

VLR 3/13/02  
NRHP 9/14/02

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

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

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Fulkerson-Hilton House

other names/site number 84-5167

**2. Location**

street & number Route 1, Box 177 not for publication X

city or town Hiltons vicinity X

state Virginia code VA county Scott code 169 Zip 24258

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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

*Catherine Kruse* May 5, 2002  
Signature of certifying official Date

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:      other (explain):     

     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

Signature of 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**

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

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

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

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

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

FUNERARY Cemetery

AGRICULTURE Agricultural field

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

FUNERARY Cemetery

AGRICULTURE Agricultural field

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

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

     OTHER \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation      Limestone \_\_\_\_\_  
roof      Standing seam - metal \_\_\_\_\_  
walls      Weatherboard \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
other      Concrete block \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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

- X    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.
- X    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.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Period of Significance 1800-1949

Significant Dates ca. 1800/construction  
1871/renovation

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder Fulkerson, Abraham

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

Acreege of Property Approx. 85 ACRES

**UTM References**

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing  
1 17 370500 4057450    2 17 371020 4057540  
3 17 371000 4056760    4 17 370670 4056670  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** See continuation sheet.

**Boundary Justification** See continuation sheet.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Stanley Lee Hickam (see continuation sheet)  
Organization: None date 5-15-01  
street & number: 336 Lewis Lane telephone (H) 423-378-5789 / (W) 423 224-6822  
city or town Kingsport state TN zip code 37660

**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.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

**Property Owner**

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

name Ralph and Claudia Derting  
street & number Route 1, Box 177A telephone (540) 386-3180  
city or town Hiltons state VA zip code 24258

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

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

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## 7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

### Summary

The two-story Fulkerson-Hilton House, built around 1800, is of mixed log construction consisting of oak, pine, and poplar hewn logs. The logs are joined using half-dovetail notching. The house rests on a limestone foundation on its original site. The south side of the house, which is the front, has a roofed veranda that was added in 1936. In 1949, a kitchen and dining room shed-roof extension was added to the north side of the house. At present, the exterior of the house is covered with yellow-poplar siding painted white. The west side of the house has a two-story sandstone chimney. Single-beaded tongue and groove vertical boards divide the interior of both floors of the log portion of this house. In addition, the two log rooms constituting the first floor are lined with similar tongue and groove boards. The two upstairs rooms are not lined. The lean-to added in 1949 is of frame construction with a sheetrock interior. Both rooms have pine floors and are structurally unaltered to this day.

### Inventory

1. Fulkerson-Hilton House, ca. 1800 log construction, contributing building.
2. Barn, 1930s, frame construction, noncontributing structure
3. Cemetery, ca. 1821, contributing site
4. House, 1953, board and batten, noncontributing building
5. House, 1930s, board and batten, noncontributing building
6. Storage building, 1986, frame construction, noncontributing structure

### Exterior

The Fulkerson-Hilton House measures some 20 feet in width, 50 feet in length, and 20 feet in height. With single doors centered in the southern and northern walls and windows symmetrically arranged, the house conforms to the vernacular single-pile, I-house form very common in nineteenth-century Virginia.

The gables of the house display the last of the clapboard siding that early photographs confirm had

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once encased the entire house. Land book data indicate that this improvement likely occurred in 1871. Yellow-poplar siding, installed during the 1930s, covers the remainder of the house except for the south-facing wall of the veranda. This wall was blind-nailed. At present, the entire house is painted white. Selective paint removal has confirmed that, although siding of this house has always been white, the trim was originally painted a dark green.

A wooden-shingled roof was maintained on this house until it was replaced with a tin roof during the 1930s. Elder family member Claudia A. Derting remembers when the wooden roof was replaced with tin.

The attic is made up of large 3- x 5- inch rafters with a ridgepole. Wooden pegs join cross-members to some of the rafters. Woodwork through the attic was cut with a reciprocating saw. Water-powered sawmills used reciprocating saws until the 1840s, when the circular saw came into common use in some regions. The presence of a technology (reciprocating saw) that was common *prior to* 1840 and a building method (ridgepoles) that was common *after* 1840 indicates that a second-floor addition or remodeling may have occurred during the period when these two methods overlapped in popularity.

The house is supported by a foundation consisting of dry-laid river rock. Some of these stones exceed 4 feet in length, 1 foot in width, and 10 inches in thickness. A root cellar located beneath the eastern end of the log portion of the house is entered through a wooden door and frame. The heavy doorframe cuts through the foundation, which otherwise continues around the house uninterrupted. This foundation supports poplar log floor joists with their bark intact. These joists lie in a north-south orientation. The root cellar consists of earthen walls lined with simple wooden shelves. The underside of the first-story pine floor serves as the cellar ceiling.

Hand-chiseled stones, some as large as those just noted, make up a very large chimney centered on the western wall. Sandstone of this size is not found in Little Valley, which consists primarily of limestone and shale. These stones must have come from Clinch Mountain, which is composed primarily of sandstone and lies approximately 1 mile to the north.

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**Interior**

The interior of the log portion of the Fulkerson-Hilton House is divided into two rooms. The larger parlor includes the original front and back doorways, two windows, the fireplace, and the stairway entrance. Centered on the western wall of the parlor is the large hand-chiseled stone fireplace with its hand-forged cooking crane. This arched fireplace features a tall, deep, and slightly trapezoidal firebox.

An enclosed staircase is entered from the parlor. The angle of ascent is steep, and the steps are narrow winders (steps shaped like wedges of a pie) that pivot around a square post. A later alteration is a brace door with a thumb latch. Although the enclosed staircase may not be of original construction, its form suggests that it was an early alteration.

Another interior feature of note is the vertical-beaded pine board wall that separates the parlor from the bedroom. This wall, which has no studs, helps support the enclosed staircase. It consists entirely of hand-planed tongue and groove boards. Originally, a braced door was centered on this wall directly across from the fireplace. At some point, this same door was moved to the right one-third of this wall. Another remarkable item is the thick tongue and groove paneling that surrounds the room. The warmth and beauty of heartwood pine dominate the space. Overhead, a decorative bead was planed into the two bottom edges of the poplar 4- x 10-inch ceiling joists, which suggests a pre-1840 date. Age has darkened all the wood to a walnut color.

The second downstairs room, a bedroom, houses the body of the staircase, two windows, and two doors. The window in the eastern wall is a modern addition, although the sashes are old, as is clear from their pegged construction. By contrast, the window on the southern wall is from a much earlier period. Pegged sashes, a beaded casement, extra wood trim, and square head nails attest to this fact. Vertical hand-planed, double-beaded tongue and groove poplar boards line the bedroom walls. As in the parlor, the wood has aged to very dark brown. Even after hand-planing, some of the cut marks are still present in the ceiling joists.

In the log portion of the house, all of the windows are single-hung with six-over-six lights. The only window with some of its original features may be the one on the first floor in the southern wall of the parlor. It has very narrow muntins which extend through and are flush with the outer surface of the sash, as well as wooden pegs at the corners to secure the sash.



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Emanuel H. Hilton purchased this house and property in 1869. Emanuel was likely responsible for the last alterations in the nineteenth century, which included the weatherboarding of the house's exterior and the addition of a roofed balcony with a blind-nailed façade. According to tax records, this renovation occurred in 1871. Claudia Addington Derting recalls the removal of the roofed balcony and the construction of a roofed veranda in 1936.

In April and May of 1949 an old framed kitchen was removed from the north side of the Fulkerson-Hilton House. The original construction date of this former kitchen is unknown. Soon thereafter, a new framed kitchen and dining room were added to the length of the old north wall. This addition is unchanged to this day.

**Fulkerson Cemetery, Scott County, Virginia**

The Fulkerson Cemetery is located about 40 yards northwest of the Fulkerson-Hilton House and covers a small area approximately 20 x 20 feet. It contains five known graves; only one original headstone has a legible inscription. Reportedly buried there are the following:

Abraham Fulkerson (May 1739-1821)  
Sarah Gibson Fulkerson (? - 1835)

Rev. Samuel Hilton (1766-April 24, 1830)  
Nancy Short Hilton (1764-February 5, 1835)

Fredrick Hilton (1821-1844)

The nominated property on the North Fork of the Holston River and Dowell Branch retains remarkable integrity of setting, with wooded terraces descending from Pine Ridge above open fields near the western terminus of Little Valley.

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## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Summary Statement of Significance and Applicable Criteria

Located on the southern slope of Scott County's Pine Ridge where Dowell Branch crosses Little Valley and joins the North Fork of the Holston River, the Fulkerson-Hilton House is eligible for historic designation under Criterion A at the local level of significance as the ca. 1800 house of frontier settler Abraham Fulkerson, who fought in the American Revolution, purchased the designated land in 1782, and subsequently operated a mill there before becoming one of the first Scott County commissioners at the time of the creation of the county in 1814. The house is also associated under Criterion A with frontier preacher the Rev. Samuel Hilton, who established two Baptist churches in the area and purchased the designated land and house in 1816. The Fulkersons and Hiltons intermarried, and the house remained in possession of their heirs until the close of the period of significance in 1871, when the last nineteenth-century alteration of the house was made. The house is eligible under Criterion C for its representation of regional folk housing in the early settlement period and for its integrity of form, materials, and craftsmanship.

### Acknowledgments

Although the physical labor has been almost entirely mine, the support of my in-laws, Ralph M. and Claudia A. Derting, both in money and in enthusiasm, has been very encouraging. I am also grateful for the support, editing, and encouragement of my wife, Lennea, who I now know possesses the "patience of Job." Being a librarian, she has provided tremendous amounts of research information. My daughter, Mariah, who was twelve when this project began, has supported me by dubbing this entire project "cool." Mariah assisted in the physical work and measurements in this report. My brother-in-law, Keith M. Derting (South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina), who has also helped to edit this text, deserves hearty thanks. Dr. Carl Wentzel also deserves to be recognized for his generous support. Thanks also to Dr. James Hilton (formerly research scientist, United States Department of Agriculture) and his wife, Mary, for their help and support and especially for some history of the early owner/owners of this home and its surrounding lands. Dr. Hilton has authored an extensive family history, *Hiltons of Scott County, Virginia*. Also, thanks to historian Dr. John Kern, Director of the Roanoke Regional Preservation Office (RRPO) and the Virginia

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Department of Historic Resources, for his editing of the NRHP form and advising the inclusion of land book data. RRPO architectural historian Michael Pulice also reviewed and suggested several revisions of this nomination report.

### Historic Context

Abraham Fulkerson was born of Dutch Reformed parents in Somerset County, New Jersey, in 1739. He moved with his parents to Surry County, North Carolina, in the 1750s. He purchased land in North Carolina in the mid-1760s before marrying his wife Sarah Gibson in 1766. Abraham Fulkerson and his brother James were listed as Botetourt County, Virginia, tithables in 1772, and Abraham was subsequently recorded as living on waters of Beaver Creek in the present vicinity of Bristol, Virginia, by 1776. During the American Revolution, Private Abraham Fulkerson fought as a Patriot under the command of Colonel William Campbell at the Battle of Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780, when British troops suffered a decisive defeat.<sup>1</sup>

After his service in the American Revolution, Abraham Fulkerson in 1782 purchased three parcels of land totaling 879 acres lying in Little Valley on the south side of Poor Valley on waters of the North Fork Holston River. This land includes the presently nominated property. The Washington County personal property tax of 1787 recorded Abraham Fulkerson as the owner of one black slave over 16 years old, 10 cattle, and 25 horses and mules. By 1794 Abraham had acquired additional adjacent lands on the North Fork of the Holston. In that year he joined other settlers on the Holston near Big Moccasin Gap, 5 miles west of his homeland in Little Valley, to petition the Governor of Virginia. The petition complained of five raids led by Captain Bench of the Cherokee Tribe, raids from 1791 to 1794 that resulted in the deaths of perhaps 20 frontier settlers on the Holston. Frontier accounts relate that the final raid in April 1794 was planned as an attack on Abraham Fulkerson's settlement, but neighbors were at Fulkerson's for a house raising, so the Indians bypassed Fulkerson's after their attack on a more vulnerable settlement at the mouth of Livingston Creek 5 miles to the east.<sup>2</sup>

After the Battle of Fallen Timbers in August 1794, Indian raids ceased on the Virginia frontier, and Abraham Fulkerson was able to develop his property on the North Fork of the Holston. After 1794 settlement patterns on the upper Holston shifted from frontier subsistence to the processing of agricultural produce. When Abraham and Sarah sold the 100-acre nominated property to John Hickam in 1811, the land was described as lying on both sides of "Fulkerson's Mill creek." Also

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identified in the recorded property transfer were Fulkerson's Mill and Mill house. Thus Abraham Fulkerson had transformed his frontier settlement into a center for production of milled goods by the time of the Hickam purchase in 1811. The fact that annual Land Book tax rates for the transferred property did not change between their first year of record in 1800 and the Hickam purchase in 1811 suggests that Fulkerson's house was probably standing on the property by 1800.<sup>3</sup>

When the Rev. Samuel and wife Nancy Hilton bought the Fulkerson house and 100 acres from the Hickams in 1816, the property was then part of Scott County, created in 1814, and Abraham Fulkerson was one of the new Scott County commissioners. Abraham and Sarah Fulkerson's daughter Nancy had married Samuel and Nancy Hilton's son John Hilton in 1812, and the Fulkerson-Hilton House and its 100-acre parcel of land have continued to remain in possession of Fulkerson and Hilton family heirs.<sup>4</sup>

Born in St. Mary's County, Maryland, in 1766, Samuel Hilton moved to North Carolina in the 1780s, where he married Nancy Bird in 1787. Influenced by Youbal Stern (or Sterns, or Starnes), Samuel Hilton became a Baptist preacher. Hilton, sometimes spelled Helton, moved to western Virginia and began purchasing land on the North Fork of the Holston River in what was then Washington County. In 1803 the Revs. Samuel Hilton and Jesse Wilson established the Double Springs Church on the Holston near Kingsport, Tennessee. In 1805 Hilton founded the United Baptist Church at Big Moccasin Gap, the first church established in what would become Scott County. Samuel Hilton and his son John subsequently acquired extensive land holding on the North Fork of the Holston River where it joined Little Valley, at what is still known as Hilton Gap, about 1 mile downstream from Abraham Fulkerson's mill.<sup>5</sup>

Following the Rev. Samuel Hilton's death at the Fulkerson-Hilton House in 1830, his son and daughter-in-law John and Nancy Hilton acquired the Fulkerson-Hilton house and 100 acres in 1831. Their son Emanuel Hilton purchased the property and house in 1869 and added the roofed balcony by 1871. Emanuel and wife Nancy Hilton transferred the property to their daughter Sarah Hilton Collier in 1905. Nathan Ezra Addington and Jesse Hilton Addington acquired the property in 1921, and the Fulkerson-Hilton House and 100 acres of land have since remained in the possession of their heirs.<sup>6</sup>

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Endnotes

1. James L. Hilton, E. Frank Hilton, and Lelia Hilton Neal, *Hiltons of Scott County, Virginia*, 1967, 10,11 (mimeograph). Tom Colley, *Washington County, Virginia, Surveys and Commissioners' Certificates, 1781-1797*, Iberian Publishing Company, Athens, Georgia, 1999.
2. *Washington County Surveys*. Nettie Schreiner-Yantis and Florence Speakman Love, *Washington County, Virginia, Personal Property Tax 1787*, Genealogical Books in Print, Springfield, Virginia, 1987. Robert M. Addington, *History of Scott County, Virginia*, privately printed, 1932, 115-125.
3. Deed Book 5, 153-154, Washington County Circuit Court, Abingdon, Virginia. Land Book research for Washington and Scott Counties, Virginia, conducted by Stanley L. Hickam, 2000-2001.
4. Addington, *History of Scott County, Virginia*, 5. Deed Book 1, 144, Scott County Circuit Court, Gate City, Virginia.
5. Hilton et al., *Hiltons of Scott County, Virginia*.
6. Deed Book 4, 145, Scott County Circuit Court. Deed Book 14, 319, Scott County Circuit Court. Deed Book 45, 81, Scott County Circuit Court. Deed Book 67, 348, Scott County Circuit Court.

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

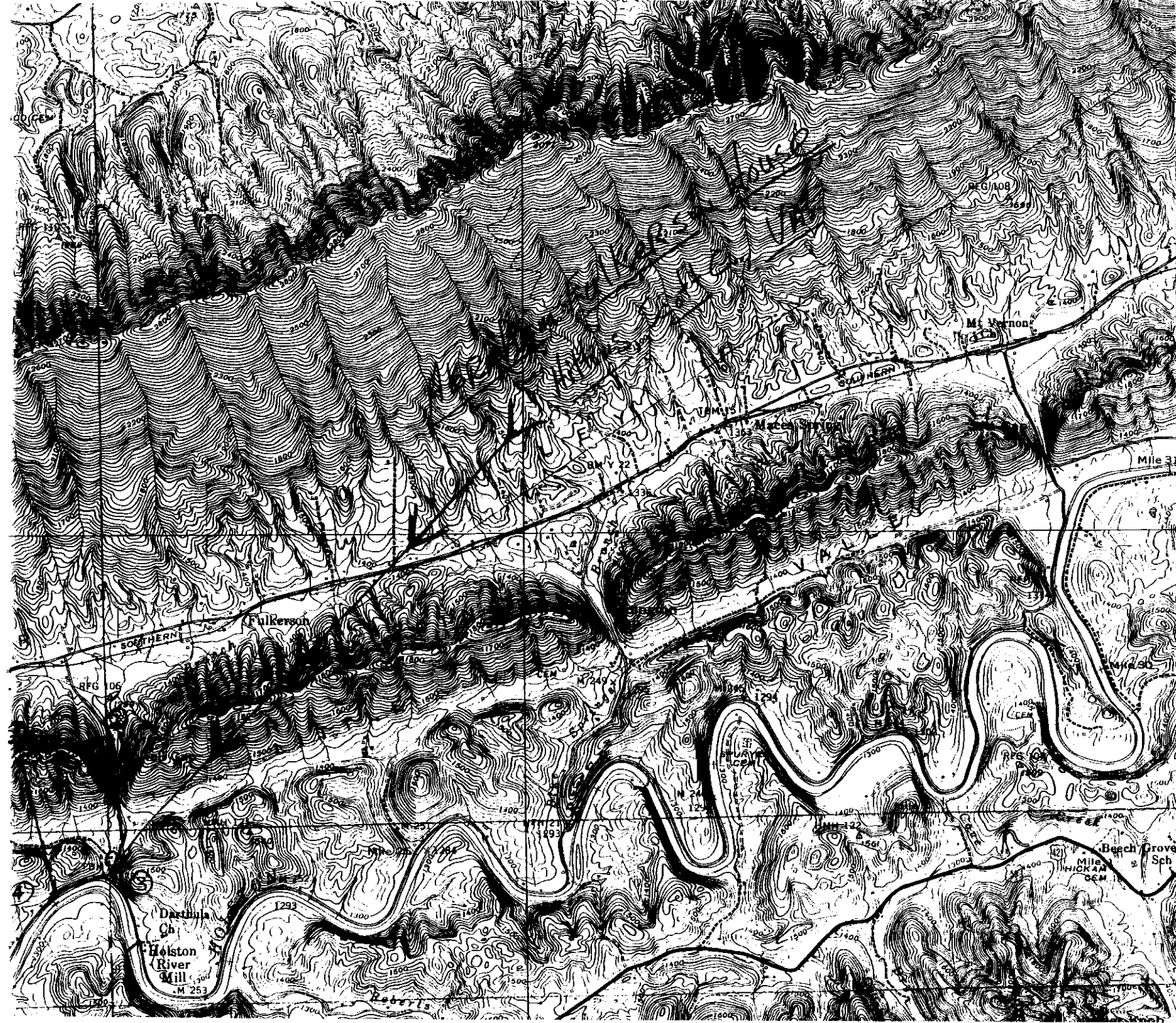
The nominated property is composed of parcels 5, 6, and 7 as depicted on Scott County, Virginia, Commissioner of Revenue Map 150, double circle A.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated parcel of 99 acres is a portion of land purchased by Abraham Fulkerson in 1782/3; the 99-acre parcel was subsequently purchased by the Rev. Samuel Hilton in 1816.

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

Historic context revised by John Kern, Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, 1030 Penmar Avenue, SE, Roanoke, VA 24013; (540) 857-7585, 11/15/01.



Fulkerson-Hilton  
House  
Scott Co, VA  
1. 17/370500/405740  
2. 17/371020/405754  
3. 17/371000/405676  
4. 17/370670/405661

(Mendota 187-NE)  
4857 III NE