

L12-1200

VLR 3119103  
NR 5/22/03

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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 Selwyn

other names/site number 042-0120

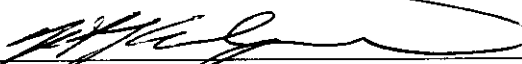
#### 2. Location

street & number 6279 Powhite Farm Drive not for publication

city or town Mechanicsville vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Hanover code 085 Zip 23111

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 4/4/03  
Signature of certifying official Date  
**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
 entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. Signature of Keeper  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register Date of Action

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Selwyn  
Hanover County, VA

**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>  2  </u>	<u>  5  </u>	buildings
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	objects
<u>  2  </u>	<u>  5  </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

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>Secondary Structure</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>Agriculture/subsistence</u>	<u>Agricultural Otbuilding</u>
<u>Agriculture/Subsistence</u>	<u>Animal Facility</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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**7. Description**

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

   Early Republic: Federal \_\_\_\_\_  
   Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century: Greek Revival \_\_\_\_\_

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**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation    Brick \_\_\_\_\_  
roof    Metal \_\_\_\_\_  
walls    Wood \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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.

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

   Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
   Military \_\_\_\_\_

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Period of Significance ca. 1820-1865

Significant Dates ca. 1820  
ca. 1850  
1862, 1864

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

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

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**

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 59.682

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

Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1 18 295,100	4,162,200	2 18 295,300	4,161,950
3 18 295,500	4,161,850	4 18 295,200	4,161,500

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.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: Margarita J. Wuellner, Maureen Meyers, and Ashley Neville

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ date 11/16/02

street & number: 1705 E. Main Street telephone 804-644-0656

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23223

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**Additional Documentation**

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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)

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**Property Owner**

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

name Selwyn Properties LC c/o Robert Bluford

street & number 2109 Buckeye Drive telephone 804-266-6186

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23228

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**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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**7. Description:**

**Summary Description**

Selwyn, initially built about 1820, is located in the Cold Harbor area of eastern Hanover County, Virginia. It is a large two-and-a-half-story frame house with exterior-end brick chimneys like many other antebellum I-houses (single-pile, center-passage plan). Two-story pent closets flank the chimney on the northeast end. Its distinction is that two-thirds of the house was built in the Federal style, while the 1850s addition was constructed in the Greek Revival style. The newer front (north) porch is in the Greek Revival style while the earlier Federal-style porch survives on the rear. The interior woodwork reflects the difference in styles and few changes have been made to the house over the years. Selwyn has a singularly high degree of architectural integrity and is the best example of this evolution of building styles in Hanover County.

A handsome frame dairy stands in the side yard and is the only surviving outbuilding that is contemporary with the house. Other twentieth-century outbuildings include a pump house, chicken house, vehicle shed, and two additional gable-roof buildings. The house and the mid-nineteenth century dairy are contributing resources; the remaining twentieth-century outbuildings are considered non-contributing resources.

**Detailed Analysis**

Selwyn stands on the last ridge overlooking the Chickahominy River from the north amidst the open farm fields of eastern Hanover County near the Civil War battlefields of Cold Harbor, Gaines Mill, and Beaver Dam Creek. It is set back approximately one-half-mile from the major historic thoroughfare in this area, Cold Harbor Road. The lane more directly in front of the house is the same Civil War era road that ran from Fairfield to the west, past Selwyn, and to Powhite to the east. Of these three well-known houses along this almost forgotten road, only Selwyn survives today. Approached by a farm lane from this road, fields planted with soybeans or corn in the summer and winter wheat in the winter are located in front of the house and on its east side. A pond and woods on the rear (south) and east side screen the property from the interstate highway located along the southern property boundary. One historic outbuilding, a dairy, is located immediately northwest of the house. Other twentieth-century outbuildings include a vehicle shed, chicken house, pump house,

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and two gable-roof sheds. They are located southeast of the house.

As it stands today, Selwyn is a two-and-a-half-story, five-bay frame dwelling with gable roof and gable dormers on both the front and rear. The windows throughout have nine-over-nine sash on the first floor and nine-over-six on the second. All have molded window surrounds with bull's-eye corner blocks. There are two exterior-end brick chimneys, both laid in five-course American bond. Two-story pent closets flank the chimney on the northeast end – the original portion of the house. A modillion cornice with bored mutules is found on both the front and rear.

The original ca. 1820 Federal-style portion of the house (west side) is two-and-a-half stories on a raised brick basement laid in three-course American bond, and has a single-pile, side-passage plan. Sometime in the 1850s a two-and-a-half-story, single-pile addition was built with woodwork in the Greek Revival style. The addition resulted in Selwyn's present single-pile, center-passage plan. A new Greek Revival-style front porch also was added at this time, but the rear Federal-style porch was retained and is still extant.

The center passage has doors at both ends that serve the front and rear porches. The front door has a wide six-panel wood door with rectangular raised panels. A three-light transom is located over the door. Flanking the door are six-light sidelights over single recessed panels. The rear door is similar to the front door, but lacks a transom and sidelights.

The stair is on the southeast wall of the passage and rises to the rear (north to south) of the house. It is a half-turn stair with landings. The stair has a molded, ramped handrail, a turned, tapered newel, rectangular balusters, curved stair brackets, and a beaded stringer. A second stair provides access to the finished attic from the second floor. It is a winder stair with a square newel post, molded handrail, rectangular balusters, and beaded stringer. Access to the basement is via a third stair located under the main stair in the passage. The basement stair is similar to the attic stair.

The walls of the original first and second floors in the Federal-style portion of the house are painted plaster over lathe and have wood wainscots with molded chair rails. The doors and windows have molded surrounds with bull's-eye corner blocks. The floors have wide, wood floorboards. The window surrounds in the first-floor parlor begin at floor level. There are single rectangular recessed

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between the baseboard and the widow sill. The Federal-style parlor mantel has slender Tuscan columns flanking the beaded, rectangular opening around the firebox. Impost blocks occur over the columns at the level of the frieze, which is plain. The molded cornice and bowed mantelshelf are layered and step out over the impost blocks. The pent closets flank the fireplace and have six-raised-panel doors.

The second-floor of the original portion of the house has wainscots with reeded chair rails, and simpler, two-part door and window surrounds with attached crown moldings. The bedroom has a picture molding at the height of the top edge of the door surrounds. The bedroom mantel is similar to the one in the parlor below, except for its taller proportions. Pent closets flank the mantel on this floor also.

The original part of the attic story is finished with painted plaster walls and beaded baseboards and features a Federal-style mantel with flanking molded pilasters, and a projecting shelf that steps out over the pilasters. The door surrounds are beaded on the inner edges and the outer edges have attached moldings with a large bead. The doors are six-paneled (recessed).

The original portion of the basement features a Federal-style mantel in the basement dining room (now a bedroom). The mantel has flanking Tuscan columns supporting a marble shelf. The basement walls are painted plaster with beaded baseboards, and beaded door and window surrounds with attached crown moldings. Only minor alterations have been made to the house. The exterior door to the pent closet has been closed and the closet has been outfitted with built-in shelving and cabinets. Also, a bathroom was added underneath the basement stair.

The 1850s addition features Greek Revival-style mantels on the end walls of the first and second floors. The square, block-like proportions of the mantels are typical for the period. Both mantels are similar, with wide, flanking Tuscan pilasters on plinths, broad, plain friezes, and molded cornices supporting thick, projecting shelves.

The walls on the first floor of the 1850s addition have tall, two-part baseboards. The windows have two-part surrounds and under-window aprons; the surrounds are crosssetted. The door surround has crosssetted corners and is topped with a triangular panel. The door has panels similar to doors found at Gold Hill and Lockwood, two other Hanover County homes built in the 1850s. There are two long rectangular panels over two shorter ones. All sides of the panel are drawn in at the center giving



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each panel a strange bow-like form. The second-floor walls have tall beaded baseboards. The window and door surrounds are similar to those on the first floor except that the door surround lacks a triangular panel. The door is a typical four-panel wood door.

The attic of the 1850s section features a smaller version of the Greek Revival-style mantels found on the first and second floors. The walls have beaded baseboards and a two-part door surround with a beaded inner edge. The door is a vertical, two-panel (recessed) door. Stains on the floorboards are thought to be bloodstains from the house's use as a hospital during the Civil War.

The 1850s basement was converted to a kitchen by 1920. The basement windows are sliding pocket windows. The kitchen was originally unfinished brick. An exterior bulkhead entry is located on the end wall, flanking the chimney on the south.

Only one dependency, contemporary with the house survives. It is a handsome dairy, one of the few to survive in the county. The dairy is one story, sheathed in weatherboard, and has a cove cornice with a row of vertical vents on all sides just below the cornice. A pyramidal roof with metal finial tops the building.

The remaining outbuildings, all frame, were constructed in the twentieth century. They include vehicle shed, chicken house, and two one-story, one-bay, gable-roof storage buildings. These buildings do not contribute to the significance of the property.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Summary Statement of Significance

Selwyn, located in eastern Hanover County, Virginia, stands among the county's Civil War battlefields and was witness to the events of that war, first in 1862 and again two years later in 1864. The house was used as headquarters first by the Union and then the Confederate armies in 1862 during McClellan's Peninsula Campaign and was also used as a hospital. During the 1864 Battle of Cold Harbor, the house was again used as a hospital. It is one of the best examples of a house in Hanover County that demonstrates the evolution from the Federal style to the Greek Revival style. Both styles are evident in the house. Relatively untouched by the development that has occurred around it, the house and grounds rank today among the most significant historical and architectural resources in Hanover County.

Selwyn is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A in the area of the Military because of its use as army headquarters and hospital during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign and as a hospital in 1864 during the Battle of Cold Harbor. It is also eligible at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. It is an excellent example of an antebellum frame dwelling in Hanover County that demonstrates the evolution of styles and house plans from the Federal to the Greek Revival. Few changes have been made to the house and it exhibits an exceptionally high degree of architectural integrity.

### Historical Background

#### Architecture

Selwyn is the best example of a dwelling in Hanover County that shows the evolution from the Federal style to the Greek Revival style (Selwyn, VDHR File No. 042-0120). The common practice in the county was to renovate the original portion of a house in the style popular at the time when additions were built. However, at Selwyn this was not the case. The original Federal-style portion was left untouched, and its appearance is quite distinct from the Greek Revival-style addition. In essence, the original 1820s single-pile, side-passage plan house retained the original Federal-style detailing while the 1850s single-pile addition was built in the Greek Revival style. In addition to the

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unique juxtaposition of these two styles, the single-pile addition to Selwyn created a single-pile, center-passage plan or I-house plan. Selwyn is one of the best examples in the county. This house type was a traditional favorite of successful farmers from the eastern seaboard to the mid-west. Of all house types, the I-house is the most widely distributed, particularly in rural areas and Hanover County is no exception (Kniffen 1965:5). The I-house is the most popular dwelling type identified among the surviving historic houses in the county (Land and Community Associates 1992:24). Of these Selwyn also retains the highest level of architectural integrity with few changes to its original fabric. A dairy is the only outbuilding, contemporary to the house, to survive. Like the house, it also has a high degree of integrity and its cove cornice and vertical vents put it among the finest and best-preserved dairies in the county (Land and Community Associates 1992:46).

The Federal style and its vernacular interpretation is the predominant style of surviving antebellum buildings in Hanover. The first several decades of the nineteenth-century were marked by a period of growth in the county that is reflected in its fine collection of surviving Federal-period houses. Fashionable residences such as Edgewood and Williamsville, both brick, began to appear in the 1790s; however, it was not until about 1815 that Federal decorative details such as sunbursts and corner fans began to appear. Due to Hanover's stylistic conservatism and adherence to traditional building practices, stylistic forms and details continued to be used in the county well past the period in which they were introduced (Land and Community Associates 1992:30). Surviving houses contemporary with the early section of Selwyn include Summer Hill, Westwood, and White Plains. All are frame, although White Plains is one-and-a half stories unlike the others, which are two stories like Selwyn. These houses all have the modillion cornices and White Plains also has modillions with bored mutules (Land and Community Associates 1992:31).

Fewer houses in Hanover were constructed in the Greek Revival style. This may reflect the slower pace of construction that occurred during its popularity or the county's stylistic conservatism. Stylistically transitional dwellings built in the 1840s and 1850s in the county include Jessamine Lawn, Hill Meadow, Ditchley, and Marlbourne. However, the transition between Federal and Greek Revival styles is most apparent at Selwyn where the original 1820s Federal-style section remains intact alongside an 1850s addition that features Greek Revival-style mantels, doors, and wall treatments (Land and Community Associates 1992:35). No other house in Hanover County more clearly demonstrates the differences in style than does Selwyn.

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**Property History**

Selwyn, located in eastern Hanover County between Powhite and Fairfield, was originally William Macon's property. Fairfield was the seat of the Macon family in Hanover County and both Powhite and Selwyn were derived from that property. During the Civil War, troops from both armies used all three properties particularly during the 1862 engagements at Mechanicsville and Gaines Mill and again in 1864 during the Battle of Cold Harbor. All three houses were used as hospitals and Selwyn served as a headquarters first for the Federal and then the Confederate armies in 1862. Of the three, only Selwyn survives today.

James Govan acquired the Powhite and Selwyn properties in the early nineteenth century. His son Archibald Govan inherited Selwyn in 1831 after the death of his father while Archibald's brother, Edward, inherited Powhite (Hanover County Historical Society 1983:48). In 1858, Walker Hogan of King William County was listed as the owner of Selwyn. The Hogan family lived at Selwyn during the Civil War; at that time, the house was referred to as 'Hogan's' (Hanover County Historical Society 1983:48). Immediately prior to the start of the war, Hogan was listed in local tax records as a 60-year old farmer worth \$29,300; also listed are his wife, S.R., age 46, and two children: William M., age 37 and B.M., age 16.

William Hogan died in 1887. At that time, the property was divided and sold in the Hanover court. Charlotte E. Starke and her children purchased the house lot. In 1888, the owners of Selwyn sold the property to Harriet F. Christian, wife of Robert O. Christian; they retained the property until September 12, 1918, when it was sold to William Baynham Gouldman and his wife Lillie (Casey) Gouldman (Hanover County Historical Society 1983:48). The Gouldman estate recently sold the property to Selwyn Properties, LC.

**Selwyn and the Civil War**

Aside from being an early nineteenth-century residence of Hanover County, Selwyn is known for its role as first a Union and then a Confederate army headquarters and as a hospital during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign and again as a hospital during the significant Cold Harbor battle in 1864. On May 20, 1862, Union troops arrived in the area of Selwyn and established an observation and signal station, well in advance of the Union picket line. By May 22<sup>nd</sup> they had set up a line of six signal flag stations between Hogan's House and the Union Army headquarters near Cold Harbor.

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Confederate artillerists, who saw the signal activity from these flags, had a battery across the Chickahominy River, positioned to deliver concentrated fire on the Hogan House area (Official Records [O.R.] Series I, Vol. II, Part I:245).

On May 25<sup>th</sup> a field telegraph office was established in one of the buildings on the Hogan property. By this time the house had become the headquarters of Union General William F. Smith, who commanded the 2nd Division of the VI Corps. The telegraph wire stretched from Selwyn to near Mechanicsville, the headquarters of General John W. Davidson. This telegraph line marks the first utilization of the telegraph in the field of action by the United States Army, here, specifically, the Army of the Potomac (O.R. Series I, Vol. II, Part I:245). Wagons were equipped with telegraphic instruments and large reels to spin out the insulated wire. On June 5, 1862, General Smith's division left Selwyn and moved to the opposite side of the Chickahominy River. However, the telegraph connection to Selwyn remained in use until June 13<sup>th</sup>, when a change in headquarters' location necessitated that the wire be reeled up and moved (O.R. Series I, Vol. II, Part I:246).

After the May 27<sup>th</sup> Hanover Courthouse battle, the wounded from this conflict were taken to Selwyn and other neighboring homes; 123 Confederate prisoners were among the wounded. Bloodstains related to this use as a hospital are reportedly still visible on the attic floor of the house. The house came under Confederate artillery fire, resulting in moving the wounded to Fairfield, the nearby house of Dr. Gaines (O.R. Series I, Vol. II, Part I, p. 187).

By the end of June 1862, the Federals had constructed gun emplacements, also known as Battery Porter and Fort Davidson, to the right of Selwyn that were occupied by Battery F of the 1st Connecticut Artillery. They were used to engage Confederate batteries located across the river at the Price and Garnett homes, on June 25<sup>th</sup>. At this time, the Confederates moved two 64-pound rifled guns to aim at Hogan's House and fired at the officers there; this fire necessitated moving the signal station to the edge of the woods (O.R. Series I, Vol. II, Part I, p. 247). On the afternoon of June 26<sup>th</sup>, the Confederates crossed the Chickahominy and converged on the nearby town of Mechanicsville driving the Union soldiers back to Selwyn. The signal station at Selwyn observed this movement and communicated it to headquarters. The Union troops decided to withdraw from the area but aware that the Confederates watched the signal stations to acquire information about Union troop movements, deliberately sent false information. The message "The five divisions have arrived" was intended to lead the enemy into thinking the Union Army meant to hold their ground with additional reinforcements. Early in the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup>, the Selwyn station was abandoned (O.R. Series I,

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Vol. II, Part I, p. 251).

Under Major-General James Longstreet, the Confederates arrived at Selwyn late on the morning of June 27, 1862. Skirmishers were sent ahead to determine the location of the Union Army. Once they realized the Union forces had retreated, the Confederates set up Longstreet's headquarters at the house. They did find it badly damaged from their own repeated artillery attacks. They also found evidence that it had been used as a hospital, and numerous burial mounds were found in the yard. Soon thereafter, General Lee arrived, and the house and grounds became the center of activity (O.R. Series I, Vol. II, Part II p. 853). Generals Maxcy Gregg, Cadmus Wilcox, W.S. Featherston, Roger Pryor and others, including local civilians, were present. The generals received their orders and departed. When a courier arrived reporting that General Thomas J. Jackson's troops were engaged at New Cold Harbor Lee, Longstreet, and their staffs mounted and left Selwyn to pursue the Federals (Snow 1867:60-61).

Less is known about Selwyn's role during the 1864 campaign in Hanover County; however, fighting took place in the vicinity of Selwyn between the May 28, 1864, Battle of Haw's Shop (about seven miles to the north) and the momentous Battle of Cold Harbor, June 3-5, which was only about two miles to the northeast. That Selwyn was again pressed into service as a hospital is evident from the claims Walker Hogan submitted to Confederate authorities in June 1864 writing that his "house and farm have seen hard times in the past two weeks." He also noted that his house had been used as a hospital during the Battle of Cold Harbor (Hogan File No. M346).

#### **Civil War Documentation about Selwyn**

There are numerous accounts of the activity at Selwyn during the spring and summer of 1862. All of the accounts refer to the home as "Hogan's House" or "Hogan's". One of the best accounts of Selwyn during this period comes from William P. Snow (1867:60). He states:

"this house [Selwyn] was used by the Federal generals as headquarters, but on the retreat of the Union Army, General Lee, accompanied by Longstreet, fixed his post there. The building was badly shattered by shot and shell from the Confederates during the previous fights, and was very shaky. In the upper rooms were large stains of blood, near where a shell had entered; and the outhouses bore every appearance of

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having been used for hospitals, while numerous mounds of earth spoke of sepulchre (burials).”

Snow also describes in detail the activity of Lee and Longstreet at the house. He writes:

“as soon as the Confederate chief took possession, the whole yard and orchard was occupied by general officers, aids, couriers, and prisoners. Says an eyewitness, Lee sat in the south portico, absorbed in thought. Dressed in a dark blue uniform, buttoned to the throat, his fine, calm, open countenance and gray hair would have tempted an artist to sketch him in this thoughtful attitude. Longstreet sat in an old garden-chair, at the foot of the steps, under shady trees, busily engaged in disposing of a bunch of sandwiches” (Snow 1867:60-61)

The occupation at Selwyn is mentioned in multiple soldiers’ journals as well as army official records. A.R. Ellerson, of the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry, relates the Confederate occupation at Selwyn as seen from an enlisted man:

“That night General Lee and General Longstreet made their head-quarters in Hogan’s dwelling. I was sitting on the steps of this building about ten o’clock, when General Jackson rode up with Lincoln Sydnor, who was his guide on this occasion. General Jackson gave his horse to Sydnor to hold and went into the house, as I afterward learned, for a consultation with all of the higher officials of the army” (Ellerson).

A soldier correspondent described the battle for the *Philadelphia Press* as well. Apparently confusing Hogan (who was not a doctor) with his neighbor Dr. Gaines, he wrote:

“the house of Dr. Hogan, on whose farm we are encamped, is now used as a hospital for the wounded of both parties, and another house in the vicinity is used as a guard house for the rebels captured by our own pickets. The telegraph has been extended to within half a mile of this place on the direct road to Richmond; and as our army advances the wires follow, so that almost any division of the army has the advantage of instantaneous telegraphic communication.” (W.M.).

Another Union correspondence is from Charles Tripler, one of the doctors of the Army of the

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Potomac. On May 27<sup>th</sup>, following the battle at Hanover Courthouse, he writes "ambulances were promptly sent for the wounded, and hospitals prepared for them in William Gaines's and Hogan's houses and out-houses. Hogan's house being under fire, I was afterwards obliged to remove the wounded prisoners to Doctor Gaines's buildings" (Tripler 1870:56).

Confederate papers document Walker Hogan's activities related to the war in general. He is recorded as selling hay, horses and mules to the Confederate Army in July and September 1861 and January 1862. During the summer of 1862, when his house was occupied, he sold 466 pounds of lead to the Ordnance Bureau for 10 cents a pound. The following September (1863), the Holcombe Legion took 2,618 pounds of hay from his farm. He was paid for 30,000 pounds of hay on December 8, 1863. On June 16, 1864, he charged \$50.20 for grazing 41 horses of the Lane's Brigade for 8 days. A file at the National Archives contains a June 1864 letter from Hogan to Confederate authorities, noting that his house and farm have seen hard times in the past two weeks, and that his house was used as a Confederate hospital (Hogan File No. 346).

Selwyn has a combination of historical and architectural significance for Hanover County. The events that occurred at Selwyn during the Civil War battles in this part of Hanover in 1862 and again in 1864 contribute to its importance in the history of the Civil War in Hanover. Its architectural importance lies in its unique ability to convey the changes in styles and tastes popular in the early to mid-nineteenth century. It is a rare survivor among the modern developments and growth that have taken many of its contemporaries. Of the three important houses that stood in this area at the time of the Civil War, Fairfield, Selwyn, and Powhite, it is the only one that still stands. Selwyn today, is more important than ever as one the most significant historical and architectural resources in Hanover County.

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Scott N. Robert, ed.

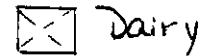
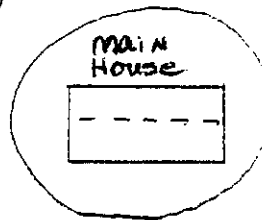
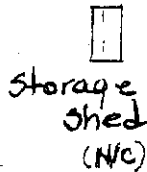
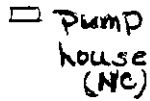
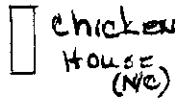
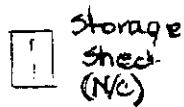
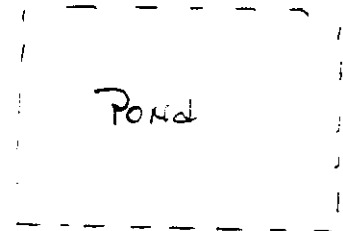
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← TO POWHITE

TO FAIRFIELD →

Old Road

(N/C) = Non Contributing

