

VLR 6/6/7
NRHP 1/30/8

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 Gwin Dudley Home Site
other names/site number 033-5172, Gwyn Dudley House site, Twin Chimneys

2. Location

street & number cul-de-sac, Twin Chimneys Dr. (Rt. 1303) not for publication n/a
city or town Wirtz vicinity X
state Virginia county Franklin code 067 zip code 24184

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature] 12/20/07
Signature of certifying official Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

Signature of commenting 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.
- 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 the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register n/a

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

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: ruin

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: house ruin

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

roof _____

walls _____

other stone

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property 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)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

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

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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 1795

Significant Dates 1795

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder Dudley, Gwin

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
<u>17</u>	<u>616585</u>	<u>4100723</u>	<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </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.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Michael J. Pulice, Architectural Historian
organization Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Roanoke Regional Office date April/December, 2007
street & number 1030 Penmar Ave. SE telephone 540-857-7586
city or town Roanoke state VA zip code 24013

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Additional Documentation
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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)

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Property Owner
=====

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

name Virginia Department of Transportation, contact: Bruce R. Penner, Regional Program Mgr.-Cultural Resources
street & number P.O. Box 3071 telephone 540-387-5258
city or town Salem state VA zip code 24153

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Gwin Dudley Home Site
Franklin County, Virginia

Section 7 Page 1

7. Description

Summary

The Gwin Dudley Home site is located in Franklin County, Virginia, on the north side of the Blackwater River channel, now part of Smith Mountain Lake. Today the site is identified by the two extant stone chimneys, for which the site is commonly known as Twin Chimneys. It is located on a peninsula formed when Smith Mountain Lake was created, within the center of a graded and landscaped cul-de-sac measuring 75 feet in diameter. Around the cul-de-sac are modern houses. The cul-de-sac lies at the end of Twin Chimneys Dr. (Rt. 1303), roughly four-tenths of a mile south of its intersection with Burnt Chimney Road (Rt. 670).

Detailed Description

Smith Mountain Lake is a large impoundment southeast of Roanoke, Virginia, and southwest of Lynchburg, Virginia. Initial proposals were made in the late 1920s to dam the Roanoke River and the Blackwater River at the Smith Mountain gorge to generate electricity. Construction on the dam began in 1960 and was completed in 1963. The lake reached its normal water level in March 1966. The lake is 20,600 acres and has over 500 miles of shoreline. The north shore of the lake lies entirely in Bedford County. The majority of the south shore of the lake lies in Franklin County while a portion, including access to the dam, lies in Pittsylvania County. The area is part of a broad valley nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of rural southwestern Virginia. The Booker T. Washington National Monument is near the west end of the lake.

Before the lake's creation, tobacco farming and logging were the primary industries. During the 1960s and 1970s, the area around Smith Mountain Lake remained rural and remote. The limited early residential developments around the lake consisted largely of trailer parks and modest houses. Residential growth has been steady since the mid-1980s, however, and increasingly upscale with large lakefront houses, condominiums, and communities centered around golf courses.

The two extant stone chimneys are situated 31 feet, 8 inches apart (inside face to inside face), indicating the length of the house, which was lost to fire in the early 20th century.

South Chimney

The south chimney is the primary resource on the site, being particularly well crafted of un-dressed fieldstone. The material is mostly sandstone, some possessing fine quartz veins, but also some gneiss and low-quality soapstone. The stones are of a variety of colors from dark reddish brown to light yellowish brown. The chimney rises to 22 feet, 10 inches in height, with sloped shoulders or *weatherings*, as they are termed, at two levels—12 feet and 17 feet. The two levels are highlighted by built-in stone arches across the chimney's south elevation that appear to be both decorative and structural. The arches are formed of small, flat stones, 8 to 9 inches long, turned on end. At about 15 feet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Gwin Dudley Home Site
Franklin County, Virginia

Section 7 Page 2

above ground surface, on the south elevation of the chimney is an dark gray-colored, engraved stone measuring 11 inches by 13 inches. Inscribed are the initials G W (presumably Gwin Dudley's) and the date 1795. The incised letters and numerals are in-filled with a fine, hard-cured, tan-colored lime mortar that is almost certainly original. The arches and date stone comprise the most distinctive features of the south chimney, and the site itself. These features appear to be entirely unique in the region, thus the chimney is widely held to be the only one of its kind.

The base of the south chimney measures 88 inches (7 feet, 4 inches) from side to side, and 48 inches (4 feet) from front to back. The thickness from front to back is reduced by 5 inches at each shoulder level, stepping back from the walls of the (no longer extant) house, making the stack only 38 inches thick. The firebox, on the chimney's north elevation, has a triangular, or inverted V-shaped, stone keystone arch. The stones are barely dressed and the arch appears somewhat crude, but is nonetheless decorative and appealing. Although currently braced with a piece of wood, the arch survives intact and maintains its structural purpose. The firebox is 48 inches in height just below the keystone and 48 inches wide. The maximum depth is 18 ½ inches. Much of the original lime/sand mortar survives, but there are also a few areas of patching with Portland-cement mortar. The original mortar joints were *double-struck* by the mason with a trowel, creating a convex V-shape.

North Chimney

The north chimney measures about 22 feet in height, with a pronounced curvature in the mid-to-upper portion, the top of the stack leaning (perhaps dangerously) toward the south, and 35 inches thick (outside face to inside face). Its shoulders are 13 ½ feet above ground surface, where the chimney stack begins. The stack rises another 6 to 7 feet. The width at the bottom of the north chimney is 5 feet. The firebox, on the south elevation, has walls tapering outward, lined with cut soapstone, the opening measuring 32 inches wide at the outer edge, 35 inches in height and a maximum 15 inches deep, at the bottom. The lintel measures 41 inches long and 10 ½ inches from top to bottom. Just above the lintel are several irregular-shaped soapstone slabs. The remainder of the stone in the north chimney is mostly uncut sandstone rubble. Some shale is also present, and a small percentage of the stone appears to be gneiss, or similar foliated metamorphic rock. The stone colors range from dark reddish brown to light yellowish brown. In addition to patches of Portland cement mortar from 20th-century repair attempts, there is red mud daubing in places, while some of the original mortar is still intact, characterized by light tan sand and large lime nodules.

8. Statement of Significance

Summary Statement and Justification of Criteria

The Gwin Dudley Home Site, with its two stone chimneys standing opposite each other, is one of the best-known historic landmarks in Franklin County, Virginia. It is highly visible from Smith Mountain Lake, a popular area attraction. Although the site is commonly known as the Twin Chimneys, the name is an obvious misnomer, for aside from the fact that they are of about the same height and both constructed of stone, they could hardly be more different. While the north chimney is well-built, with its firebox neatly lined with cut blocks of high-quality local soapstone for heat retention, the south chimney is a masterful creation, exhibiting masonry features that appear to be unique in the region and possibly far beyond. The stonemasonry is so outstanding that the south chimney itself is nominated as the site's primary resource, under Criterion C in the area of architecture, for its quality of design and construction. The property overall is highly significant as a representative of the manmade expression of culture and technology, possessing high artistic values and being the work of a master craftsman. Gwin Dudley (ca. 1750-1832) was rewarded with a land grant for service and loyalty to the United States during the Revolutionary War and settled in central Franklin County where he prospered as a farmer.

Acknowledgements

Thomas Klatka, Quatro Hubbard, Jean McRae, and Marc Wagner of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and Linda Stanley of the Franklin County Historical Society provided valuable information and/or assistance towards the preparation of this nomination.

Architectural Analysis of the South Chimney

The south chimney is marked with a highly distinctive stone tablet inscribed by its builder, Gwin Dudley, in 1795. The engraved lettering and numerals are quite large and clearly legible from some distance, and are in-filled with a fine, lime mortar that has proven remarkably durable over more than two centuries of weathering. The light color of the mortar contrasts well with the dark stone matrix, further accentuating the inscription. Above and below the tablet are built-in arches that are both functional and decorative, constructed of naturally shaped, flat stones. The stone tablet and arches, in form and detail, appear to be entirely unique in the region; thus the chimney is widely held to be the only one of its kind in existence. Because no comprehensive, descriptive inventory of late-18th-century stone chimneys exists for the region, arguments for the south chimney's uniqueness remain conjectural. Nevertheless, a search of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources archives records for Franklin and adjacent counties produced no findings of another similar chimney, and nobody on the DHR staff knows of another like it. Stone chimneys from the period are not uncommon in Virginia, but very few bear such distinguishing characteristics.

Historical Background

Gwin Dudley, also spelled Gwyn, Gwynn, Gwinn, Guin, or Guyn, is thought to have been born in Middlesex County, Virginia to Thomas and Joyce Dudley in 1750. As a young man, Dudley moved to Bedford County, Virginia, where he married Mary E. Hale, daughter of Colonel Edward Hale, about 1774. Their children were: Levi (born ca. 1778), Thomas (1772-1849), James (b. 1785), Stephen (b. 1779), Elizabeth (born ca. 1774), Adderly (ca. 1773-1851), and Fanny (b. 1779). The mother of six children, Mary died by 1797. By that time, Gwin Dudley's farm had become part of newly formed Franklin County. There he married Mary Pasley, daughter of Robert Pasley of Fluvanna County, Virginia, on August 17, 1797.¹ Mary would bear him two more children: Gwin Jr. (1800-1846), and Lewis (1798-1829). The 1810 census shows two male children under the age of ten in his household; the 1820 census shows two males between the ages of 18 and 25. Family tradition holds that the couple had two children who "went west and were seldom heard from." Peyton Dudley, in his will written in Middlesex County on March 5, 1757, left gifts to his nephews "Gwyn" and Thomas Dudley and niece Lucy Dudley.² In August, 1777, "Gwin" Dudley was drafted into John W. Wilkerson's company of the Bedford County Militia for Revolutionary War service. According to some histories, he served as a sergeant under Wilkerson, but more prevalent is the tradition that he found and paid a substitute to assume his military service for him, a practice said to have been not uncommon. The substitute was

William Murphy, who "served as a second sergeant under Captain Thomas Doley and others, and marched to Williamsburg."³ Although he did not fight in the Revolution, his loyalty and support of the patriot cause is well documented. His public service claims for furnishing supplies to the Continental Army were certified in the Bedford County court on April 22, 1782, and on July 27, 1796, he was awarded 111 acres of land in Franklin County, Virginia, for his services, by Governor Robert Brooke.⁴

The earliest evidence of Gwin Dudley's residence in the area is the "List of Taxable Property and Tithes taken in Bedford County, 1782", in which Dudley was taxed 30 pounds for his land and personal property including 4 horses and 12 cattle.⁵ He appears in local records again on October 20, 1784, when he signed the appraisal of the estate of Richard Haile, deceased. In 1785, Dudley supported a petition to create a new county from portions of Bedford County, in which he resided, and Henry County, to the south. The petition was adopted on October 27, 1785 and Franklin County was established. Dudley appears again in court records on December 1, 1788, when signed another appraisal, that of Elisha Lyon, deceased.⁶ He appears on Franklin County personal property tax roles by 1787, taxed for possessing 6 horses or mules and 18 head of cattle. [List A] On June 1, 1795, a deed was recorded for the purchase of 527 acres on Gills Creek by William Ryan, "adjacent to Gwin Dudley's line on the Blackwater River, down as it meanders..."⁷ On April 1, 1797, Thomas and Polly Welch of Bedford County deeded 67 acres on waters of the Blackwater River in Franklin County to Gwin Dudley, adjacent to a parcel already owned by Dudley.⁸ On June 5, 1797, William Ryan and wife, Sarah, deeded 200 acres on the Blackwater River to Gwin Dudley, adjacent to property already owned by Dudley.⁹ In 1815, Dudley was taxed for 5 horses or mules and 14 head of cattle.¹⁰

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Gwin Dudley Home Site
Franklin County, Virginia

Section 8 Page 5

Some genealogies date Dudley's death to before July 19, 1827, when appraisement of his estate was recorded by the court. Other, seemingly credible reports of his death in April, 1832, however, have also been recovered. Confusion between generations of Gwin Dudleys is evident in some genealogies. Gwin Dudley, Jr. (b.1800) appears simply as "Gwin Dudley" in court records naming him as a juror in a November 7, 1836 court case. His last will and testament, dated February 21, 1846, has also been mistaken by genealogists and researchers as that of his father. Gwin Tyler Dudley, a nephew of the elder Gwin Dudley, was born in 1810.

Endnotes

1. Mason, James Henry, *Dudley Family Genealogy*, 106.
2. Ibid, 106.
3. J.T. McAllister, *Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War*, Hot Springs, Va., 1913, as cited in Mason, 106.
4. Mason, 107.
5. List of Taxable Property and Tithes taken in Bedford County, 1782, 18.
6. Franklin County Will Book 1, page 30.
7. Deed Book 3, 269-270.
8. Deed Book 3, 406.
9. Deed Book 3, 429.
10. Franklin County Personal Property Tax Records, 1804-1820.

9. Bibliographical References

Franklin County Personal Property Tax Records, 1804-1820. Library of Virginia, Microfilm Reel 121.

Franklin County Will Book 1, page 30.

Franklin County Deed Book 3, 269-270; Deed Book 3, 406; Deed Book 3, 429.

Mason, James Henry, *Dudley Family Genealogy*, unpublished. Franklin County Historical Society, Rocky Mount, Virginia, undated.

McAllister, J.T. *Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War*, Hot Springs, Va., 1913, as cited in Mason, 106.

10. Geographical References

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated parcel boundary encompasses a circular parcel of less than an acre, approximately 75 feet in diameter. The boundary is shown on the accompanying sketch map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated parcel boundary includes the entire green space encompassing the Gwin Dudley Home Site within the Twin Chimneys Drive cul-de-sac. The historic site is confined to that area.

Photographs

Gwin Dudley Home Site (DHR #033-5172)

Franklin County, Virginia

Photographer: Michael Pulice

Date: February 12, 2007

1. Site, facing south.
2. South chimney, facing south.
3. South chimney, facing north.
4. South chimney, initials/date stone, south elevation
5. North Chimney, facing north.

