

VLR- 4/20/94 NRHP- 8/19/94

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 an 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 Cuckoo

other names/site number Cuckoo Place; VDHR File No. 54-16

2. Location

street & number Intersection of U. S. Rt. 33 & Rt. 522 (South) not for publication N/A

city or town Mineral vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Louisa code 109 zip code 23117

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Hugh C. Miller 4/29/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Director, 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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): _____

Cuckoo
Name of Property

Louisa County, Virginia
County and State

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

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
9	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

FUNERARY: Cemetery

HEALTH CARE: Doctor's Office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

FUNERARY: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Slate

other _____

Narrative Description

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

See Attached

Cuckoo
Name of Property

Louisa County, Virginia
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Health/Medicine

Period of Significance

1819 - 1938

Significant Dates

1819, 1910

1888, 1938

1908

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Makielski, Stanislaw J.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Cuckoo
Name of Property

Louisa County, Virginia
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 17.1 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

_____ Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

X See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title Ashley M. Neville, Consultant

Organization _____ date March 1, 1994

Street & number Rt. 4, Box 168 telephone 804-798-5676

City or town Glen Allen state Va. zip code 23060

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

Name Jane Pendleton Wootton & Percy Wootton

Street & number 17 Tapoan Road telephone 804-288-3123

City or town Richmond state Va. zip code 23226

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Cuckoo, Louisa County, VA

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Cuckoo, built about 1819 for Henry Pendleton, is a prominent visual landmark along the well-traveled U.S. Route 33 in Louisa County. The two level portico, four chimneys, and unusual one-story semicircular closet tucked between two of the chimneys are notable features of the house. Standing in the yard is a small frame building that served as a doctor's office and guest house. Just north of the house is a second doctor's office, built around 1888 and moved to this site from across the road in 1972 when the highway was widened. It continued to be used as a doctor's office until 1979. Also situated on the property is a late nineteenth/early twentieth century octagon-shaped, well house, a dependency first used as a kitchen and later as a smokehouse, a frame barn built about 1910, and a frame garage. About a quarter mile south of the house, the Pendleton family cemetery stands on a knoll in a copse of tall oaks. This complex of buildings, along with the long Pendleton family tradition of Louisa County doctors, combine to make Cuckoo a significant historical as well as visual landmark.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Cuckoo is prominently sited on a major highway that actually curves around the house. Large oak trees shade the house and stately boxwood, much of it planted about 1910 by "Miss Bettie" Pendleton, line the walks. A brick wall, built about the same time, separates the yard from the highway and follows the curve of the road. Piers with stepped caps separate panels of common bond with larger piers at the walkway entrance. A white board fence delineates the side boundaries of the yard. Open fields surround the building complex but the remainder of the approximately 156-acre tract is wooded.

The house at Cuckoo is the result of several different building campaigns. As it stands today, it is a two-story, three-bay brick dwelling with a slate-covered gable roof. The facade is laid in Flemish bond with the sides and rear laid in three- and five-course American bond. There are four exterior-end chimneys with an unusual semicircular closet between the chimneys on the south side and a traditional one-story pent closet on the north side. A focal point of the house today is the two-story, two-level front portico that was added about 1910. The brickwork around the center bay

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appears to have been painted red with white pencil joints. Windows are nine-over-nine light double-hung sash on the first floor and nine-over-six light on the second. Shutters flank most windows. The house also has a modillioned cornice with fairly thin modillions.

The original house, built about 1819 for Henry Pendleton, featured an unusual arrangement with a two-story front rank of rooms and a one-story rear section that probably had a shed roof. While that form is sometimes seen in frame houses, it is less common in brick. A photograph taken about 1900 indicates the predilection of the Pendleton family for the use of a one-story, brick, shed-roof section across the rear of the house. The photograph shows such a section, which housed the dining room and "winter" kitchen. The brickwork of the original house is laid in Flemish bond on the facade and three-course American bond on the sides. The semi-circular pent closet is laid in Flemish bond and interior woodwork appears to date it to the original construction period.

During the ownership of Dr. Philip Barbour Pendleton (1839-1907), the rear rank of rooms was raised to a full two stories. A change in brickwork is clearly visible on the sides as it switches from three-course to five-course American bond about halfway up the wall. According to family history, the bricks for the second story addition came from a serpentine wall that enclosed a garden on the grounds.

The fourth generation of Pendletons, Dr. Eugene Pendleton and his wife Bettie Barret Pendleton, launched a Colonial Revival-style remodeling of the house after they purchased it in 1910. The most notable change was the replacement of a one-story Victorian-era porch with the present Neoclassical portico. The two-story, two-level, one-bay center section, with features characteristic of the Federal era of the house, is more in keeping with the house than the earlier porch. It has double Tuscan columns, a delicate wooden balustrade on the second level, and a denticulated cornice and pediment. The deck of the porch extends across the entire front with a "sheaves of wheat"-style balustrade. The original doorway was enlarged to incorporate the traceried fanlight and sidelights. It was also during this period that the present two-story rear ell replaced the one-story shed-roof section.

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The next owners of the house, Anne Pendleton Forrest and Dr. William Mentzel Forrest, also left their mark on the house. They expanded the rear ell northward and added a one-story porch to the south side of this ell in 1938. Designed by Charlottesville architect Stanislaw J. Makielski, its bow-front echoes the semicircular closet found on the same side of the house.

The rear porch was added in the 1970s and the kitchen remodeled. The second floor ell rooms were converted into an apartment in 1984 by Drs. Jane and Percy Wootton.

The interior of the Cuckoo house retains many of its Federal-style details, notably its mantels and the interior of the semicircular chimney closet, as well as the Colonial Revival-style features from the 1910 renovations. The plan of the main block is essentially a double-pile, central-passage plan with an ell addition that has been expanded across the rear.

Family history contends that the original center passage was narrow and architectural evidence suggests the present passage is a result of the 1910 Colonial Revival-style remodeling. During this phase the front part of the passage was widened with an arched opening to the rear of the passage where the stairs, which also date from this period, ascend. The graceful quarter-turn stairs have a ramped and molded handrail that ends with a slender turned newel. The balusters, rectangular in section, are three per step and the scroll-shaped brackets add a decorative finish to the stairs. The passage also features a double fascia chair rail that continues up the stairs. A fairly deep baseboard with a heavy profile is found in the passage.

A large cased opening was created between the passage and the southwest parlor, as well as between the two parlors on this side, during the Colonial Revival remodeling. The mantels in both rooms are the original Federal-style mantels. They are nearly identical except in size--the southeast mantel is smaller. They feature reeded pilasters and a raised center frieze panel with reeding. The mantel in the northwest room, now used as a bedroom, is the same as those in the parlors with the addition of diamond-pane presses on each end of the mantel shelf.

Also on the south side of the house is the semicircular closet that

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opens into the southeast or rear parlor. It retains its original woodwork with a small cupboard with a four flush-panel door, curved shelves, and six-raised-panel door to the parlor. Its function appears to have been a closet, since the southeast parlor originally was a chamber.

In the second floor passage the stair rail curves around the open stairwell. A plain but wide chair rail is found in the passage and the baseboard is the same as the first floor. The baseboard in other second floor rooms is lower with a molded cap. A small room has been created at the front of the passage.

A greater variety of mantels is found on the second floor. The northwest (front) bedroom has the same Federal-style mantel as those on the first floor with reeded pilasters and center frieze panel. The southwest bedroom features an unusual mantel with molded firebox surround with reeded corner blocks, pulvinated frieze and molded cornice.

The rear rank of second floor rooms have simpler and smaller mantels. The mantel in the southeast bedroom has molding around the firebox opening, a raised and reeded center panel, and molded cornice. The northeast room mantel has plain pilasters, frieze and shelf.

The entire roof-framing system was rebuilt to span the double-pile plan. When the roof covering was changed from wood shingle to slate, probably during the ca. 1910 building campaign, the rafters were reinforced to carry the added weight of the slate. The rafters are butted and nailed with small collar beams near the peak with diagonal struts added for support. These struts intersect the rafters about half way to the ridge and their feet converge along the center line of the attic floor. Incised Roman numerals and cut-outs for collar beams on the struts are indications of their original use as rafters.

There are a number of dependencies that make up the complex at Cuckoo. These include two doctor's offices, and a well house, smokehouse, garage, barn, and cemetery.

Small Doctor's Office

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In the yard to the south stands a small, one-story, two-bay, frame building with an unusual denticulated cornice and stepped parapet. The gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal. The windows are six-over-six light double-hung sash and there is a six raised-panel door. Thought to have been built in the early to mid nineteenth century, it originally was used by Dr. Robert Barret, a Pendleton relative, and stood about a quarter-mile north of here. It was moved to Cuckoo some time before the Civil War by Dr. Philip Barbour Pendleton for his use. The interior has been refurbished and many of the implements, medicine bottles, and medical books of the Pendleton doctors are on display.

Large Doctor's Office

The newer doctor's office was built about 1888 by Dr. Eugene Pendleton and stood in the yard of his house, Linwood, in the nearby village of Cuckoo. Originally just one room, the two wings and porch were added in 1908 when Dr. Pendleton's son joined the practice. It was moved across the street from the house after Dr. Eugene Pendleton purchased Cuckoo from the other heirs in 1910. To save it from demolition when the highway was widened in 1972, it was moved to the east side of the road and again stands in the yard of a Pendleton home. Dr. E. Barbour Pendleton continued his practice here until he retired in 1979. It is now used as a tenant house.

The office is a one-story frame building with a three-bay projecting center section flanked by two-bay wings. Standing-seam metal covers the cross gable roof and there is a circular sawn-work vent in the projecting gable end. Each section has a door and porch. The center section has a three bay porch with two bay porches on each wing. The posts have a deep, squared base with a turned upper section that terminates with sawn brackets. The windows have large pane, six-over-six, double-hung sash. There are two interior brick flues and one exterior flue.

Well House

The well house stands in the yard just north of the house. Built in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, the one-story, frame, weatherboarded building is octagon-shaped. The roof, covered with wood shingles, repeats the shape of the building as does the large finial that crowns the roof.

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Smokehouse

The late-nineteenth-century smokehouse is a one-story, one-bay, frame building with board-and-batten siding. Wood shingles cover the gable roof. There is a batten door and small, stationary, six-pane windows on each side. Originally used as a kitchen, it was moved to its present site in the rear yard around 1910.

Barn

The barn, situated some distance behind the house, was built during the early twentieth century (ca. 1910) renovation period. Weatherboards cover the two-story frame structure, which has a gable roof of standing-seam metal. A louvered cupola crowns the center of the roof. It is a good example of a medium-sized, early twentieth-century barn.

Garage

The two-bay frame garage stands near the smokehouse in the rear yard of the house. Probably built in the 1930s, it is covered with weatherboards and has a gable roof. There are two, vertical board, double doors.

Cemetery

The Pendleton family cemetery is situated on a knoll about a quarter mile from the house among tall oak trees. Surrounded by a stone wall, a stile provides access. The traditional funerary ground covers, ivy and periwinkle, are found in the cemetery. There are three gravestones and an number of unmarked graves. The earliest marked grave is that of Colonel Edmund Pendleton, who died in 1838. Both he and his wife have low, brick chest tombs with marble slabs. The gravestone of Edmund's wife Unity Yancey Pendleton, who died in 1866, is signed by a Rogers and Miller a well-known Richmond stonecarving firm. The third gravestone is a low, marble obelisk. It marks the graves of Dr. Philip Barbour Pendleton (1819-1907), his wife Jane Kimbrough Holladay Pendleton (1829-1915), and his son Dr. Philip Barbour Pendleton, Jr. (1868-1908).

Cuckoo is a complex of buildings that has evolved over many years

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as different generations of the Pendleton family lived and worked here. As the house grew to accommodate the needs of large families, it benefitted from the care taken of the house by the family in their additions and renovations. The two doctor's offices, very different architecturally, demonstrate the changing styles that were incorporated into work spaces. Cuckoo is a architectural landmark for all those who travel along U.S. Route 33. Its location close to the road and its two-tier portico and four chimneys give it a commanding presence.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cuckoo, built about 1819, is significant locally as the home of the Pendleton family for 174 years. During their long tenure, the Pendletons have been stalwart citizens of their community and Louisa County, particularly in the area of medicine. No other Louisa County family contributed as many of its members to medicine as the Pendletons. Three generations, which span the period from the second quarter of the nineteenth century to 1979, practiced medicine using the two doctor's offices adjacent to the house. Cuckoo is also significant for its architecture--a blend of the original Federal-style features and early-twentieth-century Colonial Revival renovations--that created the prominent visual landmark it is today.

JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA

Cuckoo is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. Cuckoo is significant under Criterion A because it has been the home and offices of several generations of local doctors. Two doctor's offices, one on each side of the house, survive as reminders of how medicine was practiced in rural areas in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Cuckoo is also significant under Criterion C because it embodies a combination of Federal period architectural characteristics, including its unusual semicircular chimney closet, with high-quality Colonial Revival-style renovations. Sited adjacent to an important highway for the area, its architecture creates a visually prominent landmark that has given its name, Cuckoo, to the small village that grew up nearby.

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Cuckoo, Louisa County, VA

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Historically, Louisa County has been a rural county with a largely agrarian economy. In the plantation era before the Civil War, black slaves outnumbered whites in the county. Wheat, corn, and tobacco were the main crops grown on these plantations. After the war, plantations contracted, timbering increased, and pyrite mining occurred near Mineral. While the Pendleton family were a part of this rural, agriculture-based milieu, they increasingly sought professional careers as well. It was the children of Henry Pendleton, for whom Cuckoo was built about 1819, who began this trend and later generations continued it, especially in the field of medicine. A history of Louisa County notes, "No Louisa family has furnished as many of its sons to the [medical] profession as the Pendletons, descendants of Colonel Henry Pendleton of Cuckoo."¹ Eleven doctors, most of whom practiced in Louisa County--four at Cuckoo--can trace their roots to the builder of Cuckoo.

Early doctors were not specialists but ministered to the medical needs of both young and old in a community. They performed minor surgery, set broken bones, and delivered babies, in addition to treating a wide range of illnesses. Treatment was limited, however, as there were few effective cures. Diseases such as pneumonia, typhoid, and whooping cough were common killers.² Dr. E. Barbour Pendleton, who practiced medicine at Cuckoo from 1908 to 1979, spoke of the dangers of pneumonia and typhoid fever and his frustration at the lack of effective treatments until penicillin and antibiotics became available. He also noted that typhoid was greatly dreaded, "because you were supposed to see your patient maybe every day or every other day and you were on horseback."³

Until improvements in transportation and the advent of the automobile made travel to the see a doctor more widely available, most physicians went to their patients's homes while also conducting their practice in a small office. Doctors traveled on foot, horseback, and by buggy to visit their patients. It was not until the mid and late nineteenth century that separate buildings were constructed as doctor's offices. Like lawyers's offices, they usually stood in a corner of the yard of the doctor's home but few survive today. At Cuckoo there are two.

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The Cuckoo house stands along the old Louisa Road (now route 33) near the crossroads of the road from South Anna (route 522). This strategic location was the site of an old tavern, owned in the early 1780s by Robert Barret. It was from here on the night of June 3-4, 1781, that militia Captain John (Jack) Jouett, Jr., whose father was an earlier owner of the tavern and still owned property in the area, spied the British Colonel Banastre Tarleton and his dragoons moving towards Charlottesville. Cornwallis had sent Tarleton to capture the revolutionary leaders who were meeting in Charlottesville including Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry. Jouett's daring horseback ride from Cuckoo provided an early warning to these gentlemen who then were able to evade the British.⁴

Barret sold the property in 1788 to Colonel William O. Callis and it was during his tenure that the name Cuckoo Tavern first appears.⁵ The exact site of the old tavern and when it disappeared is not known but the name survived. There are several traditions as to the origin of the name Cuckoo for this property, but no solid evidence. One tradition holds that the old tavern had a cuckoo clock. Another was the tradition of the English, and subsequently Virginians, to name taverns for birds--thus this tavern was named for the Cuckoo bird.

Henry Pendleton, the first of the Pendletons to own Cuckoo, purchased the land from the estate of William Callis in 1818 and tax records indicate he built the original section of the present house about 1819. Henry's father, John Pendleton, was the older brother of Edmund Pendleton the famous statesman and jurist. His mother was Sarah Madison, sister of President James Madison. John Pendleton had moved to Hanover County in 1770 where he was elected a member of the House of Delegates.⁶ Henry, like many younger sons in Hanover, moved further west into Louisa County where he was living when his oldest son, Edmund, was born in 1786. In Louisa, Henry Pendleton was a militia officer, overseer of the poor, and served in the General Assembly from 1804 to 1806. At his death in 1822, he left a comfortable estate including 226 acres in the Cuckoo tract, three other parcels of land in Louisa, and eighteen slaves.⁷

Edmund Pendleton was one of the executors of his father's estate and succeeded him as owner of Cuckoo. Edmund was already well

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established, with 737 acres of land near Yanceyville including a substantial tanyard.³ At Cuckoo he raised corn, wheat, hay, and tobacco. Edmund Pendleton also served his county in the militia rising to the rank of Colonel. When he died in 1838 at age 52, he left a substantial estate including shares of stock in the Louisa Railroad, the Cuckoo tract, and Greenbay, his birthplace.⁹ He and his wife, Unity Yancey Kimbrough, are the earliest marked burials in the cemetery at Cuckoo.

While Edmund Pendleton was a plantation owner and farmer, two of his brothers became physicians: Joseph W. Pendleton, a graduate of the University of Maryland, who practiced at Cuckoo and William J. Pendleton. Several of Edmund and Unity Pendleton's children also followed professional careers. Two became doctors, (Madison and Philip Barbour Pendleton), one became president of Bethany College in West Virginia, and one became a prominent Louisa County lawyer.

It was Dr. Philip Barbour Pendleton who inherited Cuckoo in 1839. Born there in 1819, he lived at Cuckoo eighty-six years until his death in 1907. He made the first substantial changes to the house by raising the rear rank of rooms to a full two stories and adding a brick lean-to onto the rear. It was also during his tenure that the one-story porch across the front was added. Dr. Phil Pendleton moved the small one-story office to the front yard where he practiced medicine and he also ran a store in the vicinity. He, his wife, and one of his sons are buried in the Pendleton family cemetery at Cuckoo.

Two of Philip Barbour Pendleton's sons also became physicians-- Philip Barbour Pendleton, Jr., and Eugene Pendleton. It was Dr. Eugene Pendleton, educated at the University of Virginia, who succeeded his father in practice at Cuckoo and eventually passed it onto his son, Dr. E. Barbour Pendleton. He built the office, now standing north of the house, in 1888 in the yard of his home Linwood in the nearby village of Cuckoo. Originally one room, the two wings were added in 1908 when his son began practicing with him. In 1910 when Dr. Eugene Pendleton purchased Cuckoo from his brothers and sisters, the doctor's office was moved across the road from the house. Dr. Pendleton practiced medicine here for fifty-two years.

When Dr. Eugene Pendleton and his wife moved into Cuckoo, their

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Cuckoo, Louisa County, VA

correspondence indicated that much work was needed to bring the house up to date.¹⁰ They embarked on the Colonial Revival-style renovations such as the two-tier porch, the widening of the center passage, and installation of a new stairway. Landscape features, including the brick wall in front of the house and the boxwood also were installed during this period.

Dr. Eugene Pendleton's son, E. Barbour Pendleton, received his medical degree in 1908 from the University College of Medicine that later became the Medical College of Virginia and practiced medicine from the office at Cuckoo until his retirement in 1979. When he began his career in Louisa County he traveled to his patients on horseback but by the end of his practice he got around in a Volkswagen "bug." When interviewed by the Virginia Academy of Family Physicians in 1978 he was the oldest physician in Virginia still in active practice--at age 93--and had been practicing for seventy years.

While Dr. Barbour Pendleton practiced medicine at the office at Cuckoo, he did not live in the house. His sister Anne Pendleton and her husband, Dr. William Mentzel Forrest, a professor of religion at the University of Virginia, purchased Cuckoo from her brothers and sisters in 1936. They launched another series of improvements to the old house including the construction of the round porch that was designed by Charlottesville architect, Stanislaw J. Makielski in 1938.

Miss Anne, as she was known, continued to live at Cuckoo after her husband's death in 1956 but relied on her nephew Eugene Barbour Pendleton, Jr., and his wife Mildred McLean. In 1972 they purchased Cuckoo and made several interior improvements such as a remodeled kitchen and baths and the rear porch addition.

Although Eugene Barbour (Bob) Pendleton was not a physician, he continued the family tradition of community leader. Pendleton served as treasurer of Louisa County following his return from World War II and Governor T. E. Stanley appointed him State Treasurer in 1957. He held that post until 1961. He served in the Virginia General Assembly from 1966 to 1969 and was a member of the State Board of Welfare, where he was chairman for a number of years. In 1983 he was elected an "Eminent Virginian" along with three other Virginia notables--Mills E. Godwin, Jr., Lewis F.

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Cuckoo, Louisa County, VA

Powell, and Virginius Dabney.

In 1984 the E. B. Pendletons sold Cuckoo to their oldest daughter, Jane, and her husband Dr. Percy Wootton, a cardiologist. Jane Pendleton Wootton continues the long family medical tradition and also is a physician.

Cuckoo has a long history in Louisa County as both the home of the Pendleton family and an architectural landmark. The Pendleton family has lived in Louisa County since the late eighteenth century and Cuckoo has been the Pendleton family seat for seven generations since the early nineteenth century. The Pendleton doctors ministered to the health needs of the community from their doctor's offices here. Cuckoo's architecture enhances its prominence as a visual landmark for all those who travel along U.S. Route 33.

END NOTES

1. Malcolm H. Harris, *History of Louisa County, Virginia*, (Richmond: Dietz Press, 1936), p. 237.
2. Land and Community Associates, *Survey of Historic Resources, Hanover County, Virginia*, (Charlottesville: Land and Community Associates, 1992), p. 89.
3. LaVaughn M. Queen, "Interview With E. Barbour Pendleton, M.D.", *Virginia Family Physician* Vol. XXVII, No.1. (April 1978), p. 9.
4. Virginius Dabney, *Virginia, The New Dominion, A History from 1607 to the Present*.
5. "Site of Jack Jouett Commemorative Ceremonies June 3," *The Central Virginian*, 30 April 1981 p. 3.
6. Thelma Pendleton St.John, *The Pendleton Family*, (Richmond: Burruss Printing Co., 1966) p. 11.
7. Louisa County Will Book 6:488
8. Louisa County Land Tax Books.
9. Louisa County Will Book 10:348.

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10. Mildred M. Pendleton, "Cuckoo House - 1818-1984," February 1990 Pendleton Family Papers.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dabney, Virginus. *The New Dominion, A History from 1607 to the Present*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1971.

Harris, Malcolm H. *History of Louisa County, Virginia*. Richmond: Dietz Press, 1936.

Land and Community Associates. *Survey of Historic Resources, Hanover County, Virginia*. Charlottesville: Land and Community Associates, 1992.

Queen, LaVaughn M. "Interview with E. Barbour Pendleton, M.D." *Virginia Family Physician*, Vol XXVII, No. 1. April 1978.

Pendleton Family Papers. Mildred M. Pendleton. "Cuckoo House - 1818-1894." February 1990.

St. John, Thelma Pendleton. *The Pendleton Family*. Richmond: By the Author, 1966.

"Site of Jack Jouett Commemorative Ceremonies June 3." *The Central Virginian*. 30 April 1981, p. 3.

Louisa County Land Tax Books

Louisa County Will Books

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
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UTM REFERENCES

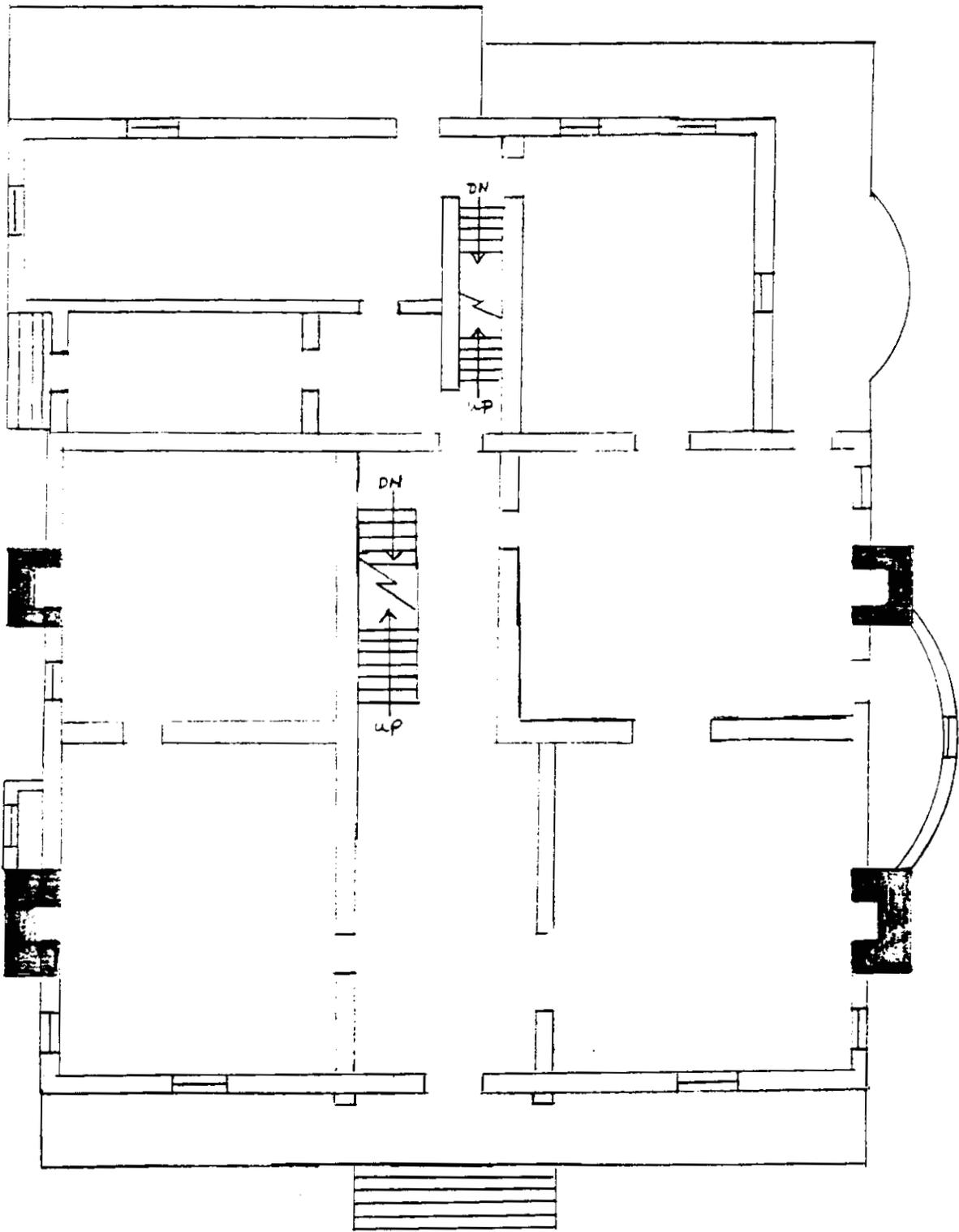
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B	18	245730	4204200
C	18	245660	4204140
D	18	245580	4204040
E	18	245410	4204020
F	18	245090	4204490

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries for this nomination include Parcel B and Parcel C of Tax Parcel Map Section 72, Parcel 55 as shown on the plat dated 3 February 1983 and revised 26 June 1986 found in Plat Book 7, Page 374 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Louisa County.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries include the two parcels of land that include all the contributing resources including the house, two doctor's offices, other dependencies and the Pendleton family cemetery where three generations of Pendletons are buried.

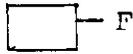
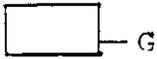


Cuckoo
Louisa County, VA

Not To Scale

Rt. 33

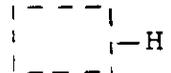
- A Dwelling
- B Small Doctor's Office
- C Well House
- D Large Doctor's Office
- E Smokehouse/Kitchen
- F Garage
- G Barn
- H Cemetery

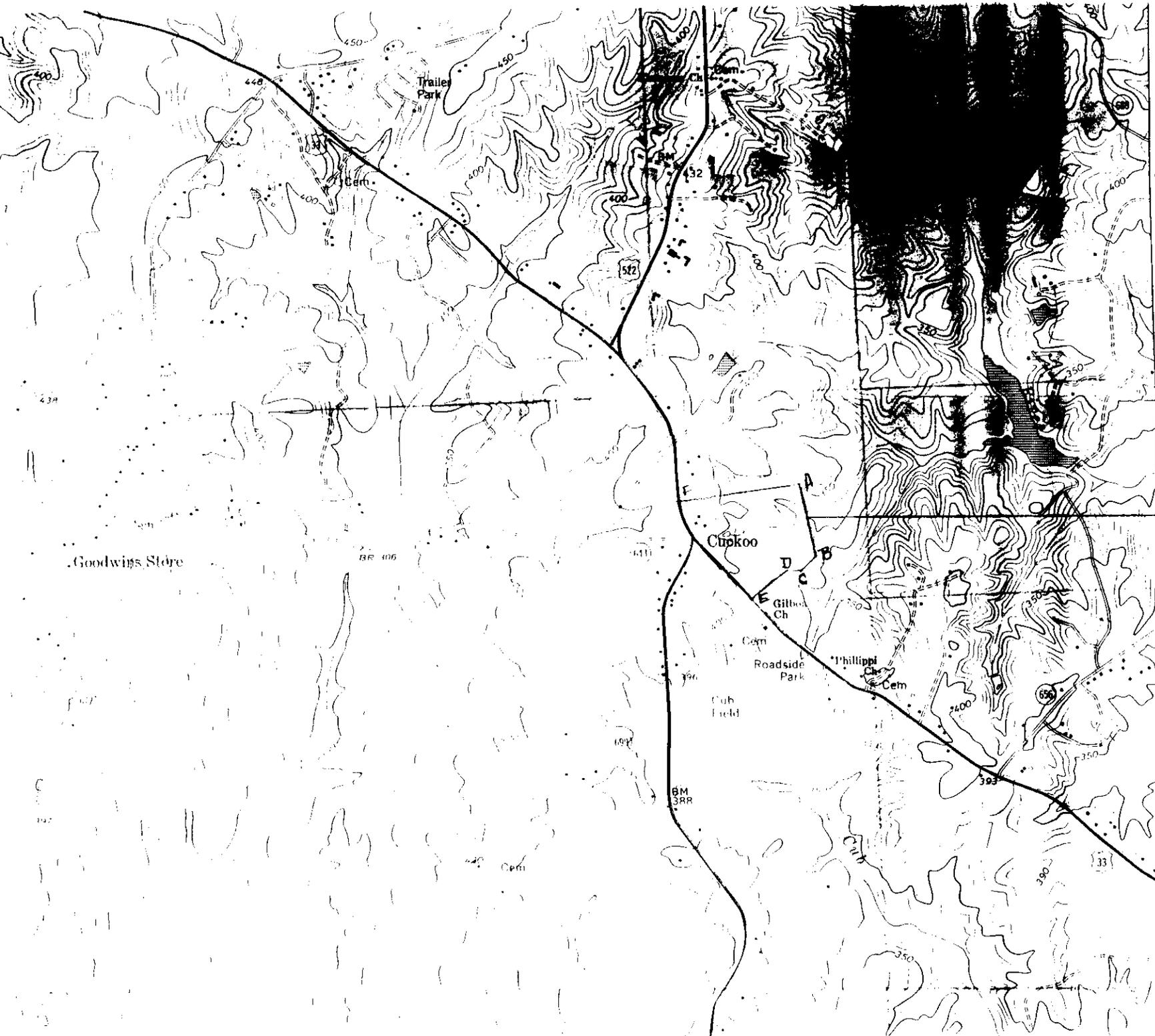


Rt. 522

Cuckoo
Louisa County, VA

Not To Scale





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57'30"

4204 000

4203

BUCKNER
5459 IV NE

Cuckoo
54-16

- A 18 245670 42045
- B 18 245730 420481
- C 18 245660 420414
- D 18 245281 420404
- E 18 245411 420402
- F 18 245090 42044

Goodwins Store

Trailer Park

Cuckoo

Roadside Park

Phillipi Cem

Cub Field

BM 388

Cem

BR 106

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