

VLR-6/15/94 NRHP-8/16/94

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is ~~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, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Smithfield

other names/site number VDHR File No. 83-12

2. Location

street & number NW side of SR 19, 3 mi. SW of Rosedale not for publication N/A
city or town Rosedale vicinity X
state Virginia code VA county Russell code 167 zip code 24280

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Way C. Miller
Signature of certifying official Date 6/24/94

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 commenting or other official Date

state or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

Signature or Keeper Date of Action

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

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- Cat: DOMESTIC, AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION; Sub: Single dwelling, Secondary structure, Agricultural outbuilding, Agricultural field, School

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- Cat: DOMESTIC, AGRICULTURE, VACANT/NOT IN USE; Sub: Single dwelling, Secondary structure, Agricultural outbuilding, Agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

- OTHER: Central-passage-plan, MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation: STONE: Limestone, walls: BRICK, roof: ASPHALT, other

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.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1848-1940

Significant Dates 1848
1900

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 980 acres **UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	412210	4090050	2	17	412300 4090320
3	17	412530	4090300	4	17	412850 4090090

 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 Gibson Worsham, Architect
 organization _____ date February 2, 1994
 street & number 3145 Yellow Sulphur Road telephone 703-552-4730
 city or town Christiansburg state VA zip code 24073

 =====
 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 J. H. A. Smith III
 street & number H. C. 64, Box 22 telephone 703-880-9015
 city or town Rosedale state VA zip code 24280

 =====
 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 Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Smithfield
Russell Co., Virginia

Summary Description

Smithfield is located on the northwest side of State Route 19, three miles southwest of the hamlet of Rosedale. The major buildings are located along a farm road leading northwest from Route 19. These include thirteen contributing buildings, two noncontributing buildings, three noncontributing structures, five contributing sites, and one noncontributing site. Buildings in the immediate domestic space around the main house include the brick main house (classified in the resource count as a contributing building), a brick springhouse (contributing building), both dating from the mid-nineteenth century, a brick acetylene house (contributing building), dating from the early twentieth century, an early twentieth-century frame meat house (contributing building), and a former school house (contributing building), moved from nearby Rosedale to the yard south of the house in the early twentieth century to serve as a granary and later as a guest house. A modern swimming pool (noncontributing structure) is located east of the house. The farm road approaches the house along its southwest side and forms a circle to the rear (northwest). It then continues to the northwest. The original approach was in front of the house, where a stile or mounting block survives.

The contributing farm buildings include a late-nineteenth-century, frame horse barn (contributing building) located northwest of the house and nearby early-twentieth-century shop (contributing building) and wagon shed (contributing building). A frame sheep barn (contributing building) and scale house (contributing building), probably dating from the early twentieth century, are located along the farm road southwest of the house. A cow barn (contributing building), as well as several second-quarter twentieth-century, dairy-related buildings, including a milking parlor (contributing building) and shop (contributing building), are located immediately west of the house. A nearby feedway (noncontributing structure) and corncrib (noncontributing structure) were built in the mid-twentieth century. A storage building (noncontributing building) was relocated near the wagon shed from off the farm in the mid-twentieth century. A frame tobacco barn (noncontributing building) in

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the tract known as the Garden Field, northeast of the main house, was built in the 1960s by the present owner's father, William G. Smith.

An earlier house seat (contributing site) to the northwest of the main house and a related cemetery (contributing site) have not been sampled for their archeological potential, nor has the Fuller family cemetery on the western edge of the farm (contributing site). Similarly the sites of a slave house (contributing site) and apple house/meathouse (noncontributing site) near the main house and the Smith Cemetery (contributing site) have not been examined, but it is likely that all the sites retain sufficient integrity, except the apple house/meathouse, which has been regraded and paved for a driveway.

Narrative

Smithfield consists of 980 acres of rolling farmland in the Elk Garden Creek Bottom. The nominated property slopes to the northwest from U.S. Route 19, which follows the course of Elk Garden Creek, to the ridge of River Mountain at Smith Knob. It forms a large irregular trapezoid, with the narrowest part at the ridge of River Mountain to the northwest and the widest portion along the road. An additional tract of 288 acres, located across Route 19, was historically part of the Smith property, but was recently re-acquired from a relative, and is not included in the nominated acreage. While the majority of the land is open, even when comparatively steeply sloped, as is characteristic of the farms in the area, there are small wooded tracts interspersed through the farm and a large wooded area on River Mountain to the northwest. This area of Southwest Virginia has historically been well-known for the unusually high quality of its Bluegrass grazing land.

The main house is located 50 yards northwest of U.S. Route 19 in a small hollow. It faces the road from the center of a landscaped lawn, while a small field in front of the lawn provides a buffer from the highway. Trees around the house include a large willow, catalpa, and two hemlocks flanking an old entry to the large vegetable garden to the northeast

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of the house. In the field between the house and the highway, and located near the entrance to the farm road stands an enormous white willow tree that holds a state record for size and age. A modern swimming pool has been constructed southeast of the garden.

The house is a two-story, five-bay, central-passage-plan dwelling with Flemish-bond brick walls, built in the late 1850s. It has a double-pile form, in that the passage is flanked by two rooms on either side, each served by an interior end chimney, a popular plan for substantial houses in the region during the mid-nineteenth century (see Bland County's Mountain View Farm, listed in the National Register, VDRH file # 10-39). The house sits on a slightly raised English basement of partially-stuccoed Flemish bond brick. The exterior features nine-over-nine sash windows with wooden lintels carrying bull's-eye corner blocks, reeded surrounds, and early louvered blinds. The wooden box cornice surrounds the shallow hipped roof and carries densely-spaced blocks resembling triglyphs on the broad frieze. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. An added early-twentieth-century dormer is located in the center of the principal (southeast) facade.

The central entry is flanked by wide sidelights and headed by a wide transom. The door, added in the early twentieth century, contains an oval glass panel. A broad, one-story porch spans the central three bays of the principal facade. It features a very shallow pedimented front, wide, square columns, a delicate wood rail with square balusters, and an ornate triglyph frieze more sophisticated than that on the main house's friezeboard. The porch was rebuilt and widened in the 1930s to match the original center section (see historic photograph). An area and base ment entry under the front porch were infilled in 1985.

The sides are unpierced by any windows, except on the basement level, where short windows, replaced in recent years, flank the chimneys in several locations. The rear of the house is dominated by a one-story, concrete-block wing added in 1949, with plain details and metal casement windows. The remaining openings (those on the second floor and in the outer bays of the first floor) are similar to the

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windows on the principal (southeast) facade. A narrow, off-center dormer, apparently original to the house, provides light and headroom for the stair to the attic. A modern porch and exterior door have been provided recently to the northwest end of the wing to give access to a basement apartment.

In 1985 the owners rehabilitated the basement for use as an apartment. The interior of the basement was largely transformed in the process, although the basic layout remains legible. The basement plan conforms to the double-pile, central-passage plan followed in the rest of the house. Two low-ceilinged rooms flank each side of a long central passage. Each room was originally equipped with a fireplace and brick floors. The west room had a wide fireplace (now blocked) and crane and served as the original kitchen. As part of the rehabilitation, an interior stair was rebuilt under the principal stair to the second floor and the areaway under the front porch was made into a storage closet. The present owner stated that the original stair was crudely built, unlike the rest of the house.

The first floor also features the double-pile central-passage plan. The passage contains an open-stringer stair. Each of the four rooms opens off the passage, and each contains a fireplace projecting into the room. Although there is a playful variety between the woodwork details in every room of the house, there is a clear differentiation between the use of rooms and the elaboration of their ornamental woodwork. The detailing is all apparently derived from Asher Benjamin's The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter, first published in 1830. The pair of rooms on the northeast side of the passage functioned as double parlors. They feature square, grooved, crossette door and window trim with a raised central element at the top and base blocks where the trim abuts the high, grooved baseboards. The rooms contain projecting chimneys that carry identical mantels with plain friezes supported by free-standing Doric colonnettes. A similar, but more ornate, mantel design is shown in plate 51 in the Asher

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Benjamin pattern book. The rooms are linked by a wide pocket door ornamented with a complex guilloche pattern inset in the crossettes at either side. This design is an adaptation of the guilloche shown in plate 32 of Asher Benjamin's book. Ceiling light fixtures in both rooms date from the early twentieth century. The front or east room has a partially gilded, molded crown element at the top of the walls, added in the late nineteenth century. Doors throughout the house have four, narrow, molded panels.

The rooms on the southwest side of the passage are connected by a four-panel door. The front or south room has square grooved trim with plain corner blocks. Presses flanking the mantel have had their doors removed. The mantel is similar to the mantels in the twin parlors, but has a Greek key pattern above the shelf, shallow half-colonnettes and two horizontal grooves in the center of the frieze. A stained glass light fixture from the early twentieth century hangs in the center of the room. The west room features rounded, grooved trim with plain corner blocks and presses with missing doors flanking the fireplace. The mantel is unusually decorative and is derived from eclectic sources. The freize carries a central elliptical sunburst motif adapted from Federal designs and flanked by inset Greek key panels, and stylized acroteria at the top on either side of a shallow silhouetted pediment. The shelf is supported by Doric half colonettes.

The passage doors are treated with grooved trim with plain corner blocks. The stair rises in the rear half of the passage and reverses direction at a landing along the rear (northwest) wall. The stair features a ramped and eased round rail, square balusters, and turned newels, except the lowest newel, which was replaced in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century with a square post. At the same time a sawn wood filigree arch was added across the passage between the front and rear halves. A molded crown was added also, similar to that in the front (east) parlor. A door at the rear of the passage gives access to the added wing, while the second window from the north in the north room was blocked on the outside by the wing and the second window from the west in the west room was made into a door at the

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time the wing was added in 1949. The wing contains the present kitchen and laundry.

The second floor repeats the plan of the lower floors in a rigidly symmetrical scheme. Each chamber opens independently off the passage and each features a similar but subtly different decorative scheme. Each room has a different variant of the Asher Benjamin-inspired, Greek Revival mantels downstairs, flanking presses, plain corner blocks on the door and window trim, two-panel doors, and a high baseboard. The south room has trim that is fluted in section, the east room features a flat central section flanked by grooves and a raised flat edge on each side, the trim in the north room has a narrow flat central section flanked by wide grooves that taper up to form edge strips, while the west room features plain square trim and the passage has a simple sunken central section. The trim elements are all variations of architrave designs shown on plate 46 of the Asher Benjamin's pattern book.

The bathroom enclosure across the southeast (front) end of the passage was added in the early twentieth century. The elegant frosted-glass enclosure has carved and turned window surrounds and a transom above. The fixtures in the bathroom date to its original installation. Most light fixtures on the second floor date to the early twentieth century.

The attic is reached by an unusual, apparently original, extension of the main stair. The partially finished attic space is surrounded by an unpainted plaster knee wall. A pair of heavy mortise-and-tenon rafters extend up from the front and rear walls and intersect the similar beams that form the angles of the roof planes where they intersect. The space between is filled with circular-sawn common rafters let into the tops of the angled corner beams. An original header spans the stair opening. The front dormer was clearly added in the early twentieth century.

The domestic outbuildings include the late nineteenth-century springhouse west of the house, the former schoolhouse (granary) to the southwest side, the acetylene house to the north, and a meat house to the northwest. The

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springhouse, originally supplied from a remote water supply, is a small rectangular running-bond brick structure, with a door in the southeast side wall near the northeast end, small windows in three sides, and interior cooling troughs for the milk and other foodstuffs.

The one-story weatherboarded three-bay building facing the house from the southwest side was moved from the nearby hamlet of Rosedale in the early twentieth century. It was built in the late nineteenth century as the Rosedale School and first used on the farm as a granary. It was refitted in the second quarter of the twentieth century for use as a guest house. The miniscule early-twentieth-century acetylene house is built of brick, features a slightly below-grade floor level, and is roofed with a concrete vault. After electricity became available to Russell County farms in about 1926 the building was used as a root cellar. A small, frame "ham house," dating from the early twentieth century, stands to the rear (northwest) of the house.

The farm buildings to the northwest of the house include the horse barn, the wagon shed, and the shop. All were constructed using circular-sawn lumber in the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. The three buildings enclose an irregular farmyard between them. Each has framed sheds added on one or more sides. The gabled horse barn with a central, lateral aisle is in good condition. The two other buildings are in poor condition. A small frame storage building was moved from another farm to a site adjacent to the wagon shed in the mid-twentieth century.

The cow barn, located to the west of the house, is linked to the horse barn by a group of later dairy-related structures and buildings, including a shop, feedway, milking parlor, and corncrib. The milking parlor and shop were built of concrete block in the early 1940s. The remaining structures, an open feedway and frame corn crib, were built in later years. All are in fair condition. An early-twentieth-century sheep barn and scale house are located toward the road, south of the house. The scale is dated 1916. Both are circular-sawn frame buildings and have later frame shed additions.

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Statement of Significance

The house at Smithfield is an unusually substantial and well-preserved mid-nineteenth-century dwelling. It is one of Russell County's most important examples of domestic architecture from that period and gains in significance as the centerpiece of a large and historic farm. Largely due to the remarkable continuity of ownership since the revolutionary war, the farm retains nineteenth-century field patterns and field names. The present main house and the domestic outbuildings represent the domestic vernacular forms utilized by substantial farmers in the valleys of the Southwest Virginia region and the changes those forms underwent from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. The barns and significant agricultural outbuildings date from the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. They demonstrate the kinds of buildings utilized after the Civil War as large farms were adapted to the post-war economy and the absence of slavery.

The house and associated outbuildings and features are locally significant under Criterion C as an outstanding example of Greek Revival-style domestic architecture as adapted over time. The farm as a whole is significant under Criterion A in Agriculture for the preservation and adaptation of nineteenth-century field patterns and associated agricultural buildings.

Historical Background

Colonel Henry Smith, who first settled on the property, was born in Stafford County, Virginia, on February 5, 1745. Henry Smith is traditionally said to have been an early hunter and surveyor. He moved to the region in 1776. His brother, Daniel Smith, a surveyor for the Loyal Land Company, surveyed two of the earliest tracts in what is now Russell County. The second of these tracts is that on which the present house, known as Smithfield, was built. He served as first surveyor for Russell County (founded in 1786 from

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Washington County), as a county justice, and as a colonel in the militia. His son Henry (Harry) succeeded him as surveyor in 1801.

A house is said to have been built on the tract as early as the late eighteenth century. The house site is remembered today in the historic field patterns and names. A small enclosure above the present house has been known for generations as House Seat and an adjoining field as House Seat Meadow. The large pasture just above is known as The Old Place, and a small graveyard is located in an adjacent boundary known by that name. Fields on farms in the locality are known collectively as boundaries and are called by names which often refer to some historic or continuing use (see farm map).

The survival of field or boundary names is perhaps an important clue to historic agricultural practices in the region. While other farmers in the immediate region may continue to use the term boundary, including the Bowen family at Maiden Spring in neighboring Tazewell County (proposed for the National Register, VDHR file # 92-2), the boundary names appear to be a significant and rare survival in the larger context of Southwest Virginia. Boundary names in use at Smithfield include Slate New Ground, Morrison Boundary, Jim Lot, Pint, Grant Piece, Perkins Boundary, Briar Field, and others. Some, secondarily called fields, are more suited for crops, while those known as meadows are perhaps more suitable for grazing. Others are descriptive, such as Shop Field or use the name of a former tenant or associated individual. Other names have been identified from historical documents, including Old Place, Red Hill, and Hancock Field.¹

Harry Smith's son John Taylor Smith (1805-1862) was the builder of Smithfield. As the son of one of the county's most prominent families, he was provided with a complete education. He completed studies in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in 1833. In the same year he married Mary Douglas Anderson of Christiansburg, Virginia. Dr. Smith traveled on horseback to practice medicine over Southwest Virginia until 1836. His practice, as indicated from his letters, ranged over Scott, Washington, Wythe,

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Pulaski, Montgomery, Tazewell, and Russell counties. Family tradition indicates he was one of the first doctors in the area to inoculate for small pox by removing a scab from an infected person, making a small cut, and tying the scab onto the cut of another person.

In 1836, Smith moved to Holly Springs, Tallahatchie County, Mississippi, for three years. He returned to Russell County in 1839 or 1840. He is said to have brought by river the large mirror, purchased in New Orleans, which hangs in the parlor at Smithfield. In 1848, he began construction of the main house at Smithfield, and completed it two years later, at a cost of \$5,000. Family tradition affirms that the bricks were burned from clay on the farm, and that much of the labor was done by slaves under the direction of skilled carpenters and bricklayers.² The large field southwest of the house is named Brick Kiln, and was apparently the source of the bricks.

The 1850 census schedules for Smithfield indicate that John T. Smith, farmer/physician, age 44, lived with his wife, Mary D., age 33, and only child, John H. A., age 2. His personal property value was not listed for this year for unknown reasons. His father, Col. Harry Smith, age 76, lived nearby with a household of six relatives of a variety of ages. In 1820 Col. Harry Smith had 45 slaves, but by 1850 none are listed in the census schedules beside his name. His personal property value of \$140,000 is one of the largest in the county in 1850. Agricultural census schedules for that year indicate that he was one of the county's four most prosperous farmers in both produce, livestock, and land value, while John T. Smith operated a relatively small farm.

Harry Smith's farm, which probably apparently included the acreage of Smithfield, contained 3,500 acres of improved and 1,500 acres of unimproved land assessed at \$20,000, the county's third highest value. He had one of the most diversified agricultural product, producing significant amounts of corn, oats, wool, butter, flax, and maple sugar as well cattle and sheep, his most valuable product. Most

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of the other wealthy farmers concentrated more on raising cattle and none produced as many bushels of corn (15,000). Most landowners in Russell County owned land valued at less than \$1,000 and engaged in mixed agriculture similar to that of Smith, but on a much smaller scale.³

By 1860 John T. Smith had officially assumed a portion of his father's wealth. He owned 23 slaves, mostly female and all under 46 years of age, an above average number of slaves among county slaveholders. Only three of the males were old enough to be productive workers. Four were under three years old. John T. Smith had the most slaves among three other Smith relatives in the neighborhood. By 1870, when listed in Mary Smith's name, the farm was assigned the second highest assessed value in Russell County's agricultural census schedules. Mary Smith's holdings then consisted of 300 improved and 3,200 unimproved acres and was valued at \$30,000. The value of produce however, was ninth in the county. Slave labor had been apparently replaced by sharecropping (see below), land rental, and paid labor. Wages of \$100 were paid in 1869.⁴

The house took nearly the same form that it does today. The kitchen, with a wide fireplace and crane, was located in the west corner of the basement. The north room, across the passage, is said to have served as the farm office.⁵ It seems possible that one of the basement rooms served as a dining room, as has been observed in related houses which feature English basements, such as a group of mid-to-late-nineteenth-century dwellings in nearby Wytheville.

The first-floor rooms on the northeast suggest, by their wide interconnecting door, the twin parlors widely used in the region during the same period. The opposite rooms, with built-in presses and varied, but less ornamental, door and window trim, suggest a use as more private spaces such as bedrooms rather than as living and dining rooms. The more ornamental mantel in the west room may signify a more important function for that room. The builder apparently had access to pattern books, in particular to The Architect or Practical House Carpenter by Asher Benjamin, which inspired the design of much of the finish carpentry.⁶

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Outbuildings contemporary with the house do not survive, unless the nearby running-bond brick springhouse, which appears to date from the later nineteenth century, was built at that time. A two-story frame building, referred to as the apple house, which was also used for curing hams, was demolished in the mid-twentieth century. It stood to the immediate rear (northwest) of the main house. Another log building, traditionally said to be a slave dwelling, was torn down in the late 1960s. The building, which presumably housed household slaves, stood to the rear (northwest) of the apple house. Both buildings were apparently situated in an approximately axial relationship with the main house.

The hierarchical placement of outbuildings is a pattern common to other houses of similar form and social and economic status, such as Oakland in Pulaski County (VDHR file # 77-40) and Walnut Grove in Montgomery County (VDHR file # 60-243), where a separate kitchen, meathouse, and, in the case of Oakland, a slave house, were lined up axially in that order. While the outbuildings at these two examples were of brick, the use of log outbuildings with a log, frame, or brick main house is not inconsistent with mid-nineteenth-century practice at some large and substantial farms. It stands in contrast to the more informal placement at smaller and less pretentious farms in the region or in earlier periods at most farms.⁷

Dr. Smith died in Lynchburg on 7 January 1862 while returning home from visiting the battlefields around Winchester, Virginia. He was buried in what is now known as the Smith Cemetery. It is located on a knoll about 1/2-mile west of Smithfield near the old house site. A Union soldier, one of the Kanawha Rangers, who died while being cared for at Smithfield, requested to be buried in the family cemetery.⁸ A later family cemetery is located north of the main house. Another cemetery associated with the Fuller family was part of a minor addition to the southwestern edge of the farm during the early twentieth century.⁹

John Henry Anderson Smith, the only child of Dr. John Taylor Smith and Mary Douglas Anderson, was born on the farm on 28 July 1847. In 1872 he married Florence Gertrude Hutcheson.

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They had four sons, Douglas, James Thomas, John Henry Anderson, and Taylor Garnett. Florence Smith adapted the house to her needs and planned extensive additions. During her occupancy of Smithfield a standing seam metal roof was installed, replacing cedar shingles.¹⁰ The kitchen, which prior to the later addition of the rear wing was located in the west corner room of the first floor, was probably relocated there from the basement at that time. The east basement room was used as a medical office by Dr. Taylor Garnett Smith in the early twentieth century. His brother, James Thomas Smith, operated the farm.

The late-nineteenth-century practice of sharecropping, probably necessary on the farm to replace slave labor, is revealed in an 1886 contract between Florence G. Smith and Julius McNew, who rented the upper portion of the Smithfield Farm known as the Old Place, as well as the Red Hill boundary and the Hancock Field. He agreed to provide Florence Smith with one-half the corn or fodder to be planted on the Old Place, one-half of the wheat and straw to be raised on the Red Hill boundary, and one-third of the oats and straw raised in the Hancock Field. He was supplied with a house and garden and was expected to be available for day labor when needed.¹¹

Between 1890 and 1900 Florence Smith had bricks made to match those of the main house in the hope of building wings on each side. The additions were never made and the bricks were divided among family members in the locality.¹² The bricks were made from clay from the farm and burned in the Brick Kiln boundary southwest of the house. They were said to be very soft, and some were used for filling holes on the farm. These bricks may have been used to build the springhouse. This originally was fed by a spring up the hollow to the northwest but in the early twentieth century it was fed by pipe from a 4,700-gallon brick reservoir located across Route 19 on Webb Mountain. The reservoir was fed by a ram pump and supplied the water by gravity.¹³ This made possible a new bathroom, inserted at the southeast end of the second-floor passage, enclosed within an elegant, frosted glass partition which allowed light to reach the passage. Florence Smith was also responsible for the added

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decorative molding found in the parlor and entry hall and the decorative wooden-filigree arch over the passage. A dormer, lighting the attic, was added at about the turn of the century, centered over the main entry.

It was apparently during the same period that many of the present farm buildings were built, including the frame cow barn and horse barn. The location of the previous farm buildings is unknown, but they presumably were situated in the same area to the northwest and west of the house. The kinds of buildings suggests that the family was engaged in the mixed farming which characterized the region. A scale house was added southwest of the house in 1916, suggesting an increased emphasis on beef cattle, as interest in purebred stock grew in the region, and a nearby sheep barn appears to date from the same period.

Around 1930, the front porch was widened by John Henry Anderson Smith, Jr. He also moved the former school from Rosedale to the south of the house to serve as a granary. James Thomas Smith's son, William Gilkeson Smith, inherited the nominated portion of the farm in 1942. In 1949 he and his wife, Anne Bowen Smith, added a one-story, concrete block wing at the center of the rear facade, containing a kitchen and service rooms. The farm was converted to a dairy operation in the early 1940s as a response to government encouragement of milk production as part of the war effort. A milking parlor and shop were built at that time of concrete block near the cow barn, and in later decades they were supplemented by an open feedway. In 1970, the front steps were replaced using bricks which came from another local house, Old Rosedale. Their son, John Henry Anderson Smith III, the present owner, remodeled the largely unused basement in 1985 to provide a self-contained apartment for his mother and aunt. At that time the areaway below the front porch was infilled for use as a storage area.¹⁴

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Notes

- 1 Contract between Florence G. Smith and Julius McNew, 1 August 1886, collection, John Henry Anderson Smith III.
- 2 Anne Bowen Smith, personal communication, 1992.
- 3 U.S. Census, Population and Agriculture Schedules, 1850, 1860.
- 4 U.S. Census, Population and Agriculture Schedules, 1870.
- 5 Anne Bowen Smith.
- 6 Asher Benjamin, The Architect or Practical House Carpenter, 1830 (New York: Dover Publications, 1988).
- 7 See the McDonald Farm, Montgomery County, Virginia, listed in the National Register, for a typical example.
- 8 Anne Bowen Smith.
- 9 Anne Bowen Smith, letter to Gibson Worsham, 29 July 1993.
- 10 Florence G. Smith, letter to her mother, 9 November 1878, collection, John Henry Anderson Smith III.
- 11 Contract between Florence G. Smith and Julius McNew.
- 12 John Henry Anderson Smith III, personal communication, 1993.
- 13 John Henry Anderson Smith III.
- 14 John Henry Anderson Smith III.

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Russell County VA**

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM References (cont'd)

E 17/413010/4090310 M 17/413200/4088460
F 17/413270/4090400 N 17/413460/4088510
G 17/413440/4090640 O 17/413660/4088690
H 17/413630/4090730 P 17/413600/4088780
I 17/414490/4089040 Q 17/413230/4088780
J 17/414390/4088910 R 17/412920/4089265
K 17/414440/4088830 S 17/412790/4089210
L 17/413400/4087700

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference points:

A 17/412210/4090050 K 17/414440/4088830
B 17/412300/4090320 L 17/413400/4087700
C 17/412530/4090300 M 17/413200/4088460
D 17/412850/4090090 N 17/413460/4088510
E 17/413010/4090310 O 17/413660/4088690
F 17/413270/4090400 P 17/413600/4088780
G 17/413440/4090640 Q 17/413230/4088780
H 17/413630/4090730 R 17/412920/4089265
I 17/414490/4089040 S 17/412790/4089210
J 17/414390/4088910

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries include the farm complex and the system of named fields or "boundaries" that have historically been associated with Smithfield.

MITHFIELD
USSELL COUNTY, VA

TM REFERENCES:

- 17 412210 4090050
- 17 412300 4090320
- 17 412530 4090300
- 17 412850 4090090
- 17 413010 4090310
- 17 413270 4090400
- 17 413440 4090640
- 17 413630 4090730
- 17 414490 4089040
- 17 414390 4088910
- 17 414440 4088830
- 17 413400 4087700
- 17 413200 4088460
- 17 413460 4088510
- 17 413660 4088690
- 17 413600 4088780
- 17 413230 4088780
- 17 412920 4089265
- 17 412790 4089210

