

VLR-9/9/69 NRHP 10/15/66 NHL-12/19/60

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Monroe, James, Home (Oak Hill)

and/or common Oak Hill

2. Location

street & number U.S. Route 15 (entrance approximately 10,300' north of Gilbert's Corner) not for publication

city, town Aldie vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county Loudoun code 107

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	b o t h	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Eugene Reed Prendergast (Mrs. Joseph Prendergast)

street & number Oak Hill Farm

city, town Aldie vicinity of state Virginia 22001

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court
Loudoun County Courthouse

street & number 18 East Market Street

city, town Leesburg state Virginia 22075

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date 1822-23 -- Main House
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			c. 1805 -- Cottage

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Monroe's Loudoun County property is situated along Little River, a tributary of Goose Creek which empties into the Potomac River to the north. The site is characterized by gently rolling land that is bounded on the west by the Blue Ridge Mountains, on the south by the Bull Run Mountains, and on the northeast by the Catoctin Mountains. When it was purchased in 1794, the tract itself was adjacent to major colonial roads; the Colchester Road and Braddock's Road running westward into the interior of Virginia, and the Carolina Road, originally an Indian Trail running south from New York to the southern colonies. Although the routes underwent some minor realignment, by the time of Monroe's occupancy of the property, the tract was accessible from the District of Columbia via the adjacent Little River Turnpike (State Route 236, U.S. Route 50) which led from Alexandria west toward the interior, and from the re-routed Carolina Road or Leesburg-Aldie Turnpike (U.S. Route 15) that ran north to Leesburg where it connected with the Leesburg Pike (State Route 7) to Georgetown and Alexandria.

Monroe's tract of over 2000 acres lay along Little River, just above Aldie. About half the land lay on the west side of the river and ran back to the foothills of the Blue Ridge. The other half, which most closely parallels the river, lay east of the river, and today roughly corresponds with the Oak Hill Farm's main tract. Monroe's acreage is best illustrated by a plat drawn for him on May 25, 1818 by Mark Hornsey.¹ The only land that Monroe acquired subsequently was a ten-acre parcel whose location is unclear, and a 215-acre parcel located at the northeast corner of his original tract.

The main house is situated on a rise that is just south of a bend in Little River, and that permits long views primarily to the north and south. The majority of the other buildings are located in clusters to the west of the house. A few remaining structures are scattered to the south, and a small cluster of buildings stands north of the river on the North Farm. Many of the meadows and fields are delineated by trees and shrubbery. Trees are concentrated also along the meander of the river, and are grouped around the main house as well as its driveway. The current owners, like all the previous occupants, still use the property as a working farm.

The extant structures which remain from the period of the property's association with Monroe are the main house, the earlier cottage, the smokehouse, springhouse, blacksmith's shop, and possibly the Brick House, the square barn near the dwellings, and the stone Stallion Barn. In addition to the standing structures, there are several sites associated with Monroe. However the location of these sites is known only approximately, and their integrity has not been substantiated: the site of Mrs. Monroe's vault, the site of a structure shown on the 1818 map as located on what is now called the North Farm, three similar sites illustrated on the 1818 map at the northwest corner of Routes 15 and 50, two sites which may have been merely open shelters for farm equipment or livestock that are indicated in the mid-area of the 1818 map, Monroe's daughter's grave, and possibly a mill site at the juncture of a branch of Little River. The source for the mill site that is still associated with Oak Hill Farm is a map published in 1853.² This mill was not the earliest mill on the property, and at this time it is not clear whether it was associated with Monroe himself or with the occupancy of his daughter and her husband. The earlier mill was located on the part of Monroe's land that his son-in-law sold in 1846-47 to the Gulick Family. (That Grist and Saw Mill apparently was operating by 1817, and it appears on the 1818 map.)³

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates **1794-1831** Builder/Architect (multiple)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Summary of Significance

Oak Hill was the home most associated with James Monroe (1758-1831), the fifth President of the United States, during the peak of his political career, as well as being the place of his retirement. Last of the Revolutionary War generation to hold the position of the nation's Chief Executive, James Monroe between 1816 and 1825 presided over a period of continuing struggle to define the relationship of Federal and State governments, the tensions of emerging nationalism vs. sectionalism, impending growth, and the struggle to establish an identity in international relations. An able administrator, Monroe is best known for his declaration of the Monroe Doctrine, which has been called "the classic definition of the U.S. role in international affairs."¹

At various times during his career, Monroe invested in a number of tracts of real estate, but his most enduring association was with his farms in Albemarle and Loudoun Counties. Acquired in 1794 in partnership with his uncle, Judge Joseph Jones (1727-1805), the Loudoun farm first became Monroe's more frequently used private residence during his service (1811-1816) as Secretary of State and Secretary of War in James Madison's Administration. It became Monroe's principal residence c. 1820, during his first term as President, when he decided to sell his Albemarle County holdings and focus his private life on Oak Hill. Upon his retirement to Oak Hill in 1825, Monroe personally attended to developing his farm there-- an occupation that was both an opportunity to indulge his personal interest in agriculture, and also his principal source of income in a period of continuing financial burdens dating from his years of public service. Although deteriorating health dictated Monroe's removal to New York City in 1830, Oak Hill remained the only residence he owned, and the place of considerable personal attachment, at the time of his death in 1831.

Monroe's Political Career

Born in the Tidewater region of Virginia, in Westmoreland County, Monroe received an education at Parson Archibald Campbell's private school and at the College of William and Mary.² In 1776, at eighteen years of age, Monroe left William and Mary, enlisted in the Continental Army, participated in several battles, and was promoted to aide to the Earl of Stirling. Unable to secure a position in the line of command, Monroe followed the advice of his maternal uncle, the influential Judge Joseph Jones, and in 1780 formed a connection as a student of law with Thomas Jefferson, then Governor of Virginia. Both men were instrumental to Monroe's career: Judge Jones as advisor, friend, and "parent" to the nephew whose parents had died early,³ and Thomas Jefferson as friend, mentor, and political colleague.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1136 acres

Quadrangle name Arcola, Leesburg, Lincoln, and Middleburg

Quadrangle scale 7.5 Minute Series
1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	8	2	7	3	6	8	0	4	3	2	1	2	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	8	2	7	2	8	0	0	4	3	2	1	2	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	8	2	7	1	8	2	0	4	3	1	8	3	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	8	2	7	2	1	0	0	4	3	1	8	1	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

1	8	2	7	1	6	6	0	4	3	1	7	6	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

1	8	2	7	1	8	2	0	4	3	1	7	4	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

1	8	2	7	2	4	6	5	4	3	1	6	5	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

1	8	2	7	2	7	8	0	4	3	1	6	4	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynn A. Beebe

organization _____ date September 20, 1985

street & number 3729 Gunston Road telephone 703 998-6721

city or town Alexandria state Virginia 22302

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date 4/29/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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In addition to the sites listed above, whose locations are roughly known, there is the potential for sites of other structures which are mentioned in Monroe's papers but whose locations are wholly unknown. The structures mentioned in papers dating from 1818 may possibly correspond with the unidentified buildings on the 1818 map. In the spring of 1818 the Loudoun farm contained, in addition to the main cottage, "the house, near the orchard, beyond the wood, in which Ellis lived,"⁴ and "the house where Peter the Carpenter is."⁵ The house near the orchard may or may not be "the other house" mentioned that same spring as being enlarged by construction of an "addition" and prepared "for lodgings for servants."⁶ That spring Monroe had his estate manager, William Benton, undertake considerable improvements to existing buildings, as evidenced by specific references as well as references to the shipping of materials such as shingles, paint, glass, and plaister.⁷ The reference to Peter the Carpenter's house speaks of "finishing" that house, which may mean completing construction or upgrading the interior surfaces.

However, some of the buildings mentioned in Monroe's papers after 1818 could not correspond to the structures shown on the 1818 map, and in these cases no information is presently available about their sites. In 1821 Monroe had Benton proceed with repairing two wagons, "as the buildings you are making will always keep them under shelter."⁸ The farm also contained open-sided structures of a less permanent nature, as indicated by a reference in 1822 to farm machinery and grain which would be sheltered "under straw covers, or roofs, fixed, temporarily on posts."⁹ By June 1825 Monroe was expanding his facilities:

J. Coburn is building a barn on the other side [of] Little River, & is very industrious. J. Gambill is making a threshing machine, which will be put in the barn, and both will be finished, in a few weeks. J.C. will then commence the distillery, in fact we are making every exertion in our power.¹⁰

By 1829 the property also contained a greenhouse, largely managed during Monroe's retirement by his daughter, Eliza Hay.¹¹ One other note on structures should be made. Correspondence reveals that sometime between 1820 and 1822 William Benton built a house for his own accomodation.¹² It is not clear whether this construction refers to a building on Monroe's property, or whether it refers to a house elsewhere that Benton is known to have built for his family.

Reference should also be made to other types of features that Monroe directed be made on the property. In May 1818 Monroe consulted several times with Benton, in person and by letters, on the layout of "the road to the house" and the size of "the yard" which he was enclosing with fencing.¹³ Regarding the road to the house, Monroe wanted a gate at the entrance, then:

...when it [the road] enters the yard fence, it should turn to the right slowly, round the hill, so as to approach the house from the north, pretty much as it does now.¹⁴

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He also envisioned the road lined with "one, or two rows, of poplars."¹⁵ At the time of these improvements there were present a garden and an orchard in the vicinity of the main cottage.¹⁶

The features listed and described below are those for which locations are known, either specifically or roughly. Location is cited by numbers that correspond with those on the sketch maps.

Structures that Contribute to the Property's National Significance

1. Main House

Built in 1822-23, the new two-and-a-half-story house on a raised basement was square in plan, with two flanking wings that were one story in height and one bay in width. Constructed of brick on a stone foundation, the central block of the house had three bays on the north side and four bays on the south side. The south side was dominated by the giant portico (Tuscan) extending the full length of the central block. The roof of the main block was designed as a gable, and the side walls were carried up to a parapet linking the pair of interior end chimneys at both east and west sides of that block. The north and south walls of the wings were carried up, above the roof, as a parapet, with flat coping, that concealed the single-pitch roof over the wings. The central block of the house still stands as Monroe built it, but in 1922 the one-story, one-bay wings were enlarged to two stories in height and two bays in length, with giant end porticoes (Ionic).¹⁷

The original floor plan is still intact, except for the opening up of the original wings into larger spaces which now adjoin additional rooms. Monroe's plan on the principal story has the entrance, recessed from the plane of the north exterior wall, opening into a square hall that is intersected on its south side by a narrower hallway on the east-west axis. In the central block, two small rooms flank the square hall; the west one contains the original stairway, which is served on each floor by a fireplace. The south side of the central block is divided into two large formal rooms that open onto the portico. The wings are each presumed to have contained two small rooms. The east-west hallway provided access to a doorway at each end of the house. The appraisal of Monroe's personal property after his death lists furnishings in four second-story bedrooms, and seven rooms apparently on the principal story.¹⁸ From the description of furnishings, the seven rooms seem to have consisted of two drawing rooms, a dining room, a library, and three bedrooms. In addition to those rooms, reference was made to an "office" which may have been located on the ground floor of the house, and a garret. Since the 1920s enlargement, the floor plan of each of the wings on the principal story contains a large room on the south side of the extended hallway, and two smaller rooms on the north side.¹⁹ In addition, each wing now also contains an extra stairway. The west portico is enclosed, while the east portico is open. In the case of both wings, the second story is recessed from the plane of the main block's north and south walls, so that the central block still visually dominates

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both north and south elevations.

The house has a high degree of integrity, in spite of the alterations to the wings. Among the principal features of the exterior are the recessed arched entrance on the north side, and the detailing of the Tuscan portico on the south side. (Photographs indicate that at one time there was a pedimented entryway on the main floor level of the end of the east wing, and a veranda at the northeast corner of the building that may have reached across the north side of the house.)²⁰ The interior of the main block of the house is exceptionally well preserved. Notable features include the panelled doors, the detailing of the main doorway's enframing, and the two marble mantelpieces sent to Monroe by Lafayette.²¹ It is believed that the paving stones in the floor of the old kitchen (ground story) had been in the White House prior to its repair after the War of 1812.²²

2. The Cottage

The clapboarded, brick-filled frame structure measures three by two bays, and stands on a stone foundation. It is entered (with the aid of a small deck) at grade on the north side where it rises one and a half stories, and at grade on the south side where access is into the stone cellar level, and where the structure appears to be two and a half stories high. The original structure is rectangular, with an interior chimney that is slightly west of center, and a gable roof.

This appears to be the dwelling that Joseph Jones, Jr., was occupying at the time of his death in 1808, and may possibly have been built at the direction of Judge Jones prior to his own death in 1805. It was certainly the building occupied by Monroe and his family when their visits became more frequent c. 1812, and was shared by the Monroes and estate manager William Benton's family from 1817 to at least 1820. Monroe's correspondence indicates that this building shared in the upgrading he had Benton do in 1818: "You will of course attend to the improvements for our accommodation when we come up, the plaistering the house where wanted, the putting planks in the kitchen loft...."²³

The main entrance (north side) with its double door gives access to a small entryway that leads into the east (larger) and west rooms flanking the central chimney. Behind the chimney, on the south, is a stairway running to the ground floor and to the two rooms of the garret. Much original or early material has survived in the interior, including the chair rail and baseboard of the east room, many beaded window and door enframements, some panelled doors, and two mantles that may date from c.1818-1823. On the exterior, some beaded clapboards remain. There is a two-story porch on the dwelling's south side, with an enclosed east end; the present porch appears to have been added c. 1850, but there are indications that a porch of that type existed early.

The structure as it stands now has three extensions that apparently were added c. 1925.²⁴ (1) a one-story, gable-roofed, clapboarded wood frame wing at the west end, on the same axis; (2) a similar structure perpendicular to that wing on the south, whose main story sits high on a cellar story, and (3) a small frame lean-to shed at the west end of the west wing. The two wings have interior end chimneys. The

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original structure's high degree of integrity is not visually or physically impaired by the later wings.

3. Smokehouse

Documentary evidence indicates Monroe had a smokehouse on the property at least by 1817, when his estate manager Thomas Slaughter temporarily incarcerated his apparently troublesome miller there.²⁵ Evidence in the structure itself suggests that it could be slightly earlier in date. Two stories high and rectangular in plan, the structure is brick (except for a south foundation wall) and is covered by a gable roof. The smokehouse is presently accessible at grade at the second story level on the north side, and also accessible at grade on the south side at the first story level. The cornice is composed of dentils made up of protruding brick headers. Ventilation in the area of the gable field is via three diamond-patterned sets of perforations in the brickwork of the gable ends. On the north side, a single layer of brickwork was added c.1925 to create the blind arches across the facade. Except for this unobtrusive change, the structure is intact and conveys its association with Monroe's period.

4. Springhouse

Standing one story on the south, and a half story on the north, the earlier part of the springhouse is composed of stone walls with a gable roof. Access is possible via a doorway in the south wall, and there is a square window opening on the west and east elevations. The building was extended on the south side c.1875. The "new" south wall is frame covered with wood latticework, except for the siding in the gable field. A square, shingled water tower rises from the center of the structure to a low-pitched hip roof with a finial. The alterations were done c.1875 by Dr. Quinby for the gravitational system of indoor plumbing that he installed.²⁶ While the water tower is visually dominating, the earlier springhouse is clearly distinguishable and contributes to the property's associative value.

5. Blacksmith Shop

The evidence of the structure itself lends support to the tradition that this building dates from Monroe's occupancy of Oak Hill. Built on a stone foundation, the wood frame of this small, one-story, rectangular structure is composed of hand-hewn beams, now sheathed in vertical siding. The roof is a simple gable. There is one interior end chimney whose large base projects well into the single room. A single doorway provides access in the center of both east and west elevations. There is a small window in both east and west elevations, and a smaller one in the gable field of the north elevation. The structure is intact and clearly contributes to the property's national significance.

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6. The Stallion Barn

Tradition has sometimes associated this now deteriorated building with Monroe's ownership of Oak Hill, though its history prior to the occupancy of Henry Fairfax is unclear. In Fairfax's day the structure housed his imported stud horses. There is little evidence to date this vernacular structure, though it is conceivable that it dates from c.1885. The rectangular, rubble-stone building is now roofless, but the configuration of the walls as well as a photograph published in 1913 indicate that it had a cross-gabled roof. The building is composed of three bays with no stone wall across the south (front) side of the central bay. Rough stone quoins mark the corners of the masonry walls. There is a single window in the front elevation of the two flanking bays, and a small window in each end wall. A central doorway provides access from the central space to each of the end sections. The frame partition which had divided the open front portion of the central bay from the enclosed rear portion has collapsed. Because the date of construction is presently unclear, the structure's contribution to the property's national significance is correspondingly unclear. Further research is necessary to definitively establish the structure's importance. At present its integrity is sufficient to convey aspects of its architectural character and its association with the farm.

7. Barn

This structure consists of two large barns set adjacent to each other, with smaller appendages. The East Barn of this pair is a square, wood-framed structure, now sheathed with boards and battens, and standing on a stone foundation. The gable roof slopes low to a height equivalent to one story on the north and south. The principal structural members are hand hewn, and there are early, ornamental strap hinges on the two doors at each end of the west elevation. There is evidence that the principal entrances on the east and west elevations were once large rectangular wagon entrances occupying the center of those elevations. The ground stories of the east, south, and west elevations were altered by fenestration, possibly during the ownership of Henry Fairfax, when the structure served as the apple-packing barn. The sheathing appears to date from the middle of the 19th century or the third quarter. However, the structure itself may date from Monroe's period, c.1825, or possibly from the period of his daughter, Maria H.M. Gouverneur.

Adjoining the East Barn on the west is later construction; a long, gable-roofed, wood frame barn with leanto extensions on the north and south, all sheathed in boards and battens. The long portion has been known as the horse barn, while the south extension was a cow barn. The East Barn is sufficiently intact and distinct from the later construction to contribute to the property's national significance.

8. The Brick House

The brick house facing U.S. Route 50, close to the intersection with U.S.

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Route 15, is in deteriorated condition. Rectangular in plan with a gable roof, the brick dwelling stands two stories high and three bays long, with interior end chimneys. There is a small rear addition, apparently of wood frame. The brick of the main structure is laid in American bond, up to a cornice composed of a slightly protruded single course of stretchers then a course of brick headers laid as dentils. The central door of the south (front) elevation leads into a central hall. The dwelling may have been only one room deep. The door and window enframements that remain are plain except for beading on the inside edge. The windows are comparatively small. At this time the east wall has collapsed, as has the interior wood framing of the second floor. At this time, the structure has sufficient integrity to convey its associative value as well as to provide information about Monroe's period of occupancy.

Located at about the same place as the cluster of unidentified buildings on Monroe's 1818 map, the dwelling could have been built between c.1815 and c.1830. It is situated on the tract known as the Pavement Farm in 1847, when the Gouverneurs sold the land to George W. Garrett and his sister Lucinda Garrett. This tract may have been the land Monroe called "the low farm."²⁷ An 1861 document indicates that at that time there were "two Dwelling Houses on the place-- one a Brick Building-- a Barn and other Buildings."²⁸

Sites which May Contribute to the Property's National Significance
If Integrity Can Be Substantiated

9. Mrs. Monroe's Vault

When Mrs. Monroe died in 1830 at Oak Hill she was buried in a vault which is believed to have been constructed near the main house. Then, much later her remains were moved to Richmond, along with Monroe's.²⁹ Egbert Watson, Monroe's Secretary at the time of Mrs. Monroe's death, in his later recollections mentioned the vault: "She was not buried for several days, the delay being occasioned by the construction of a vault, designed not only for her remains but for those also of Mr. Monroe, as he himself told me...."³⁰ The location on the sketch map is only approximate. Integrity of the site is uncertain owing to the construction of a formal garden in the 1920s.

10. Maria H. Monroe Gouverneur's Grave

Monroe's younger daughter Maria, after her marriage, lived most of the time in New York. After her father's death in New York City in 1831 she and her husband Samuel L. Gouverneur took over the management of Oak Hill, and occupied the house for much of the time during the period 1830s to 1850. She was buried at Oak Hill in 1850.³¹ The location is only approximate and integrity is uncertain owing to construction of the garden during the 1920s.

11. Site of Unidentified building on the North Farm

The 1818 map shows a building present on what is now the North Farm. The

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location appears to be roughly the place where today the structures of the North Farm are clustered.³²

12. Site of Unidentified Feature

The 1818 Map indicates a structure or other feature near the property's main entrance.

13. Site of Unidentified Feature

The 1818 Map indicates a structure or other feature roughly 2800 feet southwest of the main cluster of buildings which included Monroe's residence, on the east side of Little River, on a border between a field and meadowland that lay along the river.

14. Site of Unidentified Structure at the Southeast End of the Property

15. Site of Unidentified Structure at the Southeast End of the Property

16. Site of Unidentified Structure at the Southeast End of the Property

The 1818 map shows three structures situated at the southeast tip of Monroe's farm. One is close to the road then called the Carolina Road (the re-routed Carolina Road, now U.S. Route 15), about 1000 feet north of the intersection with Little River Turnpike (U.S. Route 50, State Route 236). The second appears to be roughly 500 feet northwest of that intersection. The third is close to the Little River Turnpike (Routes 50 and 236), roughly 600 feet from that intersection. The latter, situated parallel to the roadbed, lies in the same relationship to the road as does the Brick House now standing in about the same location. (See description of the Brick House, Number 8.) These structures are situated on the tract of land that by 1847 was known as "the Pavement Farm" (referring to the intersection of the two turnpikes),³³ This tract may also have been the same one that in Monroe's day was known as "the low farm."³⁴

17. "Second" Mill Site

This site is identified on a map published in 1853.³⁵ It is not clear whether the mill presumably built here was constructed by Monroe, or by his daughter Maria and his son-in-law, Samuel L. Gouverneur. It was apparently a saw mill. This mill may have replaced the one shown on the 1818 map that was situated farther to the west, on the land that the Gouverneurs sold in the 1840s to the Gulick Family. The site of the second mill is on the west side of Little River, on the south bank of the stream that feeds into Little River, northwest of the main house.

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Structures/Features which do not Contribute to the Property's
National Significance

Numerous farm buildings and several dwellings survive from the periods following Monroe's occupancy of Oak Hill. Most of these buildings were constructed during the 19th century by Col. John Fairfax, Dr. and Mrs. Quinby, or Henry Fairfax. While many of these structures may have state or local significance, further research is necessary to establish with certainty whether they are significant within the contexts of state or local history, owing to their association with these individuals and their role in the agricultural development of the area.

18. Tenant House: 1½ story wood frame building with clapboard sheathing, stone foundation, exterior brick end-chimneys, built on hillside so access to basement at rear is at grade, two entrances with pedimented porches on north side, rear elevation at ground level has large entrance for carriages/automobiles; previously used as a carriage house; known in 1946 as the Garage and Chauffeur's Cottage (3-car garage below, two apartments above).³⁶
19. Greenhouse: small frame and glass structure, near Tenant House (18).
20. Storage Building: small wood frame structure with board and batten siding, gable roof, two large window openings on south side, ventilation cupola along gable ridge.
21. Tenant House: 1½ story wood frame structure sheathed in shingles, brick interior end chimneys, leanto addition on west, entrance on south, regular fenestration; one of four identical tenant houses (nos. 42, 43, 49); c. 1870.
22. Shed: small, wood frame, leanto shed.
23. Pumphouse: 1½ story, wood frame structure, wood clapboarding, stone foundation, brick interior end chimney on north end, front (east) elevation has five bays including door; c. 1920.
24. Corn Crib: small, wood frame structure, slatted siding; at least some structural members are hand hewn; some old strap hinges; leanto addition on north is sheathed with boards and battens.
25. Main Barn: large barn, approximately 110 feet long by 45 feet wide, wood frame with board and batten sheathing, jerkinhead roof, east entrance marked by extension paralleling the lines of the main jerkinhead roof, stone foundation wall is exposed on south side (openings marked by segmental brick arches); two concrete silos (one a ruin) flank the main entrance; c. 1875.
26. Dairy Barn: long, low barn of wood frame, sheathed with board and batten siding,

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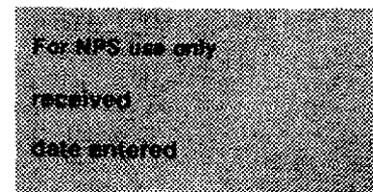
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gable roof, entrance at south gable end, now attached by a walkway to the Main Barn; c. 1890.

27. Small Barn: 1 story, wood frame structure, sheathed in boards and battens, gable roof, entrance at east gable end, ventilation cupola on gable roof.
28. Shed: low, ell-shaped shed, wood frame, open on south and east sides.
29. Shed: low shed, open on east side, wood frame.
30. Scale Building: wood frame structure, board and batten sheathing, gable roof, large opening in south and north ends, adjacent doorways also on south and north ends; shelters the farm scale.
31. Equipment Shed: wood frame, enclosed shed, sheathed in boards and battens, windows on east and west sides, four double-door entrances across length of south elevation, partially open on north side.
32. Shed: wood frame open shed, vertical siding, open on south side.
33. Barn: low, wood frame structure, gable roof extends low on both north and south sides, open on south side.
34. Office: small, 1 story, rectangular, brick structure (American bond), stone foundation, jerkinhead roof, 3 bays by 1 bay, 2 sash windows flanking the door on north elevation, 2 windows on south elevation, interior chimney centered in south wall; c.1875.
35. Outhouse: small, rectangular structure, boards and battens, low-pitched gable roof, two window openings.
36. Tenant House: long, 1½ story house on raised basement, wood frame, sheathed with shingles, exposed stone basement walls except for the west extension where basement is brick, interior chimney; known in 1946 as the Boarding House (for unmarried farm workers).
37. Shed: wood frame shed, vertical siding, 3 wide open bays on north side, roof sloping down to south.
38. Machine Shop: 1½ story wood frame structure, clapboard sheathing except for board and batten siding on additions, hip-shaped windmill structure on west end, 8 windows on south elevation plus two dormer windows, 2 doors on north side, board and batten leanto addition along south wall, small leanto against north wall; known in 1946 as the Carpenter and Plumbing Shop.
39. Shed: low, wood frame shed, vertical wood siding, roof sloping down to west.

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40. Barn: wood frame, originally sheathed with wood slats or boards and battens (both are evident) that is now largely replaced with metal cladding, two stories, open on south side at ground floor level, east wall of ground story is stone, slight pent roof along south side above ground story level; may be the structure known in 1946 as the Corn House.
41. Wagon Shed: small, wood frame shed with vertical siding.
42. Tenant House: 2-bay by 3-bay dwelling, 1½ stories, clapboarded wood frame structure, gable roof, interior end chimneys, entrance on south gable end, leanto addition on east side; one of four identical tenant houses (21, 43, 49); c.1870.
43. Tenant House: 2-bay by 3-bay dwelling, 1½ story, clapboarded wood frame structure, gable roof, interior end chimneys, entrance on south gable end; one of four identical tenant houses (21, 42, 49); c.1870.
44. Shed: wood frame, board and batten siding.
45. Outhouse: wood frame.
46. Shed: wood frame, board and batten siding.
47. Shed: small, wood frame shed, board and batten siding.
48. Wagon Shed: small, wood frame shed, board and batten siding.
49. Tenant House: 1½ story, 2-bay by 3-bay dwelling, wood frame, wood clapboarding, interior end chimneys, gable roof, entrance on south gable end, small lean-to addition on west side, veranda across 3 bays of east side; damaged by fire; one of four identical tenant houses (21, 42, 43); c.1870.
50. Manager's House: 2½ story, 5-bay by 2-bay shingled wood frame house, with 2½ story cross-gabled extension at south end of west side; known in 1946 as Manager's House, and later as MacDonald House; c.1920.
51. Barn: wood frame sheathed with vertical siding, gable roof, small additions on east and north sides.
52. Tenant House: 2-story house, ell-shaped, clapboarded wood frame structure, central chimney in north section; c.1890.
53. Storage Shed: small, wood frame, board and batten siding, gable roof.
54. Shed: ruin of 1-story wood frame structure.
55. Shed: small wood frame building, board and batten siding, gable roof.

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56. Tenant House: 2-story section that forms ell-shaped plan with 1½ story section, clapboarded wood frame structure, interior chimney at juncture in "ell," porch in re-entrant angle; known now as the Orchard House; c.1890.
57. Shed: small wood frame building, board and batten siding, gable roof.
58. Silos: four metal-frame silos sheathed in metal cladding.
59. Shed: small enclosed wood shed.
60. South Barn: large wood frame barn, board and batten siding, jerkinhead roof, approximately 125 feet long by 40 feet wide, basement is on grade in rear while first floor is on grade in front, small wood extension at southwest end flanked by two concrete silos, lean-to addition on northeast side; c.1875.
61. Shed: long, low wood frame shed, open on southeast; known as calving shed; c.1950.
62. Shed: long, low wood frame shed, open on southeast; known as calving shed; c.1950.
63. Shingle House: 1½-2 story dwelling, rectangular, wood frame, shingled in gable fields and clapboarded below, gable roof slopes low to one story on east side, cross-gabled, shingled second story flares out slightly at base, each sash of double-hung sash windows is one large pane rimmed by smaller square panes, small recessed porch at southeast corner; c.1885.
64. North Farm House: 2-story, square, clapboarded wood frame building with hip roof, entry porch on west side, regular fenestration; c.1910.
65. North Farm Barn: small barn built into hillside, with entry on west side into basement level at grade, wood frame with vertical siding, gable roof, shed additions on east and west ends.
66. North Farm Shed and Silo: long, low, wood frame shed, open on east side, gable roof, shed extension on north side, concrete silo adjacent to north end.
67. Swimming Pool: south of cottage, paralleled by low retaining wall; 1951.
68. Littleton Garden: formal garden on south side of main house, a series of walled terraces and steps to a retaining wall at south end which elevates the garden above the adjacent fields to the south; 1920s.
69. Outhouse: wood frame, shed roof.
70. Shed: small, square, wood frame structure, vertical siding, gable roof.

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DESCRIPTION

¹Mark Hornsey, "Survey of the Loudoun Farm of Col. Ja.^s Monroe President of the United States," 25 May 1818, Loudoun County Deed Book 4I, folio 152 (following Deed of Gouverneur to Bibby, 17 September 1834).

²Yardley Taylor, "Map of Loudoun County, Va. from Actual Surveys," 1853, reproduced in Richard W. Stephenson's The Cartography of Northern Virginia: Facsimile Reproductions of Maps Dating from 1608 to 1915, (Fairfax: Fairfax County Office of Comprehensive Planning, 1981).

³Thomas Slaughter to James Monroe (J.M.), 11 April 1817, James Monroe Museum and Library (JMML), Fredericksburg, Va.; J.M. to William Benton (W.B.), 3 Jan. 1818, Monroe Papers, University of Virginia (U.Va.); J.M. to George Carter, 20 October 1825, U.Va.

⁴J.M. to W.B., 27 April 1818, U.Va.

⁵J.M. to W.B., 8 May 1818, U.Va.

⁶Ibid.

⁷Ibid.; J.M. to W.B. 22 May 1818, U.Va.

⁸J.M. to W.B., 8 Jan. 1821, Monroe Papers, Supplement, Library of Congress (LC).

⁹J.M. to W.B., 4 Feb. 1822, Series 1, Reel 8, Library of Congress (LC).

¹⁰J.M. to Samuel L. Gouverneur (S.L.G.), 25 June 1825, Monroe Papers, New York Public Library (NYPL).

¹¹Harry Ammon, James Monroe: The Quest for National Identity (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1971), p. 549; reference is to letter of Egbert Benson to Daniel M. Railey, 25 Feb. 1829, at U.Va. Library.

¹²J.M. to W.B., 12 August 1822, U.Va.; copy of Explanatory Notes regarding William Benton's Claims and Award, 20 March 1824, JMML.

¹³J.M. to W.B., 3 Jan. 1818, 8 May 1818, 22 May 1818, U.Va.

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¹⁴J.M. to W.B., 8 May 1818, U.Va.

¹⁵J.M. to W.B., 22 May 1818, U.Va.

¹⁶J.M. to W.B., 8 May 1818, U.Va.

¹⁷Littleton reported that when excavations took place for expansion of the extant wings in 1922, foundations were found indicating that Monroe had originally intended that the wings be longer than they were actually built in 1822-23. There is some question whether this was true, since Littleton had received some criticism for altering the house, and no documentation has been found supporting his statements, even in the Littleton/Oak Hill Papers at the University of Virginia. (Mrs. Prendergast, Interview).

¹⁸A list of the Appraisalment of the James Monroe Property Oak Hill 22 Jan^y 1836, recorded 14 November 1838, facsimile copy in Mrs. Prendergast's collection.

¹⁹Floor plans appear in Joseph P. Day's "Analysis and Report; Oak Hill Farm" (New York, 1946); copies in Anne H. McClelland's "Oak Hill: Artifact of American Culture" (B.A. Thesis, Williams College, 1978).

²⁰Ammon, following page 348; William Penn Cresson, James Monroe (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1971), facing page 482.

²¹Ammon, 548.

²²Mrs. Prendergast, Interview.

²³J.M. to W.B., 8 May 1818.

²⁴Mrs. Prendergast, Interview.

²⁵T.S. to J.M., 11 April 1817, JMML.

²⁶McClelland, 93.

²⁷Loudoun County Deed Book 5A, folio 251, Deed of Samuel L. Gouverneur to George W. Garrett; regarding the low farm, see, for example, Wm. Benton's List of exhibits, Benton's Claims and Award Papers, JMML, item number 5 concerning the hiring of an overseer for the low farm.

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²⁸Advertisement for Commissioner's Sale, attached to "Memorandum of Sale of Garrett's Land, 8 April 1861," Chancery Court Records of Green vs. Garrett, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Loudoun County Courthouse. Another reference appears in the Advertisement for the Postponed Commissioner's Sale, attached to the Auctioneer's Report of 8 April 1867, also in the records of Green vs. Garrett.

The Day Report indicates the dwelling in 1946 was called the "White House" and that it had barns adjacent.

²⁹Mrs. Prendergast, Interview.

³⁰"Judge E.R. Watson's Recollections," published in Daniel C. Gilman's James Monroe and His Relations to the Public Service During Half a Century, 1776 to 1826 (Boston: Houghton Mifflin and Co., 1883), p. 194.

³¹Mrs. Prendergast's research, using the Hogan Diary (from a private collection).

³²Hornsey, "Survey," Deed Book 4I, folio 153; Tradition holds that there was a log dwelling on the North Farm, at least by the occupancy of Maria H.M. Gouverneur (Mrs. Prendergast, Interview).

³³See note 27.

³⁴See note 27.

³⁵Taylor, "Map," reproduced in Stephenson, plate 35.

³⁶All references to data from 1946 are from Day's "Analysis and Report" (1946).

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In 1782 Monroe was elected to the Virginia Legislature, and in 1783 to the Congress of the Confederation where he served until 1786. His political thinking at this time was moderate, based in part on fear of centralization. Present at the Annapolis Conference of 1786, Monroe subsequently returned to the Virginia Legislature and was elected to the State Convention called to ratify the Constitution in 1788. He opposed ratification on the basis of his preference for decentralized government, and his strong sectional feelings, but upon ratification Monroe participated as a candidate in the election to the first Congress, losing badly to Madison. However, in 1790 he was appointed to fill a vacancy in the Senate.

Dispatched as Minister to France by President Washington in 1794, Monroe served two years before being recalled. In his efforts to secure French cooperation and influenced in part by his own French sympathies, Monroe had pursued a course not entirely in accord with the American Administration's more Anglophile policy. Elected Governor of Virginia three consecutive times, he served in that capacity from 1799 to 1802. Sent by Jefferson to France the next year to assist Robert R. Livingston, Monroe arrived just after Livingston had obtained France's agreement to what would be the Louisiana Purchase. Monroe subsequently participated in negotiations in Madrid relative to the Floridas, though with little success. In 1805 Jefferson dispatched him to London where his efforts to secure cessation of the British practice of impressment resulted in a treaty so unsatisfactory that it was not submitted to the Senate. This frustration was followed in 1808 by Monroe's unsuccessful bid for the Presidency against Madison.

Still possessed of a strong political base in Virginia, Monroe was re-elected to the Virginia Legislature in 1810 and to the Governor's post in 1811. In need of a Virginian with political influence, Madison appointed Monroe Secretary of State in 1811. Monroe's efforts to bring about a reconciliation with Great Britain failed, and in June, 1812 Congress declared war on Britain. From 1814 to 1815 Monroe served simultaneously as Secretary of State and Secretary of War. The victories at Flattsburgh and New Orleans in 1815 enhanced his prestige, and in 1816 he succeeded in his bid for the Presidency. In spite of the economic Panic of 1819, Monroe was re-elected in 1819, receiving all but one of the electoral votes cast.

Though in the early years of his political career he had been strongly sectional and partisan, and his diplomatic missions had been largely unsuccessful, Monroe had never ceased to possess strong political credibility in Virginia. In the Presidency he had the opportunity to exhibit a marked capacity for administration and soundness of judgement. In domestic affairs, he moved from a conservative to a more moderate position on the subject of internal improvements by the Federal government. Though he vetoed the Cumberland Road Bill in 1822, his accompanying message was significant; while it denied the Federal government the right of jurisdiction, it declared that Congress had unlimited power to raise money, "restricted only by the duty to appropriate it to purposes of common defense and of general, not local, national, not State, benefit"-- a position that opened the way for future legislation promoting

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internal improvements. The dispute in 1819-1820 over slavery that erupted in the struggle over admission of Missouri as a state, also put Monroe in the position of presiding over the question of Federal jurisdiction when he signed the bill that admitted Missouri as a slave state, but prohibited slavery north of 36° 30' in the future-- in spite of Monroe's own doubts over whether the Federal government had the right to exclude slavery in future states.

In foreign affairs, Monroe tackled a number of important issues including limitation of armaments on the Great Lakes, resolution of the fisheries dispute, agreement on the principle of joint occupation of the Northwest, and the acquisition of Florida (1819-1820). However, the issue for which his Presidency is best known grew out of his decision to recognize the independence of the former Spanish colonies. Possessed of information that suggested that the Continental powers were contemplating reconquest of Spain's former colonies and restitution of those colonies to Spain, Monroe and his Secretary of State John Quincy Adams constructed the position that would come to be known as the Monroe Doctrine. Developed during the summer and fall of 1823, the position was enunciated first in Monroe's message to Congress that December. Though the principles that undergirded Monroe's message have been attributed largely to Secretary of State Adams, Monroe has been credited with both the initiative and the responsibility for the declaration, and it was Monroe who decided to announce the position as a declaration in his message to Congress, rather than simply in diplomatic communications to various governments. The message had four basic points: there was to be no further colonization by Europe in the New World, the political system in the Americas was essentially different from Europe's, the United States would abstain from the political affairs of Europe or existing European colonies, and the European nations were not to extend their political system to any part of the Western Hemisphere. Although at the time of its announcement it drew little attention, the Doctrine's major significance emerged at the middle of the 19th century, and it served as the cornerstone of American foreign policy.⁴

When Monroe retired from active political life in 1825, at the completion of his second term as President, he decided to follow the example of his predecessors and friends, Jefferson and Madison, and avoided involvement in politics.⁵

Monroe's Association with Oak Hill

The Loudoun County property that later became known as Oak Hill had been purchased in 1794 by Judge Joseph Jones, Monroe's maternal uncle, and James Monroe from Charles Carter. The deed lists only Judge Jones as purchaser, but subsequent correspondence and Jones' will reveal that, by agreement between them, from the beginning Monroe owned an equal, undivided half of the property, and he correspondingly used the income from his estates to make payments on the Loudoun property, at least

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in 1803-1805.⁶ The extent of activity on the property prior to Jones's death in 1805 is presently unclear, except for a reference to Jones's herd of sheep.⁷ During this period Monroe's personal and professional life was centered elsewhere. Joseph Jones, Junior, was residing on the property at the time of his death in 1808, at which time there were sheep and slaves present on the property,⁸ and apparently some distilling of "spiritous liquors."⁹ Monroe's involvement with the Loudoun County land at this stage appears to have been as executor of both Judge Jones's and his son's personal estates and as investor/owner. For a time, sometime after 1808 and prior to 1817, his brother Andrew appears to have resided on the Loudoun County land and managed the farm there, on Monroe's behalf.¹⁰ However, the farm was less than optimally productive at this time, owing to Andrew Monroe's deficiencies in estate management.¹¹

Correspondence reveals that it was Monroe's intention to make Albemarle County his principal residence and place of eventual retirement because of its proximity to his friends, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.¹² However, during Monroe's tenure as Secretary of State (1811-1816) he began to spend more time at the Loudoun property, presumably owing to its proximity to the City of Washington, in contrast to his Albemarle residence.¹³ With debts accumulating, the Loudoun farm "improving, and the price of land there generally rising," Monroe put the Loudoun property up for sale in 1814 but was unable to obtain an offer that met his own assessment of the tract's value.¹⁴ Upon his election as President in 1816, Monroe hired Thomas Slaughter as estate manager to oversee the operation of the farm at Loudoun. With the Albemarle estate too distant to make trips practicable, Monroe appears to have continued to spend more time at Loudoun, including two or three months in the summer/fall.¹⁵ In 1817 William Benton succeeded Slaughter as estate manager, and Monroe had Benton gear his efforts toward the marketability of the Loudoun tract.¹⁶ However, the value of Virginia land remained depressed, sinking even further in the Panic of 1819.¹⁷ Unable to sell the Loudoun Farm for the price he considered warranted, and faced with mounting debts, Monroe decided in 1820 to begin selling off his Albemarle County lands, and to focus on the Loudoun farm as his personal residence.¹⁸

Up until the time that Monroe decided to keep the Loudoun County farm, he and his family had occupied the frame cottage that had apparently been the residence of Joseph Jones, Junior,¹⁹ and subsequently of Monroe's estate managers.²⁰ By 1818 there were at least five buildings on the farm, in addition to the cottage and its adjacent dependencies (which included the smokehouse).²¹ Other than the principal dwelling there appear to have been two other houses: "the house, near the orchard, beyond the wood, in which Ellis lived,"²² and "the house where Peter the Carpenter is."²³ During the first three years of Benton's employment as estate manager (Fall, 1817-1820), he and his family lived in the cottage, sharing it with the Monroes whenever the latter were in Loudoun.²⁴ The exceptions were the occasions when the Monroes brought guests with them, at which time Benton appears to have temporarily moved to the house near the orchard.²⁵ Although Monroe in 1818 was having improvements made to all the dwellings, it was Benton's later assessment that during this period "there was but one deasant [*sic*] house on the Estate."²⁶

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By early 1820, Monroe had decided to improve significantly his accommodations in Loudoun by building a new residence for his own use. Planning for the improvement appears to have spanned 1820 and 1821, before work began on the foundation in June, 1822.²⁷ By the end of September 1822 the foundation, the ground story, and above it the columns of the portico had been completed.²⁸ Although by August 1822 Monroe was anxious that work on the house proceed faster, it was not ready to be occupied until April 15, 1823.²⁸ The timber, the provisions, and at least some of the labor for the project had been obtained on the farm itself.³⁰ Because his personal finances were constrained, Monroe throughout sought economy and efficiency, in the hope of achieving his expectation that the construction would cost "\$5 or 6,000 at most," of which only \$3,500 would be "out of...pocket" expenses.³¹ The carpentry is known to have cost Monroe \$1,566.29, of which about \$200 was spent on the portico.³²

The design of the new house at Oak Hill has frequently been attributed to Thomas Jefferson, on the basis of a letter in 1820 in which he transmitted to Monroe a sketch for the house.³³ However, as indicated by Monroe in June 1822, the design was the result of input from several persons:

The improvement which I am making in Loudoun, Virg^a, was sketched partly by Col. Bomford, and partly by Captⁿ Hoban, and partly by ourselves, or rather on suggestions from us all....and for the plan I have paid not one cent.³⁴

George Bomford's participation in the design had also been documented by Monroe in a letter the previous year to Benton:

I send you herewith a plan of a house which Col. Bomford has drawn for us, and which we very much approve. It is a square building, with two wings, which latter, being one story only will take much fewer bricks than one (entire) building. Any explanations which you may respecting [sic] it, by enclosing me a letter to him, he will give.³⁵

A floor plan which has survived, and which may be the one referenced in this letter, shows a layout for the main block of the house that is quite similar to the house as built.³⁶ Writing in August 1822, Monroe indicated that "the portico is a new and distinct part," for which he insisted that a separate account be kept.³⁷ It is not clear whether or not the portico was a part of the design at the time Monroe wrote the statement above, identifying the persons responsible for designing the new house. One scholar has noted a similarity between Oak Hill's portico and Pavillion VII of Mr. Jefferson's University³⁸--the pavillion for which Monroe in 1817 laid the cornerstone, and the pavillion at which Jefferson contemplated using only five columns in the portico (as was done at Oak Hill). However, no documentation is presently available to clarify authorship of Oak Hill's portico.

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That construction of the President's house in Loudoun County drew on the resources available to Monroe in the public re-building project in Washington, D.C., is evidenced by the participation of engineer George Bomford (1782-1848) and architect James Hoban (c.1762-1831) in the design of the house. Further indications are Commissioner of Public Works Samuel Lane's loan of a laborer skilled in brick-making,³⁹ and the submission of a proposal for carpentry by Ignatious Meade (who may have been the Meade then working on the Capitol).⁴⁰ James Hoban-- architect of the White House, architect of the State and War Offices, as well as one-time Superintendent of the Capitol-- participated in the design, handled the contracting with the carpenters, maintained the accounts for that work, undertook the final "measuring" or inspection upon completion of the carpentry, and advised Monroe on matters like when to plaster.⁴¹ However, the daily supervision of all construction fell to William Benton, as is abundantly evident from Monroe's letters to his estate manager.⁴² The overseer for the masonry appears to have been Abraham Fulton.⁴³ Carpentry was discussed with two different sources: Ignatious Meade,⁴⁴ and the team of William Lewis, John Cline, and Benjamin Smith (who intended using a book published in 1804 by John Evans as "the Standard").⁴⁵ It is not presently clear whom Monroe used for the carpentry.

The house that Monroe built simultaneously expresses both the architectural traditions of the colonial period and the growing strength of Neoclassicism in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Modest in size, the house as seen from the north is a simple design that, except for the expansive use of the semi-circular arch in the recessed entryway and door, is essentially 18th century in character. The south elevation, however, is decidedly Neoclassical, owing to the giant portico that, occupying the entire expanse of the central block, dominates that elevation. Monroe, by his own admission, made a habit of acquiring sketches of buildings he saw that he particularly liked, both in his European travels and in America.⁴⁶ He had access to several individuals, both socially and professionally, who had capabilities in architectural design and construction, and though he drew on their talents, it appears that he had strong opinions of his own. The house he built at his Loudoun County farm appears to reflect both his strong conservatism and his exposure to current architectural trends, as well as the constraints of scale that were imposed by his personal financial condition.⁴⁷ Although the wings have since been enlarged, the main block of the house stands today as Monroe built it, and the overall scheme of the design is intact.

Throughout his Presidency, Monroe appears to have spent a few months of the summer and fall at the Loudoun farm-- which he had begun calling Oak Hill around 1819.⁴⁸ Oak Hill served as a retreat. As needed, Monroe would return to Washington if summoned by his Cabinet ministers; otherwise his Cabinet, which remained in the Capital, monitored governmental business and forwarded important items to the President, usually by the regular post office service.⁴⁹ In the summer of 1823, though his family apparently was at Oak Hill, Monroe remained in the Capital until mid-August to work with Secretary Adams on pending diplomatic issues.⁵⁰ Correspondence while he was at Oak Hill that October indicates that he was still working

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then on the position on foreign policy that he would take in his next message to Congress-- the message which contained what would be known as the Monroe Doctrine.⁵¹

The other specific historical event with which Oak Hill is associated is the visit of General Lafayette during his tour as Guest of the Nation, shortly after Monroe stepped down from the Presidency and moved to Oak Hill permanently. Lafayette was a guest at Oak Hill twice during August 1825; on August 8-10 accompanied among others by his son and President John Quincy Adams, and on August 25-26 accompanied among others by his son and Chief Justice John Marshall.⁵²

By the time Monroe retired from the Presidency he was significantly in debt, owing to expenses incurred while executing his responsibilities in the various diplomatic and administrative posts he had held, owing to lack of time to devote to his personal investments while performing his public duties, and owing to interest that had accrued on the loans that had covered his expenses.⁵³ By 1825, Monroe owed as much as \$75,000, with the result that all his assets, including his land holdings, were in jeopardy. Requests for funds from Congress produced money to relieve only part of the debt, with the result that by 1826 Monroe disposed of the balance of his Albemarle holdings, including Highlands, the principal farm there, by sale and by assignment to the bank holding some of his loans. The struggle to relieve himself of his debt occupied a considerable part of Monroe's years of retirement. Even retention of Oak Hill was not assured, though it remained Monroe's objective:

If I retain this property I shall be satisfied. It will furnish an adequate support to myself and family the residue of my days.⁵⁴

In addition to trying to settle his financial affairs, Monroe's retirement at Oak Hill focused on managing his farm and on his writing, which included his autobiography as well as a philosophical history of the origin of free governments.⁵⁵ He limited his public activity to serving briefly as President of the Virginia Constitutional Convention, and serving as a member of the Board of Visitors for Jefferson's University of Virginia. Oak Hill during this period was occupied by the Monroes as well as their daughter Eliza Monroe Hay and her family.

Agriculture had been both an investment and a personal interest of Monroe's throughout his career. As one of Monroe's biographers has observed, "throughout his life, even while deeply involved in politics, he regarded himself as a farmer by profession, and, like his close friend Jefferson, experienced the greatest sense of contentment when engaged in the management of his lands."⁵⁶ During much of his political career Monroe had depended on his estate managers to run the farm on a day-to-day basis; however, through correspondence and to some degree through occasional visits, he had clearly directed that management. His brother Andrew had been unsuited to farm management, and the subsequent manager, Thomas Slaughter, seemed to think that the farm was in such poor condition that the task of improving it would be herculean.⁵⁷ After his election to the Presidency, Monroe had fortuitously acquired the services of William Benton, a competent estate manager with whom Monroe could work closely,

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and to whom Monroe could delegate fully when the demands of the Presidency prevented him from tackling matters he normally would have handled himself.⁵⁸ Benton had administered the farm at Oak Hill from mid-1817 until c.1823 when Monroe's financial difficulties unfortunately damaged that working relationship.⁵⁹

Upon his retirement, Monroe was able to supervise the estate personally--expanding his facilities at Oak Hill, and riding out every day to oversee their progress.⁶⁰ Monroe's objective was to increase the return from the estate, and toward that end he sought efficiency, greater productivity, and innovation. In 1810 Monroe had been elected Vice President of the Richmond Society for Promoting Agriculture,⁶¹ and his correspondence reveals that he was quick to apply current innovations in agricultural technology or practice. At the farm in Loudoun he was a practitioner of the progressive techniques of deep ploughing, applying plaister/gypsum, crop rotation, and fertilization via manuring.⁶² His crops usually included corn, grass, wheat, rye, and oats, rotated with clover and sometimes timothy. In 1818 particular efforts had been made to improve the meadows, and in 1822 special attention had gone to improving the soil on the highlands.⁶³ Monroe had for some time also had an orchard at Oak Hill, for which he sent trees from Washington, and (at least on one occasion)-- to plant the trees-- the laborer who did the planting at the Capitol.⁶⁴ Monroe also had herds of cattle and sheep at Oak Hill. By the time of his retirement, enlarging the stock of sheep and the production of wool were Monroe's major objectives, as those activities would use less labor and would put the meadows to efficient use.⁶⁵ To aid the project, Lafayette sent Monroe two "shepherd's dogs" from France.⁶⁶ Labor on the property seems to have included both slaves and hired laborers.⁶⁷ Records for 1823 indicate that at that point Monroe had had at Oak Hill 44 "Servants," including three "Micaniks" (Carpenter, Gardener, and Blacksmith), and nine "Plantation Hands."⁶⁸

After the death of Mrs. Monroe in 1830, Monroe's own deteriorating health resulted in his moving to New York City at the urging of his daughters. Because of his determination not to "burden" his daughters by living in their homes, and because of his still straitened finances, Monroe decided to rent a house in New York City, as he advised Madison in April 1831:

I could make no establishment of any kind without the sale of my property in Loudoun, which I have advertised for the 8th of June, and given the necessary power to Mr. Gouverneur and my nephew James.... It is very distressing to me to sell my property in Loudoun, for, besides parting with all I have in the State, I indulged a hope, if I could retain it, that I might be able occasionally to visit it, and meet my friends, or many of them, there. But ill health and advanced years prescribe a course which we must pursue.⁶⁹

The projected sale of Oak Hill fell through, a fact which Monroe's relative and friend, Trench Ringgold, believed would greatly ease Monroe's mind.⁷⁰ Although by June 1831, Monroe was seriously ill, Ringgold believed that Monroe's life might be

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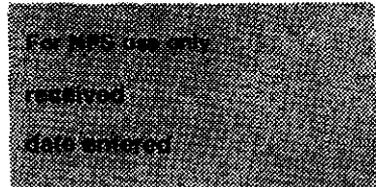
prolonged if he could be taken back to Oak Hill, in a litter if necessary.⁷¹ Monroe's condition evidently made the trip impossible, for he died in New York City the next month, on July 4, 1831.

The heart of Monroe's farm at Oak Hill has survived intact. The new house built in 1822 today is the focal point of a group of well preserved buildings which were associated with James Monroe, including the cottage that he occupied prior to 1823, the smokehouse which was present by 1817, the stone springhouse, and the blacksmith's shop. This grouping of structures, together with the surrounding agricultural land, visually convey the period of Monroe's association with the farm. Archeological investigation has not occurred, but Monroe's papers suggest that there is potential for archeological resources which could provide further information about the period of Monroe's occupancy, if those resources retain integrity.

Subsequent History of Oak Hill

Upon Monroe's death in 1831, Oak Hill passed to his two daughters, Eliza Monroe Hay and Maria H. Monroe Gouverneur.⁷² When Eliza Hay moved permanently to Europe, Maria Gouverneur bought her sister's half interest, and from the 1830s until her death in 1850 she and her husband Samuel L. Gouverneur owned, and appear to have resided at, Oak Hill. During the 1840s the Gouverneurs sold off three tracts totaling 901 acres. Between 1852 and 1870 Samuel L. Gouverneur and his new wife sold off the rest of the land of Oak Hill, of which one tract went to the Hogan family, and three tracts (including the main tract of 590 acres with the dwellings) to John W. Fairfax, a Colonel in the Confederate Army. In 1870, owing apparently to financial difficulties occasioned by the Civil War, Fairfax sold 800 acres of his holdings at Oak Hill to Mary Quinby and her husband Dr. George A. Quinby, financed by Mrs. Quinby's father, John Sneden of New York. The Quinbys operated a substantial dairy farm at Oak Hill before selling the property back to John Fairfax's son Henry, who ran first a highly successful business there breeding hackney horses, then switched largely to cattle. In 1920 the property was sold to Frank Littleton who had the main house enlarged in 1922 by architect Henry Davis Whitfield, created the formal garden south of the house, and landscaped the driveway. Littleton's financial difficulties led to the sale of Oak Hill in 1948 at auction, at which time it became the residence of Thomas N. Delashmutt and his wife, Eugene Reed Delashmutt (now Mrs. Joseph Prendergast).

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¹Richard B. Morris, Encyclopedia of American History (New York: Harper & Row, 1965), p. 162.

²Except as otherwise noted, the material regarding Monroe's political career is drawn from the Dictionary of American Biography (1943), s.v. "Monroe, James", by Dexter Perkins.

³Harry Ammon, James Monroe: The Quest for National Identity (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1971), pp. 3-4.

⁴Morris, 162.

⁵Ammon, 547.

⁶James Monroe (J.M.) to _____, 3 May 1814, Monroe Papers, New York Public Library (NYPL); J.M. to William Benton (W.B.), 22 May 1818, Monroe Papers, University of Virginia (U.Va.); Ammon, 115.

⁷J.M. to _____, 3 May 1814, NYPL.

⁸Ibid.; Loudoun County, Deed Book 3L, folio 24, John Mustin to James Monroe, 29 August 1812.

⁹Loudoun County Order Book, 13 November 1809, p. 142.

¹⁰Ammon, 347, drawn from Monroe's correspondence; also J.M. to _____, 3 May 1814, NYPL; Tax Memo, Andrew Monroe to Sheriff, Oak Hill Papers, James Monroe Museum and Library (JMML), Fredericksburg, Va.; Advertisement (draft), 4 Feb. 1814, facsimile copy in collection of Mrs. Joseph Prendergast.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²Ammon, 115, 408; William Penn Cresson, James Monroe (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1971), p. 104-5.

¹³Ammon, 291, 347.

¹⁴J.M. to _____, 3 May 1818, NYPL; J.M., Advertisement (draft), 4 Feb. 1814, facsimile copy in collection of Mrs. Joseph Prendergast.

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¹⁵Ammon, 291, 408; J.M. to W.B., 27 April 1818, U.Va.

¹⁶J.M. to W.B., 8 May 1818, U.Va.

¹⁷Ammon, 408.

¹⁸Ibid.

¹⁹See footnote 7; also based on architectural evidence.

²⁰Regarding Benton, see William Benton, Claims and Awards Papers, 1824,

JMML.

²¹Mark Hornsey, "Survey of the Loudoun Farm of Col. Ja^s. Monroe President Of the United States," 25 May 1818, Loudoun County Deed Book 4I, p. 152 (following Deed of Gouverneur to Bibby, 17 September 1834); regarding the smokehouse, see Thomas Slaughter (T.S.) to J.M., 11 April 1817, JMML.

²²J.M. to W.B., 27 April 1818, U.Va.

²³J.M. to W.B., 8 May 1818, U.Va.

²⁴Copy of Award for Wm. Benton, 6 April 1824, 4th item, JMML; Copy of Explanatory Notes by Wm. Benton, 20 March 1824, JMML.

²⁵J.M. to W.B., 27 April 1818, U.Va.

²⁶Copy of Explanatory Notes by Wm. Benton, Benton Claims and Awards Papers, 20 March 1824, JMML.

²⁷Thomas Jefferson to J.M., 27 June 1820, University of Virginia; J.M. to W.B., 13 January 1821, Monroe Papers, Library of Congress (LC), Series 1, Reel 7; Ignatious Meade to James Hoban, 24 February 1821, James Monroe Papers in Virginia Repositories (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Microfilm Edition, 1969); Descriptive Contract for Carpenter's Work with Addendum signed by Lewis, Cline, and Smith, 1 March 1821, JMML.

²⁸Abraham Fulton, Building Account, June-September 1822, JMML.

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29 J.M. to W.B., 12 August 1822, U.Va.; J.M. to _____, 14 April 1823, referenced by Anne H. McClelland in "Oak Hill: Artifact of American Culture" (B.A. Thesis, Williams College, 1978), p. 66.

30 J.M. to W.B., 12 August 1822, U.VA.

31 Ibid.; J.M. to _____, 12 June 1822, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, photostat at Library of Congress, Container 1, Monroe Papers.

32 James Hoban, Building Account, 26 October 1822, Oak Hill Papers, JMML.

33 Thomas Jefferson to J.M., 27 June 1820, U. Va.

34 J.M. to _____, 12 June 1822, U.S.M.A., W. Pt., also LC.

35 J.M. to W.B., 13 January 1821, Monroe Papers, LC, Series 1, Reel 7.

36 Untitled floor plan (Cellar Story...and 2nd Story...), accompanying Ignatious Meade to James Hoban, 24 Feb. 1821, James Monroe Papers in Va. Repositories.

37 J.M. to W.B., 12 August 1822, U.Va.

38 McClelland, 34-43.

39 J.M. to W.B., 8 January 1821, LC, Ser.1, Reel 7.

40 Ignatious Meade to James Hoban, 24 Feb. 1821, James Monroe Papers in Va. Repositories; McClelland, 20-21.

41 James Hoban, Building Account, 26 Oct. 1822, JMML; J.M. to _____, 12 June 1822, U.S.M.A., W. Pt., also LC; Ignatious Meade to James Hoban, 24 Feb. 1821, James Monroe Papers in Va. Repositories; J.M. to W.B., 28 October 1822, LC, Ser.1, Reel 7; James Hoban, Memorandum, 2 July 1822, JMML, (payment for stone-laying that may be Oak Hill's foundation); J.M. to W.B. 12 August 1822, U.Va.; J.M. to W.B., 4 Feb. 1822, LC, Series 1, Reel 7.

42 See all correspondence with William Benton during this period, especially J.M. to W.B., 12 August 1822, U.Va.; also Wm. Benton, Memorandum, 20 March 1824, LC, Series 2, Reel 10.

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⁴³Abraham Fulton, Building Account, June-September 1822, JMML.

⁴⁴Ignatious Meade to James Hoban, 24 Feb. 1821, James Monroe Papers in Va. Repositories.

⁴⁵Descriptive Contract for Carpenter's Work with Addendum signed by Lewis, Cline, and Smith, 1 March 1821, JMML.

⁴⁶J.M. to _____, 12 June 1822, U.S.M.A., W. Pt., also LC.

⁴⁷J.M. to W.B., 12 August 1822, U.Va.; J.M. to W.B., 13 Jan. 1821, LC, Series 1, Reel 7; Ignatious Meade to James Hoban 24 Feb. 1821, James Monroe Papers in Va. Repositories; these are the principal sources for references to keeping the project economical.

⁴⁸The name "Oak Hill" seems to appear first in a letter of 5 October 1819 from J.M. to Thomas Jefferson (Papers of Mrs. Joseph Prendergast).

⁴⁹Ammon, 408.

⁵⁰Ammon, 515.

⁵¹Mrs. Prendergast's research notes indicate that J.M. wrote to Jefferson (17 October 1823) and Madison (17 October 1823) asking their advice, from Oak Hill, and received replies (24 October, 30 October respectively).

⁵²Ammon, 550-51; J.M. to James Monroe (nephew), 26 August 1825, College of William and Mary.

⁵³Ammon, 546, 553, 556, 569-70; J.M. to Lafayette, 30 May 1826, NYPL.

⁵⁴J.M. to Lafayette, 30 May 1826, NYPL.

⁵⁵Ammon, 546, 548, 551, 556, 576; Daniel C. Gilman, James Monroe in His Relations to the Public Service During Half a Century, 1776-1826 (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Co., 1883), p. 200.

⁵⁶Ammon, 3.

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⁵⁷See particularly Thomas Slaughter to J.M., 4 April 1817, JMML.

⁵⁸See J.M.'s letters to W.B., including 3 Jan., 27 Apr., 6 May, 22 May, 14 Aug. 1818; 13 Nov. 1819; 12 Aug. 1822; 28 Oct. 1822, all at U.Va.; also Benton's Claims and Awards Papers, JMML; J.M. to W.B., 8 Jan., 13 Jan. 1821, 4 Feb. 1822, LC.

⁵⁹William Benton, Claims and Awards Papers, JMML.

⁶⁰Ammon, 548, 546.

⁶¹McClelland, 79.

⁶²See Thomas Slaughter's letters to J.M., including 31 Jan., 1 April, 4 April, 15 April, 19 July 1817, all at JMML; also Monroe's letters to Benton, cited in footnote 58; Ammon, 547.

⁶³J.M. to W.B., 8 May 1818, U.Va.; J.M. to W.B., 12 Aug. 1822, U.Va.

⁶⁴J.M. to W.B., 3 Jan. 1818, U.Va.; J.M. to W.B., 4 Feb. 1822, LC, Reel 8.

⁶⁵J.M. to Samuel L. Gouverneur, 16 Aug. 1826, NYPL.

⁶⁶Lafayette to J.M., 28 Nov. 1826, NYPL.

⁶⁷Ammon, 548; Tax Memo, Andrew Monroe to Sheriff, JMML; Inventory of Servants, Stock & Plantation Utensils on the President's Estate in Loudoun, 25 Nov. 1823, U.Va.; see also Thomas Slaughter's letters to J.M. (listed above).

⁶⁸Inventory of Servants, Stock & Plantation Utensils on the President's Estate in Loudoun, 25 Nov. 1823, U.Va.

⁶⁹J.M. to James Madison, 11 April 1831, reproduced in Gilman, 196-197; see also Ammon, 569-570.

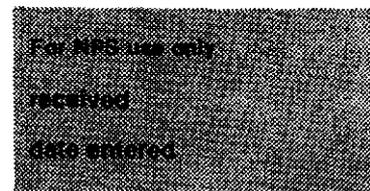
⁷⁰Ammon, 571.

⁷¹Tench Ringgold to Samuel L. Gouverneur, 13 June 1831 (see Ammon, 571).

⁷²The following is based on a title search in the Loudoun Co. Courthouse; additional data about the activities of the subsequent owners is available in McClelland, 82-133.

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Boundary Description

From a point A, at the southwest corner of the junction of U.S. Route 15 and County Route 612, a corner of the main Oak Hill tract and the right-of-way of County Route 612, thence west along the south boundary of County Route 612 about 2900 feet to B, a bend in County Route 612, thence southwest along the east boundary of County Route 612 approximately 10,400 feet to C, the point where the east boundary of County Route 612 intersects the southwest boundary of the tract sold in 1806 by Joseph Jones, Jr., to James Swart (being also in 1806 the boundary of Charles Mercer's land),¹ thence southeast along the line of the Jones sale to Swart (described in 1806 as a line extending N 35.40 W from the Little River) to D, a point where the Swart line intersects with Little River (described in 1806 as the point "where the original patent line crosses little river"), thence in a southerly direction with the meander of Little River along the east bank of the river to E, the southwest corner (corner "E") to the Gouverneur sale to Garrett in 1847,² thence leaving the river along the line of Gouverneur to Garrett S 34° E 28 poles to F, a corner in the line of Gouverneur to Garrett, and a corner to Nathan Skinner's tract (1847),³ thence with the line of Gouverneur to Garrett (also the line of Nathan Skinner) S 30° 40' E 241 4/10 poles to G, a corner to the Gouverneur sale to Garrett (also a corner of Nathan Skinner), thence along the north boundary of U.S. Route 50 (also the line of Gouverneur sale to Garrett) 60 1/10 poles to H, the intersection of the north boundary of U.S. Route 50 and the west boundary of U.S. Route 15 (also corner to the Gouverneur sale to Garrett), thence northward along the west boundary of the current path of U.S. Route 15 (also the west boundary of the present Oak Hill Farm) to the beginning, at the intersection of the west boundary of the current U.S. Route 15 and the south boundary of County Route 612.

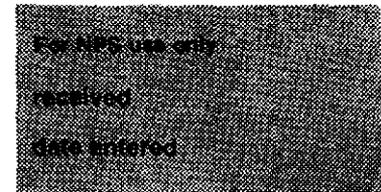
¹Loudoun County, Deed Book 2H, folio 334, Joseph Jones, Jr., to James Swart, 17 March 1806.

²See survey and plat in Loudoun County Deed Book 5A, folio 248, Samuel L. Gouverneur and Maria H. Gouverneur to George Garrett and Lucinda Garrett, 25 December 1847. The tract is also described in Deed Book 6B, folio 484, B.P. Noland, Commissioner, to John Sneden 28 May 1871, and illustrated in the records of Garrett vs. Sneden (1877), Loudoun County Chancery Court Records.

³See Deed Book 5A, folio 248.

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Boundary Justification

The boundary of the National Historic Landmark encompasses 1136 acres of Monroe's farm, which had totaled 1898 acres in 1818 and over 2100 acres in 1825. It encompasses the heart of Monroe's farm-- all of the Monroe land that has been associated with the Oak Hill tract throughout most of the 19th century and all of the 20th century. Those portions of the main tract of the present Oak Hill Farm that were not part of Monroe's holdings have been omitted.

The boundary is based on historical association with Monroe, a consistent pattern of agricultural use, and integrity of appearance as well as use; it is further supported by historical relationships of the property to adjacent roadways, and to setting in terms of sight lines. Monroe's personal involvement in the development and management of his farm at Oak Hill makes appropriate the designation of the farmland in addition to the focal buildings and sites. The land has been continuously used for agricultural pursuits since Monroe's occupancy. That integrity is apparent from the layout of fields and meadows, and the farming activities which still occur.

The east boundary of the landmark is the old road between Aldie and Leesburg, known in Monroe's day as the Carolina Road (which had been re-routed to that road) and then known as the Leesburg-Aldie Turnpike. That roadbed bounded Monroe's tract in his day, except for a small section of land at the northeast corner of his holdings (which lay on the east side of the road). On the north, the landmark is bounded by the same line that delineated Monroe's holdings during his ownership, along which line the "back road to Aldie" (County Route 612) developed sometime in the 19th century. When that back road turns southward, it leaves the old Monroe boundary, but it follows, for a distance, the western line of the land on the west side of Little River, which had been part of the Monroe land that was sold off in the 19th century and then repurchased; the land returned to Oak Hill from the Hogan family and the Gulick family, and the repurchased land that had been sold in 1806 by Joseph Jones, Jr. without Monroe's permission. Thus, for most of its length, the back road to Aldie became Oak Hill's west boundary during the period 1853-1895. The remainder of the landmark's west boundary is the Little River, which segment of the river bounded Monroe's land during his lifetime. The landmark's south boundary also corresponds to the boundaries Monroe knew; part of the south boundary was the dividing line between Monroe's property and the farm of Nathan and Peter Skinner, and the rest ran (as it does today) along the roadbed of the old road to Alexandria, or the Little River Turnpike (U.S. Route 50, State Route 236).

The main house stands on a rise of ground from which it has significant vistas over the Monroe farmland to the north and south, as well as eastward across the Carolina Road (U.S. Route 15). Trees and undergrowth stretch along the meandering path of Little River which lies west of the main house. That vegetation, coupled with the trees and thick vines that border the property along County Route 612 (the

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back road) separate the main Oak Hill tract visually from the lands that are west of the back road-- the lands that were sold off during the 19th century and never re-purchased. The only section of the back road from which the main house can be seen during the summer is an occasional break in the vegetation directly north of the house.

The land included within the landmark boundary consists of: the 590-acre tract (containing the main house and cottage) sold by Samuel L. Gouverneur in 1852 to John Fairfax, about 94 acres of land that Gouverneur had sold to the Gulicks in 1846-47 but that John Fairfax re-acquired in 1853, about 240 acres that Gouverneur had sold in 1847 to the Garretts but that John Sneden re-acquired for the Quinbys in 1871, about 132 acres that Gouverneur had sold in 1857 to the Hogan family, but that Henry Fairfax re-acquired in 1895, and about 42 acres of the tract that Joseph Jones, Jr. had sold to James Swart in 1806 and that John Sneden repurchased. A small amount of additional land was added to Oak Hill's east edge in the 20th century when some slight straightening of U.S. Route 15's roadbed occurred. The very small amount of land that was thus added to the farm is included within the boundary in deference to the historic relationship of Oak Hill with this road-- the old road that led to Leesburg during Monroe's day and that is now known as U.S. Route 15. The portion of Monroe's farm that is excluded from the landmark consists of land that was legally separated from the central part of the farm, including the balance of the land sold to the Gulicks in 1846-47, the balance of the land sold to the Hogans in 1857, a small woodlot located a distance to the west of the present Oak Hill Farm, and the northeast section of land (most of which Monroe acquired in 1825) known in the 19th century as the Boggess Tract, that John Fairfax split off from the main Oak Hill land in 1870.

¹The omitted land was largely acquired by John Sneden and Frank Littleton.

