

VLR-6/16/99 NRHP-8/5/99

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is to be used in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, a computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Kanawha
other names/site number Tuckahoe; VDHR file no. 159-5030

2. Location

street & number 4 Jamison Road N/A not for publication
city or town Luray A vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Page code 139 zip code 22835

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Reservation Act of 1986, 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.)

 6/30/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register.	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet, determined eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

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	
2	2	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	2	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)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
LANDSCAPE	gate pillars
UNKNOWN	

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
LANDSCAPE	gate pillars
VACANT/NOT IN USE	

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Concrete
walls	Brick
	Terra Cotta
roof	Ceramic Tile
other	Wood

Narrative Description

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

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 of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past fifty years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1921-1931

Significant Dates

1921-1923

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Ford, Vernon Hebb

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Ragan, George R.

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	17	721020	4282080	3 17
2	17			4 17

___ 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	<u>J. Daniel Pezzoni</u>	date	<u>March 24, 1999</u>
organization	<u>Landmark Preservation Associates</u>	telephone	<u>(540) 464-5315</u>
street & number	<u>6 Houston St.</u>	zip code	<u>24450</u>
city or town	<u>Lexington</u> state <u>VA</u>		

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name	<u>John R. and Bernice A. Mrotek</u>		
street & number	<u>4 Jamison Rd.</u>	telephone	<u>(540) 743-6531</u>
city or town	<u>Luray</u> state <u>Virginia</u>	zip code	<u>22835</u>

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Kanawha
Page Co., Va.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

Kanawha, also known as Tuckahoe, is a two-and-a-half-story Classical Revival residence located in Luray, Virginia. The early 1920s house and its grounds occupy an elevated terrace overlooking Hawksbill Creek, a tributary of the South Fork of the Shenandoah Valley. The property stands in the Inn Lawn subdivision, characterized by curving streets, large residential lots, and architecturally refined dwellings dating largely to the 1920s and 1930s. The house has Flemish-bond brick and tile-block walls on a poured-concrete foundation, and its hip roof is covered with green Spanish tiles. Exterior features include a semicircular Corinthian front portico, an enclosed Doric rear portico, a porte cochere, large hipped dormers, and symmetrical composition. Interior features include Doric and Ionic colonnade screens between principal living and circulation spaces, classically-inspired mantels and other woodwork, and Chinese wallpaper in the dining room. Also included in the nominated parcel are original brick gate pillars, a tile-block and concrete pump house that was apparently part of a 1920s sewer system, weirs supplied with water by Houn Spring, and two modern garages.

Inventory

1. Kanawha. 1921-1923. Contributing building.
2. Gate pillars. Ca. 1923. Contributing structure.
3. Building. Ca. 1920. Contributing building.
4. Weirs (Houn Spring). Ca. 1881. Contributing structure.
5. Garage. 1990. Noncontributing building.
6. Garage. 1991 (ca. 1935 foundation). Noncontributing building.

House Exterior

Kanawha's textured and variegated brickwork is characteristic of its construction in the 1920s. Stretcher bricks are a dull red in color, whereas header bricks are a lighter grayish red. Soldier-course bands cross the elevations at the level of the first-story windows and under the eaves. Brickwork details include recessed rectangular panels over the small windows that flank the front entry, and pillar-like elements that form perforated terrace walls extending from each side of the front portico. The chimney stacks are Flemish bond with concrete copings, and concrete is also used to form window sills, door thresholds, the portico steps, and copings on top of the aforementioned terrace walls.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

**Kanawha
Page Co., Va.**

Description (continued)

The portico stands on monumental fluted Corinthian columns and pilasters and shelters a front entry with a six-panel door and a three-light transom contained in a classical surround. To either side are original wall-mounted light fixtures with amber glass globes. Over the entry is a panel with composition ornament in the form of a wreath flanked by cornucopias and arabesques; over that is a false balcony on console supports with an iron railing featuring an elliptical motif at its center. Suspended by chains from the portico ceiling is a stained-glass lamp of cylindrical lancet form. The rear portico has smooth monumental engaged Doric columns and an enclosure of French doors with sidelights and transoms on the first tier and casement windows on the second tier. Flanking the rear portico and built on original terrace walls are modern one-story additions--a screened porch and an office with false-muntin windows--with wooden roof balustrades of stylized Chinese Chippendale design.

The porte cochere stands on wood columns of cruciform section above a brick wall similar to the front terrace walls but with decorative stack-bond and header brick panels. The porte cochere extends from the northwest end elevation; from the opposite southeast end extends an original one-story pantry wing with a front porch. The pantry porch stands on square wood columns with molded caps and has jalousie windows between the columns. Built onto the back of the pantry wing is a modern brick stair turret of semi-octagonal plan (the top of this feature is level with the second-floor floor level). Other exterior features include large hipped dormers, which have French doors that open onto the flat roofs of the front and rear porticos, and modern Pella insulated windows with twelve-over-twelve sashes on the first story and eight-over-eight sashes on the second story.

House Interior

Kanawha's first-floor plan features a large rectangular living room connected to the front vestibule through a colonnade screen, with secondary spaces branching off the core. The screen--defined by fluted Doric columns and pilasters--provides the architectural focus of the living room. A secondary focus is furnished by a hybrid Classical/Craftsman mantel and overmantel at the northwest end of the room, with paneling in the pilasters and frieze, a heavy mantel shelf, a tile hearth and textured brick fireplace surround, and natural wood finish. A set of three French doors open from the living room to a sun room that occupies the lower tier of the rear portico. Other living room features include wood floors, plaster walls and ceilings, and radiators in grilled casings (typical throughout the house) and a paneled treatment of the walls and paneled beam casings crossing the ceiling (repeated in the dining room).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Kanawha
Page Co., Va.

Description (continued)

Off the southeast end of the living room is the dining room, which is distinguished by three panels of 1940s Chinese wallpaper in a design of grotesque rock formations, flowering trees and shrubs, and colorfully plumaged birds against an olive drab background. Because the pigments are not colorfast their are small areas of streaking and spotting. The application of the paper pictured in photograph four resulted in the beheading of a bird at the top of the panel; this was remedied by cutting the bird's head out and gluing it onto the panel's surround. Under the dining room table is a floor button that once operated a bell and signal system for calling servants. Other features of the room include paneled wainscots with bullnose chairrail moldings, two glass-fronted built-in china cabinets, and French doors with transoms to the living room, a modern screened back porch, and a modern stair turret (the latter doors formerly opened to the outdoors).

Off the dining room is a kitchen with modern cabinetry and a pantry which retains its original cabinets and textured-glass fronts. French doors at the northwest end of the living room lead to a den with natural-finish wood paneling and to a hallway that connects to the porte cochere entry and to a bedroom. The bedroom has a natural-finish wood mantel similar in form to the lower part of the dining room mantel, and a closet lined with cedar boards marked "Luray Supply Co." (the same name appears elsewhere in the house). Off the bedroom is a bathroom with mirrored walls, a partial lining of white tiles with black tile accents, and a hexagonal tile floor. The aforementioned sunroom has paneling between the doors and a tile floor.

The aforementioned vestibule has two parts. The outer vestibule passes under a paneled baskethandle vault and has doorways to a lavatory and room described in the original plans as an office but now used as a laundry room. In a short passage that connects this room to the kitchen is a narrow servants stair with plain balusters and newels. The inner vestibule passes under the upper flight of a stair that rises from the living room through the colonnade screen. Both parts of the vestibule retain their original translucent light fixtures, and other original fixtures survive throughout the house. The stair has turned balusters, square newels with simple caps, and molded and eased handrails.

The stair rises to an upstairs hallway with an Ionic colonnade screen across its front and paneled Doric pilasters on its other walls. Two French doors open from the hallway into bedrooms. Typical upstairs treatments include mirrored one-panel closet doors and bathrooms with two-tone light blue tile linings and hexagonal tile floors. The master bedroom at the northwest end features a Doric colonnade screen that was probably added in the 1960s. The second floor connects to a sleeping porch on the upper tier of the rear portico.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

**Kanawha
Page Co., Va.**

Description (continued)

The attic, which is reached by the servants stair, is mostly taken up by a billiards room. Doors lead into smaller unfinished storage rooms under the side slopes of the roof, and a small mirrored cabinet door opens into a cavity holding the expansion tank of the original radiator heating system. (The home's original radiators are still in use but they now run off a modern heating system.) The tile-block construction of the interior walls is visible in the expansion tank cavity. A urinal and sink that once stood in one of the storage rooms flanking the billiards room have been reinstalled in the basement.

The basement extends under the southern three-quarters of the house and is reached by the servants stair and by a spiral stair in the turret addition, which has turned newels and balusters. Its largest room has poured-concrete walls and floors and closets constructed of plain and beaded matchboard. Other basement spaces include a recreation room with modern drop ceiling, vinyl flooring, and a rustic brick fireplace wall; a hot tub room; a boiler room; and a relatively unaltered freezer room with a zinc sink.

Secondary Resources and Landscape Features

Three contributing resources are located on the property in addition to the main house. At the entrance to the front drive are a pair of brick gate pillars. The lanterns that originally topped the pillars were discovered in storage on the property, restored with amber glass panes based on the originals, and remounted.

Located at the foot of the elevated terrace on which the main house stands and above a branch of Hawksbill Creek is a building that may have functioned as a part of the Luray Land Company's "private sanitary sewer system," which was in place by 1920 and connected to Kanawha. The utilitarian building--known to the Ford family descendants as the "pump house"--is constructed of parged tile-block with a poured-concrete roof, a roof railing of metal piping, a metal boiler flue, and window openings from which the sashes are now missing. A flight of concrete steps and large-bore metal pipes lead down to the building, and the ruins of a low concrete dam extends across the branch in front. Two alternative explanations for the building's function have been proposed. It may have served as a pump house for the Seibert ice factory, which was built on a nearby site about 1920, or for watering steam locomotives. To the east of the building is a boldly flowing spring known as Houn Spring. The water from this spring flows into one or more concrete weirs with wood sluice gates that are said to have served for the growing of watercress used at the nearby Luray Inn (in operation from 1881 to 1891), although a later date and different function are possible.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 5

**Kanawha
Page Co., Va.**

Description (continued)

Behind the main house stand two noncontributing garages. One of these was built in 1990 and is a one-story stretcher-bond brick building with a wood-shingled hip roof, two aluminum garage doors, two 1920s exterior light fixtures with amber glass globes (moved from the rear elevation of the main house), and eight-over-eight-sash false-muntin windows. The other garage, used to store a tractor collection, is a two-level frame building built into the side of a bank in 1991. The building has stained T1-11 siding, an asphalt-shingled gable roof, one-over-one-sash windows, a stretcher-bond brick chimney, and a round window taken from a non-original porch that once stood in place of the present modern stair turret on the main house. The building has one garage door on its upper level and three on its lower level, and it stands on the coursed limestone rubble foundation of a ca. 1935 log guest house that was taken down before 1987 on account of deterioration. A stone fireplace and a subterranean poured-concrete utility room survive as a part of the foundation.

Next to the 1990 garage is a picnic area overlooking Hawksbill Creek. The feature has a central fountain around which are arranged tables fashioned out of millstones from a Rockingham County mill (other millstones appear throughout the grounds as landscaping elements). Nearer the house is a flagstone patio. The grounds are planted with a variety of deciduous and evergreen specimen trees, and rows of white and pink dogwoods border the front drive. The sweeping front yard affords uninterrupted views of the house from Jamison Road. The back yard is thought to have been leveled with fill from the basement excavation when the house was built.

Integrity Statement

Kanawha and its grounds possess good architectural integrity overall. Both the exterior and interior of the main house retain their original character-defining features. Exterior alterations are largely in the form of additions such as the stair turret and the office and screened porch that stand at the location of the rear terraces (and incorporate the terrace walls). The original windows have been replaced with insulated windows that respect the muntin patterns of the originals. Interior alterations are largely confined to the basement and kitchen. The grounds retain their historic appearance and effect. Missing is the 1930s log guest house; in its place is the two-level tractor garage.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 6

**Kanawha
Page Co., Va.**

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Kanawha, also known as Tuckahoe, is the creation of Luray, Virginia businessman and mayor Vernon H. Ford, who built the imposing Classical Revival residence during the period 1921-1923 in the prestigious Inn Lawn subdivision, the principal real estate venture of Ford's Luray Land Company. Roanoke, Virginia architect George R. Ragan designed the two-and-a-half-story brick and tile-block residence, which is graced by a semicircular Corinthian portico and a roof of green Spanish tile. Doric and Ionic colonnade screens mediate between circulation and living spaces on the interior, and Chinese wallpaper panels with a theme of flowering trees and exotic birds decorate the dining room. At the time of his death in 1931, Ford was considered the "chief dynamic force" behind the local Good Roads movement. Kanawha passed to his son, lawyer and later judge William V. Ford, whose wife Elizabeth renamed the house Tuckahoe, and it remained in the Ford family until 1987.

Justification of Criteria

Kanawha is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B in the area of community planning and development for its association with Vernon H. Ford, a prominent business leader, booster, and president of the land company that developed Luray's fashionable Inn Lawn subdivision. The property is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture as one of Luray's largest and finest residences of the first half of the twentieth century. As an architectural statement the house was commensurate with Ford's standing in the community, and it doubled as a promotion of his Inn Lawn venture. The period of significance for the property extends from 1921, the apparent begin date of construction on the house, until Ford's death in 1931. Kanawha is eligible at the local level of significance.

Acknowledgments

A number of individuals and organizations assisted in the preparation of this report. Foremost among these were the owners of the property and sponsors of the nomination, John and Bernice Mrotek. Assistance was also provided by Alice Newton and Vickie Cyphert of the Page Public Library and by Lowell B. Baughan, Elizabeth R. Ford, Susan Dees, and Robert Harnsberger. Staff members of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources who assisted the project included Scott Brooks-Miller, David Edwards, June Ellis, and Marc Wagner. This project was an outgrowth of the 1997-1998 Page County Historic Resources Survey, sponsored by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Page County, and the Page County Heritage Association, and conducted by Landmark Preservation Associates.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Kanawha
Page Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

Historical Background

Kanawha's history begins well before the construction of the house in the early 1920s. In 1881 the Shenandoah Valley Railroad--later a part of the Norfolk & Western and Norfolk Southern systems--completed its line through Page County and through the eastern outskirts of the county seat, Luray. A passenger depot was built two blocks off of Luray's Main Street on the flanks of a gently rising hill, and at the crest of the hill a development company constructed a large railroad hotel known as the Luray Inn. The inn burned in 1891 and the surrounding acreage was left undeveloped until the 1910s when a group of Luray businessmen formed the Luray Land Company and purchased the property. The president of the land company was Vernon Hebb Ford (1864-1931).¹

In 1913 the Luray Land Company hired the Hagerstown, Maryland engineering firm J. B. Ferguson & Co. to lay out its acreage into curving streets bordered by house lots of varying shape, size and prospect. Originally known as Inn Park but renamed Inn Lawn by 1915, the development was the first in Page County to eschew traditional orthogonal community planning in favor of the more modern taste for park-like, picturesque, curvilinear planning. Deed restrictions encouraged the creation of an exclusive residential enclave. No dwelling costing less than \$3,000 could be built, and the company reserved the right to approve all plans and specifications. Setbacks prevented construction within fifty feet of the streets, and utilities were relegated to back alleys. Swine were not permitted and poultry and other fowl were not allowed to run at large. As was customary in affluent white residential areas during the era of segregation, lot purchasers were forbidden to sell, convey, lease, or rent their property to "persons of African descent."²

The first building to be erected in the development appears to have been Christ Episcopal Church at 16-18 Amiss Avenue, completed in 1915 to a design by local architect J. R. Mims Sr. Businessman E. C. Harnsberger purchased several lots in 1915 but apparently did not complete his residence at 7 Jamison Road until 1927. In January 1920 Vernon Ford's wife Allie Long Ford purchased four lots on Jamison Road and the couple planned construction of a grand

¹ Giles and Pezzoni, "Page County Historic Resources Survey Report," 39; Lake's atlas; and Page County Deed Book 70, pp. 340-345.

² Page County Deed Book 70, pp. 340-342.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Kanawha
Page Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

residence to be named "Kanawha" in memory of the Kanawha River of Mrs. Ford's native West Virginia.³

The Fords were married in Luray in 1889, several years after Vernon purchased the Harmison general merchandise store where he had worked as a clerk. The general store and Ford's other business enterprises prospered, and by the early 1910s Ford was able to retire "having built up one of the largest estates in the county." Retirement did not suit him, and within a few years Ford had involved himself in the Page Valley Telephone Company, the Heiston Miller & Company contracting and planing mill firm, the Luray Supply Company wholesale grocery supplier, the Luray Ice Company, and the Luray Caverns Corporation. The Luray Land Company was organized about 1913 by Ford, his brother-in-law A. L. Jamison, and two others. Ford's civic contributions included a brief stint as mayor of Luray, and at the time of his death he was considered the "chief dynamic force" behind the drive to secure road construction funds for Page County.⁴

In February 1920, within two weeks of his wife's purchase of the house site, Vernon had acquired a quantity of "corrugated tile block" through his Luray Supply Company, but construction does not appear to have commenced until late 1921. A surviving plan for the installation of a "Haynes Hoffman Vapor Heating System" bearing the title block of Roanoke architect George R. Ragan is dated October 1921. According to Vernon Ford's granddaughter Elizabeth R. Ford, the major construction work was undertaken in the winter of 1921-1922, but the house does not appear in county tax records until 1924 (value \$5,000), suggesting completion in 1923 or 1924.⁵

The Fords lived at Kanawha until Allie's death in 1925 and Vernon's in 1931. Living with them for part of that period were their sons William Vernon, a lawyer, and Robert M., a salesman for his father's wholesale grocery business. The property passed to William, who was appointed

³ Giles and Pezzoni, "Page County Historic Resources Survey Report," files; Page County Deed Book 78, p. 17.

⁴ *Page News and Courier*, September 11, 1931.

⁵ *Page News and Courier*, February 13, 1920; Ragan plans; Ford personal communication; and Page County land books for 1921 through 1924.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Kanawha
Page Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

circuit judge for Page and Rockingham counties in the late 1940s, and who lived in the house with his wife, Elizabeth Swetnam Ford. A native of Fairfax County, Mrs. Ford referred to the house as "Tuckahoe," presumably in reference to her eastern Virginia roots. (Because the property was known as Kanawha only for the brief period of Allie Ford's residence, more local inhabitants know it as Tuckahoe.) In the 1940s Mrs. Ford purchased Chinese wallpaper and had it hung in the dining room by an interior designer named Percy Smith, who was based in the Washington area. Upon William Ford's death in 1949 the property passed to his wife, and upon Elizabeth Ford's death in 1966 the property passed to her daughter, Elizabeth Randolph Ford, who sold it in 1987 to the present owners, John and Bernice Mrotek.⁶

The Mroteks made a number of alterations to the property. In 1990 they employed designer Gary Harpine and the Burgoyne Construction Company, both of Harrisonburg, to add a turret-like stair tower to the southeast end of the house, in the process replacing an enclosed porch addition of unknown date. Sitework included the construction of two garages (the frame one built on the foundations of a 1930s log guest house) and enhancements to the existing landscaping based on a 1988 design by the landscape architecture firm Site Specific. The Mroteks' work included the restoration of the amber glass lamps on the gate pillars at the entrance to Kanawha.⁷

Architectural Analysis

Kanawha was designed by Roanoke, Virginia architect George R. Ragan, whose title block appears on a 1921 heating system plan of the house. Ragan's earliest known works date to the first decade of the twentieth century and are clustered in Roanoke and surrounding areas. In 1916 he designed a school building for the Page County community of Shenandoah, and by the early 1920s he regularly undertook commissions in the northern Virginia area. Kanawha's classical composition and detail, and the Mediterranean character imparted by its Spanish tile roof, are characteristic of grand residences built in Roanoke's Grandin area and other affluent neighborhoods developed during the 1920s.⁸

⁶ 1920 federal census; Ford and Mrotek personal communication.

⁷ Mrotek, "Facts about Tuckahoe;" Mrotek personal communication.

⁸ Ragan plans; Wells and Dalton, *Virginia Architects*, 368-369.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Kanawha
Page Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

Kanawha belongs to a group of architecturally related houses that stand or formerly stood in the Inn Lawn neighborhood. Most similar is the home of Vernon and Allie Ford's son William V. Ford, which was built soon after Kanawha, possibly by local builder David Mauck. William Ford's house features brickwork and green Spanish roof tiles that are like the Kanawha treatments. Across Jamison Road from Kanawha stands the home of Vernon Ford's business associate Edwin C. Harnsberger, begun in 1918 or 1919 to a design by J. R. Mims Sr. but not finished until 1927 (according to Harnsberger family tradition). Although more eclectic in its stylistic roots, and faced with tan-colored brick rather than red brick, the Harnsberger House has a Spanish tile hip roof. According to a 1920 newspaper article, Harnsberger purchased tile block for the construction of his residence at the same time as Ford and from the same source, a manufacturer retailing through the Luray Supply Company. A third house, the Oscar Printz residence, was built on Amiss Street in 1920 and torn down in the 1990s. The Printz House--which may have been designed by Printz--featured roof tiles "imported from Spain" and brickwork that is said to have matched that of the Harnsberger House in color. Its design with Foursquare-like massing and wraparound Craftsman porch was more conventional in character. Kanawha and its contemporaries suggest a shared aesthetic among prosperous Luray homebuilders of the 1920s, an aesthetic that synthesized styles popular elsewhere in Virginia and the nation during the period and that drew upon the expertise of local and non-local architects.⁹

⁹ *Page News and Courier*, February 13, 1920, and May 9, 1991; and Baughan, Dees, and Ford personal communication.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 11

Kanawha
Page Co., Va.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 12

**Kanawha
Page Co., Va.**

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated parcel are depicted on the 1:200-scale map that accompanies the nomination. The boundaries include Page County tax map 42A11 parcels (11)13, (11)13A, (11)13C, (11)21, (11)22, (11)23, and (A)241A, encompassing approximately five acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated parcel follow lot lines and are drawn to include the main house Kanawha and associated features.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photo Page 13

**Kanawha
Page Co., Va.**

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. 1. Subject: Kanawha (same for all photos)
2. Location: Page Co., Va. (same for all photos)
3. Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni (same for all photos)
4. Photo date: February 1999 (same for all photos)
5. Original negative (VDHR no. 17433) archived at the Library of Virginia, Richmond
(same for all photos)
6. Description of view: Front (northeast) elevation of house. View looking southwest.
7. Photograph number appears at beginning of entry (same for all photos)
2. 6. Rear elevation of house. View looking northeast.
3. 6. Colonnade screen in living room.
4. 6. Wallpaper in dining room.
5. 6. Building. View looking west.
6. 6. Ca. 1991 garage on left with roof of ca. 1993 garage just visible beyond trees on right.
View looking west.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Exhibit Page 14

Kanawha
Page Co., Va.

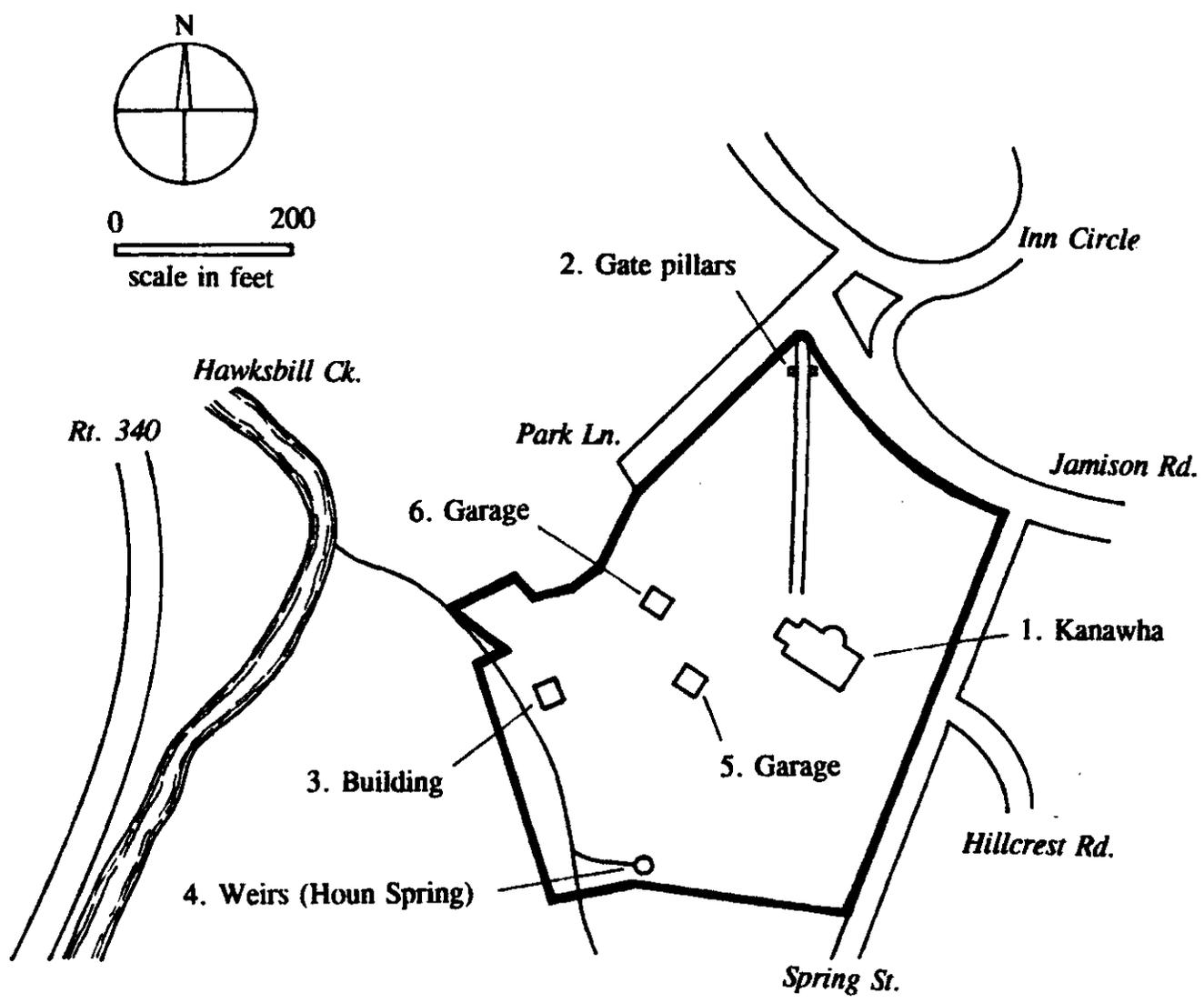


Exhibit A: Kanawha, Luray, Va. Scale 1" = 200'. Heavy line indicates boundary of nominated parcel. Size and location of resources approximate. Number and direction of view of photographs indicated by triangular markers. Exhibit drawn from Page County tax parcel map 42A11.

Kanawha (aka. Tackahoe)
Page Co, Va.
UTM ref. (zone 17)
1. E 721020 N 4282080

