

VLR 12/7/5  
NRHP 1/31/6

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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

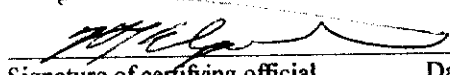
Historic name The Mansion House  
other names/site number VDHR Architectural File #045-0004 and VDHR Archaeological Site #44HD0068.

#### 2. Location

street & number Rte. 645 (161 Mansion House Road) not for publication N/A  
city or town McDowell vicinity N/A  
state Virginia code VA county Highland code 091 Zip 24458

#### 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     nationally     statewide X locally. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 12/7/5  
Signature of certifying official 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

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

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>  2  </u>	<u>  1  </u>	buildings
<u>  2  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	objects
<u>  4  </u>	<u>  1  </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  

**6. Function or Use**

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

Cat:   DOMESTIC   Sub:   Single Dwelling    
  DOMESTIC     Hotel    
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Cat:   RECREATION AND CULTURE   Sub:   Museum    
  DOMESTIC     Secondary Structure: Shed    
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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### 7. Description

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

  MID 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival    
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation   STONE: Limestone  

roof   METAL: Tin  

walls   BRICK  

other   WOOD    
\_\_\_\_\_

**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  
TRANSPORTATION  
MILITARY  
ART

**Period of Significance** 1851 to 1955

**Significant Dates** 1851  
May, 1862

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
Hull, George Washington

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** N/A

**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 # 000685206  
 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 1.052 Acres

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
17	<u>631823</u>	<u>4244247</u>	2	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_ 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**

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Name/Title: Charles M. Wilke, Chairman of Archaeological Committee & Society Chairman Elect.  
Lorraine G. White, Chairman of Museum Collections Committee

Organization: Highland Historical Society/Highland Museum and Heritage Center date 8/15/05

street & number: Route 645 (P.O. Box 63) telephone 540-468-3470 540-499-2573

city or town McDowell state VA zip code 24458

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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**

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

name Highland Historical Society; Attention: Charles M. Wilke, Chairman

street & number Route 645 telephone 540-468-3470

city or town McDowell state VA zip code 24458

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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.).

**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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### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Mansion House is an L-shaped, two-story, gable-roofed brick dwelling located on a portion of the old Staunton to Parkersburg Turnpike in the unincorporated town of McDowell, Virginia. This Greek Revival-style building was constructed in 1851 as the private home of George Washington Hull, Highland County's representative to the Virginia State Convention of 1861. One of three large homes built by county officials who were members of the Peter Hull family, the house served as a Civil War hospital in the time period surrounding the Battle of McDowell on May 8, 1862. In 1886, the building was sold to James and Mary Bradshaw, who operated it as a hotel until 1930 when it once more became a private residence. The house faces south and sits on a level 1.052-acre lot that was once part of the extensive Hull family properties. Additional buildings on the site are a small, early-20<sup>th</sup>-century frame shed, a contributing resource, and a modern cinderblock garage, a noncontributing building. The original kitchen facilities were housed in a four-room, one-and-one-half-story log structure that stood near the northwest corner of the house and was attached to the main house by a covered latticework breezeway. This building was destroyed by fire in the 1930s. The two contributing archaeological sites include the kitchen building noted above and the footprint of an outbuilding of unknown use behind the Mansion House.

### Detailed Description

The front portion of the dwelling is a central-passage/single-pile-plan structure with a three-bay facade. The rear two-bay ell forms an extension that is flush with the west gable-end elevation. The façade features Flemish-bond brickwork, with five-course American bond used elsewhere. The building rests on a cut stone foundation and is topped by a standing-seam metal roof. A 1950s-era front porch has been removed and replaced by a Greek Revival-style wooden entry porch featuring paired columns and a roofline balustrade. This reconstruction was based on a circa 1880 photograph of the house and on a recent archaeological assessment of the site. A 1950s single-story, enclosed brick porch wraps around the north and east sides of the rear ell. Physical and photographic evidence indicate that this addition replaced an original two-story frame porch. The Highland Historical Society intends to restore this feature to its original design as soon as funds are available.

Facade openings are symmetrically placed. The central front entrance features a paneled door with sidelights and transom. All windows feature double-hung, six-over-six wood sashes,

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with the exception of four-pane attic windows that flank each of the two end wall chimneys. A third chimney projects from the ridge of the ell. Original paneled doors open onto the rear porch from the central passage and at both the southeast and northwest corners of the ell. A window at the northeast corner of the ell has been removed to allow for an additional doorway.

The interior of the house retains a high degree of integrity. All interior walls are constructed of brick and covered with plaster. The central hall features an open newel staircase trimmed with decorative stair brackets and accented by a graceful walnut handrail with simple square balusters. Window openings feature architrave trim with wooden panels set beneath each window. Six of the eight rooms have brick fireplaces, all with mantelpieces containing pilasters and untrimmed shelves. Of particular interest is the dining room mantel. It is constructed of walnut and flanked by a built-in walnut cupboard with crown molding and four flat paneled doors. Heart pine flooring is seen throughout the building.

As part of the restoration efforts, all bath and kitchen facilities have been removed from the original structure, and modern closets, dropped ceilings, and a bathroom partition have been removed. In the process of removing paneling and wallpaper from the central passage and parlor, workmen discovered that the walls and ceiling of both rooms were painted with a series of decorative panels. The central passage walls contain rectangular comb-grained panels reaching from floor to ceiling on both levels, including the stairwell. The first-floor ceiling contains rectangular panels in shades of burgundy, olive, yellow and tan, while the second-floor ceiling is a combination of blue, cream and tan rectangular and oval accents. The first-floor room on the east side features repetitive shaded panels in yellow ochre and brown on a tan background. Effective use of glazes gives the illusion of depth. A small mural over the mantel depicts a lake scene. Ceiling treatment includes border trim and a center medallion. The work is signed by R. F. Gillett. The painting is in need of restoration and a significant portion of the mural has been destroyed by the addition of a stove flue. The mural could be restored based on other known examples of Gillett's work. These wall treatments are scheduled for restoration as time and funding permit. Restoration has begun on a small portion of the first-floor east room which will be used as a museum orientation room. The balance of this room has been covered with acid-free removable wallpaper to protect the surface and to facilitate an exhibit by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation.

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Faint traces of stenciled patterns were discovered under the wallpaper in the dining room. These were in green paint with faint red components on the plaster surface, but they were too deteriorated to be restored. A total of twenty different wall and border patterns were traced and their location on the wall referenced on scale drawings of the room's surfaces.

Renovations made to accommodate the museum facilities include replacing non-vented propane heaters with oil-filled electric baseboard units, as well as upgrading electric and telephone service. Fire and security alarm systems have been installed.<sup>1</sup>

Two outbuildings are located on the property and include a small frame early-twentieth-century storage shed covered with a metal roof, a contributing resource, and a mid-twentieth-century cinderblock garage covered with a metal roof, a noncontributing resource.

The original kitchen facilities were housed in a four-room, one and one-half story log structure that stood near the northwest corner of the house and was attached to the main house by a covered latticework breezeway. This building was destroyed by fire in the 1930s. The two contributing archaeological sites include the site of the kitchen building noted above and the footprint of an outbuilding of unknown use behind the Mansion House.<sup>2</sup>

## ENDNOTES

1. Virginia Department of Historic Resources Highland County Survey File No. 045-0004 (Richmond, Virginia); Lorraine White, "Field Survey Form," 2 April 2005.

2. Gutter Collection Box inscribed "G.W. H. 1851," Special Collections, Highland Historical Society, McDowell, Virginia; Oren F. Morton, *History of Highland County Virginia* (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1985), 119, 129; *Deed Book 7*, Highland County, Virginia, 419; James Louis Ralston, interviewed by Lorraine White, 28 October 2004; Microsoft Terraserver Imagery, <http://terraserver.microsoft.com/image.aspx?T=1&S=10&Z=17&X=3159&Y=21221&W=1&qqs=%7cMcDowell%7cVA>, 31 March 2001; Wilke, C..Mike. *In Search of a Porch, Final Report on Salvage Excavations at The Mansion House*. McDowell, Virginia: 2004. Publication #HD-15 in the Virginia Department of Historical Resources Archives; Postcard, "The Mansion House," circa 1880. Special Collections, Highland Historical Society, McDowell, Virginia.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Mansion House is a classic example of Greek Revival-style architecture. According to local oral tradition, the Mansion House received its name because it was the first large brick house to be constructed in McDowell, Virginia. It represents the type of housing constructed by members of the small but influential slaveholder class, who comprised the political and social elite of antebellum Highland County, Virginia. Its original owner, George Washington Hull, represented the county at the Virginia State Convention of 1861 and voted on the issue of secession from the Union. This stately structure was commandeered by Federal soldiers for use as a hospital before and during the Battle of McDowell on May 8, 1862. In subsequent years, the building served as a first class hotel and rest stop along the historic Staunton to Parkersburg Turnpike. It is the only pre-1900 extant structure identified as a hotel in Highland County. As such, it was an important link facilitating travel on the transportation corridor linking the Shenandoah Valley to the Ohio River Valley. Its function as a summer tourist destination contributed to the development of local tourism which today is recognized as Highland County's third largest industry. In the late 1880s or early 1890s, local artist Robert F. Gillett painted a series of comb-grained and shaded panels on the walls of the entrance hall and parlor. These unusual wall treatments provide a glimpse into the Victorian décor of the hotel era.<sup>1</sup>

**Criteria Statement**

Based on its function as a hotel stop along the Staunton to Parkersburg Turnpike, its role in the development of tourism in Highland County, and its role as a Civil War hospital site, the Mansion House is eligible under criterion A for transportation and military significance. George Washington Hull's contribution to state and local government during a critical time in our nation's history makes the house eligible under criterion B. Criterion C applies to the house as a classic example of Greek Revival-style architecture that was built for a member of Highland County's political and social elite. The folk art wall painting, done by Robert F. Gillett, also supports the nomination under criterion C. the period of significance runs from the construction date of 1851 through the 50 year cut-off date of 1955.

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**Historical Background**

George Washington Hull constructed his house on property that belonged to his father, Peter Hull. In his will, dated August 5, 1854, Peter specified that George's inheritance should include "about 125 acres ...on which my said son has erected a dwelling house, store house and other buildings...." George Hull's total assets included 2,325 acres of land. His household consisted of his wife Sarah, sons Washington H. and William R., the Presbyterian preacher William Price, and a hired hand named John Carroll. According to the Highland County Civil War Tax Record of 1862, George Hull owned eight slaves. The use of slave labor was not common practice in this mountain region. Slave owners represented less than 18% of Highland County taxpayers and fewer than 2.5% of taxpayers owned eight or more.<sup>2</sup>

Census records for 1860 indicate that Hull was a farmer. His taxable assets on the Highland County Civil War Tax Record of 1862 include 85 head of cattle, horses, and mules, with a total value of \$1,621.00. An appraisal of his personal property estate, recorded in 1866, shows 34 head of cattle, 28 sheep, and nine horses, valued at \$1,238.00. While most Highland County farmers of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century were bartering surplus goods for labor and occasionally cash, this quantity of livestock indicates some involvement in market production. The Hull family owned river bottomland along Crab Run and the Bullpasture River, but the degree to which this land was cultivated is unknown.<sup>3</sup>

George Hull was also a prominent merchant, establishing a store on his family's property even before constructing his brick house. Hull's store is the only such establishment to be acknowledged on Thomas Campbell's map of Highland County, completed in 1847.<sup>4</sup>

Hull family members were active participants in public life. Both Peter Hull and his father had served in the Virginia legislature, and when Highland County was formed in 1847, Peter was named as the county's first chief justice. George Washington Hull followed the family tradition by serving as a commissioner in chancery from 1853 to 1859. He was also appointed as a surveyor of public roads and as an officer of election for justice of the peace. He is best remembered as Highland County's representative to the Virginia State Convention of 1861. He has been described as a Union loving man. When the vote on secession was taken on April 17, 1861, George was present under the direct opposition of his physician. He voted against

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secession and subsequently submitted an ordinance for the suspension of sales for debts, to protect the property of men entering military service. He was appointed to chair a committee to study the issue. He continued to serve as a delegate until the Convention closed in December of that year. Despite his vote, Hull chose to support Virginia's decision to join the Confederacy and served as a colonel in the Highland militia.<sup>5</sup>

In the spring of 1862, his health failing, George Hull was removed to his father-in-law's house in Swoope, VA. Typhoid fever claimed his life there in April, just weeks before the Battle of McDowell. He was 45. It has not been determined if any family members were present in McDowell at the time when the building was used as a military hospital.<sup>6</sup>

Documentation to support the hospital includes a letter written by Virginia Military Institute cadet B. A. Colona regarding dead and dying Union soldiers found in the brick house. Further support is found in an article in *The Highland Recorder* dated February 25, 1927. The article records an interview with Civil War veteran George W. Sponaugle who recalled Federal dead discovered in the Bradshaw Hotel (formerly the Mansion House). Lt. Col. Robert A. Constable of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry was captured by Confederate forces on May 9, 1862, as he was sick with typhoid fever and was being cared for at Colonel Hull's house. An allowance for damage done to the house was noted in the 1863 tax records for Highland County.<sup>7</sup>

Following her husband's demise and with the loss of slave labor, Sarah A. Hull was unable to retain the family estate. By a court judgment against her in the April term 1881, the house and nine acres were sold to James Bland Bradshaw. Upon full payment of the auction price, title was conveyed to Mary M. Bradshaw on October 25, 1886.<sup>8</sup>

James and Mary Bradshaw opened the Mansion House Hotel to meet the needs of summer visitors and travelers on the Staunton to Parkersburg Turnpike. One granddaughter remembered James as "a good trencherman (who had) the utmost contempt for people who served short rations." In the summer of 1908, Bradshaw placed an ad in *The Highland Recorder* stating that he wished to get out of the hotel business and was looking for someone to rent the Mansion House and furniture. The ad included references to accommodations for transient or summer boarders and lists the advantages of being the only hotel in McDowell and situated on the Staunton to Parkersburg Turnpike. The hotel continued in operation under the ownership of James and Mary's son Robert Bradshaw and his wife Cosby. A July, 1926 article in *The*

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*Highland Recorder* reads, “the summer tourists are keeping the Mansion House at McDowell full. On Sunday 60 people ate dinner there, with 40 people on Monday and with 15 regular boarders.” An accompanying list of recent guests included visitors from as far away as Florida and New York City. As time passed however, improvements in transportation lessened the need for a hotel stop at McDowell. Business and the economy declined and, in the spring of 1930, the Mansion House was once again auctioned to pay debts.<sup>9</sup>

In addition to their role as innkeepers, James and Mary are remembered as leading citizens of the community. They operated Bradshaw’s Store in McDowell. James served as justice of the peace and road commissioner. Mary is remembered for her efforts to organize the Highland Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. A report entitled “Organization and Goals of the Highland Chapter United Daughters of This Confederacy” reads, “Upon invitation of Mrs. J. B. Bradshaw, who was the leading spirit, a number of representative women of the county met at the Mansion House, McDowell, Thursday, May 8, 1913, that being the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Battle of McDowell, for the purpose of organizing a chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.” The local chapter was chartered on May 17, 1913. Mary served as president for the first seven years of the chapter’s existence. She was instrumental in establishing memorials to Confederate soldiers. Under her tenure as chapter president, Civil War monuments were erected at the Highland County Courthouse, the McDowell Battlefield and the McDowell Presbyterian Church. All of these monuments are still in place and well maintained. She personally unveiled the courthouse monument on July 4, 1919.<sup>10</sup>

In 1932, ownership of the house transferred to Frank and Caroline Ralston. After The Mansion House ceased operation as a hotel, the Ralston family rented individual rooms to boarders. In 1972, Frank and Caroline’s son James and his wife Judy became owners of The Mansion House. They sold the building, with just over one acre of land, to the Highland Historical Society in 2001.<sup>11</sup>

The Society has undertaken the task of restoring the house to its original grandeur, while adapting the building for use as a museum. During restoration efforts, a series of comb-grained and shaded panels were discovered painted on the walls and ceilings in the central passage and one front room. A small mural over the fireplace indicates that the work was done by Robert F. Gillett. Gillett, born in 1867, was James Bradshaw’s nephew. He painted in the local area in the late 1880s and 1890s. Very soon after the turn of the century, he moved to California and ceased to paint. He also made musical instruments, including at least one large wooden harp. Several of

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his paintings still exist, but The Mansion House contains the only known example of his wall

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treatments. At least three other examples of wall murals and panels have been identified within a twenty-mile radius of McDowell. All of these are attributed to itinerant painters from the early twentieth century. The panels at The Mansion House are the only known work of its type done by a Highland County native, during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>12</sup>

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**ENDNOTES**

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<sup>1</sup> Cynthia Miller Leonard, *The General Assembly of Virginia, July 30, 1619 to January 11, 1978, A Bicentennial Register of Members* (Richmond: Virginia State Library 1978) 474; Virginia Rexrode, ed., *The New History of Highland County Virginia* (Marceline, Mo.: Walsworth Publishing Co. 1983) 95; "Mansion House 10 miles" sign in Special Collections, Highland Historical Society; Opal Lockridge, interviewed by Dr. J. Lawrence Brasher, 26, October, 1986.

<sup>2</sup> *Will Book 1*, Highland County, Virginia, Page 211 ; *Deed Book 2*, Highland County, Virginia, 241; *Highland County Confederate War Tax Record Book 1862*, Special Collections Highland Historical Society; *United States Census of 1860, Schedule 1. Free Inhabitants in the County of Highland, State of Virginia*, Photocopy in hand of Highland Historical Society, 271.

<sup>3</sup> *United States Census of 1860, 271*; *Highland County Confederate War Tax Record Book 1862; Inventories and Appraisements Book 2*, Highland County, Virginia, 105.

<sup>4</sup> Thomas Campbell, "Map of Highland Country Virginia 1847," Original in Highland County Courthouse, Monterey, Virginia; *Order Book 1*, Highland County, Virginia, 192, 219 , applications to sell ardent spirits at retail at his store-house in McDowell.

<sup>5</sup> Morton, *History of Highland County Virginia*, 180, 181, 185; *Order Book 1*, 2,219; *Chauncery Order Book 1*, Highland County, Virginia, 16; *Order Book 2*, Highland County, Virginia, 14, 50, 62; William H. Gaines, Jr., *Biographical Register of Members: Virginia State Convention of 1861, First Session* (Richmond: Virginia State Library 1969)46-47; George H. Rees, *Proceedings of the Virginia State Convention of 1861*, Vol. 4 (Richmond: The Virginia State Library, 1965) viii, 568; *Journals and Papers of the Virginia State Convention 1861*, Vol. 1 (Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1966) 183, 184, 208, 263.

<sup>6</sup> Register of Deaths, 1853, Highland County, page 18.

<sup>7</sup> Jennings C. Wise, *The Military History of The Virginia Military Institute From 1839 to 1865* (Lynchburg, Virginia: J. P. Bell Company, Inc., 1915) 207-208; *The Highland Recorder* (Monterey, Virginia: H. B. Wood, Editor and Publisher) 25 February 1927; Richard Armstrong, *Roll of Casualties, McDowell Campaign April 12 – May 9, 1862* (Hot Springs, Virginia: Richard Armstrong, 2001) Union Troops number 47; *Highland County Land Tax Record Book 1863*, Highland County, Virginia, page 8.

<sup>8</sup> *Deed Book 7-419*, deed refers to the court judgment.

<sup>9</sup> Rexrode, *The New History of Highland County Virginia*, 95; "Mansion House, 10 miles", sign in Special Collections, Highland Historical Society, McDowell, Virginia; *The Highland Recorder*, ad ran every week between 3 July and 28 August 1908; *Deed Book 22*, Highland County Virginia page 159; *The Highland Recorder*, 9 July 1926; *Deed Book 23*, Highland County, Virginia 553.

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<sup>10</sup> Rexrode, *The New History of Highland County Virginia*, 46, 95; Minutes of the Highland Chapter United Daughters of the Confederacy 1913 – 1922. Original in hand of Highland Historical Society, McDowell, Virginia.

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<sup>11</sup> *Deed Book 27*, Highland County, Virginia 456; James Louis Ralston interview; *Deed Book 50*, page 299 and *Deed Book 120* page 244.

<sup>12</sup> Lockridge interview; Morton, *A History of Highland County Virginia*, 271.

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**Addendum**

The following provided invaluable assistance in the development and preparation of the nomination process:

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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**The Mansion House  
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Klein, Diane. Highland Historical Society, Chairman. Assisted with the preparation and submission of the Preliminary Information Form as well as the development of this registration form and accompanying photos.

Stanton, Crysta. Highland Historical Society, Executive Director.

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Boundaries indicated on attached Plat of a Survey of a Portion of James L. & Judith Wilson Ralston Property, being the same portion conveyed to the Highland Historical Society.

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Highland County tax map #46(A)21A.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the nominated property coincide with the current lot on which the historic house and outbuildings are located.

Section Photographs Page 16

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**The following information applies to all photographs:**

**The Mansion House  
Highland County  
VDHR File No. 045-0004  
Photographer: Charles M. Wilke  
DATE: September 13, 2005**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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**The Mansion House  
Highland County, Virginia**

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1. Front facade of the Mansion House, camera direction – Northwest.  
Digital Photo 1 of 8
2. East elevation of the Mansion House including garage in the rear to be renovated into an Education Center/Archaeology Lab, camera direction – West  
Digital Photo 2 of 8
3. West elevation of the Mansion House, camera direction – Northeast.  
Digital Photo 3 of 8
4. Battlefield Orientation Room (east front parlor) wall painting detail with the hallway painting in the background, camera direction – Southwest.  
Digital Photo 4 of 8
5. Outbuilding behind garage, camera direction – North.  
Digital Photo 5 of 8
6. Door/trim architectural details in west front parlor, camera direction – North.  
Digital Photo 6 of 8
7. Cupboard/fireplace architectural details in west front parlor, camera direction – South.  
Digital Photo 7 of 8
8. Stair/wall painting architectural details in center stairway, camera direction – Northwest.  
Digital photo 8 of 8

NOTES:

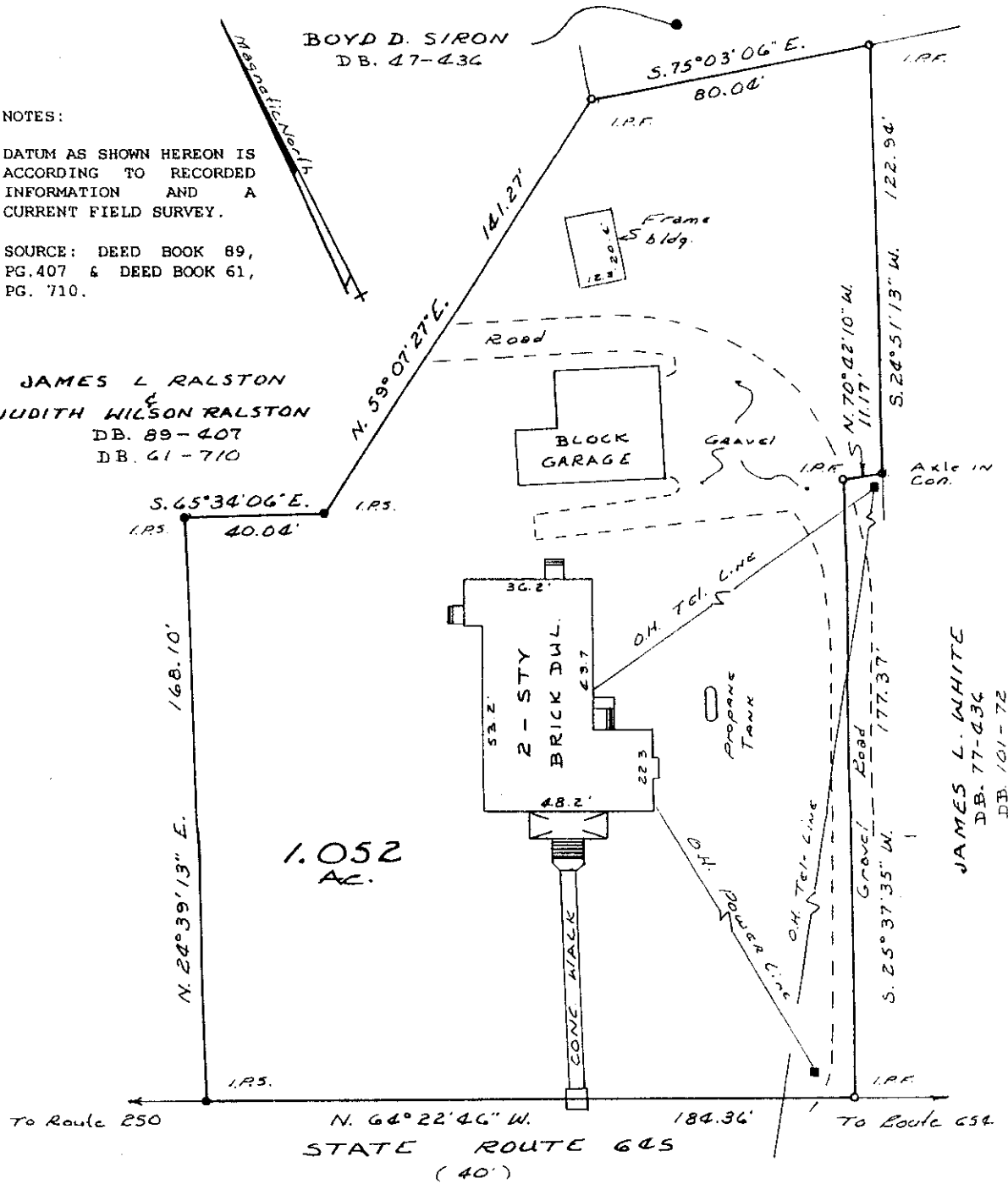
DATUM AS SHOWN HEREON IS ACCORDING TO RECORDED INFORMATION AND A CURRENT FIELD SURVEY.

SOURCE: DEED BOOK 89, PG. 407 & DEED BOOK 61, PG. 710.

JAMES L RALSTON  
 &  
 JUDITH WILSON RALSTON  
 DB. 89-407  
 DB. 61-710

BOYD D. SIRON  
 DB. 47-43C

JAMES L. WHITE  
 DB. 77-43C  
 DB. 101-72



PLAT OF A SURVEY OF  
 A PORTION OF

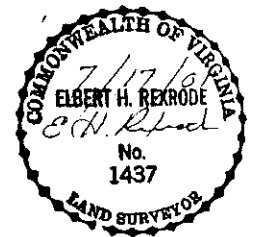
JAMES L. & JUDITH WILSON RALSTON

PROPERTY

STONEWALL DIST.  
 SCALE 1" = 30'

HIGHLAND CO. VA.  
 JULY 16 2001

ELBERT H. REXRODE, L.S.  
 MONTEREY, VA.



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
MODIFIED FOR USDA FOREST SERVICE USE

79° 30' 38° 22' 30" 632000m E. 633 DOE HILL 4.3 MI. 27' 30" 635

4248000m N.

4247

4246

4245

4244

4243

MONTEREY (U.S. 220) 8 MI.

THE MANSION HOUSE  
HIGHLAND COUNTY  
VIRGINIA

UTM:  
ZONE 17  
NORTHING: 4244247  
EASTING: 631823

