

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

LISTED ON:  
VLR 12/17/2009  
NRHP 03/17/2010

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Oakdale

other names/site number (VDHR# 031-0025)

**2. Location**


street & number 5773 Franklin Pike not for publication N/A

city or town Floyd vicinity N/A

state Virginia code VA county Floyd and Franklin code 063 and 067 zip code 24091

**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      nationally      statewide X locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
Signature of certifying official

1/26/10  
Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Oakdale  
Name of Property

Floyd County, Virginia  
County and State

=====

**5. Classification**

=====

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>5</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>5</u>	<u>3</u> Total

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** N/A

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

=====

**6. Function or Use**

=====

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Outbuilding</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>Outbuilding</u>
<u>Commerce</u>	<u>General Store</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>Outbuilding</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

=====

**7. Description**

=====

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
roof metal  
walls Brick  
other Wood

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

=====  
**8. Statement of Significance**  
=====

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- 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 a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
Commerce \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance** circa 1890 – circa 1935

**Significant Dates** circa 1890

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** 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**  
=====

(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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Oakdale  
Name of Property

Floyd County, Virginia  
County and State

**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

=====  
**10. Geographical Data**  
=====

**Acreage of Property** 80 acres

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing				
1	17	576200	4092400	2	17	576620	4092280	3	17	576600	4091740	4	17	576410	4091540

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 Sherry Joines Wyatt  
organization Historic Preservation Consultant date August 21, 2009  
street & number 21 E. Main St., Ste. 202 telephone 540/381-3336  
city or town Christiansburg state VA zip code 24073

=====  
**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 David Lander & Susan Icovc  
street & number 5773 Franklin Pike telephone 540-745-3546  
city or town Floyd state VA zip code 24091

=====  
**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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 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 National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Name of Property** Oakdale  
**County and State** Floyd and Franklin Counties, VA

**Section** 7 **Page** 1

---

**Summary Description**

The eighty-acre farm of Oakdale is located on the the Floyd-Franklin Pike (Route 640) in Floyd County, immediately west of the Franklin County line. The far eastern part of the property lies in Franklin County, though all resources are located in the Floyd County section. The property is a short distance east of the Blue Ridge Parkway and lies on Paynes Creek at the foot of Five Mile Mountain in the High Peak Community. Paynes Creek flows west to join Little River and the property is situated in the gently sloping creek valley. Oakdale consists of five contributing buildings including the Queen Anne house, a large center-aisle barn, a two-story brick general store building, all of which were built about 1890, and a granary and garage from the early twentieth century. There are three non-contributing buildings: the altered c.1890 detached kitchen, a mid-twentieth century shed, and a modern garage. The detached kitchen and modern garage lie behind (north) of the house, while the store is beside the house across the driveway to the east. The shed is across the driveway northeast of the house. Across Franklin Pike from the house are the garage and granary; the barn also lies on the south side of Franklin Pike a short distance southeast of the house. The buildings are surrounded by woodland and open pasture.

**Detailed Description**

**House, circa 1890, contributing**

The large two-story three-bay Queen Anne-style house is constructed of six-over-one common bond brick, which are thought to have been fired on the property, although there is no known evidence for this. The complex hip roof is sheathed in pressed tin shingles and the house rests on a brick foundation. The double-tier front porch is heavily ornamented with turned posts, a spindle frieze, and sawn brackets. Further ornament is found in the gable ends on the facade, at the south corner of the east elevation, and on the rear (north) ell including decorative wood shingles, ornately sawn attic vent, and sunburst bargeboard (front and east). The bracketed cornice has a low-relief dentil molding. The two-over-two double-hung sash windows have segmental arch heads. Frame bay windows flank the central entry, which features sidelights and transom and an ornate door with turned "spindles" and bulls-eye corner blocks framing the panels and the upper light of textured glass surrounded by stained glass blocks. The central entry with sidelights and transom is repeated on the second floor porch. A historic frame one-story hip-roof addition with standing seam metal roof lies at the junction of the east side of the rear ell and the main house and houses utility areas. A second frame hip-roof addition (2005) lies on the west side of the house.

The interior of the house is organized around a wide center hall featuring a stair with walnut handrail and walnut newel post with spindles at the corners, grooved panels and a turned finial. Sawn brackets ornament the stringer under each tread. The wainscoting and the area under the stair are of alternating chestnut and walnut tongue-and-groove planks. The double-pile plan is extended on its northwest corner by the rear ell. Fireplaces exist in the library (southwest) and living room (southeast), but only the southeast room carries the original mantle with simple chamfered pilasters. The original mantle in the dining room (north of library) has two panels carried by paired turned pilasters. The kitchen is located in the northern end of the rear ell. The walls and ceilings are plaster throughout the first floor are plaster and drywall except in the family room (northeast) where there is a painted beadboard ceiling and in the library where alternating light/dark planks cover the ceiling and bay window. The light/dark wainscoting is found in the library and in both bay windows. The dining room has a painted beadboard wainscoting. The floors throughout the first floor are oak. Door and window surrounds throughout much of the house are molded with bulls-eye corner blocks; doors are four panels.

The second floor plan is essentially the same as the first and finishes and trim are also similar with plaster and drywall walls; drywall, acoustical tile, and beadboard ceilings; and molded trim with corner blocks. The floors in the

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Name of Property** Oakdale  
**County and State** Floyd and Franklin Counties, VA

**Section**   7   **Page**   2  

second story are pine. Only the northeast room carries its original mantle with simple pilasters and a chamfered-edge applied panel. The two rooms in the northwest corner have been reconfigured to provide a small master bath and a bath-laundry suite.

**General Store, circa 1890, contributing**

The two-story three-bay front-gable store is constructed of six-over-one common bond brick which are thought to have been fired on the property, and rests on a raised poured concrete foundation. The center entry, accessed via steps and a small stoop, features double-leaf four-panel doors and is flanked by four-light windows with historic horizontal metal security bars. There are modern one-over-one windows in the second floor. A single entry at the northwest corner and two on the west side give access to the open interior with modern vinyl tile floor, carpeting, and painted board ceiling. Narrow stairs near the northwest entry lead to an open second floor that has been converted into an apartment with historic pine floor, exposed brick walls, and exposed roof joists. Although earlier survey work indicated that this building was once a stagecoach stop, no supporting evidence of this claim could be found.

**Barn, circa 1890, contributing**

Large center-aisle front-gable barn is sheathed in vertical board siding and corrugated metal roof. The rolling metal doors are modern replacements. A shed addition lies on the west side of the barn. Inside, the barn features hand hewn post and beam framing supporting a loft in the rear half of the barn and a higher loft in the front quarter of the barn. On the ground level stalls flank the aisle and a feed room with wood floor and plank door is located in the northwest corner of the barn.

**Granary, circa 1915, contributing**

One-and-a-half-stories in height, this weatherboarded front-gable one-bay building is distinguished by a single entry with a diagonal-plank door and gable returns. Above the entry is a short door that gives access to the second floor loft. The building rests on a stacked fieldstone foundation and the open interior as a wooden floor. A one-story shed-roof addition with a concrete block foundation, weatherboard siding and corrugated metal roof is on the building's east side. The interior of the addition has a concrete floor.

**Garage, circa 1935, contributing**

This one-story front-gable one-bay garage has a single-car entry and is sheathed in weatherboard with a corrugated metal roof. The interior is open.

**Detached Kitchen, circa 1890, non-contributing**

Narrow one-bay frame one-story building with front pent-gable roof, weatherboard siding, cornerboards, and corrugated metal roof originally served as the detached kitchen, but has since been used as a garage and now serves as a guest cottage. The building has been altered with the addition of numerous architectural salvage pieces including the cross-gable cupola, Gothic arch attic window, double-leaf doors on front (east) and south sides, front corner brackets, and Gothic windows on south side. A shed-roof addition at the northwest corner houses a bathroom. Inside, the building features plank walls and ceiling along with some drywall, wood floor and exposed joists.

**Shed, circa 1960, non-contributing**

One-story one-bay shed-roof building in poor condition with vertical board siding, awning windows, and concrete floor. The single entry is on the east end of the building.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Name of Property** Oakdale  
**County and State** Floyd and Franklin Counties, VA

**Section**   7   **Page**   3  

---

**Modern Garage, 2005, non-contributing**

One-story three-bay building with front pent-gable two-car garage section and side-gable workshop/storage wing extending to the north with a single entry and two casement windows. The building is sheathed in corrugated metal and has a gabled porch on the south elevation giving access to the stone walk that leads to the rear door of the house.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Name of Property** Oakdale  
**County and State** Floyd and Franklin Counties, VA

**Section** 8 **Page** 4

---

**Statement of Significance**

**Summary**

The eighty-acre farm of Oakdale is located on the Floyd-Franklin Pike (Route 640), in Floyd and Franklin Counties, straddling the western county line, though all resources are in the Floyd County section. Oakdale consists of five contributing buildings including the c.1890 Queen Anne house, large barn, general store building, and a granary and garage from the early twentieth century. There are also three non-contributing outbuildings. The earliest buildings were built for Oscar and Ruth Huff. Oscar Huff operated the general store on the property as well as managing his large farm. Built during a period of regional agricultural prosperity, Oakdale's brick construction and lavish use of Eastlake-style ornamentation is an architecturally notable example of the Queen Anne style in Floyd County. Furthermore, the large brick general store is a relatively rare example of a brick general store in the rural part of the county and is a well-preserved example of its type. The property meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion C for architecture.

Additionally, the general store is significant under Criterion A for its role in the commercial activity of the rural agrarian community of High Peak. During the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, general stores dotted the countryside serving area farmers and the Huff Store is a representative example of this important part of Floyd County's history. The period of significance for Oakdale begins c. 1890 and ends in circa 1935, the date of the latest historic resource, for Criteria A and C.

***Historical Background, Architectural, Agricultural, and Commercial Contexts***

Oakdale is located in the High Peak community of northeastern Floyd County; at the Floyd-Franklin county line. During the historic period, this agrarian community was served by several general stores and grist mills and a post office in Pizarro, about five miles southeast of Oakdale. The 1888 *Chataigne's Business Directory* indicates that the Pizarro post office was located in the R. O. Harvey general store. Harvey also operated a corn mill in Pizarro and J. W. Thurman was the local physician.<sup>1</sup> Local institutions included Payne's Creek Primitive Baptist Church, which held services once a month at its building located east of Oakdale on Route 639 (River Ridge Road). Children in the area were served by Payne's Creek School and by Kelley School (established 1876, extant building built 1924) on Route 678 (Kelley School Road). Payne's Creek School was built about 1902 and the school site was "in a line with the Floyd-Franklin turnpike." The new Payne's Creek School provided services for children between the Kelley and Chestnut Level Schools.<sup>2</sup> The National Park Service's "Historic Resource Study for the Kelley School" (the former Kelly School is now part of the Blue Ridge Parkway) gives insight into the way of life in the area. The report found that children during the 1920s attended school from October through March allowing time for them to help their farmer parents during the spring and fall. The report goes on to find that families such as the Kelleys, Morans, Pates, Peters, and Cannadays were living in the area during the 1930s. The school was an important part of the community and parents often attended school gatherings at Christmas time.<sup>3</sup>

Oakdale, named for the oak trees that once surrounded the house, was built circa 1890 for Oscar and Ruth Huff. The large two-story Queen Anne-style house is architecturally notable for several reasons. Its use of brick is unusual in the rural areas of Floyd County and speaks to the wealth of Huff, who was both a farmer and a merchant. The commodious double-pile center-hall plan is on a larger scale than the single-pile center-hall I-house that was more commonly built in the region during the late nineteenth century. While the use of Queen Anne and Eastlake stylistic motifs was common, the high level of ornamentation on the double-tier porch, at the bracketed cornice, and in the gables is notable in its fine execution and richness. The gables and first-floor bay windows give asymmetry, a hallmark of the Queen Anne style, to the relatively simple hip-roof form of the house.

Oscar A. Huff (born September 23, 1850) was one of six children born to George Washington "Watt" and Ann



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Name of Property** Oakdale  
**County and State** Floyd and Franklin Counties, VA

**Section** 8 **Page** 5

Huff. Watt Huff (1827-1903) was a descendant of John Huff, who emigrated from Wales in the mid-to-late eighteenth century and settled at High Peak on the present-day Floyd-Franklin County line. Local historian Amos Wood writes that Watt Huff and later Oscar Huff lived at the "old Huff place at High Peak." The John Huff home place must have stretched over lands in both Franklin and Floyd counties as Watt Huff is alternately listed in the census for Floyd and Franklin Counties from 1850 through 1900. Watt Huff's parents, John and Orina Huff (1801-1891 and 1808-1889, respectively) are buried near Oakdale at the intersection of Franklin Pike and Virginia Route 666.<sup>4</sup>

In 1870, Oscar Huff was still living with his father in the Blackwater District of Franklin County where he worked as a farm laborer, presumably on his father's farm. The 1880 Census lists him as being single and employed as a merchant although still living in his father's house in Franklin County. Huff married Mary Ella Ruth Woolwine (born April 15, 1863) of Patrick County on March 9, 1882. The couple's only child, Sallie H. Huff, was born in February 1883.<sup>5</sup> The 1890 Federal Census for Floyd County was among those destroyed by fire in Washington, but an abbreviated version found in the Floyd County Court House does not list Oscar Huff as residing in Floyd County. This may suggest that he, Ruth, and Sallie were still living on the Franklin County side of their property.<sup>6</sup> The house at Oakdale was likely built between the Huffs marriage in 1882 and the mid-1890s.

It is not clear when Oscar A. Huff acquired the property where the house and store stand, although deed records indicate that he bought several tracts of land on Paynes Creek in 1889, 1891, 1892, 1899. By the time of the 1900 Census, however, Oscar Huff is living in the Locust Grove District of Floyd County, which included the High Peak community. The census records Huff as being a "dry goods salesman." Also in his household were his wife and daughter; his nephew, Walter Huff, who apparently worked on the farm as a day laborer; Matilda Underwood, a housekeeper; Miriam Stovall a twenty-eight-year old boarder, and Robert Kroger, a twenty-four year old artist who was boarding with the family.<sup>7</sup> Ruth Huff died on October 21, 1900 or 1906 (the inscription on her grave marker at Pine [*sic*, Payne] Creek Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery is illegible). Oscar Huff appears as a widower in the 1910 Census. Also in his household at that time were his daughter and seventeen-year-old Mossin Howell, who apparently worked for the Huffs as a cook.<sup>8</sup>

Amos Wood writes that Oscar Huff "was a well-known merchant" who operated the general store located beside his house until his death in 1920.<sup>9</sup> Although the Huff Store records are apparently lost, a ledger in the possession of the property owner has entries from the 1890s pertaining to the settlement of the John Vest estate by Samuel Vest of High Peak. An April 25, 1891 entry notes that O. A. Huff was paid \$6.63 for "burial material" and an entry of July 22, 1897 notes a payment of \$9.45 to Huff for "burial clothing for J. E. Vest."<sup>10</sup> We know from local resident Clovis Richards that Huff sold a variety of items including shoes, clothes, sugar by the pound, and fabric. Mrs. Richards remembers coffee costing fifteen cents a pound and ten cents would buy a dozen eggs. Huff was a shrewd businessman. Mrs. Richards recalls a story her mother told about Huff's bargaining acumen where he priced a parasol to a customer who desired a better one. He put the parasol behind the counter then brought it out again, quoted a higher price, and made the sale.<sup>11</sup>

Floyd County, like most other counties in the region had many small general stores scattered among its communities to serve the rural population in an era when travel was time-consuming. Commercial buildings are historically significant as centers of commerce and trade, which were essential to their communities' development. In rural areas, stores often served as outposts where residents could socialize as well as purchase needed goods. The Huff Store is an unusually large store building for its rural location and the use of brick is also notable in an area where small frame stores were more common, except in the county's towns and villages. The building is important for its role in the history of local commerce and rural life as well as being a notable architectural example. Other stores in the High Peak neighborhood that are no longer standing included E. P. "Peach" Radford's store on Kelley School Road, and Kaney Thompson's Big Store on Radford Road. Additional commercial enterprises were Odell Thompson's wheat and corn mill on River Ridge Road northwest of Oakdale, a buckwheat mill on Stuart Road to the north, Joe Turner's

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Name of Property** Oakdale  
**County and State** Floyd and Franklin Counties, VA

**Section** 8 **Page** 6

grist mill on Kelley School Road, Holbert Peters grist mill was on Franklin Pike to the west of Oakdale and Kaney Thompson's grist mill to the south.<sup>12</sup>

In addition to the general store, Oscar Huff also operated a large farm on his many acres of property in Floyd and Franklin counties. Relatively little is known about the production of Huff's farm, but he is thought to have owned 1500 acres, making him an unusually large land holder for the region. From Clovis Richards, we also know that Huff hired day laborers, her brothers being two, to drive work horses and do other farm jobs. They earned fifty cents a day. Some of Huff's land was also rented to tenant farmers.<sup>13</sup>

The larger scale of farm operations at Oakdale is notable since throughout Floyd County, as in many of the counties of New River Valley during the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the economy was based on minimal-cash agriculture. In this system, most of the population were farmers, producing crops and livestock to sustain their own families with no large-scale cash crops. Instead, a variety of produce was sold and traded at local general stores for staple products. Dr. A. B. Cox, a native of Floyd County, described the county in his 1900 book, *Footprints on the Sands of Time*.

Floyd County was formed form [*sic*] the Southern part of Montgomery County. It is bounded on the south by Patrick, west by Carroll, east by Franklin. Its surface is very uneven. All parts of the county abound in springs of clear, cold, soft water, with inlets and creeks in great numbers passing through the county.

...

The products of the county are wheat, corn, rye, oats, buckwheat, potatoes, and a great variety of vegetables and fine delicious fruits. The climate and soil is adapted to the growth of grasses, such as timothy, clover, red top and blue grass. Live stock raising has brought more money to the county than any other branch of business.<sup>14</sup>

Floyd County was among the most agriculturally productive counties in the New River Valley. At the time of the 1880 Agricultural Census, Floyd County led the region in the production of oats and was second in rye production. It stood at fourth behind the larger counties of Montgomery, Wythe, and Grayson in the production of corn. By 1930, however, the other New River counties had outpaced Floyd's production in all areas except tobacco. In 1880, Floyd had stood at second behind Montgomery County in tobacco production, but as the other counties in the region gave up the production of this crop, Floyd's farmers continued to grow it and the county was the region's second largest producer in 1930. The importance of livestock to Floyd County's agricultural economy is evidenced in the 1880 Agricultural Census. At this time, Floyd was second behind Grayson County in the number of dairy cows, fourth in number of sheep and horses, and fifth in swine. Floyd County also stood at fourth in production of hay, which was an important part of livestock production. Reflecting the increase in dairying in Floyd County during the early twentieth century, the 1930 Agricultural Census shows that only Carroll County had more dairy cattle. Floyd County was third in hay production in the region in 1930, illustrating the continued importance of livestock, particularly dairy and beef cattle.<sup>15</sup>

Clovis Richards, who grew up in High Peak during the late-1910s and 1920s, recalls that her family's farm produced primarily corn, wheat, buckwheat, beef cattle, and cabbage. Long stalk cane was grown for livestock feed and pressed to provide syrup for molasses; beans were grown and dried into leather britches. The family kept a milk cow, a pig for fall butchering, and bee stands for honey. Additional income was made through the sale of walnuts and chestnuts to local stores.<sup>16</sup> Some families supplemented their income with odd jobs like carpentry and others traveled to the coalfields to work for extra money during the winter.<sup>17</sup>

Oscar Huff died on November 19, 1920. On December 7, 1920, Sallie Huff, then thirty-seven years old and

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Name of Property** Oakdale  
**County and State** Floyd and Franklin Counties, VA

**Section** 8 **Page** 7

living at Oakdale was declared the only heir of O. A. Huff to settle her father's estate. Local tradition indicates that through mismanagement, Sallie lost the property. This is verified by a deed by Howard and Proffitt, Commissioners (of the court) transferring the property to Miss Francis Critz of Roanoke on November 16, 1927. Miss Critz made her purchase at auction on September 24, 1927 for \$4750. The auction was held to settle a chancery case brought by E. P. Radford against Sallie Huff. Radford owned a nearby general store.<sup>18</sup>

It is not known who Francis Critz was or why she purchased Oakdale, but in December 1928 she too lost the property, which was sold at auction for \$4800 and unpaid taxes to Samuel and Macie Davidson. The Davidsons are thought to have been from West Virginia. During their ownership of the property, the former store building housed a Missionary Baptist church. The congregation was led by a minister from New York named Thompson. The Davidsons were also unable to hold the property during the difficult financial times of the Great Depression. They sold Oakdale to Lera and Emmett Pate for \$500 and the assumption of the deed of trust on October 24, 1934.<sup>19</sup>

Emmett Jerdon Pate (18 February 1898 – 7 November 1983) and his wife Lera Vest Pate (18 January 1900 – 6 March 1969) were natives of the High Peak community. Emmett was the son of Jerdon and Laura Pate. Lera was the daughter of Samuel and Cora Vest. The Pates raised a large herd of cattle on the property as well as cabbage. Milk from the Pate herd was picked up in cans each day by a truck and taken to the Carnation plant in Riner; later the milk was sold to another plant near Hillsville. Emmett Pate also sold timber cut from the farm. During the construction of the Parkway nearby, construction managers boarded with the Pates and lived with them at Oakdale for about a year. The Pates were active in the community and attended Payne's Creek Primitive Baptist Church. Without a local undertaker, people in the area cared for their own dead and Lera Pate often prepared women for burial.<sup>20</sup>

Emmett Pate and his sons Samuel and Paul sold the property to Edward and Patricia Molesky on April 6, 1970. The Moleskys bought the house and 140 acres for \$20,000. After adding electricity to rooms that had none, and adding new plumbing, they sold the property in 1972 for \$50,000 to J. R. (Ross) and Josephine Caudill. The deed records that the Caudills purchased 113 acres in Franklin County and 12 acres in Floyd County. Ross Caudill was in the lumber business. He and his wife added dropped ceilings, wall-to-wall carpeting, and a new upstairs bathroom to the house.<sup>21</sup> Oakdale was purchased by David Lander and Susan Icove on June 3, 1981. They have done a complete rehabilitation of the property.

Although the Virginia Data Sharing System entry for Oakdale states that the old store building on the property was a stagecoach stop, this claim could not be supported by any historical evidence. In fact, no evidence of a stage coach route on the Floyd-Franklin Pike could be found. After its service as a church during the Davidson's ownership, the store building was used as storage. The building is currently used as a studio space on the first floor and an apartment on the second floor.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Name of Property** Oakdale  
**County and State** Floyd and Franklin Counties, VA

**Section**   9   **Page**   8  

---

**Bibliography**

Chaitaigne's Business Directory, 1888, [www.newrivernotes.com/va/floy1888.htm](http://www.newrivernotes.com/va/floy1888.htm) <2009>.

Cox, A. B. *Footprints on the Sands of Time* (Sparta, N.C.: Star Publishing, 1900). Electronic version, <http://www.newrivernotes.com/nrv/foot.htm> <2009>.

Family Search. [http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset\\_search.asp?PAGE=census/search\\_census.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset_search.asp?PAGE=census/search_census.asp) <2008>.

Floyd County Register of Deeds.

Ledger, c.1890. Private collection of David Lander and Susan Icove.

“Oakdale Preliminary Information Form,” Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond.

Richards, Clovis. Interview by Susan Icove, 2009

RootsWeb. <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~barbr/huff.htm> <2009>.

Speer, Jean Haskell and Frances H. Russell, “Kelley School Historic Resource Report, 1989,” [http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online\\_books/blri/kelley\\_school.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/blri/kelley_school.pdf) , <2009>.

U. S. Agricultural Census, 1880 and 1930.

U.S. Population Census for Floyd County, 1890.  
[http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~barbr/zz\\_census\\_1890\\_fcva\\_main1.htm](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~barbr/zz_census_1890_fcva_main1.htm) <2009>.

U.S. Population Census for Floyd County, 1900.  
[http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~barbr/zz\\_census\\_1900\\_lg19.htm](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~barbr/zz_census_1900_lg19.htm) <2009>

U.S. Population Census for Floyd County 1910.  
[http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~barbr/zz\\_census\\_1910\\_lg53.htm](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~barbr/zz_census_1910_lg53.htm) <2009>.

Wood, Amos. *Floyd County: A History of its People and Places*, Ann Scott Swain, ed., (Radford: Commonwealth Press, 1981).

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Name of Property** Oakdale  
**County and State** Floyd and Franklin Counties, VA

**Section** 10 **Page** 9

---

**UTM References**

Point	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	576200	4092400
B	17	576620	4092280
C	17	576600	4091740
D	17	576410	4091540
E	17	576140	4091520
F	17	576040	4091760

**Verbal Boundary Description**

As the property straddles the line between Floyd and Franklin Counties, the boundaries of the Oakdale nomination correspond to property lines denoted by Floyd County tax parcel numbers 33-84, 33-88, 33-88A, 33-89, and 33-90; and Franklin County tax parcel number 076-00300.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary encompasses property historically associated with Oakdale providing a rural, agrarian setting for the house and agricultural outbuildings on the property. The boundary lines follow the property plat lines.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Name of Property** Oakdale  
**County and State** Floyd and Franklin Counties, VA

**Section**          **Photos/Endnotes**          **Page**   10  

---

All photographs are of:

Oakdale, Floyd and Franklin Counties, Virginia

Date: 7/2008      Photographer: Sherry Joines Wyatt

Location of original digital files: Department of Historic Resources, Richmond

1. House, Front (South) Elevation
2. House, West Elevation
3. House, rear (North) elevation
4. House, First Floor, center hall, newel post detail
5. House, First Floor, southwest room showing chestnut and walnut sheathing
6. Kitchen, east elevation
7. Huff Store, south and west elevations
8. Granary and Garage, north elevations
9. Barn, north and west elevations

- 
- 1 Chaitaigne's Business Directory, 1888, [www.newrivernotes.com/va/floy1888.htm](http://www.newrivernotes.com/va/floy1888.htm) <2009>.
  - 2 Jean Haskell Speer and Frances H. Russell, "Kelley School Historic Resource Report, 1989," p.18, [http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online\\_books/blri/kelley\\_school.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/blri/kelley_school.pdf) , <2009>; Clovis Richards, interview by Susan Icove, 2009..
  - 3 Speer and Russell, 23 and 26.
  - 4 Amos Wood, Floyd County: A History of its People and Places, Ann Scott Swain, ed., (Radford: Commonwealth Press, 1981), 111-113 and RootsWeb, <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~barbr/huff.htm> <2008>; Family Search, [http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset\\_search.asp?PAGE=census/search\\_census.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset_search.asp?PAGE=census/search_census.asp) <2008>; and grave makers, intersection Franklin Pike and Virginia Rte 666.
  - 5 Wood, 111-113; RootsWeb; Family Search; and 1900 U.S. Census for Floyd County, [http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~barbr/zz\\_census\\_1900\\_lg19.htm](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~barbr/zz_census_1900_lg19.htm) <2008>.
  - 6 1890 U.S. Census for Floyd County, [http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~barbr/zz\\_census\\_1890\\_fcva\\_main1.htm](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~barbr/zz_census_1890_fcva_main1.htm) <2008>.
  - 7 1900 U.S. Census for Floyd County
  - 8 RootsWeb and 1910 U.S. Census for Floyd County, [http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~barbr/zz\\_census\\_1910\\_lg53.htm](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~barbr/zz_census_1910_lg53.htm) <2008>.
  - 9 Wood, 113
  - 10 Ledger, c.1890, private collection of David Lander and Susan Icove.

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

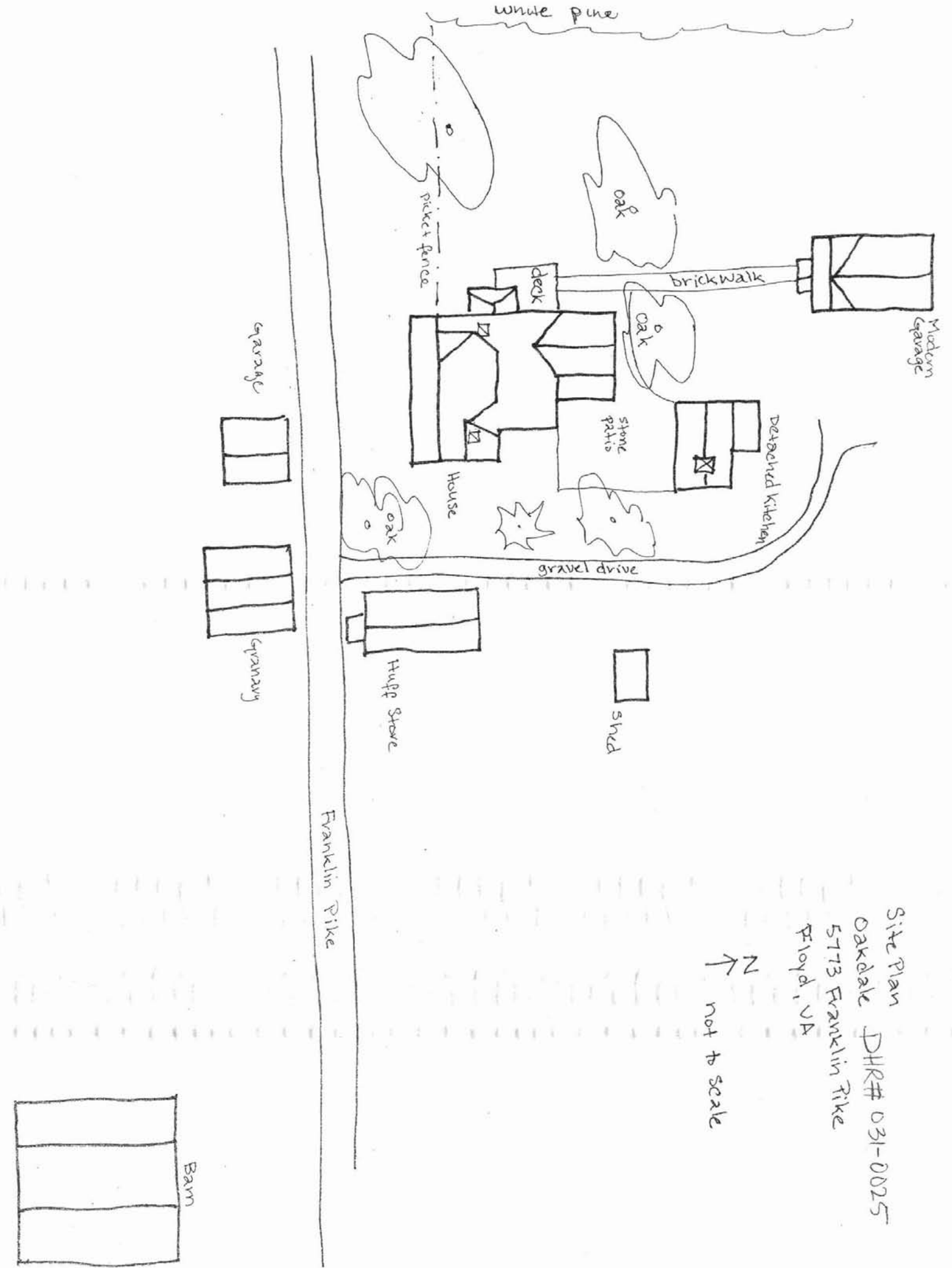
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Name of Property** Oakdale  
**County and State** Floyd and Franklin Counties, VA

**Section**      **Photos/Endnotes**      **Page**   11  

---

- 11 Richards.
- 12 Richards.
- 13 Richards.
- 14 A. B. Cox, *Footprints on the Sands of Time* (Sparta, N.C.: Star Publishing, 1900), electronic version ,  
<http://www.newriversnotes.com/nrv/foot.htm> <2009>.
- 15 1880 U. S. Agricultural Census and 1930 U. S. Agricultural Census.
- 16 Richards.
- 17 Speer and Russell, 23.
- 18 Floyd County Register of Deeds and RootsWeb.
- 19 Register of Deeds and Richards.
- 20 Richards, 1910 U. S. Census for Floyd County; Family Search; and grave markers, cemetery, Virginia Rte 666.
- 21 Register of Deeds and "Oakdale Preliminary Information Form," Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond.



Site Plan  
 Oakdale DHR# 031-0025  
 5773 Franklin Pike  
 Floyd, VA

N  
 ↙  
 not to scale



4094

240 000  
FEET

4092

4091

4090

Oakdale (031-0025)  
Floyd County, VA

A 4092400

576200

B 4092280

576620

C 4091740

576600

D 4091540

576410

E 4091520

5730" 576140

F 4091760

576040

