

VLR-12/17/74 NRHP-4/1/75

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Crabtree-Blackwell Farm
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: .8 mile south of Blackwell, west side of Route 686; .8 mile northwest of intersection of Routes 686 and 745.			
CITY OR TOWN: (Blackwell vicinity)		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Ninth (William C. Wampler)	
STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51	COUNTY: Washington	CODE: 191

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cox	STATE: Virginia
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 2, Box 191	
CITY OR TOWN: Meadowview	
STATE: Virginia	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Washington County Court House	COUNTY: Washington
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Abingdon	
STATE: Virginia	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey	FOR NPS USE ONLY
DATE OF SURVEY: 1974 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission	
STREET AND NUMBER: 221 Governor Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE: Virginia
	CODE: 51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated along a one-lane dirt road, in a valley between Chestnut Ridge and Hall Knob, the Crabtree-Blackwell Farm is a noteworthy assemblage of Appalachian vernacular buildings. Several types of log construction are in evidence, and survivals of a number of ancient folk building practices permeate the group.

The main house is a "saddlebag" type building with two story-and-a-half pens connected by a central limestone rubble chimney stack. The western of the two pens has half-dovetailed corner timbering to ceiling level. The four-log half-story above it, and the entire eastern pen, are V-notched, indicating that the house began as a one-story cabin and was later enlarged to its present size.

Most of the windows in the dwelling have early six-over-six sash, and batten doors are used throughout. A full-length one-story porch shelters the whitewashed front of the house, and a frame lean-to has been added to the rear.

The western pen consists of a kitchen above a full limestone cellar and has a single front door and a gable-end window. The kitchen fireplace, like all the others in the house, has been blocked and a stove flue installed. An exterior stair in the space in front of the chimney leads to the second floor of both pens.

The eastern pen is divided into two slightly unequal rooms: a larger western parlor, with opposed front and rear doors and windows, and a bedroom. The bedroom was enlarged slightly in the late-nineteenth century by moving the partition one joist to the west. A chimney at the east end of the house has been removed and the opening filled with logs. A fine country-Federal mantel with fluted Doric pilasters and bas-relief trees carved on the necking ornaments the parlor. A band of molding forming the abacus of the pilaster capitals continues across the mantel through the middle of a central tablet. There is a fireplace in the pen's western chamber, but none in any other upstairs room.

Down the hill to the east of the house, astride a small stream, is the springhouse or milkhouse. This saddle-notched, round-log building has the cantilevered gable characteristic of such outbuildings in the region. Although the logs are not squared, the corners are trimmed and the building tightly chinked.

North of the house is the hay barn, a large round-log, saddle-notched, end-opening building. The ends of the logs are not trimmed, nor is the structure made tight in any manner. Lean-to additions have been made to the north side (in log), the south side and the east end (both framed).

A storage shed and an outhouse, both relatively modern frame buildings, complete the assemblage. A frame coal storage shed is under construction.

DTU

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pro-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Folklife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Crabtree-Blackwell house, with its attendant outbuildings, is a noteworthy domestic complex containing many characteristic features of the material folk culture of the mountains of southwestern Virginia. After its official opening to white occupation around the time of the American Revolution, the area was rapidly settled by Tidewater English and Pennsylvania German and Scotch-Irish groups whose folk habits had previously made contact in the lower Valley of Virginia. The Crabtree-Blackwell Farm stands as graphic evidence of the mountain folk culture resulting from this mixture, combining as it does characteristic Pennsylvania and Tidewater elements with some archaic English building practices.

The house was built in at least two stages in the early-nineteenth century. The earliest portion is the cellar and first floor of the west, or kitchen, pen, where half-dovetail notching is used. The original building, with its approximately square floor plan, loft floor at plate level (a feature not common in the southern mountain cabin), single front door offset toward the chimney end, and exterior gable-end chimney, is of a type which has been termed by Henry Glassie the "square cabin" and identified as a survival of sub-medieval English building practice found frequently on the eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge, but rarely in the mountains themselves. In addition, the frame lean-to added to the rear of this pen is also a traditional English feature.

At some later date, a V-notched, four-log half-story was added to the existing cabin, and at the same time or shortly thereafter, a story-and-a-half eastern pen, entirely V-notched and with a five-log half-story, was added to the chimney end of the original structure. This eastern pen took the form of what Glassie has called the rectangular cabin type and identified as deriving ultimately from building types in the Ulster-Connaught region of Ireland. It has two rooms separated by a light partition--so light that it was moved slightly in the late-nineteenth century. The larger of the two rooms contains the main fireplace, with its carved mantel, and the opposed central front and rear doors. A gable-end chimney on the far end wall completed the building, but has since been removed.

As a whole, the house represents the "saddlebag" type common in the southern mountains, so-called because its pens are draped saddlebag-fashion on either side of the chimney. The convenience of this sort of massing, given the closed modular nature of log construction, is an obvious reason for its use, but the plan concept can be traced farther back to post-
(see continuation sheet #1)

SEE INST. INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

medieval English precedent. One common pre-Renaissance English vernacular house type involved a one-story or story-and-a-half building with some variation of a three-room scheme having the rooms ranked hierarchically from the "lower" service rooms at one end to the "upper" "parlor," originally a sleeping room, at the other. Additional service rooms were often appended in the form of lean-tos or, in earlier times took the form of separate out-buildings. A cross-passage sometimes separated the service rooms from the "living" rooms. When chimneys began to be used in humbler houses in the sixteenth century, they were frequently placed between the service and living rooms, in or backing on the cross-passage if there was one. Occasionally a smaller fireplace heated the parlor, and stairs sometimes were placed in the area beside the chimney. The Crabtree-Blackwell house conforms to this traditional pattern. A cross-passage of sorts, created by the existence of the two pens, is filled by the chimney and the exterior stairs. The "upper" end of the house is given over to the "public" living room next to the chimney and to the sleeping room, which once had a fireplace, at the extreme upper end. As in medieval England, this first-floor room was, and remains today, the main bedroom, the rooms upstairs being used for storage and overflow.

The springhouse or milkhouse fulfills the function of another service room of the English cottage--the dairy. As is the custom in the mountains, the milkhouse is located over a stream. With its gable-end entrance and cantilevered overhanging roof, it conforms to a type known in Europe since the Iron Age and found throughout the highland area from Pennsylvania south. The barn is also a common Appalachian form featuring a double crib with lean-tos on either long side and another at one gable end.

The original portion of the house was probably built by the Crabtree family, who bought the land in 1818. It was acquired by the Davenports, who probably enlarged it, in 1824 and in 1849 was purchased by the Blackwell family, who owned it until 1923.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barley, M. W. The English Farmhouse and Cottage. (1961).
 Glassie, Henry. Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States. Philadelphia, 1968.
 _____, "Types of the Southern Mountain Cabin," in Jan H. Brunvand ed. The Study of American Folklore. (1968).
 Summers, Lewis P. History of Southwest Virginia, 1746-1786; Washington County 1777-1810. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1966. (originally published 1903).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	36° 49' 11"	81° 51' 31"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	36° 49' 11"	81° 05' 46"				
SE	36° 48' 52"	81° 05' 46"				
SW	36° 48' 52"	81° 51' 31"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 82 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: December 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
 221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.
 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Exec. Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title: _____

Date: DEC 17 1974

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-301
(July 1958)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Crabtree-Blackwell Farm		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Virginia	Washington	(Blackwell vicinity)
STREET AND NUMBER .8 mile south of Blackwell, west side of Route 686; .8 mile Northwest of intersection of Routes 686 and 745.		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle, Glade Spring, Va.	1938 (PR1969)	1:24000

REQUIREMENTS. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.

36° 49' 11"

36° 48' 52"

657 IV SW
(Hayters Gap 212 SW)

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Glade Spring, Va. 1938 (PR1969)

CRABTREE-BLACKWELL FARM

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	36° 49' 11"	81° 51' 31"
NE	36° 49' 11"	81° 05' 46"
SE	36° 48' 52"	81° 05' 46"
SW	36° 48' 52"	81° 51' 31"

