

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	
3	3	buildings
1	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
5	3	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
DOMESTIC	hotel (lodgings)
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
GOVERNMENT	post office
FUNERARY	cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	hotel (bed & breakfast)
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
FUNERARY	cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Federal
- Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Brick
- walls Brick
- roof Metal
- 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.)

- X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
X 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

EDUCATION

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Duncan, William Erastus

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
#

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.

Period of Significance

Ca. 1830-1920

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approximately 2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	17	614470	4108800	3 17
2	17			4 17

___ 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</u>	date	<u>September 20, 1999</u>
organization	<u>Landmark Preservation Associates</u>	telephone	<u>(540) 464-5315</u>
street & number	<u>6 Houston St.</u>	zip code	<u>24450</u>
city or town	<u>Lexington</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>G. Clinton and Kathryn Shay</u>		
street & number	<u>835 Gangplank Rd., Suite 103</u>	telephone	<u>(540) 721-8510</u>
city or town	<u>Moneta</u> state <u>VA</u>	zip code	<u>24121</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 Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Holland-Duncan House
Franklin Co., Va.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Holland-Duncan House stands on the south side of Highway 122 (13508 Booker T. Washington Highway) in the center of the modern commercial development known as Westlake, which serves the Smith Mountain Lake area of Franklin County. The 1830s house stands on a ridge at an elevation of just over 1,000 feet above sea level approximately two miles from Smith Mountain Lake, an impoundment of the Staunton (Roanoke) River. The northwest-facing, two-story, brick dwelling has a five-bay front elevation, a metal-sheathed gable roof, a front porch, and an accretive one-story frame ell with side porch. The center-passage-plan interior is detailed in the Federal style and has a boxed winder stair in the northeast rooms (rather than in the passage). Of the buildings that once framed the front yard a one-story frame post office survives. Behind the house stand a v-notched log meathouse made into a guest cabin, a modern v-notched log guest cabin incorporating a nineteenth-century stone kitchen chimney, a privy, a small family cemetery moved to its present location, and a modern workshop and garage.

The house and its outbuildings are surrounded by a mix of historic plantings, including a boxwood-lined front walk and mature specimen trees, and modern landscaping including brick walkways connecting the house to the guest cabins and to the edge of a circular gravel driveway on the northeast side of the nominated parcel. Contained in the circle of this driveway is a cluster of young apple trees; an older apple tree shades the cemetery. The northwest and southwest boundaries of the nominated parcel are grown up with volunteer locusts and cedars and white pines planted to screen the property from traffic. A shopping center adjoins on the southwest side and another is located across Highway 122.

Inventory

1. Holland-Duncan House. 1830s. Contributing building.
2. Post office. Third quarter 19th c. Contributing building.
3. Mounting block and steps. 19th and early 20th centuries. Contributing structure.
4. Cemetery. Late 19th and early 20th centuries. Contributing site.
5. Privy. First half 20th c. Contributing building.
6. Guest cabin (meathouse). 19th c.; ca. 1989. Noncontributing building.
7. Guest cabin (kitchen). 19th c.; ca. 1987. Noncontributing building.
8. Workshop and garage. Ca. 1990. Noncontributing building.

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**Holland-Duncan House
Franklin Co., Va.**

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Description (continued)

House Exterior

The Holland-Duncan House is constructed of Flemish-bond brick with several header courses at the base of the walls, closer bricks near door and window openings, randomly spaced vitrified headers, and white pencilling. Gauged jack arches appear over the first-story windows, and a molded cornice runs at the top of the northwest and southeast elevations. A notable feature of the brickwork is a gauged jack arch at the south end of the southeast first-story elevation at a location where a window might, but does not, occur (speculation as to the purpose of this feature is contained in the architectural analysis section of the report). Chimneys with stepped shoulders rise on the exterior of the two gable ends. A series of iron hooks for former lightning arrestors protrude from the chimneys.

The first-story windows have nine-over-six double-hung sash, whereas the second-story windows are six-over-six. The front windows have vinyl shutters with a paneled design. In both gables are a pair of small windows flanking the chimney stacks. The basement windows have horizontal wooden bars that are bisected by a vertical mullion. The front entry has a three-light transom, a storm door, and a historic natural-finish six-panel door with the upper panels replaced with modern glazing. The front entry is sheltered by a one-story porch with a pyramidal metal-sheathed roof. The porch stands on modern (1999) paneled square wood posts with molded caps that are modeled on the historical supports, which survive in the form of pilasters against the house wall. The porch ceiling is sheathed with beaded slats that are continued as a sheathing of the inner fascias, an unusual detail. Underneath are brick piers, wood flooring and steps, and modern wood lattice.

The one-story frame ell has weatherboard siding and metal-sheathed gable roofs and was built in several phases, the earliest apparently dating to the late-nineteenth century. Some of the earliest fabric is represented by a formerly detached or semi-detached "winter kitchen," a one-room building of circular-sawn frame construction with cornice returns, an interior brick chimney on a stone base, a brick stove flue supported from the interior on ceiling joists, and brick foundation piers. The kitchen was attached to the brick house by a dining room ell and, possibly, a breezeway. Along the northeast side of this ell runs a historic porch with later screening, jalousie windows at one end, and a cinder-block foundation. In recent decades the southeast end of the porch was enclosed to form a laundry room and the ell was widened on its southwest side.

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**Holland-Duncan House
Franklin Co., Va.**

Section number 7 Page 3

Description (continued)

House Interior

Interior finishes include wood board flooring, plaster wall and ceiling finishes over split oak lath, and beaded baseboards, chair rails, and door and window trim, the latter typically with the delicate moldings of the Federal style. The northeast rooms also have beaded hanging rails. Several doorways in the center passage have surrounds that are more Greek Revival in character, suggesting they may be replacements from the mid-nineteenth century. The original doors are hung on butt hinges and have six flush beaded panels in the standard "cross and bible" arrangement but with the upper four panels almost square in form. The original rear entry of the center passage has a later four-panel door, as does the back doorway of the northeast first-floor room, which was created from a window during historic times. The center-passage rear entry has a two-light transom with decoratively etched panes; the transom originated in another context and was purchased and installed in the 1980s to replace a transom in the same location that is missing. The first-floor northeast room back doorway retains its historic transom and operating mechanism.

The Federal styling is most evident in the mantels of the original brick section, all four of which survive. The first-floor northeast room mantel has pilasters with upward-pointing chevron-pattern reeding and molded caps that are connected across the breadth of the mantel by similar moldings; and a frieze with end projections that continue the line of the pilasters, a reeded band, and double "cooling-fin" bed moldings under the shelf. The first-floor southwest room mantel has pilasters with downward-pointing chevron reeding and a elbow-like jog at the top rather than a pronounced cap. The pilasters translate into paneled tablets at the ends of the frieze. The compound bed molding (under a replacement shelf) projects over these tablets and over the center of the frieze where a center tablet would normally be located (there is no indication that there ever was a center tablet). The two second-floor mantels are identical, with diagonal reeding in the pilasters, tablets at the ends of the frieze, a double cooling-fin bed moldings under the shelves. The fireplace openings are segmental-arched with exposed brick or plastered slips and typically soapstone hearths.

The winder stair is contained in a diagonal beaded board enclosure and has a closet with a batten door underneath. Formerly, a partition created a small foyer at the base of the stair, connecting it to the back doorway of the northeast room and walling off the circulation path created from the rest of the room. This feature may have been added in the early twentieth century, when the room was used as a bedroom, and it was removed in the 1980s. The apparently original room arrangement on the second floor is more complex than that on the first floor, with bedrooms at

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Holland-Duncan House
Franklin Co., Va.

Description (continued)

each end connected by a passage at the top of the stairs, and with a small middle room (now a bathroom) in the middle, alongside the passage. A second winder stair, above the first, rises to the attic from the second-floor northeast room. It is fitted with a six-panel door like others in the house, but with a cat hole cut at the bottom.

The attic contains a room that was used occasionally as a bedroom and has remained virtually unchanged since the nineteenth century. The room has rough plaster walls over split lath, a tongue-and-groove board floor, a beaded baseboard, and a batten door leading to the unfinished southwest end of the attic with a hand-wrought iron latch, butt hinges, and a cat hole. Evident in the unfinished end of the attic are common rafters butted and cut-nailed at the top, with lap-jointed collars cut-nailed to the rafters, and matching builder's marks on the collars and rafter pairs. The builder's marks are in the form of tick marks rather than the more common Roman numerals, and they number from one through eleven. The straight-sawn roof boards are studded with cut nails, indicating former wood-shingle roofing.

The two-room basement has segmental-arched fireplaces at both ends and poured concrete floors that replace brick pavers that existed into the first half of the twentieth century. The southwest basement room has exposed brick walls and hewn ceiling joists, some studded with cut nails with augmented (domed) heads. The northeast end has drywall wall and ceiling sheathing and a modern wood door to exterior steps. A set of three rear windows or traces of windows suggests that the back of the house was originally devoid of an enclosed wing. The two basement rooms are separated by a brick wall that rises through the first floor where it forms the northeast side of the center passage.

The least altered section of the ell is the formerly detached kitchen at the south corner. The kitchen has a cooking fireplace with a simple mantel that has been stripped of later layers of paint down to the wood, which bears traces of what is thought to be oxblood and pokeberry pigment. The kitchen also features a built-in cabinet of about 1900 with glazed upper doors, lower doors with beaded matchboard set on a diagonal, and chamfered rails, stiles, and muntins. The historic dining room has been remodeled into a kitchen and dining area with a rustic brick fireplace below a thick wooden mantel shelf and molded overmantel paneling.

Outbuildings and Cemetery

The one-story weatherboarded building identified as the post office probably also served as Asa Holland's farm office. The building has mortised and pegged construction with hewn sills on a

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Holland-Duncan House
Franklin Co., Va.

Description (continued)

stone foundation. A stone chimney with a modern brick stack above the shoulders rises on the southeast gable end. Other exterior features include metal roofing, an early-twentieth-century batten door with pottery knobs on the southwest side (facing the center of the front yard), and a six-over-six window on the northeast side with modern wooden louvered shutters. The one-room interior features a simple Greek Revival mantel with subtle chamfering on the pilasters and the lower edge of the frieze, plain chair rails and baseboards, a board floor, and modern plaster wall and ceiling finishes with swirled texture. The attic, which was once reached by a stair and was used for storage, was where Confederate postal records were discovered in the 1980s. The building's form and its proximity to the road also support the tradition that it served as the Hale's Ford Post Office.

In front of the post office lies a white quartzite block said to have served as a mounting block, and of the appropriate form and placement for such a use. Next to it a poured concrete stairway leads down to the present bed of Highway 122. To the east of the house is a family cemetery that was moved from an original location southwest of the house. The cemetery contains marble and granite monuments dating to the late nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. Of particular note are a small marble obelisk dedicated to William E. Duncan (1872-1895), a son of William and Sallie Duncan, and a granite headstone inscribed: "In loving memory of Amanda Hancock, a most fatiful [*sic*] friend and servant." Hancock (1835-1917), who was born into slavery, worked as a cook for the Holland and Duncan households. A modern iron fence evokes a cast-iron fence of the turn of the twentieth century. Also contributing is a "three-seater" privy with slatted vertical-board siding and a metal-sheathed shed roof.

The two guest cabins have v-notched log walls, metal-sheathed gable roofs, mostly six-over-six double-hung sash windows, exposed log interior walls, and front porches supported by log posts. Of the two the meathouse retains the most historic fabric--the basic form, log walls, and roof structure of the building date to its construction in the nineteenth century. Exterior features include a modern gable-end stone chimney, a rear shed room constructed of v-notched logs with a log-purlin roof, and a picnicking porch on the southeast side. On the inside are hewn joists with nail stains and possible salt bleaching associated with meat curing. Half of these joists have been cut away to create a two-story space; the other half support a sleeping loft with rustic stair and loft railings formed of tobacco sticks. The fact that this building had a loft space, and its overall domestic appearance, suggest that it may have had additional historic functions beyond meat curing. The roof is supported by log pole common rafters butted at the ridge and with lap-jointed and pegged collars.

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**Holland-Duncan House
Franklin Co., Va.**

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Description (continued)

Of the second guest cabin only the gable-end slope-shouldered stone chimney is original; it was originally a part of a log summer kitchen that stood at the same spot. The present building is a recreation of that kitchen, with interior treatments similar to the meathouse/guest cabin, including a sleeping loft, tobacco-stick railings, and. The original cooking fireplace is spanned by a long soapstone lintel with a worn lower edge, perhaps the result of knife sharpening. The final resource on the property is a modern workshop and garage in the form of a traditional Appalachian gable-fronted agricultural building with side sheds. The building has metal roofing, vertical-board siding, large front and side windows, an open southeastern elevation, a wood post foundation, and an upper level reached by an open stair.

Integrity Statement

The Holland-Duncan House possesses a high degree of architectural integrity. Character-defining features of the exterior and interior such as original brickwork, windows, mantels, trim, and so forth remain in place, and the interior plan is unchanged. Alterations are minor and include replacement of the front porch columns to match the historic ones and insertion of bathroom fixtures in a small upstairs room (the room plan remains unchanged). The frame ell has experienced a greater deal of modern alterations, but its basic form and exterior finishes are intact, and historic features such as a kitchen fireplace and built-in china cabinet remain in place.

The grounds feature a mix of historic and modern elements. The post office, mounting block and steps, and cemetery have good integrity and are classified as contributing. The cemetery was moved to its present site from a location to the southwest of the house to prevent its destruction by modern commercial development; it retains its character-defining monuments and its association with the property. The two log guest cabins incorporate historic fabric, but the extent of modern alterations renders them noncontributing.

As noted in the description summary, considerable commercial development has occurred to the northwest and southwest of the nominated parcel since the late 1980s. Vegetation screens much of the visual intrusion and noise associated with this development, and the fact that parking lots and heavily traveled Highway 122 are at a lower elevation than the house and are screened by topography also helps. Development of the acreage to the northeast and southeast of the nominated parcel is likely in the near future. Topography will also help screen this development, and the nomination boundaries are drawn so as to provide an opportunity for additional vegetative buffers on the northeast and southeast sides.

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**Holland-Duncan House
Franklin Co., Va.**

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Holland-Duncan House has stood at the center of Franklin County's Hale's Ford community since its construction in the 1830s by plantation owner Asa Holland. The two-story Flemish-bond brick house features molded brick cornices, gauged jack arches over windows, and spirited Federal-style interior treatments. Asa Holland served as Hale's Ford's federal postmaster before the Civil War, and during the war he served the Confederacy in the same capacity. A small frame dependency on the grounds may represent the Hale's Ford Post Office. The Holland-Duncan House also has important associations with the educational history of the county. Asa Holland's daughter Sallie married her tutor, William E. Duncan, and together the couple operated private academies at Hale's Ford. They boarded female students in their home and the boys lived in the aforementioned dependency. As a two-term school superintendent, William Duncan was prominent in the establishment of public schooling in the region in the late nineteenth century. Today, commercial development associated with Smith Mountain Lake has transformed the Hale's Ford community, but the Holland-Duncan House survives much as it was a century ago.

Applicable Criteria

The Holland-Duncan House is eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture for the refinement of its Federal-style detail. The property is eligible under criteria A and B in the area of education as a rare vestige of a nineteenth-century private academy campus, and for its association with William E. Duncan, who was important in the establishment of public education in Franklin County. The property is also eligible under Criterion A in the area of politics/government for the dependency identified as a post office that appears to have served both the Federal and Confederate governments during the mid-nineteenth century. The period of significance extends from the date of construction for the house, sometime in the decade of the 1830s, until the death of Sallie E. Duncan in 1920. The Holland-Duncan House is eligible at the local level of significance.

Acknowledgments

A number of individuals and organizations assisted in the preparation of this report. Foremost among these were the owners of the property and the nomination's sponsors, G. Clinton and Kathryn Shay, who have conducted extensive research on the property. Others who provided assistance included Craig Caron of Moneta; Franklin County historian Dr. Francis Amos; historian Gary Grant, Danville; John Byrne of the National Register of Historic Places,

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Holland-Duncan House
Franklin Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

Washington; and Anne Beckett, June Ellis, John Kern, John Salmon, and Marc Wagner of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Historic Context

The Holland-Duncan House was built for Asa Holland (1801-1879), probably in the 1830s. About 1827 Holland acquired 106 acres on the waters of the Staunton (Roanoke) River from the estate of his father, Thomas Holland (1764-1816), and by the mid-1830s he had assembled a holding of about 500 acres in the area. Tax records indicate the first taxable improvements, amounting to \$159, were made on his lands in 1832 or 1833, and by the end of the decade the total value of improvements had risen to \$700, a figure that likely represents the construction of the present house. The Federal styling of the Holland-Duncan House accords well with an 1830s date of construction. Asa Holland married Katherine Tate Semple (ca. 1816-1841) in 1833; perhaps this was a factor in the decision to build the house.¹

Holland added to his landholdings in the late antebellum period. The farm schedules of the 1850 federal census describe a farm of 400 improved acres and 600 unimproved acres with an emphasis on cattle production. Holland's herd of fifty-five head was one of the largest in the county, fed in part from forty tons of hay, a prodigious harvest compared to others in the county. Holland also grew forty bushels of grass seed, a large amount suggesting production for export. His crop of 400 pounds of tobacco was small compared to that of other farms in his area. By 1860 tobacco had become more important to the farm; 6,500 pounds were produced, among

¹ Franklin County tax records; Kathleen Booth Williams papers. The 1840 tax records list \$500 value of improvements on one of Holland's parcels and \$200 on another. Although \$500 may seem low to account for a large brick dwelling of the sophistication of the Holland-Duncan House, it is apparently commensurate with values for brick dwellings in Franklin County during the period (Pezzoni, "Bowman Farm"). The figure remained constant until 1851 when the total value of improvements for Holland's combined acreage jumped to \$2,000. According to genealogist Kathleen Booth Williams, Asa and Katherine's first daughter was born in 1835 at her maternal grandfather's house in the Taylor Store area of Franklin County, not far from the Holland-Duncan House. This may be an indication that the Holland-Duncan House was not yet built, or it may simply mean that Mrs. Holland spent her confinement with relatives, as was often the case during the period. One account in the Williams papers states that Asa and Katherine were married in 1832, but most sources agree on 1833.

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Holland-Duncan House
Franklin Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

the county's larger harvests. The bulk of the work of producing these crops was performed by Holland's slaves, who numbered about twenty in 1850 and possibly twenty-five in 1860. In later years, Holland was aided in the management of his farms--one in Franklin County and one in neighboring Pittsylvania--by his son Mark and his son-in-law William E. Duncan.²

In addition to land Asa Holland acquired prestige during the period. According to Clint Shay, long-time resident and historian of the Holland-Duncan House, Holland served as a president of the Rocky Mount & New London Turnpike Company from 1851 to 1855, and as a constable, deputy sheriff, and local militia captain (the latter in 1836). An old sign found on the property and painted "Entertainment by A. Holland" indicates he lodged and fed guests at his residence. Perhaps most interesting from a historical standpoint is Holland's service as postmaster for his community, known as Hale's Ford, before, during, and possibly after the Civil War. Holland's activities have been documented by Roanoke historian and archaeologist Horace Hood, who in the 1970s discovered a cache of postal records in the office that stands in front of the Holland-Duncan House. The records indicate that Holland was Hale's Ford's postmaster in 1860 and probably earlier, and they trace the transition from federal to Confederate control of the county's postal system and the brief period in April and May of 1861 when Virginia was not a part of the Union or the Confederacy. It is Hood's belief that Asa Holland resumed his duties to the federal government after the war.³

The war visited the Holland-Duncan House in April 1865. The presence of the Confederate post office and the fact that Asa Holland's son-in-law was a Confederate quarter master fueled a rumor that Holland's property was being used as a Confederate supply depot. Federal soldiers foraging in Bedford County heard the rumor and rode southward along the turnpike (the present Highway 122) on a raiding expedition. One of Holland's granddaughters later recalled running to the northeast attic room to watch the soldiers advance. The house was encircled and Asa Holland strode out to confront the raiders. He denied the government depot rumor but the

² U.S. census, 1850 and 1860; G. Clinton Shay personal communication. Although Holland reported owning 1,000 acres in the 1850 census, county tax records suggest the true total was 873 acres.

³ Shay and Shay, "Colorful history of Holland-Duncan House;" Hood, "My Excellent Adventure," 79-85; and Salmon and Salmon, *Franklin County*, 297. The sign now belongs to the Franklin County Historical Society.

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Holland-Duncan House
Franklin Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

commanding officer ordered a search of the house and one of the front-yard offices. The search party found no incriminating evidence and the officer apologized for the mistake; however the soldiers did help themselves to the plantation food supplies. According to a first-hand account:

"Some of the men had already gone into the kitchen and taken all they could find and asked for cold pies. They were told there were none as here they usually cooked fresh ones each day. They did not find much but corn bread and meat of which they ate all they could find; then they went into the smokehouse, took out meat, all the flour they could find, went into the cornhouse and took corn for their horses."

The story provides incidental information on the outbuildings that supported the Holland's household. The meathouse still stands behind the house, as does the chimney of the kitchen, incorporated into a reconstruction. The cornhouse is long gone.⁴

To educate his children Holland hired William Erastus Duncan (1825-1912) as their tutor. "Ras" Duncan, a graduate of Columbian College in Washington, D.C. (now George Washington University), may have joined the Duncan household in the late 1840s. In 1852 he married Asa's daughter Sallie Elizabeth (1835-1920) and over the following nine years the couple moved around Virginia and present West Virginia as Duncan took various teaching jobs. Duncan taught at Hollins College in Roanoke County (Sallie's alma mater), possibly Meadville Academy in Halifax County (he was accepted as principal there in 1856 but it is unclear whether he served), and Alleghany College at Blue Sulphur Springs, Greenbrier College, which he helped organize. During the first half of 1856, according to his diary, Duncan taught school at Hale's Ford. For his classroom he probably used the recently completed Hale's Ford Baptist Church, located across the road from his father-in-law's house. Duncan's diary entries describe the cold of his unheated schoolroom, fights between the young men in his charge and his efforts at peace-making, and his search for more gainful employment, which paid off with the Meadville appointment. Tuition at the school cost \$27 per pupil per session.⁵

⁴ Holland reminiscences; Shay and Shay, "Colorful history of Holland-Duncan House;" and Salmon and Salmon, *Franklin County*, 297.

⁵ Dinwiddie, "Hales Ford Classical School," 35-37; Duncan diary; Turner, "'Duncan's School'"; William E. Duncan obituary, *Religious Herald*, May 30, 1912; and Williams papers.

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Holland-Duncan House
Franklin Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

The Duncans were in Greenbrier County when the Civil War broke out, and William resigned his teaching post to enter the Confederate army as a captain in the quartermaster corps (it was this association that contributed to the aforementioned supply depot rumor). After the war Duncan managed one of his father-in-law's plantations in Pittsylvania County before returning to Hale's Ford to open a school in 1874. This private academy, which went by various official names but is popularly known as Hale's Ford Academy, was conducted in the Hale's Ford Baptist Church until the building burned in 1880; thereafter school was taught in a frame building that stood to the west of the Holland-Duncan House on the north side of Highway 122. This building stood until 1990 when, as a consequence of proposed commercial development of its site, the old academy was dismantled for removal and reassembly at an area elementary school. During reassembly the building was burned by arsonists, but the academy was reconstructed based on documentation prepared by the author and today it serves as a popular teaching aid.⁶

A number of advertisements survive for the co-educational academy. One for the "Hale's Ford Classical & Mathematical School" announced the beginning of the school year on November 1, 1881, "in a new, commodious, and comfortable school-room recently erected." The advertisement touted the healthfulness of the Hale's Ford area, and assured parents of prospective students that the locale was free from "all enticements to idleness and neglect of study." Board could be had with local families; from other sources it is known that students also boarded with the Duncans, girls in the main house and boys in the front-yard offices. William Duncan taught languages, math, natural science, and history, but he stressed schooling in the "primary branches." Sallie Duncan also taught in the two-room school building, and after hours she conducted music lessons in the main house. Also in the main house, apparently, William maintained a "book room" or library where he permitted his students to study. The Duncans avoided a repeat of William's chilly session during the winter of 1856 by outfitting their new schoolhouse with a fireplace and two stoves.⁷

The Hale's Ford Academy operated during a period of transition from private schooling to state-

⁶ Dinwiddie, "Hales Ford Classical School," 37-38; Turner, "'Duncan's School'"; and Pezzoni, "Hales Ford Academy."

⁷ Dinwiddie, "Hales Ford Classical School," 38-39; Pezzoni, "Hales Ford Academy;" and Kathleen Booth Williams papers.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

supported public education. Public schooling was available only a few months out of the year. Parents who could afford it hired tutors or sent their children to private academies. The latter group comprised a small elite; only five percent of school-aged children received private instruction in 1890, according to a statewide survey. Despite his pecuniary interest in private schooling, William E. Duncan worked to expand the public education system and to train public school teachers. He served two terms as Franklin County's public school superintendent (1876-1880 and 1886-1889) and he helped organize teacher training institutes in Franklin and surrounding counties. According to Franklin County historians John and Emily Salmon, he was "an active and knowledgeable superintendent," although some criticized him for giving undue preference to graduates of his academy in selections for public teaching jobs.⁸

In 1890 Duncan invited T. A. Walker to join him as co-principal. Walker accepted but with the condition:

"I want one of the offices in your yard all to myself. I won't want anybody in that office with me. I don't care how good or how religious he may be. I shall want to study and I don't want to be bothered."

A year later Duncan changed the name of the school to Hale's Ford Classical and Normal Training School in a reflection of the growing emphasis on teacher training. Eventually the county's public school system developed to the point that private academies were no longer viable, and in 1895 the Hale's Ford Academy closed as a private institution. It later reopened as a public school, however, with one or more of William and Sallie Duncan's daughters serving there as teachers. One daughter, Sallie W. Duncan, served as an assistant principal at the county's Mountain View Normal School in 1891.⁹

The Holland-Duncan House passed to Sallie E. Duncan upon her father Asa's death in 1879. In the house she raised eight children to adulthood, all but one of whom taught school at some point

⁸ Link, *Hard Country*, 53; Duncan Family papers; Dinwiddie, "Hales Ford Classical School," 41-42; Salmon and Salmon, *Franklin County*, 383-386; and Turner, "Duncan's School".

⁹ Dinwiddie, "Hales Ford Classical School," 39; Salmon and Salmon, *Franklin County*, 386; and Turner, "Duncan's School".

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Statement of Significance (continued)

during their lives. In addition to the immediate family the household included a number of black servants. In letters he wrote to his father-in-law shortly after the Civil War, William E. Duncan complained bitterly about the freedmen he employed on his Pittsylvania County plantation, but his wife seems to have enjoyed cordial, even loving relations with her servants. One in particular stands out in family memory: Amanda Hancock (1835-1917). According to Sallie's granddaughter Kathleen Booth Williams:

"Grandma told me that Aunt Mandy came to her soon after the Civil War--that she walked 1 mile up the road from the Hancock place with her possessions tied in a cloth . . . and announced: 'Miss Sallie, I'se come to work for you.' Grandma said, 'Don't you belong to the Hancocks?' Aunt Mandy said, 'I'se free now, and can work where I wants to, and I'se come to work for you.'"¹⁰

The family provided Hancock with a log cabin and space for a flower garden, and in return she cooked in the kitchen behind the house, at first for pay which she deposited at a bank in Danville, but in later life for no pay. In 1900 Hancock went to Roanoke for an eye operation, and while recuperating she dictated a letter to her employer that concluded: "Write to me & let me hear how you all is getting a long. I wants to hear from you all & I wants to come home very bad." In her will, dated 1906, Sallie Duncan requested that her children care for Hancock for the remainder of her life for the service she had rendered. The family cemetery contains a granite monument to Hancock inscribed: "In loving memory of Amanda Hancock/A most fatiful [*sic*] friend & servant." The misspelling of "faithful" may be a mistake on the part of the tombstone carver, strangely left uncorrected by the family, or it may represent an attempt to capture the flavor of Hancock's vernacular speech. In her last years Sallie Duncan was crippled by arthritis and relied on the care of a black nurse named Zilla. According to Kathleen Booth Williams, Duncan needed help in reading, and she "taught Zilla enough for Zilla to take State Board Examinations and become a teacher."¹¹

William E. Duncan died in 1912 and Sallie followed in 1920. The property passed to Sallie's

¹⁰ Franklin County Will Book 18, p. 255; Salmon and Salmon, *Franklin County*, 302; and Kathleen Booth Williams papers.

¹¹ Kathleen Booth Williams papers; Duncan family papers (transcript of Sallie E. Duncan's 1906 will and Hancock letter).

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Statement of Significance (continued)

sister, Ann Leitch Duncan, who had married William Duncan's brother. By 1970 the house had been abandoned and was in disrepair, but in the 1970s and early 1980s it was restored by then owners John and Shirley Eakin and in 1983 it was acquired by G. Clinton and Kathryn Shay, who continued the work of the Eakins. The Shays opened a bed and breakfast in the house, converted the log meathouse into a guest cabin, and reconstructed the log kitchen which also became a guest cabin. They are presently negotiating to sell their entire acreage, which totals twenty-seven acres, and hope that a preservation easement will be donated for the area around the house and outbuildings.

Architectural Analysis

Family tradition asserts that the surviving front-yard office was used as the Hale's Ford Post Office, and the discovery of period postal records there support the attribution, although some postal records have also been discovered in the main house. The size of the building and its location next to the road are also positive evidence, but there is an alternative theory about its function. According to Sarah Dinwiddie, historian of the Hale's Ford Academy, who corresponded with William and Sallie Duncan's grandchildren and researched Duncan family papers, the office was associated with the academy and dates to the post-bellum period. She writes: "Early [during the existence of the school, which she dates to 1874], the two offices were built, one on either side of the front yard, and these were used as dormitories for the boys. The girls were cared for in the house." If Dinwiddie is correct in dating the office to the 1870s, then it could not have served as a Confederate post office. More likely the office is antebellum in date, as suggested by architectural features and by family tradition. The building presumably served a variety of functions as need warranted.¹²

¹² Dinwiddie, "Hales Ford Classical School," 39; Holland reminiscences. Holland-Duncan descendant Kathleen Booth Williams wrote an errata to Dinwiddie's article but did not comment on the office. Architectural comparison of the office to the former Hales Ford Academy (1881) sheds some light on the question of the construction date of the former. Both buildings have or had hewn sills, but the academy had circular-sawn studs that were nailed to the sills, whereas the office studs appear to be hewn, and they are mortise-and-tenoned and pegged to the sills (author's investigation; Lee, "Hale's Ford Academy;" and Pezzoni, "Hales Ford Academy"). The stout, hewn construction of the office suggests to the author a date before the Civil War. The Duncan Family Papers at the Library of Virginia contain an account that may be for building materials for the 1881 academy building. The information was apparently written into the front

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The gender-segregated academy living arrangement Dinwiddie describes occurred elsewhere in the South. In North Carolina's Lee County private academy campuses from the late nineteenth century included small cabins used by male students "who wish to club," whereas girls lodged in a dormitory under the supervision of a resident matron. Two private academy female dormitories survive in Lee County; the smaller and presumably less substantially constructed male boarding cabins are long gone. The Holland-Duncan House and its office may represent a rare vestige of the arrangement. The classroom buildings are missing--the Hale's Ford Baptist Church and the academy building that succeeded it--but the house, which doubled as the girls dormitory, and the office, a rare male boarding cabin, survive.¹³

of William E. Duncan's quartermaster account book after the Civil War and lists shingles and "18 trees for sleepers," approximately the number of log joists that once supported the academy's floor.

¹³ Pezzoni, *History and Architecture of Lee County*, 86.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated parcel are portrayed on the 1:100-scale map that accompanies this nomination as Exhibit A. Essentially, the southwest and northwest boundaries correspond to existing property lines as described in Franklin County Deed Book 281, p. 647. The northeast boundary runs fifty feet to the northeast of and parallel to a power line. The southeast boundary corresponds to a line fifty feet to the southeast of the rear elevation of the workshop and garage (inventory no. 8) that runs parallel to the southeast elevation of the building.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated parcel encompass an area of approximately two acres that includes the Holland-Duncan House, the office, and associated contributing and noncontributing resources. The boundaries exclude surrounding acreage that has undergone or is likely to undergo *modern commercial development*. The southeast and northeast boundaries are drawn so as to provide an opportunity for vegetative buffers to screen the property from future development on those exposures.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

1. 1. Subject: Holland-Duncan House (same for all photos)
2. Location: Franklin Co., Va. (same for all photos)
3. Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni (same for all photos)
4. Photo date: July 1999 (same for all photos)
5. Original negative (VDHR # 17630) archived at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond (same for all photos)
6. Description of view: Front (northwest) elevation of house. View looking south.
7. Photograph number appears at beginning of entry (same for all photos)
2. 6. Rear (southeast) elevation of house showing a part of the ell and the "faux" window. View looking north.
3. 6. First-floor east room mantel in house.
4. 6. Post office. View looking west.
5. 6. Cemetery. View looking southeast.
6. 6. Guest cabin (kitchen) on left, guest cabin (meathouse) on right, and a glimpse of the main house in the center background. View looking west.

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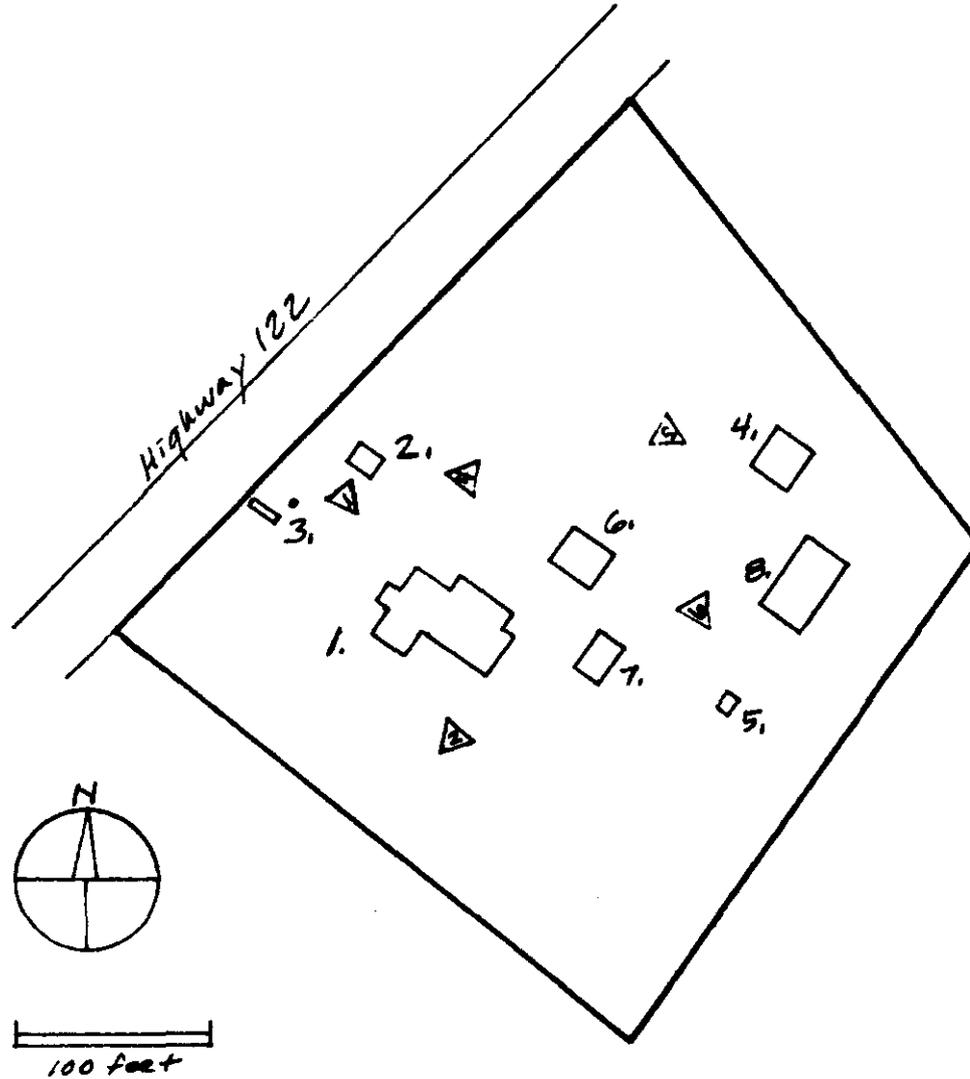


Exhibit A: Map of the nominated parcel. Scale: 1" = 100'. Resources are numbered according to the inventory. Scale and placement of resources is approximate. Triangular indicators show the number and direction of view of photographs.

