

VLR - 3/15/00
NRHP - 5/24/00

FINAL
ARCHIVE

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

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 views 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 Virginia Home
other names/site number 044-5010

2. Location

street & number 986 Field Avenue not for publication NIA
city or town Fieldale vicinity _____
state Virginia code VA county Henry code 089 Zip 24089

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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] 3/29/2000
Signature, of certifying official Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X 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:
____ entered in the National Register _____ other (explain): _____
____ 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 _____

5. Classification

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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>4</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>0</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>Multiple Dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Secondary Structures</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Secondary Structures</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
roof asphalt
walls asbestos

other _____

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)

Domestic

Period of Significance 1920-1955

Significant Dates 1920

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder John Smith (Builder)

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: _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .7151 acres

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>17</u>	<u>594670</u>	<u>4062510</u>	2	_____
3	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

____ 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: Alison Blanton

Organization: Hill Studio, P.C. date 12/27/99

street & number: 120 West Campbell Avenue telephone 540-342-5263

city or town Roanoke state VA zip code 24011

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 Virginia H. Barker, President, Eastern Shepherd Drug Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

street & number 263 Ridgewood Lane telephone 540-629-2954

city or town Patrick Springs state VA zip code 24133

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate

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OMB No. 1024-4018

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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. Summary Description:

The Virginia Home is located at 986 Field Avenue in Fieldale, Virginia in the southern Piedmont region of Virginia. Constructed in 1920 by Marshall Field and Company as a boarding house for workers at the Fieldcrest Mills, the Virginia Home stands directly northwest of the still-active Mills. This two-story, seven-bay, frame boarding house is vernacular in style with a hip roof and a full, two-story porch. Asbestos shingles cover the original German siding of the house. The interior features a dining room, kitchen, parlor, and a double-loaded corridor with bedrooms on the second floor. Situated on nearly an acre of land, the property consists of a large residential yard that includes three contributing secondary structures of frame construction: a cook's house, a wash house, and a one-story cottage for the staff of the Virginia Home. The grounds feature remnants of the original plantings, including: cedar trees and shrubs that line the front walkway and extend across the front of the house; shrubs that delineate the property line along the southern edge; and, a small orchard of fruit trees along the rear of the property. The Fieldcrest Mills and the Smith River lie directly to the south and east of the Virginia Home and one-story, single-family workers' houses extend in either direction along Field Avenue.

Inventory

1. Main dwelling (1920). Contributing building.
2. Cottage (1920). Contributing building.
3. Wash house (1920). Contributing building.
4. Cook's House (1920). Contributing building.

Detailed Description:

The 1920 Virginia Home is situated on a residential lot on Field Avenue directly to the north and west of the Fieldcrest Mills and the Smith River in Fieldale, Virginia. Smaller, one-story frame dwellings for mill workers line the street. The textile mill, on the property, which lies adjacent to the rear of the Virginia Home property, continues to operate. The 0.7 acre lot that comprises the property includes three contributing secondary structures that date to the same construction period as the house. In addition to the outbuildings, vestiges of original plantings remain, including cedar trees and shrubs lining the central walkway, perimeter plantings, and a small orchard at the rear of the property.

The two-story, seven-bay Virginia Home is rectangular in plan with a brick foundation and hip roof. A two-story, seven-bay porch extends across the front façade with a hip roof supported by squared wood columns with brick piers and a squared balustrade. Asbestos shingles cover the original German siding of the house. The hip roof, covered with asphalt shingles, features a gabled vent at its ridge and a central brick chimney with corbelled cap. The central door is single leaf with a single light over three horizontal panels. The door at the second story is also single leaf with four lights over three horizontal panels. Double-hung sash windows with six-over-six lights provide symmetrical fenestration to the front and side elevations. A two-story, one-bay bathroom wing projects from the center of the south elevation. A one-story, four-bay porch with hip roof and concrete block foundation has been added to the rear of the house.

The interior plan of the first floor is irregular with the large, public spaces of the parlor, dining room and kitchen occupying the north end and a central, double-loaded corridor with bedrooms extending along the southern half of the plan. The dining room and parlor areas feature a beamed ceiling with supporting round wooden columns and

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original light fixtures. Some of the original dining room tables and chairs are stored in the house. The mantle in the parlor is unusual with its corbelled and patterned brick surround. The original wood cabinets, shelving, and storage bins remain intact in the kitchen and pantry areas. A two-landing staircase with squared newels and balustrade leads to the second floor. This level features an open sitting area at the top of the stairway with a door leading onto the two-story porch. Double-loaded corridors with bedrooms flank this space. Many of the bedrooms feature built-in wardrobes. Interior finishes include narrow-board hardwood floors; simple chair rails and molded baseboards; and single-leaf doors with five horizontal panels. Craftsman-style detailing enhances the ceilings with shallow crossbeams. The original hardware with porcelain doorknobs and the cast-iron radiators with decorative detailing remain intact. The second-floor sitting area features a more traditional wood mantle with bracketed shelf. The original German siding is exposed where the rear porch has been added.

Secondary Resources

Three secondary resources dating to the original construction of the Virginia Home are located on the property. The one-story frame cottage with hip roof provided housing for the Virginia Home staff. A gabled porch supported by cast-metal columns projects over the two separate entrances. These feature single-leaf doors with five horizontal panels and the original wooden screen doors with spindlework detailing. Double-hung, sash windows with six-over-six lights flank the entrances. Directly behind the main house stands the one-story frame wash house with gable roof, weatherboard siding, and a single-leaf, five-panel door. The cook's house is a one-story, two-cell structure with a gable roof with interior-slope chimney, German siding, brick-pier foundation, and a single-leaf, five-panel door.

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8. Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance:

The Virginia Home, constructed in 1920 by Marshall Field and Company in Fieldale, Virginia, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A for its association with the labor history of a textile mill and company town in the early twentieth century. It is locally significant as a domestic boarding house for female textile mill workers. The town of Fieldale was created between 1917 and 1919 by the Marshall Field and Company of Chicago to supply domestic textiles to their retail stores as well as a worldwide market. As was typical with establishing an industrial plant in a previously-rural area, the company created a town as well that included worker housing, schools, a post office and a commercial district. As the textile mills represented the industrialization of a domestic art, many of the employees were women and this created a special need for housing that was provided by the women's dormitory. Located adjacent to the Fieldcrest Towel Mill, the Virginia Home stands as a typical example of a vernacular, two-story, frame boarding house with hip roof and a full, two-story porch. The interior plan includes a large kitchen and dining room on the first floor and bedrooms flanking a central corridor on the second floor. Situated on a large lot along Field Avenue and surrounded by smaller, single-dwelling worker housing, the dormitory complex was intended to be almost self-sufficient with orchards and gardens in addition to the cook's house, workers' cottage, and wash house on the property. The Fieldcrest Mills, which continue to operate today, owned and operated the Virginia Home as a dormitory for its mill workers from 1920 to 1955.

Historical Background

The Marshall Field and Company of Chicago established textile-manufacturing operations in the South in the early twentieth century with the acquisition of a number of mills and headquarters in Eden, North Carolina at the former Carolina Woolen and Cotton Mills. In a decision to expand and de-centralize, Marshall Field and Company began in 1916 to look for a suitable location to establish a new mill.¹ Attracted by the proximity to North Carolina, the ready supply of water power from the Smith River, and the established shipping lines of the Norfolk & Western and the Danville & Western railroads, the company acquired nearly 2,000 acres in a valley, or "dale," in Henry County just northwest of Martinsville, Virginia. The Fieldcrest Towel Mill opened in 1919 with a 245,00 square-foot facility and 333 employees.² A hosiery mill, which was later consolidated with Fieldcrest, was established in 1926. In 1953, the mills became independent of the Marshall Field and Company as Fieldcrest Mills.

With the establishment of the mill in rural Henry County, Marshall Field and Company also created the town of Fieldale as a community for its workers. The 1920 Census indicates that approximately 830 people lived in the community that would become Fieldale. In addition to the commercial district with the post office, grocery stores, furniture store, and bank, the company constructed 87 houses initially for the workers. These houses, which ranged in size from three to six rooms, rented at a set rate of 25 cents per a room per a week.³ The Fieldale Hotel was the first boarding house in Fieldale. Located on Field Avenue, this two-story, seven-bay, brick boarding house with full, two-story porch was operated by Anna Stoltz. In addition to the Stoltz family, thirteen boarders (twelve of them male) lived at the Fieldale House in 1920.⁴ In addition to the workers' housing, a lodge or "Clubhouse for Marshall Field and Company" was constructed on a mountain overlooking the mill to house visiting company officials.⁵ As a true company town, Fieldale was not incorporated and had no local governing body and no tax revenues beyond what the county provided. As a result, the company provided for most of the needs of the community. Fieldcrest Mills paved the town's roads, donating land for the school, and paid for 75% of the water and sewer system. The company also arranged the financing to provide for the first paved roads in the county between Fieldale and Martinsville.⁶

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The success of the textile mill industry began to attract a new work force: women. This created a special need for housing for young, unmarried women. The Virginia Home, originally known simply as the "dormitory," was constructed in 1920 to provide housing for the female workers. Constructed by John Smith, the Fieldcrest construction manager, this two-story, seven-bay, frame boarding house was almost an exact replica of the Fieldale Hotel with its full, two-story porch.⁷ In 1929, when Mrs. Bessie Merriman took over operations of the boarding house, the name was changed to Virginia Home and male boarders were allowed. Beginning in the 1940s, Fieldcrest Mills, Inc. began to sell off its residential properties and Mary Alice Merriman purchased the Virginia Home property for the sum of ten dollars.⁸ The Merriman family continued to operate the boarding house until 1996, when the present owners purchased the property from the Merriman estate.

Over the years, the Virginia Home served as a social gathering place for the community. The dining room was open to the public from the 1940s to 1979 and civic groups such as the Fieldale Lions Club, the Rotary Club and the Martinsville Toastmasters held dinner meetings there.⁹ Numerous wedding and anniversary receptions have taken place at the Virginia Home. The four-room cottage behind the house provided housing for many of the traveling baseball teams that were so popular in company towns during the early and mid-twentieth century.

The Virginia Home stands as an important component of the company town of Fieldale. Although it is vernacular in style, its simple plan and design remain intact and exemplify the purposes of a boarding house. Located on a street lined with worker housing and adjacent to the still-active Fieldcrest Mills, the Virginia Home with its three original outbuildings retains its integrity of setting and context of a textile-mill town in rural Virginia.

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Endnotes

¹ "Fieldale: The Valley That Grew Into a Progressive Community," in *The Martinsville Bulletin*, July 4, 1976.

² Richards, Ginny, "Fieldcrest: The Firm That Built Its Own Neighbors," in *The Martinsville Bulletin*, July 4, 1976, p. 12.

³ Wilson, Joseph. "Fieldale: A Town Built of Towels," in *The Martinsville Bulletin*, July 6, 1973, p. 1-B.

⁴ U.S. Manuscript Census. Population, 1920 – Henry County, Virginia.

⁵ Compton, Virginia M., *Looking Back: Sixty Great Years in Fieldale, Virginia, 1919-1979*, 1979:8.

⁶ Richards, *ibid.*

⁷ Compton, *ibid.*

⁸ Henry County Deed Book 129, p. 76.

⁹ Barkin, Danny, "Time, Red Tape Catch Virginia Home: Fieldale Landmark Closes Kitchen," in *the Martinsville Bulletin*, May 22, 1979.

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9. Bibliography

Barkin, Danny. "Time, Red Tape Catch Virginia Home: Fieldale Landmark Closes Kitchen," in the *Martinsville Bulletin*, May 22, 1979.

Barker, Virginia H. Virginia Home Preliminary Information Form, 1999.

Compton, Virginia M. *Looking Back: Sixty Great Years in Fieldale, Virginia, 1919-1979*. Bassett, Virginia: Bassett Printing Corporation, 1979.

"Fieldale: The Valley That Grew Into a Progressive Community," in the *Martinsville Bulletin*, July 4, 1976.

Henry County Deed Book 129, page. 76.

Kern, Dr. John. Virginia Home Preliminary Information Form, 1999.

Richards, Ginny. "Fieldcrest: The Firm That Built Its Own Neighbors," in the *Martinsville Bulletin*, July 4, 1976.

U.S. Manuscript Census. Population, 1920 – Henry County, Virginia

Wilson, Joseph. "Fieldale: A Town Built of Towels," in the *Martinsville Bulletin*, July 6, 1973, p. 1-B.

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10. Geographic Data

Verbal Description

The boundaries for Virginia Home are indicated on the accompanying Plat of Survey, Mary Alice Merriman Est (DB 129, page 76), Block 6-A, Lot 3, drawn to a scale of 1" = 50'.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the Virginia Home are drawn to include the approximately .7151 acre that historically has been associated with the property. These boundaries include all resources associated with the property, including the (the boarding house) and the three contributing secondary resources (the cottage, the wash house, and the cook's house). A retaining wall along the west (front) and a chain-link fence along the north side partially delineate the property line.

Virginia Home
044-500
Fieldale, VA
M 594670E
4062510N

4064

4063

42'30"

4062

4061

4957 II NE
(SANVILLE)

SANVILLE 4.7 MI.

