

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	2	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
WORK IN PROGRESS AGRICULTURE	storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Georgian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	STONE
walls	WOOD
roof	METAL
other	BRICK

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past fifty years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

Ca. 1775-ca. 1901

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
#
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record
#

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property approximately 25 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	248170	4274530	3	18	248230 4273900
2	18	248400	4274160	4	18	247910 4274120

— See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>J. Daniel Pezzoni and Leslie A. Giles</u>	date	<u>April 20, 1997</u>
organization	<u>Landmark Preservation Associates</u>	telephone	<u>(540) 366-0787</u>
street & number	<u>PO Box 7825</u>	zip code	<u>24019-0825</u>
city or town	<u>Roanoke</u> state <u>VA</u>		

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

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

name	<u>Robert L. Ashcom</u>		
street & number	<u>20509 Clover Hill Road</u>	telephone	<u>(540) 937-3121</u>
city or town	<u>Jeffersonton</u>	state	<u>Virginia</u> zip code <u>22734</u>

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

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

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Maple Springs
Culpeper Co., Va.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

Maple Springs, located in the Lakota vicinity of Culpeper County, Virginia, is a story-and-a-half dwelling comprised of three sections designated in the floor plan that accompanies this nomination as Unit A (west-end or left-hand section when viewed from the front), Unit B (middle section), and Unit C (east-end or right-hand section, also called the kitchen). Unit A, which is of heavy mortise-and-tenon frame construction, and Unit B, which is of planked log construction, appear to have been built during the second half of the 1700s and joined together to form a hall-parlor-plan dwelling in the mid-1800s. Unit C, of lighter and cruder frame construction, was originally a detached or semi-detached unit that was joined to the house around 1900 to serve as a kitchen. Exterior weatherboard cladding now unifies the three sections, which are covered by metal-sheathed gable roofs. Large fieldstone chimneys rise on the unit A and B gable ends, one with a brick stack. Each of the three units contains one ground-level room and one garret room. Other interior features include two boxed stairs, exposed ceiling joists, simple mantels, wood and iron door hardware, and a variety of historic wall finishes.

The dwelling's surroundings are characterized by pasture land dotted with trees. Two noncontributing concrete-block barns dating to the third quarter of the twentieth century stand near the house. Farther afield, outside the nominated parcel of approximately twenty-five acres, are a number of buildings and structures related to the later twentieth-century history of the farm including a 1940s concrete-block house and accompanying frame garage, a poured-concrete springhouse, a modern frame stable, and miscellaneous frame sheds, as well as a cemetery with dated McDonald family graves from the mid-1800s to the present. A farm lane that apparently dates to the nineteenth century connects Maple Springs to Clover Hill Road (State Route 710).

Inventory

1. Maple Springs. 2nd half 18th c. and later. Contributing building.
2. Barn. 3rd quarter 20th c. Noncontributing building.
3. Barn. 3rd quarter 20th c. Noncontributing building.

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Maple Springs
Culpeper Co., Va.

Description (continued)

Description

House: Structure

Unit A is of heavy mortise-and-tenon frame construction with straight-sawn studs and diagonal corner braces. Roman numeral builder's marks on framing members are evident where exterior siding has pulled away from the structure. The original studs and interior finish of Unit A's east wall have been removed, evidenced by the regularly spaced mortise pockets still visible in the lower surface of the exposed plate of the former wall. This evidence of a former wall indicates that the building was either moved to the site and attached to a pre-existing building (Unit B), negating the need for the east wall; or the adjoining Unit B was a later addition that structurally superseded the frame wall, so that the studs could be removed and reused elsewhere. The hammered point and shaft of a hand-wrought nail is visible in one of the former wall's mortise pockets. Unit A's roof structure is comprised of peeled pole common rafters butted and nailed at the ridge with machine-cut nails.

Unit B, attached to the east end of Unit A, employs a relatively unusual structural technique known as planked log construction. The technique has been documented infrequently in Virginia's Central Piedmont and more commonly in the Tidewater and Coastal Plain regions of Virginia and North Carolina. At Maple Springs the planked logs, typically 10"-12" wide and 5"-6" thick, are hewn on all four surfaces and have narrow gaps between them daubed with clay and lime. A wooden peg inserted between two logs on the north elevation next to the doorway may represent a structural reinforcement of the logs at the opening, or it may be part of a more extensive system of pegs intended to give the walls additional rigidity. Along Unit B's east wall, the logs are interrupted for a large fireplace opening that spans about 10'. This opening was later partially enclosed to create a smaller fireplace opening. The corners of the building exhibit what appears to be full-dovetail notching. The roof is constructed with hewn common rafters with collar beams and pegged ridge joints.

Unit C was originally a freestanding unit that was joined to the northeast corner of Unit B around 1900, at which time Unit C's west wall was removed. Early in the twentieth century, a pantry was added between the front corners of units B and C, filling in a space where the south flank of Unit B's chimney was formerly visible. Unit C's extant walls feature crudely hewn posts, studs, and plates of low-grade timber, with diagonal corner braces of circular sawn boards notched into the studs. Its roof structure features peeled pole rafters nailed to a common ridge board. The westernmost portion of the roof structure (where the connection to Unit B was made)

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Maple Springs
Culpeper Co., Va.

Description (continued)

is of crudely executed circular-sawn members that are clearly differentiated from the original structure.

House: Exterior Finishes

Foundations under all three units consist of unmortared stacked fieldstones that appear to have been laid as a continuous base rather than as separate piers. Most exterior walls are sheathed in circular-sawn, unbeaded weatherboards (typical 4"-5" reveal) affixed with machine-cut and -headed cross-grained iron nails. Evidence of white paint or whitewash remains on most of the heavily weathered cladding. Wire nails have been used for twentieth-century repairs to siding and corner boards. Unmolded boxed cornices extend along the front and rear elevations of units A and B, but are absent from Unit C. On the east gable end of Unit B (visible principally from the adjoining garret of Unit C), early wide-reveal (8"-10") unbeaded weatherboards affixed with wrought nails appear to be older than the building's other weatherboards, and may represent original sheathing. In one location on the north wall of Unit B where the cladding is missing are regularly spaced (every 4" or so) square nail holes along the edge of a log face. These holes suggest the former presence of batten strips over the gaps between the logs, an original exterior finish that was altered when the unit was weatherboarded. Vertical nailing strips are used to attach the weatherboards to the underlying log structure. Red coloration on some south-elevation logs may represent an early paint color, or the coloration may be due to iron oxides in clay daubing washing out onto the log surface.

The house has four exterior braced batten doors. Unit B's front or south elevation door retains a wrought-iron Suffolk-type thumb latch (typical of the 1700-1840) attached to the door with hand-wrought rose-head nails (typical before 1800). Unit B's north door has been altered by the insertion of a fixed glass pane in the door's upper third. Unit C's door is secured with a wooden lift latch and an old dead bolt. All of the doors have remnants of white paint or whitewash on their exteriors. The house has few windows. The front elevation has only two--a narrow four-over-four-sash window next to Unit B's door, and a six-over-six-sash window next to Unit C's door. A small single-pane gable window lights the garret of Unit A, and a four-pane transom-like window, possibly salvaged from another building, is diagonally installed in the gable of Unit B. Most glass panes in extant windows have been broken or otherwise damaged.

A fieldstone chimney with sloped shoulders rises on the west gable end of Unit A. A second chimney, which rises on the east gable end of Unit B and is now enclosed by the extension of Unit C, has a fieldstone base with prism mortar joints and a stack constructed of bricks laid in

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Maple Springs
Culpeper Co., Va.

Description (continued)

concrete. The brick stack is believed to have been added in the 1930s or 1940s; the stones from the original stack are piled in front of the house.

House: Interior

Each ground floor room features at least one doorway that leads to the outside, and one doorway that communicates with the adjoining room(s). Boxed corner stairs link the upper and lower levels of units B and C. Aside from these stairs, the only intrusion into the otherwise rectangular ground floor room plans is a beaded matchboard pantry closet in Unit C (an early twentieth-century addition). Irregularities in the ceiling joists of Unit A near the chimney suggest the former presence of a stair or garret ladder in this location. There is no garret-level connection between units B and C. Interior walls and ceilings were formerly whitewashed.

The first-floor room in Unit A would likely have served as the principal chamber or bedroom of the hall-parlor-plan house, with limited access into and through the space (the room served as a bedroom in the early twentieth century). The room has a variety of wall finishes, including overlapping beaded weatherboards attached with hand-wrought nails. These weatherboards exhibit nail holes from some former application, suggesting they may be reused exterior cladding boards (although they are virtually un-weathered). The other wall surfaces include the exposed logs (adze marks still visible) and daubing of Unit B, and circular-sawn (very large blade) tongue-and-groove boards, typically 8"-10" wide, attached with cross-grained, face-pinched, machine-cut and -headed iron nails (typical of the 1810-1850 period) and laid horizontally on the room's south and west walls. The room's beaded ceiling joists support gauged and undercut tongue-and-groove straight-sawn boards. The room's exterior doorway is framed with unmolded stock boards painted a dark olive-brown color, and the door is secured by a cast metal rim lock. The door between units A and B exhibits weathering that suggests a former exterior exposure. The fireplace has exposed stonework above and below a mantel shelf supported by simple carved wooden brackets.

The first-floor room in Unit B would likely have served as the principal gathering room of the hall-parlor-plan house, containing most of the family's indoor activities (dining, entertaining, domestic chores) and providing interior connections and access to other rooms, including the adjoining parlor and garrets (the room served as a living room and bedroom in the early twentieth century). Covering the floor are remnants of a felt-based floor cloth or painted area rug laid down in the 1940s (pages from a 1940s magazine have been found under it) with an abstract floral pattern in a wide range of colors including dark brown, olive, tan, yellow ocher,

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Maple Springs
Culpeper Co., Va.

Description (continued)

green, red, orange, and light blue. The exposed logs of the room's walls are planed smooth and have horizontal batten strips covering the gaps between logs. The battens are approximately 2-1/2" wide, with beading along their top and bottom edges, and are attached with hand-wrought nails made from slit stock/nail rod, a technology used in use in American from about 1700 to about 1820. There are also a few later (replacement) circular-sawn battens approximately 4"-5" wide, attached with cross-grained, face-pitched, machine-cut and -headed iron nails, typically in use between 1810 and 1850. The ceiling has hewn and bevelled joists that support gauged and undercut straight-sawn boards. Over the front door are a hand-wrought iron hook and a wooden hook that together form a gun rack. Also in the room are several clothes hooks made from thread spools. The initials "EM" are carved into a log to the right side of the door between units A and B. These may stand for Ellen McDonald (ca. 1822-1873), the only known occupant of the house with the initials EM. Unit B's fireplace has a stone surround with prism mortar joints, and a simple mantel shelf painted dark olive-brown. The gap in the wall logs associated with an earlier and much larger chimney in the same general location as the present chimney is covered over with horizontal boards.

The boxed winder stair in the southwest corner of the room has an enclosure of wide beaded boards installed flush (not tongue-and-groove) and laid diagonally along the east side and vertically along the north side of the stair enclosure. The stair has a braced beaded batten door affixed to the frame with hand-wrought H&L hinges and secured with wooden lift and pivot latches. On the inside face of this door are a lightly incised heart figure and several tick marks presumably carved by children. Strips of blue paper were glued over the insides of the (very narrow) gaps between the boards of the enclosure, presumably to eliminate drafts. Underneath the stair is a small storage closet with a beaded batten door affixed to the frame with hand-wrought butterfly hinges and accented by a heart- or spade-shaped keyhole escutcheon (the actual locking mechanism has been removed). Inside this closet, the battens over the gaps between the logs have a quarter-round molding profile, rather than the beading on the battens in the rest of the room.

The floor level of the first-floor room in Unit C, which functioned as a kitchen, is slightly lower than the other sections of the house. Except for the room's west wall, which is dominated by the stone chimney and log wall of Unit B, and the southwest corner, which is obscured by the pantry addition, the walls are finished with circular-sawn tongue-and-groove boards laid horizontally and affixed with machine-cut nails. Like the other rooms, the kitchen is whitewashed, although a bare spot in the northeast corner suggests the former location of a corner cupboard. The east wall near the southeast corner bears the scrawled signature "Florine" and other (illegible)

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Maple Springs
Culpeper Co., Va.

Description (continued)

inscriptions. The ceiling has log joists, some with intact bark, that support the circular sawn tongue-and-groove boards of the garret above. The room does not have a fireplace; instead, the exposed stone of the chimney, painted white, has a flue hole that indicates prior use of a cook stove. A boxed straight-run stair rises along the east wall and has an enclosure of circular-sawn, vertical beaded boards painted or washed a dark red color. The stair's beaded batten door is hung on butt hinges with leather washers. Other stair features include metal clothes hooks, a wood pivot catch, and a scrawled signature--"Tommy"--on the door. The pantry closet is constructed of narrow horizontal beaded matchboard painted dark red inside and out. The pantry door is hung on machine-made strap hinges and is secured with an iron rim lock and a wood pivot catch. Inside is wood shelving supported by metal brackets.

The three garrets were probably used as sleeping lofts as well as storage and work areas (a bedroom use is suggested by cut- and wire-nail clothes hooks nailed into the partition wall between the unit A and B garrets). Flooring consists of wide, irregular tongue-and-groove boards that serve as ceilings for the rooms below. The walls and ceilings are characterized by exposed structural elements, except along the partition wall between units A and B, which is a modified exterior gable. As in the stair to the Unit B garret, the wall between the unit A and B garrets has several sheathing boards with paper (pink rather than blue) glued over the gaps between the boards. The gaps between the floor boards in the roof infill between units B and C are covered with battens.

Integrity Statement

Maple Springs preserves many significant architectural features dating from the second half of the eighteenth century to the middle of the nineteenth, giving the house a high degree of integrity for this period. Unit C, which probably dates to the second half of the nineteenth century but was added to the house around 1900, and the early-1900s infill between the kitchen and main house are in deteriorated condition and will be removed as part of a planned rehabilitation of the house.

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**Maple Springs
Culpeper Co., Va.**

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Maple Springs, located in the Little Fork area of Culpeper County, Virginia, is a vernacular dwelling of considerable architectural and historical interest. The house is comprised of two originally free-standing one-room dwellings, one of planked log construction and the other mortise-and-tenon frame, with hand-wrought nails and door hardware and other architectural features that suggest a date of construction during the second half of the eighteenth century. In their original context the dwellings may have been occupied by leaseholders who farmed the Little Fork tracts of the wealthy Beverley family. The house was assembled from the pre-existing dwellings by Thomas McDonald II, probably in the 1850s, and around 1900 the McDonald family added a kitchen wing, giving the house its present three-part form. In 1850, one of the pre-existing dwellings appears to have been occupied by Susan Bundy and her children, a free black family. The McDonald's house attests to the family's social standing as small farmers in a prosperous agricultural region dominated by wealthy plantation owners.

Justification of Criteria

Maple Springs is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture for its planked log construction and its vernacular Georgian-influenced interiors. The property is also eligible under Criterion A in the area of social history as illustrative of the domestic accommodations of the county's small farmers of the antebellum period and perhaps also free blacks and leaseholders of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The property's period of significance extends from about 1775, representing the approximate dates of construction of the dwelling's earliest constituent parts during the second half of the eighteenth century, to about 1901, encompassing the addition of the kitchen at about the time of the death of Susan McDonald in 1901. The property possesses local significance.

Acknowledgments

A number of individuals and organizations assisted in the preparation of this report, foremost among them Robert and Susan Ashcom of Maple Springs. Others who provided assistance include McDonald descendants Margaret E. Barron and Ruth M. Wamstad; David Edwards, Susan Smead, Marc Wagner, and John Wells of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources; and architect Peter Serafin.

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Maple Springs
Culpeper Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

Historical Background

Maple Springs's early history is uncertain, owing to the loss of key court records pertaining to the property, and the likelihood the house was assembled from earlier dwellings of uncertain provenance. However, sufficient documentary and architectural evidence survives to piece together a coherent hypothesis about the property's development, a hypothesis that becomes more definite over time.

In 1815, Culpeper County resident Thomas McDonald I (1776-1850) purchased 216.75 acres from James Ross of the town of Fredericksburg for one dollar. The parcel was described as "Corbin's Lott . . . subject to a lease claimed by a certain John Corbin."¹ County deed and tax records are unclear as to how Ross acquired the land and the nature of John Corbin's association with it, but a deed made two years earlier for a nearby acreage sold by Ross to Thomas McDonald's brother Lott provides some clues. The deed refers to a "parcel of land whereon the said Lott now resides being part of a greater tract lying in the little Fork of Rappahannock River . . . purchased by the said Ross and others of Munford Beverley."² County deed records do not record this sale, but they do record a sale from Munford Beverley's brother McKenzie to Ross in 1805.³ Munford, McKenzie, and several other brothers inherited large tracts in the Little Fork area from their father, Robert Beverley of Blandfield, Essex County, upon his death in 1800. The Beverley family began to acquire land in the Little Fork area in 1719. If the land Thomas McDonald acquired from James Ross in 1815 originally belonged to the Beverley family, it may have come from William Beverley's "Ursulana" tract of 2,500 acres, patented in 1722. Beverley is known to have divided this tract into 100-acre leaseholds, and the leasing of "lots" by absentee landowners to small farmers--common in Virginia during the eighteenth century--continued in the Little Fork area into the early nineteenth century.⁴

Also uncertain is the date of construction of the Maples Springs house and its constituent parts.

¹ Culpeper County Deed Book GG, p. 338.

² Culpeper County Deed Book GG, p. 53.

³ Culpeper County Deed Book AA, p. 269.

⁴ Dennis, *Wakefield Manor*, 11; Jones, *Eighteenth Century Perspective*, 111-112; Scheel, *Culpeper*, 19; and Isaac, *Transformation of Virginia*, 133.

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Maple Springs
Culpeper Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

Curiously, Thomas McDonald's 216.75-acre parcel appears in county tax records for only one year, 1824 (perhaps the Corbin lease complicated its tax status). No improvements are listed for the property, but the record states that McDonald lived "on the land," so it may be assumed that his dwelling was considered too poor to be assigned a value.⁵ Presumably one or both units of the present house stood on the property by the mid-1820s, based on the eighteenth-century character of their simple Georgian-influenced styling and hand-wrought hardware.

Evidence for the period of the dwelling's assembly into its present form is also circumstantial. According to the 1850 census enumeration for Thomas McDonald's household it contained two families. McDonald's own family consisted of himself, his second wife Jemima (1778-1852), and his three youngest children by his first wife: Frances (or Fannie, 1815-1899), Ellen (ca. 1822-1873), and Thomas II (1822-1899). Also enumerated was the free black family of Susan Bundy (aged 53), Isabella (aged 25), and Addison (aged 5), presumably her daughter and son. (One Warner Bundy, a twenty-eight year old free black farm laborer and presumably another son of Susan's, lived nearby.) The presence of two families, one white and one black, suggests two separate dwellings.

By the 1860 census, Thomas I and Jemima had died and Thomas II had become the head of a household comprising himself, his wife Susan (1823-1901), five children, and Thomas's sisters Frances and Ellen. Susan Bundy, described as a "washerwoman," had moved out of the household to a nearby location. The reduction from two families to one, and Thomas II and Susan's need for a larger dwelling to hold their growing family, may account for the changes the house apparently underwent during the mid-nineteenth century. The two separate dwellings suggested by the 1850 census would have been joined together and re-sided after Jemima's death in 1852, creating the present house (minus its kitchen wing, added later).

The federal census and other sources provide insights into the lifestyle and farming practices of one of the county's smallest landowning families. In 1850, Thomas McDonald I's farm of seventy-one improved and thirty-six unimproved acres was valued at \$981, the least valuable farm on its enumeration sheet. The McDonalds practiced diversified agriculture on a small scale, raising horses, sheep, and swine, and crops dominated by Indian corn, presumably for the feeding of the farm's meager herd of five cattle and two milk cows. Ten years later, under Thomas II's management, the number of livestock had been reduced but considerably more corn

⁵ Culpeper County Land Book 1824A.

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Maple Springs
Culpeper Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

and other crops were raised on the farm, and the farm's value had risen to \$1,450 (placing it third from the bottom in value on its enumeration sheet). The McDonalds apparently worked their farm without slave labor, since the 1860 slave schedules does not list Thomas McDonald II as a slaveowner, although it is possible the family hired slaves when needed.

Thomas McDonald I's will and estate inventory attest to his modest means. He divided his farm equally among his son Thomas II and his daughters Frances and Ellen, and to Frances he bequeathed a milk cow and to Ellen a "bay mare called Vic as hers forever." To his "children in the Western Country" (west of the Appalachians) he gave a dollar each to be raised from his estate sale. His personal belongings included four beds, assorted furniture, "crockeware" and "wood ware," and a "bee stand" among other farm items, stock, and crops.⁶

The Civil War may have touched Maple Springs directly. In August 1862, Union and Confederate units skirmished at Freeman's Ford, located three-quarters of a mile east of the house at the modern-day community of Lakota. At one point in the fighting, the federal force attacked a Confederate supply train in a cornfield about a mile from the ford, action that may have occurred in the general vicinity of the house. A WPA researcher who documented Maple Springs in 1937 recorded the following local traditions:

"During the War Between the States, the Little Fork Rangers, a number of whom were McDonalds, had their picket lines across the ridge in front of the house. Later when General Sedgewick with his force of Federals occupied the country, the family was forced to leave their home. When they returned they found very little left to eat, as was the case all over the South. However, before the family left, a Northern captain in charge of the house, although he had allowed all the chickens and turkeys to be killed or eaten and all the food stolen, when he heard the little girl of the family say that she was hungry, went back to his camp and sent generous supplies to her."

Maple Springs suffered with neighboring farms, although the fact that the McDonalds did not own slaves allowed them to avoid the loss of personal property experienced by the county's

⁶ Wamstad, "History of the Alexander McDannald Family of Little Fork."

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Maple Springs
Culpeper Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

larger farmers.⁷

Successive generations of the McDonald family occupied Maple Springs during the latter part of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth. Several family stories have come down relating to Thomas McDonald II. He is said to have been a short man, requiring an earthen ramp or mound to mount a horse, and he played the fiddle to entertain guests at Fauquier White Sulphur Springs, located between Maple Springs and Warrenton, after the Civil War. Thomas II and his sisters lived at Maple Springs until their deaths, after which Thomas II and Susan's children Margaret Ann, Dudley, Thomas Langdon, Alexander Hamilton, and John Robert McDonald and their spouses constituted the household. (Margaret Ann and Thomas Langdon, like their father, were extremely short.)⁸

Margaret E. Barron, a granddaughter of Dudley McDonald, recalls the house and its surroundings as they were during the second quarter of the twentieth century. Unit A was used by the McDonald family as a bedroom, Unit B as a living room and bedroom, Unit C as a kitchen and dining room, the units A and B garrets as bedrooms, and the Unit C garret for canned goods storage. Wood stoves were used to heat the house and lamps served as illumination. Several buildings stood near the house, including a henhouse, a barn where livestock were housed and corn was stored, and a small twentieth-century shed that stood near the kitchen until the spring of 1997. Directly behind the house were plantings of daffodils, "old-time rose bushes," and other flowers, and farther to the rear extended a vegetable garden with a walkway down the center and an asparagus bed. There were also grape vines and fruit trees nearby.⁹

The last family members to occupy the house are believed to have been John Robert (1861-1947) and his wife Florence (Dolly) McFarland Hawkins McDonald. Later, a family by the name of Frazier may have lived there, and a family by the name of Brown are also thought to have

⁷ Sutherland, *Seasons of War*, 185; *Official Records*, ser. 1 vol. 12, 288-289 and 316-317; and Thompson, "Maple Springs."

⁸ Ruth M. Wamstad personal communication, April 10, 1997; Wamstad, "History of the Alexander McDannald Family of Little Fork."

⁹ Margaret E. Barron personal communication, June 14, 1997.

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Culpeper Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

occupied the house at some point during the second quarter of the twentieth century. A son of Dudley McDonald, George Dudley McDonald (1896-1985), owned the farm for much of the second half of the twentieth century, during which period the old house was used for hay and feed storage. The Ashcoms acquired Maple Springs from the heirs of George McDonald's widow in 1995.¹⁰

Architectural Analysis

The evidence for the eighteenth-century date of Maple Springs's component parts is bolstered by the dwelling's original architectural features: hand-wrought door hardware and nails, chamfered and boldly molded interior woodwork, steep roof pitch, and the planked log construction of one of its units. Other planked log houses in the area--such as the ca. 1800 Burgandine House, one of the town of Culpeper's oldest surviving dwellings--and examples in North Carolina date to the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century. The character of the decorative treatments at Maple Springs suggests Georgian-style influence, which is also indicative of an eighteenth-century date of construction. By the first decade of the nineteenth century, the Federal style had come into use for the county's larger residences, and presumably the later style supplanted the Georgian style for smaller houses soon after.¹¹

For a relatively small building, Maple Springs has undergone a complex evolution since its original construction. The architectural evidence suggests that Unit A and possibly also Unit B were moved to their present location to be assembled into the present dwelling in the mid-1800s. The east gable end of Unit A was removed before the unit was joined to Unit B (the mortises for the former wall studs are still visible on the underside of Unit A's gable-end ceiling joist). The dwelling also displays considerable evidence of architectural recycling and economizing illustrative of the McDonald family's meager economic means. Beaded weatherboards--presumably some of those that originally clad the exterior of Unit A--were reused as sheathing boards on the interior of the unit--and the dwelling's floors exhibit generations of patching, rather than wholesale replacement.

¹⁰ Ruth M. Wamstad personal communication, April 10, 1997; Culpeper County Deed Book 552, p. 226.

¹¹ Barden, "Burgandine House;" Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture*, 145; and Loth, *Virginia Landmarks Register*, 111.

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**Maple Springs
Culpeper Co., Va.**

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the Maple Springs nominated parcel are depicted on the 1:200-scale map that accompanies this nomination.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the Maple Springs nominated parcel are defined by natural and man-made features such as property and survey lines and a creek. They include the historic house known as Maple Springs and exclude as many adjoining modern agricultural buildings as possible. The twenty-five acres of farmland included in the parcel represent the core area of the lands farmed by the McDonald family in the nineteenth century.

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Culpeper Co., Va.

PHOTOGRAPHS

All photographs are of: Maple Springs (VDHR File No. 023-0023)
All negatives filed at the Library of Virginia, Richmond.

1. CREDIT: J. Daniel Pezzoni DATE: Winter/Spring 1997
VIEW OF: Front (south) elevation. View looking northwest.
NEG. NO.: VDHR # 15511 PHOTO 1 of 7

2. CREDIT: J. Daniel Pezzoni DATE: Winter/Spring 1997
VIEW OF: West gable end and north elevation. View looking east.
NEG. NO.: VDHR # 15511 PHOTO 2 of 7

3. CREDIT: J. Daniel Pezzoni DATE: Winter/Spring 1997
VIEW OF: Fireplace in Unit B.
NEG. NO.: VDHR # 15511 PHOTO 3 of 7

4. CREDIT: J. Daniel Pezzoni DATE: Winter/Spring 1997
VIEW OF: Stair in Unit C.
NEG. NO.: VDHR # 15511 PHOTO 4 of 7

5. CREDIT: J. Daniel Pezzoni DATE: Winter/Spring 1997
VIEW OF: Stair in Unit B.
NEG. NO.: VDHR # 15511 PHOTO 5 of 7

6. CREDIT: J. Daniel Pezzoni DATE: Winter/Spring 1997
VIEW OF: House and its surroundings. View looking northwest.
NEG. NO.: VDHR # 15511 PHOTO 6 of 7

7. CREDIT: J. Daniel Pezzoni DATE: Winter/Spring 1997
VIEW OF: Fireplace in Unit A.
NEG. NO.: VDHR # 15511 PHOTO 7 of 7

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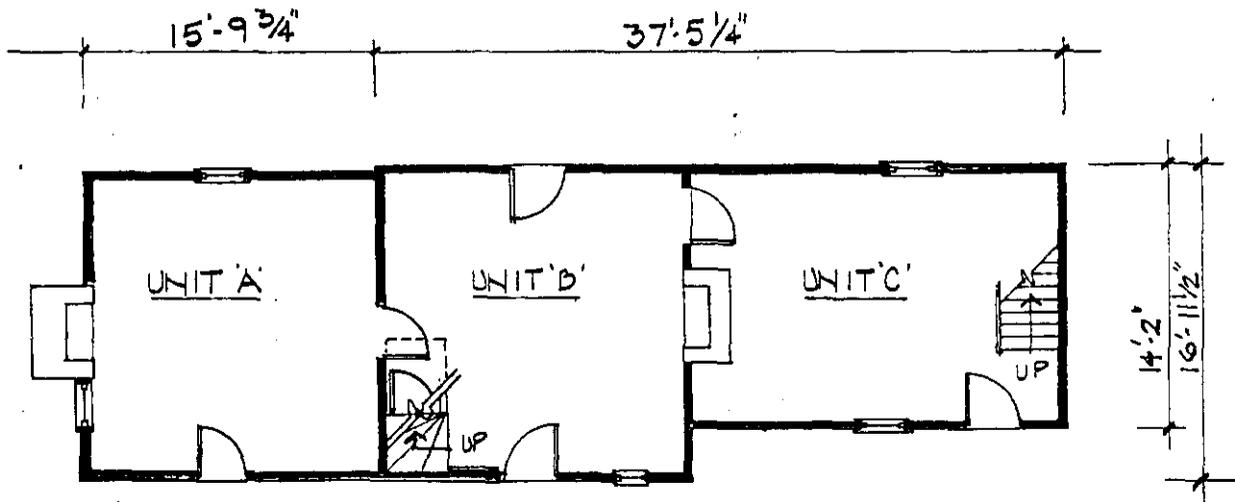


Exhibit A: First-floor plan of Maple Springs. Drawn by architect Peter Serafin.



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MAPLE SPRINGS,
Culpeper Co., VA.
UTM ref. (zone 18):
E248170 N4274530
E248400 N4274160
E248230 N4273900
E247320 N4274120

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