Mercedes Army Map Service map dated 1955



Soldier's Rest
Clarke County, VA
1 TM References

- 18/243120/4338440
- 18/243480/4338280
- 18/243410/4338120 10'
- 18/243560/4338030
- 18/243530/4331950
- 18/243340/4338000
- 18/243290/4338020
- 18/243140/4338200



540 000 FEET
(VA.)

4340

4338

4337

4336

WINCHESTER 10 MI