

**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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

**VLR Listed: 12/13/2018**  
**NRHP Listed: 4/4/2019**

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Fort Lewis

Other names/site number: Fort Lewis Lodge; DHR ID# 008-0029

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 603 Old Plantation Way

City or town: Millboro State: VA County: Bath

Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  X

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

    A     B X C     D

<p><b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b> <u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p><b>Date</b></p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p><b>Signature of commenting official:</b></p>	<p><b>Date</b></p>
<p><b>Title :</b></p>	<p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>13</u>	<u>17</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: manufacturing facility

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: waterworks

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

DOMESTIC: hotel

COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation

RECREATION AND CULTURE: work of art

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:

Bungalow/Craftsman

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD; BRICK; STONE; METAL; TERRA COTTA; CONCRETE

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Fort Lewis is a multi-component historic property located on an approximately 1,800-acre tract of river bottom and mountain land occupying both sides of the Cowpasture River in northeastern Bath County, Virginia. The tract was first settled in the 1740s and in the 1750s-1760s was the location of a frontier fort, Fort Lewis. The fort is gone, but near its presumed location stands the Fort Lewis House, a Greek Revival residence built in the late antebellum period, possibly ca. 1855. The two-story brick house has a hipped roof, a three-bay front, and modern one-story front and back porches. The two-room-deep center-passage-plan interior has replastered walls and ceilings, wood floors, a center-passage stair with a paneled spandrel, and mantels in a variety of forms, some typical of the Greek Revival style, others not. Behind the house stands a garden shed constructed of logs from a nineteenth-century smokehouse and, beyond, a large timber-frame corncrib, a farm shop, and a scale house. On a ridge to the west is a large twentieth-century sheep barn. Between the house and the river stands the Fort Lewis Mill, a two-and-a-half-story timber-frame merchant mill built in the mid-nineteenth century and converted to a restaurant in the 1980s. Near the mill stands Fort Lewis Lodge, a modern multi-story hotel which incorporates a silo from a former barn, as well as several non-contributing guest cottages and other resort buildings. A millrace connects the mill to the river, and opposite the inlet to the millrace is the remnant of a crib dam. The majority of contributing and non-contributing

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resources are located at the east end of the nominated area; others, such as the ruins of a lime kiln or kilns and a log hoist, are located in the mountainous western portion, and a gable-fronted Craftsman bungalow-form tenant house stands beside River Road (Rt. 625) which crosses the nominated area. Elevations range from about 1,500 feet above sea level along the section of the Cowpasture River that forms the southeastern edge of the nominated area. The topography rises steeply to the west of River Road, to the northwest border of the nominated area just below the ridge of Tower Hill Mountain, which at its highest reaches elevations of over 3,200 feet above sea level. Other features of note include Indian Draft Road (Rt. 678), which forms the eastern boundary of the nominated area, and Old Plantation Way, the historic connection between the farm core and River Road. The western, mountainous portion is heavily wooded, whereas the lower eastern portion is mostly cleared pastureland with interspersed woodlots.

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## **Narrative Description**

### *Inventory*

#### Contributing Resources

1. Fort Lewis House. Ca. 1855. Contributing building.
2. Corncrib. Late 19<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
3. Farm shop. Mid-20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
4. Scale house. Mid-20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
5. Sheep barn. Ca. 1950. Contributing building.
6. Fort Lewis Mill. Mid-19<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
7. Millrace. Mid-19<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing structure.
8. Crib dam remnant. 19<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing site.
9. Near reservoir. 1<sup>st</sup> half 20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing structure.
10. Far reservoir. 1<sup>st</sup> half 20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing structure.
11. Tenant house. Ca. 1950. Contributing building.
12. Lime kiln ruins. 19<sup>th</sup> and/or early 20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing site.
13. Log hoist. Mid-20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing structure.

#### Non-contributing Resources

14. Fort Lewis Lodge. 1985-88. Non-contributing building.
15. Pavilion. 2007. Non-contributing structure.
16. John Lewis Cabin. 2010. Non-contributing building.
17. Tall Timbers Cabin. 2007. Non-contributing building.
18. Uplands Cabin. 1992. Non-contributing building.
19. Walatoola Cabin. 1992. Non-contributing building.
20. Office and Gift Shop. 1988. Non-contributing building.
21. Shed. Ca. 1990. Non-contributing building.
22. Garden shed. 1980. Non-contributing building.
23. Garden/chicken house. 2016. Non-contributing building.

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24. Cattle shed. 2016. Non-contributing structure.
25. Grain bins. 1973. Non-contributing structure.
26. Water tank. Ca. 2000. Non-contributing structure.
27. Pig pen. 2010. Non-contributing structure.
28. Wheel Sculpture. 2014. Non-contributing object.
29. Sauna. 2017. Non-contributing building.
30. Camping shelter. 1998. Non-contributing building.

### *Fort Lewis House*

The **Fort Lewis House** (inventory no. 1) is constructed in an irregular brick bond that consists of header/stretcher courses separated by two to six courses of stretcher bricks. The brickwork received a red oxide wash and the mortar joints were penciled sometime around or after 1900, as indicated by the absence of the treatments where the brickwork was formerly covered by a wraparound ca. 1900 porch. The sole remnant of the porch—which featured square posts, sawn brackets, and a wood lattice railing—is the peaked octagonal roof that formerly rose from the southwest corner. This roof now sits in the side yard. Its bracketed cornice is constructed with wire nails indicating construction after ca. 1900. In place of the wraparound porch is a one-story entry porch with classical columns and square balusters. The new porch matches the size of the original entry porch, as indicated by two original brick piers or pilasters against which the modern pilasters are set. The porch shelters an entry with a transom, sidelights, and a double-leaf door with two panels in each leaf creating a four-panel effect when closed. The windows have six-over-six sashes, some with header-course lintels. Over the front porch is a six-over-six window flanked by narrow sidelight-like sashes. There are a number of basement windows with replacement sashes. Two interior brick chimneys rise above the metal-sheathed hipped roof. To the rear is a modern one-story frame addition with a semi-octagonal porch. The addition has a hipped roof, board-and-batten siding, a rear entry with a transom, and square porch posts.

Inside, a single-run stair rises from near the front entry. The stair has a turned and tapered columnar newel at its base, an ovoid-section handrail supported by rectangular balusters, and tread brackets with a simple curved form. The corners of the risers are beaded, and the spandrel under the stair has vertical panels (the first one triangular in form) contained within a beaded molding. Doors are typically four-panel and have brown pottery knobs. The baseboards are beaded but the molded door and window trim are not.

Three mantels were observed. The one in the first-floor southwest room is Greek Revival, with a lancet-section molding under the shelf, but is uncharacteristic in form, with a composition of molded panels above and to the sides of the fireplace. It has a brick fireplace surround and hearth. The mantel in the first-floor southeast room is more recognizably Greek Revival, with a pilaster-and-frieze form with fluting in the pilasters and as a band across the frieze, and a scotia bed molding under the shelf. Next to the mantel in this room is a closet with double-leaf four-panel doors. The third mantel was from an upstairs bedroom and is stored in the basement. It has a simple Greek Revival pilaster-and-frieze form.

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The first-floor northwest room has been converted to a kitchen with recently installed cabinets and counters. The upstairs bedrooms were altered in a modern remodeling but the stair to the attic, which rises above the stair below, is intact. It has an octagonal newel at its foot with an octagonal cap, a rounded handrail (crudely planed), rectangular balusters, and tread brackets with a swooping form that is a simplification of the brackets on the stair below.

The four-room plan of the basement mirrors the room plan above. Chimney supports project into the two back rooms. The supports consist of double brick piers with corbelling between, under the floor of the fireplace. In the southeast room is a poured concrete spring box, presumably once filled by water from a spring on the mountainside to the west. This room formerly had a floor consisting of concrete strips with river cobble gravel between (the basement floors are now continuous concrete). The northeast room was used for cold storage, as indicated by a partially surviving ceiling of cut-nailed circular-sawn boards that formerly had a layer of sawdust above, between the joists. The southeast and southwest rooms formerly had plaster and lath ceilings; the ceiling in the southwest room was over earlier whitewash. Lath, where it survives, is circular sawn. In some of the basement spaces is a concrete wainscot added by the current owner and painted by him white with a green border. The attic was not investigated.

#### *Other Contributing Resources*

In the field to the north of the house is a large **corncrib** (no. 2). The building is of mortise and tenon pegged heavy frame construction with cut-nailed slats and other components indicating construction before ca. 1890 and potentially as early as the late antebellum period. The tall, gable-fronted building has a double-crib form, with the two cribs separated by a center walkway, and an overhanging front gable supported by hewn plate extensions. In the overhang are visible common rafters with lapped and pegged joints at the ridge (the same rafters appear inside). On the front gable end are vertical circular-sawn slats that are cut-nailed to the structure behind (some of the bottom slats, possible replacements, are wire-nailed). Slatted hatches hung on wrought strap hinges are positioned high on the wall, with a later slatted hatch on manufactured hinges below the right hatch. The center part of the wall, corresponding to the walkway within, is sheathed with cut-nailed vertical boards. At the very center is a batten door hung inside on long wrought hinges. The building stands on stone footers and has a floor structure with hewn sills and major cross beams and sawn joists.

The front is painted red but was formerly painted green. The slatted side elevations are unpainted. Originally the side elevations may have been covered by sheds; they are currently covered by sheds, probably early to mid-twentieth century in date, with some reconstruction, modern board-and-batten siding, and modern segmental-arched entries with double-leaf wood and glass doors. The roof is metal. The heavy frame construction inside features hewn major members and circular-sawn minor members. Rectangular post-and-lintel bents rise above the center walkway but stop short of the roof. In addition to strap hinges there is wrought iron hatch hardware such as hook-and-eye fasteners with twisted hooks.

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Nearby stands a **farm shop** (no. 3), a one-story frame building with a metal-sheathed gable-fronted roof, plywood board-and-batten siding, modern (or reworked) wraparound sheds, and a poured concrete foundation. In the gables is earlier weatherboard siding and, in the front gable, a rectangular louvered vent. The dirt-floored interior has exposed structure, work tables and shelves, and an enclosure at the back with two batten doors and a brick flue. The **scale house** (no. 4) is a small gable-fronted frame building with board-and-batten siding and metal roofing. There are two scales: one inside the building, with iron weights and bronze components, the other outside. The outside scale is contained in a treated wood enclosure and has a raised deck on cinder block and post supports. Its mechanism was manufactured by the Winslow Government Standard Scale Works of Terre Haute, Indiana, and bears a label identifying it as a Type P Motor Truck Scale with a capacity of twenty tons. The outside scale connects to a weighbridge of steel and wood construction with gravel (shale) ramps at each end.

The **sheep barn** (no. 5), also called the Red Barn, is a large, dilapidated building of wire-nailed circular-sawn frame construction. It stands on a cinder block foundation (continuous and footers) and has a metal-sheathed gable-fronted form with two side sheds of unequal size. The side sheds and the lower part of the center section are sheathed with vertical boards whereas the upper part of the center section has weatherboard siding. There are hay openings in the weatherboards, which implies a hay loft inside, but the loft has been removed. Other features include slatted ventilation in the eaves of the west side wing and a hay fork rail without a hay fork.

The **Fort Lewis Mill** (no. 6) is located to the east of the house, at the foot of the ridge on which the house stands and adjacent to the river bottom. In 1985-1988, the mill was converted to a restaurant and recreation center to serve the modern resort buildings, which extend up the ridge back toward the house. The two-and-a-half-story building is constructed of pegged mortise and tenon timbers with modern weatherboard siding and a metal-sheathed gable roof. The mill was extended on the north gable end for a kitchen (first floor) and restrooms (second floor). Other modern additions (one story high) include an entry porch and room on the west side, with a wood-shingled shed roof; a screened outdoor dining area with a metal-sheathed hipped roof on the north end; and an enclosed dining area with a metal-sheathed shed roof on the east side. Windows, and a stack of French doors with metal balconies on the south gable end, are modern. A dining deck extends on the north end. Modern signage includes a sign next to the entry porch that reads "Lewis Mill Circa 1850" and a sign suspended from a post at the entrance to the dining deck which reads "Buck's Bar and Restaurant Est. 1988." The stone foundation is constructed of mostly light-hued sandstone blocks with interspersed smaller sandstone stones of dark brown color. Some of the stones may be fossiliferous; one in particular on the south end, medium brown in color, has multiple impressions of large, shell-like brachiopods.

The mill's heavy timber construction is visible on the first-floor interior, and although the wood is varnished it is otherwise as it was originally (exposed). Heavy posts occupy the corners and the midpoints of the side and end walls. A heavy beam runs lengthwise, supported at the midpoint by a decoratively chamfered post with a shaped bracket or template to receive the weight of the beam. (A nearly identical post is positioned directly above on the second floor, which also has [mostly] exposed wall structure.) There is much wear on the post, including

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multiple nail holes (possibly where notices were nailed) and graffiti including the initials NR, MLR, and possibly the number 36. A diagonal brace stems from the side of the post to support a beam that provides supplemental support for the main beam. In the northeast corner is a partially enclosed, partially reconstructed two-run stair. Remnants of square-section wood trunks or conduits for moving grain and product vertically through the mill project through the ceiling and more have been removed and their locations patched. Some posts retain strips of bark that looks like pine bark

The second floor is similar in character to the first floor. Its floor has modern stenciled designs of starbursts and flowers and diamond borders. In one corner, mounted for display, is a wooden belt drive shaft with wooden belt wheels and cast iron cog wheels. Nearby is displayed a bolter from the mill, a long wooden framework that was originally wrapped in bolting cloth for purifying flour. In the attic is a wood-framed machine from the mill (possibly a separator) with a sheet-iron drum sieve and the stenciled number 6429. (Other mill machinery is located on the property, such as the drum-like millstone enclosure, used as a table in the lodge, and an Archimedes screw.) The basement level is relatively featureless, with bare stone walls and replacement timbers, but just outside it, under the north gable-end addition, are kept vanes and other pieces from a cast iron turbine wheel found on site.

A **millrace** (no. 7) consisting of a headrace to the north of the mill and a tailrace to the south provided water to the mill and conducted it away. The end of the headrace near the mill has been converted to a pond but the majority of the race (now dry) has its original ditch-like character. The headrace is lined with trees and angles across the river bottom fields to connect to the Cowpasture River just above a riffle. The tailrace reconnects to the river downstream and has a less linear, marshy character.

Across the Cowpasture River from the head of the headrace and upstream from the riffle is a **crib dam remnant** (no. 8). The remnant, first identified by researcher William E. Trout III and published in *The Upper James Atlas* (2001), consists of a tightly spaced row of logs, of varying widths but relatively narrow, overlying a thicker sill-like log at an almost perpendicular angle. The assembly is submerged and partly buried under a small islet. Trout described the remnant as “a fragment of the LEWIS MILL DAM, a CRIB DAM made of logs, worth archaeological study,” and noted the archaeological site number 44BA898. Trout also noted “plank” in association with the dam, although no planks were observed when the site was revisited in June 2018. Trout interpreted the remnant as the east end of a mill dam that angled across the river to the west bank where it would have diverted water into the head race.

Partway between the house/farm complex and River Road (State Route 625), in a field on the north side of the access road (Old Plantation Way), stands the **near reservoir** (no. 9), a poured concrete reservoir with a concrete lid, roughly square in form. The reservoir formerly served as part of the farm water system but is no longer in use. The **far reservoir** (no. 10), located west of River Road along a track that parallels Poplar Hollow, is similar in form and construction to the near reservoir. The **tenant house** (no. 11; address 7029 River Road) is a one-story frame dwelling with weatherboard siding, a cinder block foundation, and a metal-sheathed front-gable

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roof. The front porch has square posts with simple board railings and decorative sawn brackets in the Victorian style. The windows have Craftsman three-over-one sashes and the stack-panel front door has a similar three-pane window. Other features include decorative exposed rafter ends in the house and porch eaves, an interior flue, and a modern rear addition with wood siding and three-over-one and six-over-six window sash.

The mountainous western section of the nominated area includes two resources of extractive/industrial function. The **lime kiln ruins** (no. 12), located in Gatewood Hollow, consist of sandstone ruins representing one or two kilns for the burning of limestone rock into lime. The larger of the two ruins has a mounded appearance with a ring of stones measuring approximately fourteen feet across. The stones continue down the front or south side of the mound. No opening is visible at the foot of the stonework. Next to this structure on the west side is a lower, stone-lined, trough-like feature which may represent a second kiln or another structure. In front of the features is a terrace-like section of road defined by a rubble retaining wall on its south side. Also in the Gatewood Hollow area is a **log hoist** (no. 13) in the form of a rectangular steel framework about five-and-a-half feet in height. The framework is constructed of tubular and I-section members and has various chains and hooks that were used for lifting logs onto a wagon or truck bed.

#### *Non-contributing Resources*

The majority of the property's non-contributing resources are modern resort buildings located between the Fort Lewis House and Fort Lewis Mill. The largest of these is the 1985-1988 **Fort Lewis Lodge** (no. 14), a two- to three-and-a-half-story frame building of contemporary design. The lodge stands on the site of a former bank barn and incorporates one of two glazed brick tile silos from the barn. The silo is of a type popular around the 1920s and it has been converted to room space with the insertion of floors and windows. At the top is an observatory consisting of windows running around the circumference with a domical metal silo-type roof above. Adjoining the silo are three- and three-and-a-half-story elements, the former with an exterior spiral steel stair. Most of the lodge is in the form of a gabled two-story wing. The lodge has weatherboard and board-and-batten siding.

The **Pavilion** (no. 15) is a large open-sided structure of rustic design. The gabled structure, used for events, has wood post supports, glued laminate engineered wood arches, a stone chimney with fireplaces, and a deck with a pergola. The several lodging cabins are either old buildings moved to the site or constructed with elements from old buildings. They are rustic in character. The **John Lewis Cabin** (no. 16) is constructed with logs from a tobacco barn that formerly stood near Eden, North Carolina. It is a one-story building of log and board-and-batten frame construction with a gable roof, a stone interior chimney, and a stone foundation. **Tall Timbers Cabin** (no. 17), built with logs from a house that formerly stood near Eden, North Carolina, has a log upper story and a stone-faced lower story built into a bank. The building has a gable-fronted roof and a two-tier porch. **Uplands Cabin** (no. 18) is a one-story log house moved from Lewisburg, West Virginia. It has a side-gable roof that engages a front porch with a board-and-batten porch room. A stone chimney rises on a gable end. **Walatoola Cabin** (no. 19) is also a

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one-story log house moved from Lewisburg, West Virginia. It has a side-gable roof that engages a front porch, v-notched corners, and a stone end chimney. The **Office and Gift Shop** (no. 20) is a one-story, gable-fronted, frame building with weatherboard siding, an overhanging front gable, and wood-shingle roofing. The **shed** (no. 21) is a small frame building with a gable-fronted roof and weatherboard siding. It is used for general storage and has a space for bikes for guest use.

In the northeast corner of the yard behind the Fort Lewis House is a modern **garden shed** (no. 22) constructed with logs from a former smokehouse that stood nearby. The logs, which form the lower half of the building, are smooth-planed, close-fitting, and half-dovetail-notched. It appears they were incorporated into the shed as whole wall sections, rather than disassembled and reassembled. The rest of the small building has a gable-fronted form with vertical board siding on frame. In the vicinity of the historic farm buildings is a **garden/chicken house** (no. 23), a small frame building with weatherboard siding and a wood-shingled gable roof that adjoins a fenced garden. The **cattle shed** (no. 24) is a small, open-sided shelter with wood posts supports and a metal gable roof. The three closely grouped **grain bins** (no. 25) are of cylindrical form and prefabricated corrugated steel construction with conical roofs. Two are squat in proportion and sit on the ground. One of these has a plaque with the name of the manufacturer, Long. The third bin is more slender than the others and stands on legs with a hopper at its lower end. Nearby is a tall cylindrical fiberglass **water tank** (no. 26). The fenced **pig pen** (no. 27) has a small gabled shelter for the pigs. The **Wheel Sculpture** (no. 28) was designed by John Cowden and consists of spoked iron wheels from various types of farm machinery welded together and placed on a sandstone base. Located apart from the other buildings beside the Cowpasture River is the **sauna** (no. 29), a small shed-roofed building raised about a story off the ground on posts to protect it from flooding. The building has weatherboard siding and an open front inside of which is the sauna enclosure. The **camping shelter** (no. 30) is located high on the side of Tower Hill Mountain near the spring that supplies water to the property's buildings. The shelter is a small, rustic, frame building with a metal-sheathed gable roof, vertical board siding, and an open front.

### Integrity

Fort Lewis retains a remarkable integrity of location and setting as the property today encompasses approximately 1,800 acres, which corresponds to a considerable degree to its historic dimensions. The area's rural character, with its scenic mountains, steeply rolling, forested topography, and meandering Cowpasture River appear little changed since the property first was established during the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. These attributes, coupled with the retention of the Greek Revival dwelling, 19<sup>th</sup>-century mill, dam, and millrace, as well as the assemblage of historic agricultural outbuildings, endow Fort Lewis with high integrity of feeling and association. The well-documented history of the farm's ownership and historic operations add to its integrity of association.

With regard to integrity of design, workmanship, and materials, as a collection of historic-age architectural resources, Fort Lewis's ensemble has generally good integrity. The agricultural outbuildings, in particular, are little changed and their utilitarian character speaks to their role in the farm's operations. The Greek Revival dwelling is an unusually fine example of the style in

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rural Virginia. Alterations to the building's original design are comparatively few, and include recreation of a one-bay front porch in the same location as the original and a small frame addition alongside the newer semi-octagonal back porch. The interior retains character-defining features such as mantles, staircase newel posts and balustrades, and trim, that have survived remodeling episodes to accommodate changing lifestyles. The mill is another character-defining architectural resource at Fort Lewis. Its exterior has the typical utilitarian character of a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century mill designed according to the period's principles of mill automation (that a single mill hand could operate the mill, according to census records, certainly speaks to the extent of automation at the mill). The mill's interior was altered considerably over the years, particularly after a restaurant was established here during the 1980s, but certain aspects of the historic operation may still be read in the heavy structural framing, the ceiling bam supported by a chamfered, heavily worn post, and remnants of conduits for moving milled products vertically through the mill. The generally undisturbed character of Fort Lewis's extensive acreage has allowed various architectural features, such as the lime kilns, crib dam, and log hoist, to survive, and these are illustrative of various income-generating activities that have taken place on the farm since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The late-20<sup>th</sup> century architectural resources are generally concentrated in an area southwest of the Greek Revival complex, in the vicinity of the mill. Their design and materials are intended to complement Fort Lewis's historic agricultural character while accommodating the property's newer use as a rural retreat with a resort-style hotel, rental cabins, sauna, night sky viewing platform, and walking trails. Likewise, the newer agricultural resources facilitate the property's continued farming operations, now well into their third century.

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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.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**  
Ca. 1840-ca. 1950  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**  
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**  
Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Fort Lewis is a scenic Bath County, Virginia, property with a history reaching back to colonial times. Established on the Cowpasture River by the Lewis family in the 1740s, the property was the site of a frontier fort during the French and Indian War. The fort is gone, but the antebellum Fort Lewis house survives, a two-story brick residence detailed in the Greek Revival style. Near the house stands a large timber-frame corncrib and other farm buildings, and near the river is a timber-frame gristmill that doubled as a polling place in the late nineteenth century. The mill has been made into a restaurant serving a modern resort – Fort Lewis Lodge – that has added a lodge and guest cabins to the property. A remnant of a log crib dam in the river, the ruins of a stone lime kiln or kilns in a mountain hollow, and a tenant house are other historic resources in the 1,800-acre nominated area. Fort Lewis is locally significant under Criterion C in the Architecture area of significance for the quality and diversity of its architectural assemblage, which ranges from high-style antebellum domestic architecture to nineteenth- and twentieth-century agricultural and industrial construction. The period of significance extends from ca. 1840, representing the earliest likely date of construction for the surviving historic resources, until ca. 1950, embracing farm and domestic construction that continued into the middle decades of the twentieth century.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

*Historic Context*

Historian Oren Morton identified the 1740s as the decade of initial settlement in the area that would become Bath County, with the Fort Lewis location among the earliest settlements. Thomas and Andrew Lewis, sons of patriarch John Lewis (1678-1773), with others received a grant of 30,000 acres in the Cowpasture River area in 1743. A 950-acre tract including the core of the current holding was surveyed for John Lewis in 1746, the same year the Augusta County court stipulated that “a road be laid off and marked from the great lick in the Cow Pasture adjoining Col. Lewis Land” to the Calfpasture River. Soon the Lewis family had acquired almost 4,000 acres in the area.<sup>1</sup>

In the mid-1750s, Charles Lewis (1736-1774), another son of John’s, established Fort Lewis, described on the Virginia Highway Marker for the fort as a “small stockade.” The fort guarded a strategic pass at the south end of Shenandoah Mountain and was one of a series of frontier forts constructed as place of shelter for European settlers during the French and Indian War. The fort existed through 1763. Historian Louis Koontz, writing in the 1920s, drew upon the Preston Papers and other sources to sketch his account of the fort and its operation, although he noted the records were “extremely fragmentary.” There are references from 1757 to garrison service at the fort and patrols in its vicinity, for the use of a horse, and for the delivery of provisions, including a receipt for four turnips. At least 200 men were garrisoned at the fort in 1761. The exact

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location of the fort is uncertain, although current owner John Cowden notes stones and other evidence of former construction in the field behind the Fort Lewis House.<sup>2</sup>

Charles Lewis married Sarah Murray (b. 1743) of New York in 1762 and the couple raised a family on the Fort Lewis tract. Children, some of whom died in infancy, included John, the later owner of the farm, born in 1766. Historian Nancy Sorrells presents farm statistics for Charles Lewis's holdings in 1773. Lewis reported owning 43 sheep, 45 cattle, and 50 swine. His lands also produced 2,374 pounds of hemp, which Sorrells notes was the highest production in western Virginia. Lewis farmed his lands through the labor of eight enslaved persons of African descent and one white indentured servant. In 1774, Lewis led an Augusta County regiment in the settler-Indian conflict known as Lord Dunmore's War, and on October 9, Lewis died at the Battle of Point Pleasant. He left his family well provided for, with farms to his sons and daughters. His estate inventory mentions a still worth 25 pounds, a bookcase and other furniture, and clothing including a suit of "purple cloath." Presbyterian minister Philip Fithian visited the family in December 1775 and described Charles and Sarah's daughters as "fine young Ladies; handsome, smart, brisk" and a son "at School, & design'd for a Scholar." Sarah, who was inconsolable over the loss of her husband, possessed "a large roomy House, & lives far above common Convenience."<sup>3</sup>

John Lewis (1766-1843) came to own Fort Lewis, where he lived with his wife, Rachel Miller Lewis (1768-1835), and a large family. During John's ownership, and after his death, when Fort Lewis was apparently occupied and managed by his son, Samuel Lewis (1797-1872), the farm's products may have been shipped down the Cowpasture in bateaux, the keeled river boats used on the James River system. In 1835 the head of navigation on the Cowpasture was said to be Millboro Springs, several miles downstream from Fort Lewis, but in 1818 two boats fifty-six feet in length "ascended" sixty miles up the river, which would have taken them to the vicinity of Williamsville upstream from Fort Lewis. The journey was intended to prove the practicality of bateau navigation on the river and was related to a petition that urged the state legislature to improve the river in order to make navigation "perfectly safe." In 1819, the legislature passed "An act for improving the navigation of the Cow-pasture river" and appointed trustees including John Lewis to oversee the undertaking. A lottery was organized to fund the project, which was described in a period newspaper advertisement as being "for the improvement of one of the branches of James river, which passes through a rich and fertile country that has hitherto had but little encouragement to industry, from the difficulty in getting its produce to market." In 1822, the legislature declared the river a "public highway," which suggests the improvements were completed, although how much of the river was improved is unknown.<sup>4</sup>

In 1835, Samuel Lewis and others incorporated the Cow Pasture Navigation Company. The company "sluiced" parts of the river, opening obstruction-free channels for the passage of bateaux, but in 1844, it was stated that flooding routinely deposited rock and gravel at the top and bottom of the sluices, rendering the improvement work "a total loss." A series of legislative petitions in 1847 may shed light on the construction of the Fort Lewis mill dam. The petitioners complained that certain mill owners on the Cowpasture had failed to keep sluices open in their mill dams. They asked the legislature to require mill owners "to make Sluices of sufficient width

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to admit the safe passage of Rafts, sixteen feet wide; or in addition to the Common boat sluice, to build Slopes or Aprons, at least twenty five feet long, Opposite the safest Channel below and adjoining the dam.” As a backer of river navigation in 1835, Samuel Lewis presumably incorporated such a slope or apron into the construction of his mill dam. The 1847 petitions (which were rejected) also document another form of river transport in which Fort Lewis may have participated. The petitioners claimed it had been “ascertained by Actual experiment, that the Cowpasture is Navigable for Rafts of Plank, and Timber [more readily] than it is for boats.” Fort Lewis, with its ample forested mountain lands, may have shipped its timber downriver in this manner.<sup>5</sup>

The 1850 agricultural census provides the first detailed account of farm production at Fort Lewis. Samuel Lewis, who apparently lived at Fort Lewis with his wife, Elizabeth R. Crawford Lewis (1805-61), and the couple’s large family, reported owning 3,000 acres, an approximate total that combined his own lands (1,365 acres, according to the 1850 land book) and the lands in his father’s estate (1,593). Of the total Lewis estimated 600 acres were improved (mostly cropland and pasture) and 2,400 acres were unimproved (mostly forested mountain land). On the farm were 20 horses, 20 milk cows, 80 sheep, and 102 cattle. The farm’s wheat crop of 60 bushels was relatively low, but the 1,000 bushels of corn was prodigious, and the 300 bushels of oats, 200 pounds of wool, and 300 pounds of butter were also impressive. Some of this product went to the support of the household and the farm’s enslaved labor force, which numbered nine African American individuals in 1860 (Samuel Lewis’s slaveholding has not been located in the 1850 census schedules). Most of the farm product would have gone to market, either down the river system or by wagon to the various springs resorts which flourished in Bath and adjacent counties by the end of the antebellum period. Fort Lewis’s improved acreage was the source of much of the enumerated produce, but the farm’s unimproved mountain acreage would also have contributed. Period commentator Joseph Martin described the valuable timber that grew on Bath County’s mountainsides, adding “it is as grazing ground that they are chiefly valuable [with] large herds of cattle, ranging on them in the summer months.” The harvesting of timber has continued on the Fort Lewis tract into the early twentieth century. In addition to the numerous logging roads that crisscross the tract is a log hoist dating to the mid-twentieth century.<sup>6</sup>

The earliest indication of a mill at Fort Lewis yet discovered is an 1861 plat, which shows a mill at the location of the current building. Architecturally the mill appears to date to the antebellum period, and it may not be the first mill to stand at the location. The mill has not been identified in the 1850 and 1860 industrial censuses. It may be there, under a name other than Lewis, and for the 1850 census, it is possible the current mill was not yet built, although a sizable increase in the value of buildings at Fort Lewis in 1840, from \$1,125 to \$2,000, may represent its construction. A James Lewis operated a water-powered lumber mill in the county in 1850 and a John C. Crawford operated a large merchant mill in 1860. The 1870 census lists the operation as the gristmill of Benjamin Crawford, capitalized at \$3,000. The mill was powered by a “patent water wheel,” a description that suggests a turbine, which turned runs (pairs) of millstones for grinding wheat and corn. A single “hand,” probably the miller, was employed to run the mill, paid with a “share of [the] toll.” The mill produced 1,000 bushels of wheat flour, 1,800 bushels of cornmeal, and a quantity of bran. The total value of product was \$2,510. The 1880 census lists the mill

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under the ownership of F. L. Fultz with a capitalization of \$3,000. The wheel is listed as a “turban” or turbine measuring four-and-a-half feet in diameter, and it generated twelve horsepower for the turning of two runs of millstones. The mill operated ten hours per day year-round and, as in 1870, it was manned by a single worker.<sup>7</sup>

Another industrial enterprise on the farm, one that is likely to have been in operation during the nineteenth century and/or the early twentieth century, was the lime kiln in Gatewood Hollow. No documentation for the kiln has been uncovered, although aspects of its operation can be discerned from its layout. The kiln, now in ruinous condition, is built into a bank so that it could be charged with limestone at the top and the lime removed at the bottom. There is a lower, stone-lined trough beside it that may be a second kiln, and a driveway supported by a stone retaining wall passes in front of it. The kiln or kilns are located in a part of the Fort Lewis tract that is underlaid by Silurian and Devonian strata with beds of limestone and sandstone, the former for making the lime and the latter used in the construction of the kiln(s). A 1962 geological report notes that the carbonate rock of the area “can be utilized for the manufacture of agricultural limestone [*sic*; lime], explosives, natural cement, hydraulic lime, and many other products.” In rural Virginia during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, agricultural soil replenishment was probably the most common use for farm-made lime, and because the majority of the lower and flatter parts of the Fort Lewis farm are underlaid by shale, there was presumably use for the product of the kiln(s) within a mile of their location. The 1962 report also notes that especially good limestone quarrying locales were those “where streams have cut relatively deep valleys across rocks of favorable structure, forming ready-made quarry faces that can be worked with a minimum of effort.” Such quarry faces have not yet been identified in Gatewood Hollow, but the hollow’s deep topography meets the criterion. Also, current owner John Cowden speculates that limestone rocks lying on the surface could have supplied the kiln(s).<sup>8</sup>

In March 1862, Samuel Lewis sold the Fort Lewis Tract of 3,402 acres to Benjamin Crawford of Staunton. There are indications the transfer occurred earlier, at least informally, such as the May 1861 date of Crawford’s survey of the tract, and the 1860 agricultural census in which Lewis reports owning only 640 acres of land. However, the 1867 land book in which Crawford first appears as owner of the land references the 1862 deed and describes the tract as “The lands of Sam’l Lewis & John Lewis Est[ate] conveyed by Sam’l Lewis rec March 14 1862.” Crawford was a prosperous Staunton merchant; historian Richard MacMaster counts him among six merchants in the town who owned between \$25,000 and \$75,000 in personal estate, a group MacMaster describes as “clearly Staunton’s major businessmen.” An 1882 history by John Lewis Peyton provides other details: “The late Benjamin Crawford was long a successful Staunton merchant, a bank officer and justice of the peace, in which capacities he was well known by the writer, who served with him in a bank directory and as a member of the county court . . . His industry and his temperance were the sources of his early success, and they nurtured in him the spirit of that independence which was the leading characteristic of his life.” At the time, Crawford acquired Fort Lewis he may have been a widower; his wife Magdalen M. Crawford died in 1849, and it is unknown whether Crawford remarried. There may have been a familial relationship between Benjamin Crawford and the Lewises. Samuel’s wife, Elizabeth,

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was a Crawford, and she and Samuel named one of their daughters Rachel Magdalen Lewis (1839-1916).<sup>9</sup>

Crawford presumably continued to live in Staunton where his principal business interests were located, although it seems likely he spent part of his time at Fort Lewis, which would have been cooler in the summer months and was closer to the major springs resorts of the region. The 1861 survey provides detailed information on the farm he acquired. It indicates a house at the location of the current house and a mill at the general location of the current mill, although the house is shown by a little block and the mill is not. The millrace is indicated, as is a dam at its upstream end, and a sulphur spring is shown on the opposite side of the river beside the "Road to Green Valley." Today's River Road is named Lewis Road and Gatewood Hollow is shown as Gates Hollow. Geographical names include Upper Bottom, Long Field, Upper Field, Hill Field, Lower Meadow, and Meadow East River, the latter on the east side of the Cowpasture. The 1862 deed reserved to the Lewis family a small lot to the northwest of the house as a family burying ground. The Lewis family burial plot is now obscured, although current owner John Cowden once discovered a grave plot outlined with bricks to the west of the house.<sup>10</sup>

A 1900 deed for the property states that it was purchased by F.L. Fultz in 1878 but that Fultz did not receive a deed at that time. F.L. Fultz was Confederate veteran Frederick Lafayette Fultz (1833-1899) who died at Fort Lewis on September 1, 1899, and was buried in Thornrose Cemetery in Staunton. Fultz's wife was Amanda Cornelia Fultz (1830-1914). The Fort Lewis Mill continued to operate during the Crawford and Fultz ownerships. In an 1880 business directory, it was listed as Crawford's Mill, owned by B. Crawford of Staunton, and in 1893, it was listed as F. L. Fultz's Fort Lewis Mill. Fort Lewis was also listed as a post office in 1893. The office may have been kept in the mill since there is no evidence of a store at the location, although it is possible the office was kept in the house. The Fort Lewis Mill also served as a polling place and is mentioned in court documents related to the contested gubernatorial election of 1882. In an 1883 deposition local farmer A. G. Cleek was asked: "Was there not whisky at Crawford's Mill on that day [Election Day 1882] and was it not kept in the mill where the vote was taken, and was it not given to the parties who voted?" Cleek replied, "I saw one man have a bottle of whisky in his pocket, and when he was in the mill [I] suppose the whisky was in there, and when he was out, of course the whisky was out." Local residents referred to the precinct interchangeably as Crawford's Mill or Fort Lewis during the period.<sup>11</sup>

Amanda C. Fultz sold the property to Dr. Haller H. Henkel in 1900. Henkel and his wife, L. Olive Henkel, sold a portion of the property on the east side of the Cowpasture River to the Highland Development Company in 1907 and 2,665 acres on the west side of the river to William and Ada J. Carleton in 1920. A 1907 plat shows developments since the survey of 1861. The survey shows two tenant houses (no longer extant) on River Road to the south of the current tenant house. One of the houses was located where the stream through Gates Hollow (not Gatewood) crossed the road. High on the mountainside at the west end of the tract is a feature described as Cave Ridge. The sulphur spring on the east side of the river is also shown. The Huffard, Fleeson, and King families later owned the property and in the late 1950s it was acquired by Robert E. Cowden, Jr., and his wife, Susannah B. Cowden, the parents of current

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owner John Cowden. Beginning in the mid-1980s the Cowden family developed the Fort Lewis Lodge on the property, opening in 1988.<sup>12</sup>

### *Architectural Significance*

Architectural documentation of Fort Lewis dates back to 1936 when Russell G. Wood visited the property on behalf of the Works Progress Administration-funded Virginia Historical Inventory. Wood's photo of the house shows the ca. 1900 porch that formerly wrapped around the front and east side, a one-story porch to the rear, and downspouts leading to the cistern buried next to the west foundation. Wood dated the house to 1855, although it is unclear whether the date reflects information provided to Wood or is the result of his belief that the property was acquired by Benjamin Crawford from Samuel Lewis in 1855 (the Lewis to Crawford deed is dated 1862, although there is some evidence for Crawford family involvement with the property beforehand). Wood interviewed a Lewis family descendant (H. L. Warwick of Stuarts Draft) for his report, and he lived nearby at Nimrod Hall (DHR no. 008-0104), so the date could derive from local tradition.<sup>13</sup>

An 1850s date agrees well with the Greek Revival detail of the house. Other two-story, two-room-deep, Greek Revival brick houses were built in the county during the decade, such as the Cash House Hotel (Samuel Gatewood House; DHR no. 008-0002) in 1855 and Warwickton ca. 1857 (NRHP 1970; DHR no. 008-0004). The Samuel Gatewood House is somewhat larger than Fort Lewis, as it is composed of a central two-story brick block with flanking one-story wings. The house is laid in six-course American bond and interior end brick chimneys rise above the central block's deck-on-hip roof with balustrade. A broad wooden plain frieze beneath an imposing box cornice surrounds the central block. A smaller frieze of similar composition runs beneath the hip roof of both flanking wings. A rear veranda is supported by Greek Revival wooden piers and is high enough off the ground to allow a cellar entrance and paved area before the entrance. The windows of the house vary in size and number of lights. The front windows have 8-over-8 double hung sash while the rear windows have 6-over-6 sash. All windows have architrave trim and those on the front have wood lintels with corner blocks. The first floor entrances have transoms and the main doors are flanked by sidelights. The full-width, one-story front Doric porch is later as there is evidence of an earlier smaller one bay, one-story porch with deck. The front porch and heavy cornice lend a visual heaviness to the Gatewood House that emphasizes its horizontal lines, a visual aspect that is not apparent at Fort Lewis. Composed of a single, five-bay, two-story block, Warwickton also is larger and more elaborate than Fort Lewis. The brick dwelling has a hipped roof and four interior end chimneys. The brickwork is in Flemish bond above the water table with American bond below, both laid with narrow mortar joints typical of the period. The pedimented Tetra-style portico, placed over the central three bays of the five-bay facade, uses Greek Ionic caps with fluted shafts resting on a plinth; the plain entablature continues around the rest of the structure. The primary entry features an extremely close adaption of Plate 28 in Asher Benjamin's *Practical House Carpenter, Fourth Edition, 1835*, which is considered an extremely rare source for architectural design at that time in rural Virginia.

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At Fort Lewis, the primary dwelling's construction in the 1850s may be reflected in the belated rise in the value of buildings on the property from \$2,000 to \$2,606 in 1866, perhaps a consequence of the unsettled nature of the John Lewis estate as suggested in the land book records until 1866. Wood noted that the mantels (or a mantel) were "fluted," the walls were "plastered and papered," and the cellar featured "four rooms with brick walls and cement floors," adding that the cellar was "at one time used as [a] kitchen and servants quarters." Architectural historian David Edwards visited the property in 1980 as part of a countywide architectural survey. Edwards noted the sophistication of the house and photographed the Greek Revival mantel in the southeast first-floor room (the "fluted" mantel noted by Wood) and other interior details. Other notable architectural features of the house include the brick pilasters or piers that mark the dimensions of the original and current entry porches; the brick chimney piers and corbeling in the basement; and the evidence for insulation of the northeast cellar room, which suggests it was used for cold storage, if not predominately for ice storage.<sup>14</sup>

Domestic outbuildings historically were located behind the house. The half-dovetail log smokehouse that contributed logs to the modern garden shed was one of these buildings, and it may have dated to the construction of the brick house. The current owner has found building foundations, perhaps a brick kitchen, in the garden area west of the house. Farm buildings were also located to the west of the house from an early date, as demonstrated by the unusually large timber-frame corncrib, although the main cattle and hay barn of bank barn form, presumably a nineteenth-century building, stood to the southeast below the house at the location of the current lodge.<sup>15</sup>

The Fort Lewis Mill, perhaps built as early as ca. 1840 and responsible for the rise in building values at that time, is utilitarian in form and construction, as were many large antebellum merchants mills in western Virginia built according to Oliver Evans's principles of mill automation. The mill has a few decorative features, however, such as the chamfering and shaping of the center post and its top block. The use of a sandstone block with multiple brachiopod fossils in the foundation also appears to have been an aesthetic decision and has a parallel in the nearby Bath County property known as The Wilderness (NRHP 2017; DHR no. 008-0011), where a ca. 1816 brick carriage house has a foundation stone with multiple brachiopod fossils. The 1870 industrial census implies and the 1880 census makes explicit that the mill was powered by a turbine wheel, an efficient and fairly novel (for the region) alternative to the more common overshot waterwheel. Not enough of the mill's machinery-related fabric survives to determine whether the turbine was an original feature or an early upgrade. The 1880 census notes that the mill had a fall of seven feet, which would have been accomplished by conveying the water by flume the final distance from the end of the headrace to the mill. The slightly sunken character of the area immediately around and down-race from the mill suggests the mill may have been sited to take advantage of a natural landform, perhaps an abandoned river channel, in order to convey the used water away.<sup>16</sup> The retention of a portion of the crib dam and mill race allow the mill's historic use to continue to be read on the landscape, which appears to have been little altered over the years.

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The only other historic mill in Bath County that has been documented is the Warm Springs Mill (DHR no. 008-0022), which is contributing to the Warm Springs and West Warm Springs Historic District (NRHP 2018; DHR no. 008-5025). The Warm Springs Mill is located on the east side of Route 645 and is adjacent to Warm Springs Run. Built circa 1901 by its owner-operator W.H. Miller, the gristmill is a three-story, gable-roofed frame building with an iron overshot Fitz waterwheel located on its north side. The wheel is still operational and the original mill race is in good condition. Interior Description: Like Fort Lewis's, the Warm Springs Mill has been converted for use as a restaurant. The latter mill, however, has retained nearly all of its original interior fixtures. The mill works, including belts, chutes, grain elevators, a wooden face wheel and gears are visible in the cellar. The first floor interior, now a dining room, is also little changed and features vertical board paneling, exposed heavy timber beams, an elaborate system of chutes, hoppers, and the millstone in its wooden vat, all in excellent condition. The former miller's office, now a pub, is located at the southeast corner. Alterations to the building include the addition of a small kitchen wing and the conversion of the third floor to apartments. A pulley and chute system is still visible in the attic.

The other industrial resource at Fort Lewis is the lime kiln or kilns in Gatewood Hollow. The round form of the kiln, indicated by the fourteen-foot-diameter ring of stones evident on the surface, suggests it was conical, a lime kiln form that may have been atypical in Virginia but more common nationally. The conical form has ancient precedents and is featured in nineteenth-century sources such as Mahan's *Elementary Course of Civil Engineering* (1837), written for the cadets of the US Military Academy. One nineteenth-century American author, Harris C. Blanchard, writing in the 1890s, illustrates a "truncated, conical lime kiln" and states it is the form "usually built in this country." The second kiln-like feature at the site, if it was indeed a kiln, is reminiscent of the rows of lime kilns built by large-scale lime manufacturing enterprises in the region, such as the Moore Lime Company kilns (DHR no. 011-0436) at Eagle Rock in Botetourt County, although the two Fort Lewis features are on a much smaller scale. Another explanation for the feature may be that it was the foundation for a charcoal shed, although its closeness to the heat of the kiln might suggest not.<sup>17</sup> Aside from those at Fort Lewis, no other historic kilns have yet been documented in Bath County in the Virginia Cultural Resources Information System (VCRIS).

Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Fort Lewis remained a large agricultural property and its assemblage of agricultural outbuildings from this era reflects changing farming practices and new technologies. These include an unusual 19<sup>th</sup>-century corner crib with two cribs separated by a covered center walkway, which certainly speaks to the farm's high level of productivity, as demonstrated in agricultural census records of the period. The two concrete-lined reservoirs on the property date to the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and were used for watering livestock as well as providing water for other farm needs. The large scale of the ca. 1950 sheep barn is indicative of the livestock maintained at the property, as well as the need for equipment storage. Also during the twentieth century, timbering was undertaken as another source of income. The log hoist in the Gatewood Hollow area was designed with a steel framework of tubular and I-section members, along with various chains and hooks that could be used for lifting logs onto a horse- or truck-pulled wagon or onto a truck bed. Today, various trails wind through

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the forest areas of Fort Lewis, and some likely follow old logging roads. A ca. 1950 tenant house, scale house, and farm shop round out the 20<sup>th</sup>-century resources. The modest tenant house is of frame construction with simple Craftsman-inspired features such as the 3-over-1 window sash and 3-light entrance door, all of which have plain casing. Both the scale house and farm shop have simple designs that indicate their utilitarian uses.

Fort Lewis entered a new phase of its architectural history in 1985 when the Cowden family initiated development of the Fort Lewis Lodge. The architect for the lodge, built in 1985-1988, was Joseph Fiorini Hirsch (1918-2015) of Dayton, Ohio. Staunton architect Doug Roller provided designs for the Pavilion, the additions to the mill, and various cabins. Still other buildings were designed by owner John Cowden.<sup>18</sup> These newer resources are concentrated a short distance southeast of the Greek Revival dwelling and its associated outbuildings, in the vicinity of the mill. Due to the property's rolling topography and landscaping, views between the two complexes are limited. The cabins are designed and sited to offer privacy as well. The cattle shed, grains bins, and pig pen, meanwhile, demonstrate that Fort Lewis's agricultural heritage continues to the present day.

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Fort Lewis  
Name of Property

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County and State

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR ID# 008-0029

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 1,799.62 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Fort Lewis  
Name of Property

Bath County, VA  
County and State

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.134420 | Longitude: -79.650870 |
| 2. Latitude: 38.152240 | Longitude: -79.630350 |
| 3. Latitude: 38.145290 | Longitude: -79.627520 |
| 4. Latitude: 38.136450 | Longitude: -79.634130 |
| 5. Latitude: 38.123280 | Longitude: -79.607440 |
| 6. Latitude: 38.106810 | Longitude: -79.619710 |

**Or**  
**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |          |           |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated area corresponds to those portions of Bath County parcel 44-0-19 to the west of the Cowpasture River and includes the river where it borders the area. The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Tax Parcel Map.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated area encompasses core and peripheral historic resources associated with the development of Fort Lewis. The area excludes a portion of the property to the east of the Cowpasture River owing to the absence of known historic resources in the area, although it does include a section of the river and the crib dam remnant in the river that is historically associated with the property. In addition to encompassing all known historic resources, the boundary includes the property' historic setting.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: J. Daniel Pezzoni  
organization: Landmark Preservation Associates  
street & number: 6 Houston St.

Fort Lewis  
Name of Property

Bath County, VA  
County and State

city or town: Lexington state: Virginia zip code: 24450  
e-mail gilespezzoni@rockbridge.net  
telephone: (540) 464-5315  
date: August 29, 2018

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Fort Lewis  
City or Vicinity: Millboro vicinity, Bath County, Virginia  
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni

Photo 1 of 18: VA\_BathCounty\_FortLewis\_0001  
Date Photographed: June 2018  
View: Fort Lewis House, view facing northwest.

Photo 2 of 18: VA\_BathCounty\_FortLewis\_0002  
Date Photographed: June 2018  
View: Fort Lewis House, view facing southwest.

Photo 3 of 18: VA\_BathCounty\_FortLewis\_0003  
Date Photographed: June 2018  
View: Fort Lewis House stair.

Fort Lewis  
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Bath County, VA  
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Photo 4 of 18: VA\_BathCounty\_FortLewis\_0004  
Date Photographed: June 2018  
View: Fort Lewis House first-floor front left room mantel.

Photo 5 of 18: VA\_BathCounty\_FortLewis\_0005  
Date Photographed: June 2018  
View: Corncrib, view facing northwest.

Photo 6 of 18: VA\_BathCounty\_FortLewis\_0006  
Date Photographed: June 2018  
View: Framing inside corncrib.

Photo 7 of 18: VA\_BathCounty\_FortLewis\_0007  
Date Photographed: June 2018  
View: Farm shop with grain bins beyond, view facing north.

Photo 8 of 18: VA\_BathCounty\_FortLewis\_0008  
Date Photographed: June 2018  
View: Scale house with outdoors scale to left, view facing north.

Photo 9 of 18: VA\_BathCounty\_FortLewis\_0009  
Date Photographed: June 2018  
View: Sheep barn, view facing north/northeast.

Photo 10 of 18: VA\_BathCounty\_FortLewis\_0010  
Date Photographed: June 2018  
View: Fort Lewis Mill with pond at end of headrace to right, view facing north.

Photo 11 of 18: VA\_BathCounty\_FortLewis\_0011  
Date Photographed: June 2018  
View: Fort Lewis Mill first-floor interior.

Photo 12 of 18: VA\_BathCounty\_FortLewis\_0012  
Date Photographed: June 2018  
View: Crib dam remnant.

Photo 13 of 18: VA\_BathCounty\_FortLewis\_0013  
Date Photographed: June 2018  
View: Tenant house, view facing north/northwest.

Photo 14 of 18: VA\_BathCounty\_FortLewis\_0014  
Date Photographed: June 2018  
View: Lime kiln(s) ruin with ring of stones.

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Photo 15 of 18: VA\_BathCounty\_FortLewis\_0015

Date Photographed: June 2018

View: A typical logging road in the west end of the nominated area with the log hoist on the right. View facing northeast.

Photo 16 of 18: VA\_BathCounty\_FortLewis\_0016

Date Photographed: June 2018

View: Core area of the resort with the John Lewis Cabin (left), Fort Lewis Lodge (center), and the Pavilion (right). Cliffs along the Cowpasture River in the eastern part of the nominated area lie beyond. The view, taken from near the sheep barn, faces east/southeast.

Photo 17 of 18: VA\_BathCounty\_FortLewis\_0017

Date Photographed: June 2018

View: A sitting area inside the resort with (from left to right) the office and gift shop, Fort Lewis Lodge with its silo, a shed, and the gable end of the Walatoola Cabin. View facing west/southwest.

Photo 18 of 18: VA\_BathCounty\_FortLewis\_0018

Date Photographed: June 2018

View: Scene from the front yard of the tenant house with River Road in the foreground, the Fort Lewis state highway marker in the near distance, and bluffs along the Cowpasture River and the peaks of Shenandoah Mountain beyond. View facing northeast.

**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. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Morton, *Annals of Bath County*, 15-17; Sorrells, "Fort Lewis Story," 8-9. The "Fort Lewis" Virginia Highway Marker states, "Col. Charles Lewis, younger brother of Gen. Andrew Lewis, acquired 950 acres of land on the Cowpasture River in June 1750." Sorrells states the land was transferred to Charles from his father in 1750 (p. 14). Birth and death dates for Lewis family members are from Irvin Frazier's *The Family of John Lewis, Pioneer* (1985) and differ in some respects from dates in other sources. The research on which this report is based was sponsored by John Cowden of Fort Lewis Lodge and his son David Cowden. Assistance was also provided by Ron Jenkins with the Virginia Loggers Association; logger Tracy Martin; and Matthew Gottlieb, Lena McDonald, and Aubrey Von Lindern of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Lewis family papers at the University of Virginia and wills and other

Fort Lewis  
Name of Property

Bath County, VA  
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records at the Augusta County Courthouse in Staunton have the possibility to shed additional light on the history of the property.

<sup>2</sup> John Cowden personal communication; "Fort Lewis" (Virginia Highway Marker D24); Koontz, *Virginia Frontier*, 127-128. Koontz speculated the fort stood near present-day Salem, Virginia, presumably on the basis of the many famous Lewis family members who lived in that vicinity.

<sup>3</sup> Sorrells, "Fort Lewis Story," 16-23; Albion and Dodson, *Philip Vickers Fithian: Journal, 1775-1776*, 154. The house described by Fithian in 1775 no longer stands.

<sup>4</sup> *Richmond Whig*, January 26, 1872; Martin, *New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia*, 322-323; Trout, *Upper James Atlas*, 96.

<sup>5</sup> Trout, *Upper James Atlas*, 97.

<sup>6</sup> Tracy Martin personal communication; US census; Bath County land books; Martin, *New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia*, 320.

<sup>7</sup> US census; Bath County land books; "Fort Lewis Plantation." In 1828 a James Lewis owned the property now known as Riverside just north of the Fort Lewis tract (Bath County Deed Book 7, p. 333). The Crawford family may have been involved with Fort Lewis by 1860. A number of Crawfords lived in Bath County during the period.

<sup>8</sup> John Cowden personal communication; Bick, *Geology of the Williamsville Quadrangle*, 26, 36

<sup>9</sup> Bath County Deed Book 12, p. 267, and Deed Book 19, p. 309; Waddell, *Annals of Augusta County*, 208; MacMaster, *Augusta County History*, 21; Peyton, *History of Augusta County*, 315; Vogt and Kethley, *Augusta County Marriages*, 66; Hullihen, *History of the Trinity Churchyard*, 50. Duncan Byrd, who prepared a chain of title for the property in the mid-twentieth century, notes an 1868 land book notation that stated the land was conveyed to Crawford by Lewis on June 11, 1867 (Byrd, "Abstract of Title of Ft Lewis Farm Property," 1).

<sup>10</sup> John Cowden personal communication; Bath County Deed Book 12, p. 267, and Deed Book 19, p. 309.

<sup>11</sup> Bath County Deed Book 19, p. 254; Findagrave website; Chataigne, *Chataigne's Virginia Business Directory and Gazetteer, 1880-81*, 124; Chataigne, *Chataigne's Virginia Gazetteer and Classified Business Directory, 1893-94*, 249, 251; Massey v. Wise, 405.

<sup>12</sup> Bath County Deed Book 19, p. 305, Deed Book 23, p. 403, Deed Book 31, p. 410, and Deed Book 67, p. 353; Edwards, "Fort Lewis;" Fort Lewis Lodge website.

<sup>13</sup> Wood, "Fort Lewis Old Home."

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*; Oxendine, *Bath County*, 92-93; Loth, *Virginia Landmarks Register*, 57; Edwards, "Fort Lewis." Another interpretation of the 1866 building value rise is that it reflects construction of the mill (discussed below) or construction of the house in the 1860s, perhaps by Benjamin Crawford. Construction during the Civil War or its immediate aftermath, however, would seem unlikely.

<sup>15</sup> John Cowden personal communication.

<sup>16</sup> Pezzoni, "The Wilderness," 7.

<sup>17</sup> Mahan, *Elementary Course of Civil Engineering*, xiii; Blanchard, *Lime and Lime-Mortar*, 54.

<sup>18</sup> John and David Cowden personal communication.



Virginia Cultural Resource Information System

LOCATION MAP

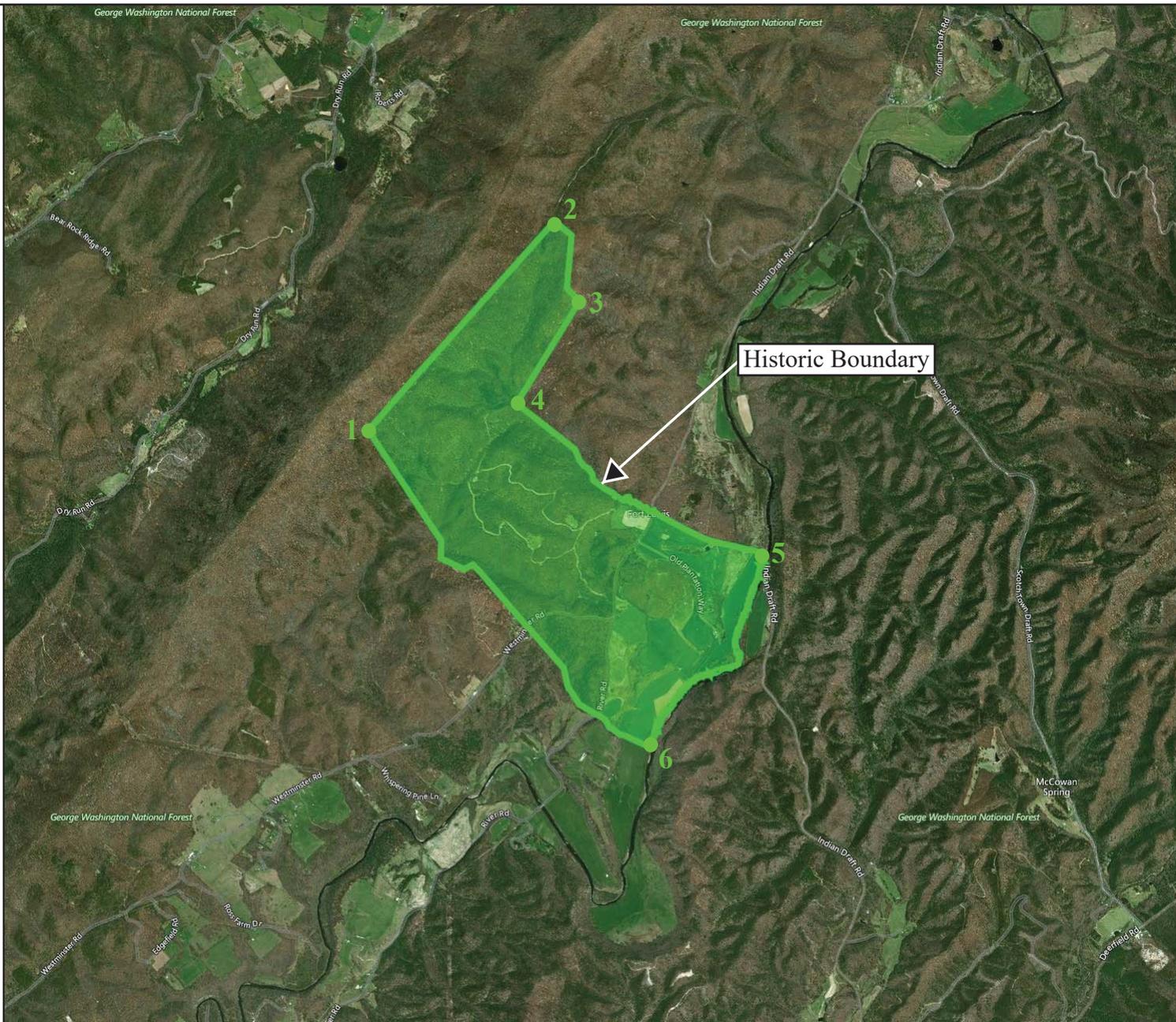
Fort Lewis

Bath County, VA

DHR No. 008-0029

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

- 1. Latitude: 38.134420  
Longitude: -79.650870
- 2. Latitude: 38.152240  
Longitude: -79.630350
- 3. Latitude: 38.145290  
Longitude: -79.627520
- 4. Latitude: 38.136450  
Longitude: -79.634130
- 5. Latitude: 38.123280  
Longitude: -79.607440
- 6. Latitude: 38.106810  
Longitude: -79.619710



Feet



1:72,224 / 1"=6,019 Feet

Title: Digital Location Map

Date: 11/13/2018

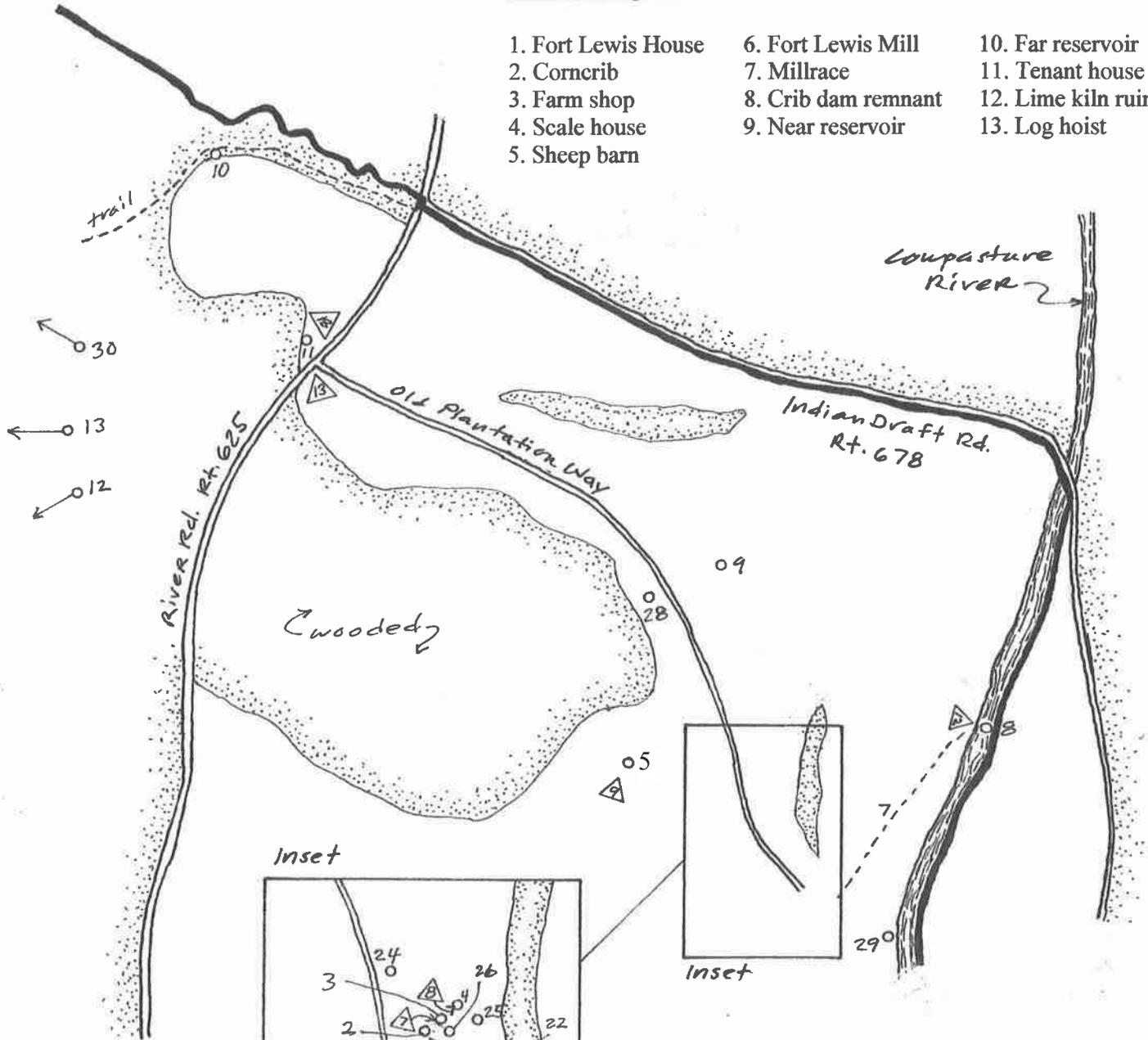
DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

Resources keyed to nomination inventory. Triangular markers indicate number and direction of view of nomination photos. Location of resources approximate. Map not to scale. Heavy line indicates portion of nomination boundary (full boundaries shown on Location Map).

Contributing Resources

- |                     |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Fort Lewis House | 6. Fort Lewis Mill  | 10. Far reservoir   |
| 2. Corncrib         | 7. Millrace         | 11. Tenant house    |
| 3. Farm shop        | 8. Crib dam remnant | 12. Lime kiln ruins |
| 4. Scale house      | 9. Near reservoir   | 13. Log hoist       |
| 5. Sheep barn       |                     |                     |



Non-contributing Resources

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 14. Fort Lewis Lodge     | 23. Garden/chicken house |
| 15. Pavilion             | 24. Cattle shed          |
| 16. John Lewis Cabin     | 25. Grain bins           |
| 17. Tall Timbers Cabin   | 26. Water tank           |
| 18. Uplands Cabin        | 27. Pig pen              |
| 19. Walatoola Cabin      | 28. Wheel Sculpture      |
| 20. Office and Gift Shop | 29. Sauna                |
| 21. Shed                 | 30. Camping shelter      |
| 22. Garden shed          |                          |

**TAX PARCEL MAP**  
Fort Lewis  
Bath County, VA  
DHR No. 008-0029

Historic Boundary



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community