

VLR-3/15/00 NRHP-5/11/00

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.

I. Name of Property

historic name Bonham, H.L., House

other names/site number 189-0003

2. Location

street & number 408 White Top Avenue, Route 107 not for publication N/A
city or town Chilhowie vicinity _____
state Virginia code VA county Smyth code 173 Zip 24319

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation 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 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.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____
Virginia Department of Historic Resources,
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets d o e s 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> 4 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> 3 </u>	<u> 1 </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 7 </u>	<u> 1 </u> 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.)

 N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> DOMESTIC </u>	Sub: <u> single dwelling/residence </u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> single dwelling/residence </u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> single dwelling/residence </u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> single dwelling/residence </u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> secondary structure/carriage house </u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> secondary structure/other dependencies </u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> secondary structure/other dependencies </u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> secondary structure/other dependencies </u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> COMMERCE/TRADE </u>	Sub: <u> specialty store </u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> single dwelling/tenant house </u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> single dwelling/tenant house </u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> single dwelling/tenant house </u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> secondary structure/storage shed </u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> secondary structure/storage shed </u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> secondary structure/storage shed </u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> secondary structure/storage shed </u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals (Colonial-Revival) _____

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE _____

roof METAL _____

walls BRICK/STUCCO/WOOD (Weatherboard) _____

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.
- X 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance 1911-1934

Significant Dates 1911

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Bonham, Hezekiah Love

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Kearfoot, Jr., C.B.

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

Acres of Property 4 approximately _____

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 17 439190/4072180 2 _____

3 _____ 4 _____

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: Edna B. Love

Organization: _____ date August 1999

street & number: RRt. 1, Box 52 telephone (540)980-6982

city or town Pulaski state VA zip code 24301
(See continuation sheet.)

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 Edna B. Love, et al.

street & number RRt. 1, Box 52 telephone (540)980-6982

city or town Pulaski state VA zip code 24301

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

H.L. Bonham House
Smyth Co., VA

Section 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The H.L. Bonham House is located on approximately four acres of open land at the northwest intersection of White Top Road (Route 107) and the Chilhowie interchange for Interstate 81 in Smyth County, Virginia. The property is bounded to the north by the Middle Fork of the Holston River. Completed in 1911, the Bonham House was designed in the Colonial Revival style with classical detailing by southwest Virginia architect C.B. Kearfoot, Jr. The large two-story, hipped roof brick residence features a one-story wraparound porch with a projecting rounded central portico, capped by a second-story rounded central bay. The central passage, double pile house retains its finely crafted interior of tiger oak. The principal east façade yard still contains original foundation plantings and deciduous trees, concrete walkways, and a wrought iron fence with a concrete base.

Original contributing outbuildings located immediately west of the primary residence include a brick carriage house, a brick acetylene building, and a wooden frame chicken coop. The nominated property also includes three ca. 1910 frame cottages owned by H.L. Bonham that were moved west of the original house and outbuildings during the 1960s at the time of construction of Interstate 81.

Though the integrity of setting of the nominated property has been severely compromised by the construction of Interstate 81 and by the siting of a Virginia Department of Transportation shop immediately to the south and west, the main house and dependencies retain their original materials and craftsmanship and the H.L. Bonham House still stands as the most prominent residence that faces its contemporary Town of Chilhowie to the east.

Inventory

1. H.L. Bonham House (1911). Contributing building.
2. Cottage (ca. 1910). Contributing building.
3. Cottage (ca. 1910). Contributing building.
4. Cottage (ca. 1910). Contributing building.
5. Carriage House (ca. 1911). Contributing structure.
6. Acetylene Building (ca. 1911). Contributing structure.
7. Chicken Coop (ca. 1911). Contributing structure.
8. Shed (ca. 1960). Noncontributing structure.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

H.L. Bonham House
Smyth Co., VA

Section 7 Page 2

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (continued)

Main House

The H.L. Bonham House was designed by Clarence Baker Kearfoot (1884-1975) at the same time or shortly after Kearfoot and Walter Pember designed the National Bank of Chilhowie in 1909. Since H.L. Bonham served as a director of the National Bank of Chilhowie, it seems likely that he secured C.B. Kearfoot to design his residence at the same time that Kearfoot designed the bank. The H.L. Bonham House and the National Bank of Chilhowie represent two of Kearfoot's earliest commissions. Born in Martinsville, Virginia, and trained in Roanoke as a draftsman with Henry H. Huggins, Kearfoot established an office in Bristol in 1907 and designed numerous private residences and public buildings in southwest Virginia from 1909 until the early 1930s.¹

Main House: Exterior

This two-story brick dwelling is designed in the Colonial Revival style with classical detailing. The steeply pitched hip roof of metal shingles has a pavilion at the caps. The roof has a molded cornice with pedimented gables and a plain frieze board. The intersecting gables on each side are stuccoed and have a lunette window with limestone keystone. The central bay on the second story has a semicircular projecting bay that is echoed in the rounded entrance portico of the porch. There is also a two-story polygonal bay on each side elevation of the intersecting gable. The one-story, ten-bay wraparound porch has a projecting central portico that is rounded with a turned balustrade and railing along the roof. The porch has a hipped roof with molded cornice and plain entablature supported by smooth or fluted Ionic columns. The single-leaf entrance has a single light over a single panel. It is surrounded by Ionic pilasters, a broken rectangular transom, and sidelights of beveled glass over a single panel. A pattern of recessed and raised bricks around the windows emulates paneled shutters. The rear façade features a tripartite window with broken transom at the stair landing that is similar in pattern to the front entrance. A two-story brick L wing with intersecting hip roof and interior chimney extends out the back. The house is constructed of a light-colored brick laid in stretcher bond. A raised basement of poured concrete supports the structure. A one-story frame porch with shed roof and weatherboard siding has been enclosed. A sleeping porch with hip roof, weatherboard siding, and two-over-two windows was added over the porch on the south side of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

H.L. Bonham House
Smyth Co., VA

Section 7 Page 3

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (continued)

house at an early date.²

Main House: Interior

The interior consists of a central-passage, double-pile plan. The ceilings are approximately 12 feet high, the walls are plaster, and the floors are hardwood throughout. The woodwork is of grained tiger oak. The single-leaf interior doors have five horizontal panels and the windows and doors have simple trim with molded cornice. The central hall features the staircase, a large beveled wall mirror, and Ionic columns flanking the opening into the parlor. The stair has two runs and a large landing with a tripartite window with a window seat below. The stair has a molded rail, squared balustrade and a paneled square newel post with rounded cap. A double-leaf opening with two-paneled pocket doors leads from the parlor into the dining room. This room features a high, paneled wainscoting with vertical wood trim and a bay window. The mantel in the dining room is full height and features a china cupboard with leaded-glass doors in the entablature that is supported by smooth Doric columns. Small glazed tiles surround the ornate cast-iron firebox and screen. A butler's pantry with cupboards of vertical beaded boards connects the dining room with the kitchen in the rear wing. A double-leaf opening with two-paneled pocket doors leads from the hall into the living room to the south. The living room mantel has a squared shelf with plain entablature, simple Doric colonnades, and an elaborate decorative cast-iron screen. The bedroom to the rear has a high mantel with beveled mirror surrounded by a band of egg-and-dart detailing. The Ionic columns are full height supporting a rounded shelf with egg-and-dart trim. The lower mantel shelf below the mirror is bowed with delicate wood carving and supported by scrolled brackets. The decorative cast-iron firebox and screen feature a classical figure and fleur-de-lis detailing. The four-bedroom second floor features maple floors and mantels with turned columns and a simple cornice shelf.

Outbuildings and Landscape Features

Three domestic outbuildings stand immediately west of the main house: the carriage house, the acetylene building, and a frame weatherboard-sided chicken coop. Further to the west, three frame cottages stand where they were moved during the 1960s at the time of construction of Interstate 81.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

H.L. Bonham House
Smyth Co., VA

Section 7 Page 4

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (continued)

A concrete block storage shed of recent construction has been sited just west of the three cottages.

The acetylene building, which provided lighting to the house prior to electricity, is constructed of the same light-colored brick. The square structure has a hipped pavilion roof of metal shingles. The single-leaf door has two horizontal lights over three horizontal panels.

The carriage house is constructed of medium red-colored brick. It has a hipped pavilion roof of metal shingles with molded cornice and plain frieze board. The sliding door on the front is of vertical boards. A rear addition with shed roof of standing seam metal has been added since 1960.

The frame, shed roof chicken coop has weatherboard siding.

The first cottage is a one-story frame dwelling with intersecting-gable roof and central-ridge chimney. The roof has a boxed cornice with gable returns and decorative shingles. The four-bay porch, located in the interior angle of the L-shaped house, has a hipped roof supported by turned columns with scroll-sawn brackets and a turned balustrade. The two single-leaf doors have one light over two vertical panels and decorative carving. The paired windows are double-hung sash with two-over-two lights. There are several frame additions with shed roofs on the rear. The house is frame with weatherboard siding and sits on a raised foundation of solid concrete block.

The second cottage is a one-and-a-half-story, three-bay frame dwelling with side-gable roof of standing seam metal and a central-ridge chimney. The one-story, three-bay porch has a hipped roof supported by turned columns and a new wood-post balustrade. The central door is single leaf and the windows are double-hung sash with two-over-two lights. Several frame and concrete-block wings with shed roofs have been added to the rear. The building is frame with weatherboard siding and sits on a raised foundation of concrete block.

The third cottage is a single-family frame dwelling similar in form and detailing to the first cottage. It is one story with an interesting gable roof and central-ridge chimney. The roof has a boxed cornice with gable returns and decorative shingles. The four-bay porch, located in the interior angle of the L-shaped house, has a hipped roof supported by turned columns with scroll-sawn brackets and a turned balustrade. The two single-leaf doors have one light over two vertical panels and decorative carving. The paired windows are double-hung sash with two-over-two lights. There are several frame additions with shed roofs on the rear. The house is frame with weatherboard siding; vinyl siding has been added on the west side. It sits on a raised foundation of solid concrete block.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

H.L. Bonham House
Smyth Co., VA

Section 7 Page 5

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (continued)

A concrete-block storage building with a shed roof was constructed west of the three cottages after they were moved to their present location in the 1960s.

Landscape features include a wrought iron fence with a concrete base that borders the principal east façade yard of the Bonham House, a concrete walkway from White Top Road to the east façade steps, a flat stone and concrete walkway from the west façade to the carriage house, tea roses that survive from at least the 1930s outside the south façade, and deciduous plantings on the east façade yard borders.

Integrity Statement

The architectural integrity of the H.L. Bonham House remains remarkably intact. The four-square hipped-roofed massing, the wraparound porch with the rounded central portico, the broken transom main façade entrance, the two-story side façade bays, and the two-story rear all remain unaltered. The interior features an unchanged floor plan, all original tiger oak woodwork, and all original ornate mantels of various materials and design. Original outbuildings associated with the residence, the brick carriage house, the brick acetylene building, and the frame chicken coop, remain in place and intact. The three associated domestic cottages retain their original main façade porches, simply detailed entrances, and exterior surface treatments. Landscape features that survive from the Bonham House period of significance include the wrought iron fence bordering the principal east façade yard, deciduous plantings along the east façade yard borders, concrete and stone walkways, and south façade ornamented plantings. The Bonham House exterior has been altered by removal of the balustrade that originally capped the east façade rounded central bay, and by removal of the balustraded widow's walk that originally surmounted the squared apex of the hipped roof. A rectangular frame extension was added to the rear west façade of the carriage house in the 1960s, and various additions have been made to the rear north facades of the three cottages. The Bonham House no longer retains its extensive agricultural acreage. Construction of Interstate 81 and location of a Virginia Department of Transportation shop to the south and west constitute major changes to the nominated property's original integrity of setting.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

H.L. Bonham House
Smyth Co., VA

Section 8 Page 6

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Statement of Significance and Justification of Criteria

The H.L. Bonham House was completed in 1911 as the home of Hezekiah Love Bonham, a regionally prominent farmer and businessman who pioneered innovations in the cultivation, processing, and sale of apples in southwest Virginia. Designed in the Colonial Revival style by C.B. Kearfoot, Jr., the Bonham House features classical detailing and retains all interior wood finishes and decorative mantels. The property is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B at the local level of significance because of its association with horticulturalist H.L. Bonham, who applied scientific principles of fertilization and orchard management and who developed the only cold storage facilities for apple grading and packaging in southwest Virginia between Roanoke and Bristol. These innovations enabled Bonham to hold his produce for advantageous sale in favorable markets. Bonham also championed Virginia's first large-scale demonstration of pasture fertilization for livestock grazing. Finally, Bonham complemented his successes in commercial agriculture by providing southwest Virginia with civic leadership, as a one-term delegate in the Virginia General Assembly, as Smyth County Food Administrator during World War I, as the benefactor of area schools, colleges, and hospitals, and as a pillar of Saint James Lutheran Church in Chilhowie. The Bonham House is also eligible for National Register designation at the local level of significance under Criterion C as a substantial and remarkably well preserved example of Colonial Revival architecture designed early in the career of southwest Virginia architect C.B. Kearfoot, Jr.

Acknowledgements

A draft of this nomination was prepared by Edna Bonham Love, granddaughter of H.L. Bonham. Edna Love used the architectural description of the Bonham House prepared by Alison Blanton, who headed the Hill Studio consultant team that in 1997 completed the architectural survey of Smyth County co-funded by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and Smyth County. John Kern of the Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, VDHR, photographed the Bonham property and revised the nomination using materials provided by Edna Love and other Bonham family members. John Kneebone, Director of Publications and Educational Services, Library of Virginia, provided a copy of the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* entry on H.L. Bonham authored by Daphne Gentry.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

H.L. Bonham House
Smyth Co., VA

Section 8 Page 7

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Principal authorship of the nomination belongs to Edna Love, who most recently provided information that H.L. Bonham's three sons and their young families, including Edna Love, lived in two of the three cottages that were moved to the rear of the H.L. Bonham House in the 1960s and that are included in the nomination.

Historic Background

The Bonham House was completed in 1911 by H.L. Bonham on land of the Bonham Orchards and Farm. A descendent of a pioneer family of Smyth County, Hezekiah Love Bonham was born near Chilhowie in Smyth County on February 18, 1866. Born and raised on his father's farm, H.L. Bonham married Docia Virginia Copenhaver, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Copenhaver, on March 18, 1891. To this union were born seven children, two of whom died in infancy. The five surviving children were Everett Burnette, James Buchanan, Samuel Lee, Anna Candacy, and Edna Love. After Docia's death in 1905, her younger sister Eliza Cordelia Copenhaver, who already lived with the Bonhams, raised the children.³

H.L. Bonham worked in the lumber industry as a young man. In the mid-1880s he bought and sold poplar logs and hauled them to the railroad with a team of oxen. By 1888 he owned and operated his own sawmill, which principally sold logs for crossties to the Norfolk & Western Railway. He bought two more sawmills in the 1890s (one of them powered by a Gueyser steam engine), operated a planing mill, acquired considerable timber holdings, and expanded his lumber business to include wholesale and retail operations. In 1907 Bonham shipped two prize logs eight feet in diameter and eight feet long to the Jamestown TriCentennial.

In the first decade of the twentieth century, H.L. Bonham realized that uncut timber on his lands around Chilhowie would soon be depleted, and decided to go into the apple business. He planted his first home apple orchard in 1900 and his first commercial orchard of 100 acres in 1911. Bonham prided himself in applying the business principles he had learned in the lumber industry to the production, grading, and marketing of apples. Around 1917 he pioneered construction of a Cold Storage Building in Chilhowie. That structure, still standing as a contributing resource in the Chilhowie Historic District, had the capacity to store 90,000 boxes of apples. A bushel of apples was packed in each box, and each apple was wrapped in purple tissue paper. A 1932 *Roanoke Times*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

H.L. Bonham House
Smyth Co., VA

Section 8 Page 8

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

article identified the Bonham Cold Storage Building in Chilhowie as the only facility of its kind in southwest Virginia. Cold storage enabled Bonham to hold his apples for sale to favorable markets, and to purchase apples elsewhere and hold them for profitable sale whenever his own orchard production fell below storage capacity.

H.L. Bonham also championed scientific apple cultivation. In 1917 he joined the Virginia State Horticultural Society, the state commercial fruit growers association. He served as the society's vice president from 1922 to 1924, as president in 1927 and 1928, and as vice president again in 1929. In the late 1920s annual apple production from the Bonham orchards ranged from 100,000 to 150,000 bushels. By the late 1920s and early 1930s Bonham received regional recognition for his use of professional advice from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute College of Agriculture and from their agricultural extension service. Advised by VPI and by extension agents, Bonham purchased neglected orchards, cleared undergrowth, fertilized, sprayed on a regular basis, and promptly paid for all improvements and proceeds from increased orchard productivity. At the time of his death in 1934 Bonham held the second largest and the second most productive orchard property in Virginia.⁴

H.L. Bonham also profited from professional agricultural advice and practice to develop a herd of Hereford beef cattle that fattened on pastures enriched by intensive application of commercial fertilizer. The *Bristol Herald Courier* reported in June 1929 that Bonham entertained 71 Tennessee farmers with a demonstration of the richness of his pastures fertilized by phosphate. Bonham's Tennessee guests enjoyed a picnic lunch served by their host and praised his as the best pasture they had ever set foot in. After lunch Bonham and Prof. T.B. Hutcheson led a round table discussion on pasturage, a discussion also joined by several Tennessee farmers and extension agents. In 1950 Prof. T.B. Hutcheson, then Dean of Agriculture at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, recalled the Bonham pasture picnics fondly:

His life and teachings have influenced and added to the profits of more stockmen in this and surrounding states than that of any other single person. It was natural that the experience of Bonham and his followers established the background for the TVA Extension program when it was inaugurated in Virginia.⁵

In 1930 Bonham received the Certificate of Merit from VPI for his outstanding achievements in agriculture. The following year the *Progressive Farmer and Southern Ruralist* reported his award

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

H.L. Bonham House
Smyth Co., VA

Section 8 Page 9

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

as one of 16 Master Farmers in Virginia: "H.L. Bonham, Smyth County, is one of the best horticulturists, beef cattle producers, and pasture specialists to be found anywhere."⁶

H.L. Bonham commissioned the design of his house, completed in 1911, at precisely the time that he made the transition from lumberman to orchardist and civic leader in Chilhowie and southwest Virginia. He was an officer of the National Bank of Chilhowie, designed in 1909 by W.P. Pember and Clarence B. Kearfoot. C.B. Kearfoot was also the architect for Bonham's residence. H.L. Bonham built the Bonham Cold Storage Building on Main Street in Chilhowie in 1917, the year after he began his one term of service as a Republican in the Virginia House of Delegates. While in the General Assembly he supported bills favoring public education and improved roads. Bonham served as a trustee of Roanoke College in 1910 and 1911, and as a member of the board of Konnarock Training School. He was a board member of the George Ben Johnson Hospital in Abingdon and served as Smyth County Food Administrator during World War I. A devout Lutheran, he taught Sunday School at Saint James Lutheran Church in Chilhowie and spent 30 years as a Virginia delegate to the United Lutheran Synod of the South.

During the 1920s H.L. Bonham transferred much of the responsibility for apple production, processing, and sales to his sons. The eldest, Everett Bonham, headed orchard operations as president of Bonham Brothers, Inc. Second son James Bonham became secretary-treasurer of Bonham Brothers, and the youngest son, Samuel Bonham, served as vice president for Bonham Brothers and operated Bonham Motor Company, built in Chilhowie around 1920. Everett married in 1918 and had moved out of the H.L. Bonham House by 1920. The middle and younger brothers married in the 1920s and in turn left their father's residence to head households of their own. The three brothers lived in the two one-story frame cottages, which were moved north of Interstate 81 in the 1960s and which are included as contributing buildings in this nomination report. Eight of H.L. Bonham's grandchildren were born in the two one-story cottages, and seven great-grandchildren lived there before the cottages were moved to their present site.

When H.L. Bonham died in May 1934, he was remembered as an innovative and progressive farmer, a successful businessman, a man of public service, and a man who credited much of his business success to the work of his sons.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

H.L. Bonham House
Smyth Co., VA

Section 9 Page 10

ENDNOTES

1. John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The Virginia Architects 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997), 233-236, 352.
2. This architectural description of the H.L. Bonham House and outbuildings was prepared by Alison Blanton, "Historic Architectural Survey of Smyth County, Virginia," Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 1997.
3. The historic context has been compiled from an excellent narrative provided by Edna Bonham Love, granddaughter of H.L. Bonham, from materials assembled by Edna Love, and from the H.L. Bonham biography written by Daphne Gentry for *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, Vol. 2 (Richmond: Library of Virginia, forthcoming).
4. H.L. Price, "Mr. H.L. Bonham," *Virginia Fruit*, Vol. 22, June 1934, 22-24.
5. T.B. Hutcheson, "Presentation of Plaque to Bonham Brothers," April 8, 1950. Unpublished speech in Bonham family papers.
6. C.L. Newman, "Master Farmers of the Old Dominion." Reprint from the *Progressive Farmer and Southern Ruralist*, January 1931.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

H.L. Bonham House
Smyth Co., VA

Section 9 Page 11

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Unpublished Sources

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

H.L. Bonham House
Smyth Co., VA

Section 9,10 Page 12

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the H.L. Bonham House is shown on the accompanying map entitled "Exhibit B: H.L. Bonham House, Smyth County, Virginia, Legal Parcel Map." Starting at northwest corner point A, the boundary runs east 600 feet to northeast corner point B; then south 150 feet to southeast corner point C; then west 675 feet to southwest corner point D; and then north 375 feet to close at corner point A.

Boundary Justification

As depicted on the accompanying map entitled "Exhibit A: H.L. Bonham House, Smyth County, Sketch Map," the boundary for the H.L. Bonham House has been established to include the principal residence and original dependencies: the carriage house, acetylene building, and chicken coop. The boundary also includes the three Bonham cottages that were moved west of the original house and dependencies after construction of Interstate 81 in the 1960s. The east boundary extends along White Top Road, an original property boundary; the south boundary extends along the Shop Road that provides access to the Virginia Department of Transportation shop sited south and west of the property; the north boundary extends west from the line of the wrought iron fence that originally defined the north boundary of the Bonham House; the west boundary parallels the east boundary

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**H.L. Bonham House
Smyth Co., VA**

Section 10,11 Page 13

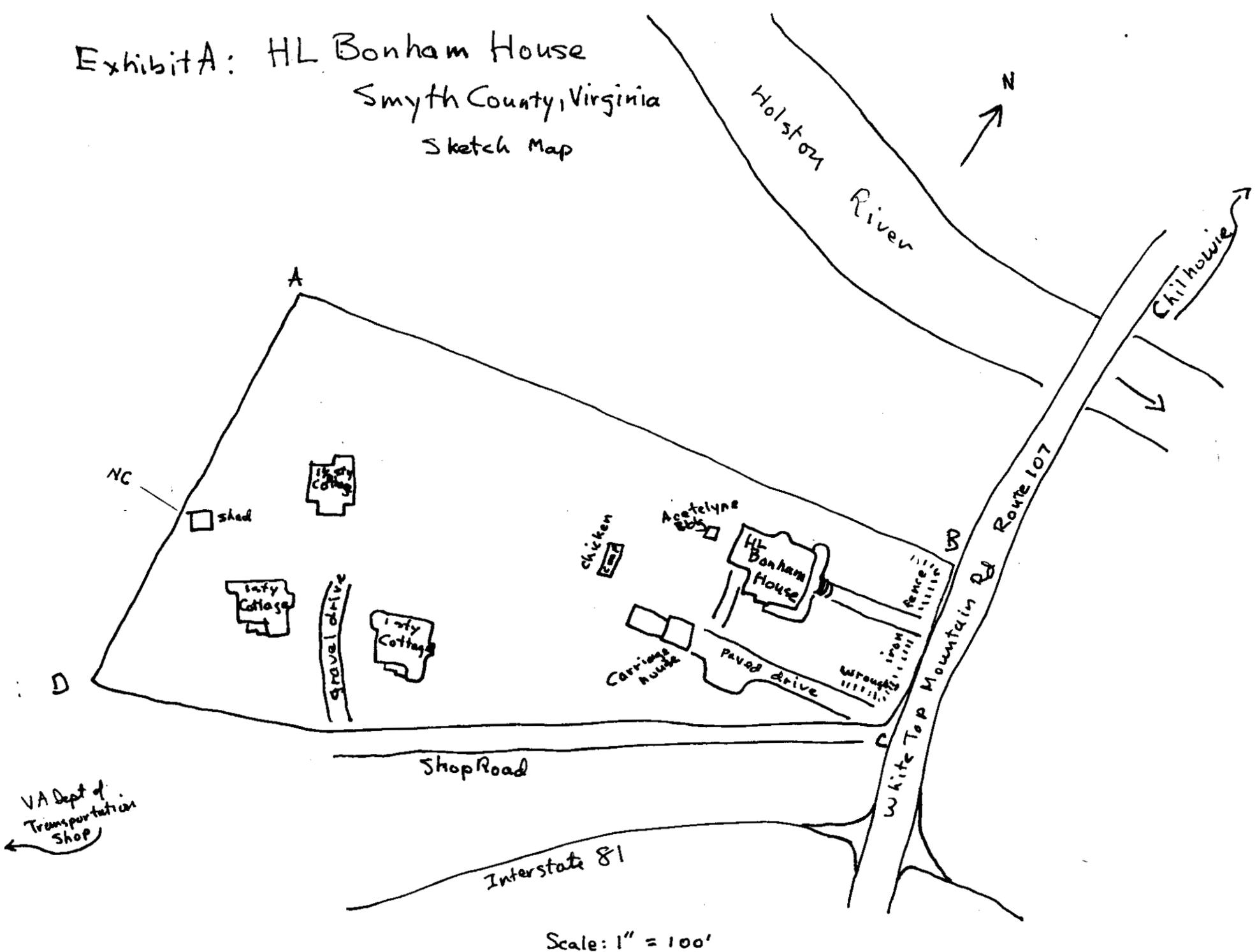
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (continued)

to connect the north and south boundaries. The original H.L. Bonham agricultural lands are no longer in the possession of the Bonham heirs and have been excluded from the nominated property.

FORM PREPARED BY

Nomination reviewed and revised by John Kern, December 1999, Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, 1030 Penmar Avenue, SE, Roanoke, VA 24013. (540)857-7585.

Exhibit A: HL Bonham House
Smyth County, Virginia
Sketch Map



Scale: 1" = 100'

H L Bunham House
Smyth Co, VA
UTM Reference:

17/439190/4072180

