

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic SPRING GROVE (DHL 96-23)

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Route 202 N/A not for publication

city, town Mt. Holly X vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county Westmoreland code 193

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr & Mrs. James Dall Brown, Jr.

street & number Box 47

city, town Mt. Holly X vicinity of state Virginia 22524

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Westmoreland County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Montross state Virginia 22520

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

(1) title HABSI has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1958 federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state DC

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Spring Grove residence is a large, two-story brick farmhouse located on the outskirts of the village of Mount Holly, Westmoreland County. Erected in 1834, the house has a symmetrical, five-bay facade. Sheltering the entrance is a graceful, dwarf Ionic portico. A notable feature is its Federal and Greek Revival woodwork and plasterwork derived in a large part from Asher Benjamin's American Builder's Companion (1827) and Practice of Architecture (1833). The structure remains in a relatively unaltered state, attested by surviving plans and drawings made in the 1870s. In addition to the main dwelling, a kitchen and smokehouse survive. The house is approached by a long oval drive that dates to the completion of the main edifice. It is set amidst open farmlands which suggests a feeling of its 19th-century ambience. Its original oval drive survives and constitutes the main access from Route 202. Several unusually large and old trees survive near the residence.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Set on a brick foundation, the front (southwest) elevation is laid in Flemish bond. The five-bay facade is accented by a handsome pedimented dwarf portico sheltering the entrance. The tetrastyle portico is in an Ionic order derived from plate 14 of Asher Benjamin's American Builder's Companion (1827). Railings survive on the sides of the portico. Filled-in holes on the insides of the paired columns are evidence that railings once connected them. The plasterwork on the wall behind the portico has been scored to imitate stone. The entrance, set in a paneled frame has a rectangular fanlight transom, paneled double doors, and a large stone sill. The fenestration consists of 6/6 hung-sash windows framed by an architrave made up of a bead molding and surmounted by jack arches; the louvered shutters are original to the house.

The rear (northeast) elevation, like the other secondary walls, is laid in three-course American bond. A one-room brick addition perpendicular to the main structure of five-course American bond was added to this elevation soon after the initial construction. A rear door entrance is provided on the first floor. To this brick addition two wooden shed extensions were made in the 20th century. The fenestration consists of the original 6/6 hung-sash windows flanked by shutters. The cellar entrances are located on the exterior of the main structure on either side of the brick addition.

The northwest elevation is void of articulation except for a single 6/6 hung-sash window in the attic. The southeast elevation is identical except for the addition of a glassed-in porch that was added in 1924.

Spring Grove is a center-passage, double-pile-plan house; the stair hall is located in a passage on the rear of the house and ascends perpendicular to the center hall.

The interior contains distinguished architectural elements. The center passage is divided from the stair hall by a handsome arch that surrounds a pair of louvered doors and an elaborate fanlight. The double-doors are framed by pilasters that are made of a symmetrical architrave trim terminated with capitals that are embellished

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1834 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

An impressive late Federal farmhouse, Spring Grove is an outstanding and well-preserved example of early 19th-century domestic architecture on Virginia's Northern Neck. Erected in 1834 for Robert Murphy, the house is one of a small group of formal brick residences built on the state's northern peninsula after the Revolution, and reflects in its size and architectural refinements the prosperity of this prominent Westmoreland County resident. Its sophistication is particularly evident in the woodwork and plasterwork, details of which reflect an awareness of current architectural trends occurring in Boston during the 1820s and early 1830s. As progressive as its architectural elements are, the rural remoteness of the Northern Neck is reflected in the conservative Georgian-influenced exterior and in the layout of the outbuildings which follows a conventional 18th-century precedent.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In May of 1818 Robert Murphy married Eliza Bland Newton, daughter of Willoughby Newton. This union coincided with the beginning of many land transactions carried out by Murphy and his father-in-law. Both became involved with substantial tracts of land throughout Westmoreland County. On May 15, 1819, Murphy bought one hundred acres of land on the east side of Nomini Creek from Peter and Sally Smith. In November, 1820, he bought eight hundred acres in the same area known as Bushfield. On November 11, 1824, Willoughby Newton deeded 869 acres of land at Cabin Point to Murphy and his wife. With such a large assembled holding, it is hard to pinpoint the actual tract on which Murphy built his house. The tax records of 1835 show that improvements of \$1,800 were made by Murphy to a 550-acre tract bordered by property owned by G. Glascock some 7.8 miles from the courthouse. This location coincides with that of Spring Grove, and the improvements of 1835 confirm the traditional construction date of 1834. The Westmoreland County records indicate that Murphy was a prosperous and influential individual. He owned and operated a mill on Nomini Creek, was appointed in 1832 to be the treasurer for a public school in Cople Parish, and in 1836 was appointed by the governor to be the sheriff of Westmoreland County. The will of Robert Murphy dated March 26, 1847 is the first documented reference to the designation of his home as "Spring Grove."

An interesting series of drawings by William Rodgers, a later owner, adds to the significance of Spring Grove. Rodgers, the grandson of Robert Murphy, inherited the house from his mother, Eliza Murphy Rodgers. Following her death in 1872, William Rodgers moved to Spring Grove; it was during this time that he made extensive drawings of the interior and exterior of the house and its surroundings. This rare instance of pictorial documentation from the 1870s provides a special insight to a historic property.

9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #2)

- Benjamin, Asher. The American Builder's Companion. Charleston: Etheridge and Bliss, 1806; reprint ed., New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1969.
- _____. The Practice of Architecture. Boston: Carter, Hendie & Co., 1833.
- Brown, Mr. and Mrs. James Dall, Jr. Interview, 10 October 1982.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 27 acres

Quadrangle name Machodoc, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	3	5	0	4	4	0	4	2	1	6	7	8	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

B

1	8	3	5	0	6	8	0	4	2	1	6	5	6	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

C

1	8	3	5	0	4	2	0	4	2	1	6	2	7	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

D

1	8	3	5	0	1	7	0	4	2	1	6	4	4	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

E

Zone	Easting		Northing											

F

Zone	Easting		Northing											

G

Zone	Easting		Northing											

H

Zone	Easting		Northing											

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on N side of VA 202 approximately 3600' SE of intersection of VA 202 and VA 621; thence extending approximately 1400' ENE to natural contour line; thence following said contour line for approximately 1400' first SE, then SW, then E; thence approximately 1300' WSW to a point on N side of VA 202 approximately

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See Continuation Sheet #2)

state N/A code _____ county N/A code _____

state N/A code _____ county N/A code _____

11. Form Prepared By (2) (See Continuation Sheet #2)

name/title (1) Henry M. Cochran, III

organization University of Virginia

date 1982

street & number Box 3946

telephone (804) 293-2267

city or town Charlottesville

state Virginia 22903

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell, Director



title Division of Historic Landmarks

date August 16, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormFor NPS use only
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date enteredSPRING GROVE, WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VA
Continuation sheet #1

Item number 6, 7

Page 1, 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Division Survey (File No. 96-23)
1983 State
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis

with carved rosettes. The arch springs from the capitals and is accented by a symmetrically molded keystone. The architrave molding of the arch is ornamented by rope moldings and carved rosettes; the rosettes are alternated with fluting. The horizontal support of the fanlight is beautifully carved with a lattice design. The fanlight radiates from a half circle that has been carved with a floral motif; each of the eight lights is ornamented with a curved piece of tracery that has been applied over the glass in the late 19th century. The inner door frame is paneled and decorated with rope molding. The arched doorway and moldings were taken from plate 32 of Benjamin's American Builder's Companion. The doorways in the hall and throughout the first floor have symmetrical architrave trim with corner blocks that have been carved with rosettes. The hall ceiling features an original stucco ceiling medallion composed of acanthus leaves and simple moldings; the original lamp remains in place. To the northwest of the center passage is the parlor. The focal point of this room is the mantel. It consists of paired columns set on a plinth composed of a base, an elaborately executed entablature, and mantel shelf. The composition mirrors plates 27 and 37 from Benjamin's American Builder's Companion. Located on the southeast side of the center passage is the dining room. Its mantel is similar to that in the parlor except that its marble facings and hearth have been lost. The windows in the parlor and dining room have symmetrical architrave trim with carved corner blocks and paneled jambs all following plate 43 of Asher Benjamin's Practice of Architecture.

Behind the louvered doors of the entrance hall is located the stair hall that runs from north to south. The stair is located to the left in this passage, and has simple sawn-scrolled brackets, a round handrail, and rectangular balusters, two to a tread. At the north end of the passage is the pantry retaining its original built-in shelves and cupboard. To the south of the passage is an arched doorway that leads to the rear hall which is terminated by a small room known as the "butler's pantry." The door to the brick addition is located at the foot of the staircase. The addition, known as the kitchen, is very simple; the windows are framed by symmetrical architrave molding and corner blocks similar to that in the rest of the house. The second-floor rooms are less elaborate than those on the first floor and have small closets built into the side of the chimneys. In the second-floor passage is an enclosed stair which ascends to the attic. The attic contains three finished rooms. Throughout the house there is evidence that the doors and woodwork were elaborately grained in two colors; graining survives on the backs of doors in the attic and on the second floor.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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SPRING GROVE, WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #2

Item number 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Page 2, 1, 1, 1, 1,

7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis

Two of Spring Grove's original outbuildings survive. The kitchen is a one-story brick building of American bond with a gable roof; saw tooth brickwork forms a cornice on this building. The kitchen has been altered on the exterior and interior but drawings from the 19th century indicate the original scheme. A frame smokehouse with a pyramidal roof and its original door and hardware has been moved twenty feet from its original site.

Photographs and a drawing show that a frame office and a dairy completed a symmetrical layout of outbuildings around the main house. A brick wall that has been repaired by the present owners was used to join the outbuildings to the house.

8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

A later owner, John Rodgers Williams, nephew of William Rodgers, served as a librarian and administrator at Princeton University. While at Princeton he was editor for the Princeton Historical Society and at this time edited the journal of Philip Vickers Fithian, tutor to the Carter family at Nomini Hall, which was published in 1900.

Spring Grove is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. James Dall Brown, Jr.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

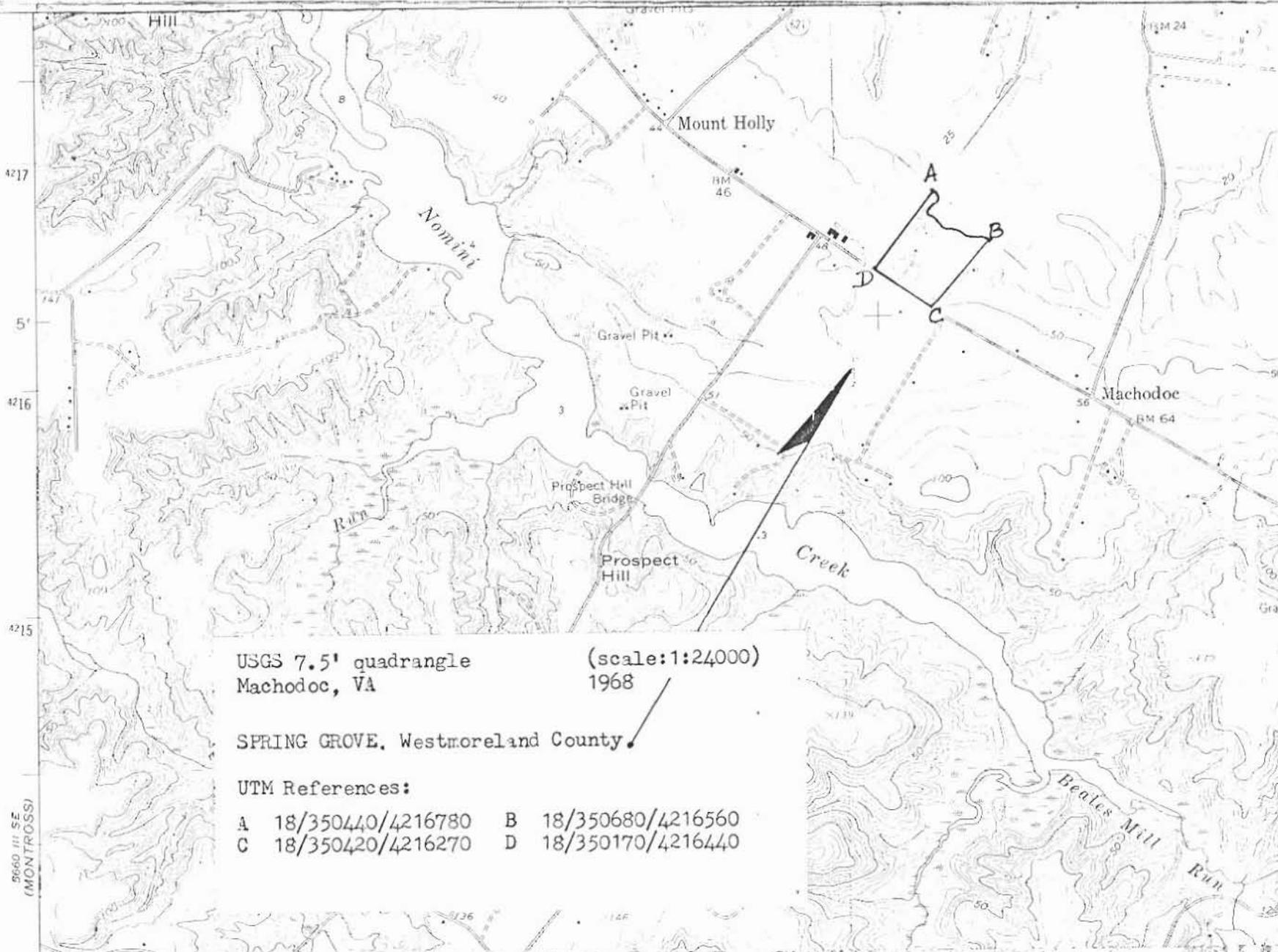
Westmoreland County. Deed and Will Books 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 32, 39.
Land Tax Books 1833-1840.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA--Verbal Boundary Description & Justification

2600' NW of intersection of said route and VA 626; thence approximately 1000' WNW along N side of VA 202 to point of origin. Boundary Justification: The bounds have been drawn to include twenty-seven acres which is a small portion of the original 240.78 acres that constituted the original Brown family Spring Grave tract. The twenty-seven acres includes the main house, all outbuildings, the front drive, a field, and a portion of the open woodlands to the rear of the residence. Thus, the acreage preserves the 19th-century setting.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

(2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Division Staff 1983
221 Governor Street (804) 786-3144
Richmond, Virginia 23219



USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Machodoc, VA

(scale:1:24000)
1968

SPRING GROVE, Westmoreland County

UTM References:

A	18/350440/4216780	B	18/350680/4216560
C	18/350420/4216270	D	18/350170/4216440