

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

LISTED ON:  
VLR 06/18/2009  
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**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 Rock Hill Farm  
other names/site number VDHR File No. 053-1057

**2. Location**

street & number 20775 Airmont Road not for publication N/A  
city or town Bluemont vicinity X  
state Virginia code VA county Loudoun code 107 zip code 20135

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide X locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] July 16, 2009  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

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

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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

- building(s)
X district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: buildings (8, 4), sites (2, 0), structures (3, 1), objects (0, 0), Total (13, 5).

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: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE Agricultural Outbuilding
FUNERARY Cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE Agricultural Outbuilding
FUNERARY Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STUCCO
roof METAL:Iron
walls STUCCO
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.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

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

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1797-ca.1950

Significant Dates 1797; ca. 1873; ca. 1902; ca.1950

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder UNKNOWN

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

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

Name of repository: Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia; Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia.

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 68.80 acres

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing				
1	18	254900	4325795	2	18	254561	4326215	3	18	255189	4326372	4	18	255122	4324948

     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 Gardiner Hallock, Principal

organization Arcadia Preservation, LLC date 1/28/2009

street & number P.O. Box 138 telephone 434-293-7772

city or town Keswick state VA zip code 22947

**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 Vas and Linda  
Devan

street & number P.O. Box 347 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Philomont state VA zip code 20131

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing

instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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**Rock Hill Farm  
Loudoun County, Virginia**

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**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

Set in Virginia's rolling northern piedmont, Rock Hill Farm, located in Loudoun County, Virginia, is a compact group of twelve buildings, two sites, and one structure set on 68.8 acres and surrounded by open pasture. The Federal-style, stucco-covered, two-story, gable-roofed, stone 1797 Quaker-plan house (34 feet by 42 feet) is the primary resource, and it has undergone a series of at least four (ca. 1873, ca. 1902, ca. 1947, and 1990) additions and renovations. Currently fronted by a gable-roofed porch supported by re-used ca. 1873 Italianate columns, the austere, nearly-symmetrical façade features a central doorway flanked by windows and is bounded by two interior-end, stucco-finished chimneys. The remaining outbuildings on the site were built in three major phases; ca. 1797, ca. 1873, and the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The outbuildings are all found east and northeast of the main house and include: a ca. 1797, two-story, wood-frame bank barn (contributing); a ca. 1797, one-story, pyramidal-roofed, stucco-finished smokehouse (contributing); a ca. 1797, two-story, gable-roofed, stucco and frame garage (contributing); a ca. 1873, one-story, gable-roofed, wood-frame corncrib (contributing); a ca. 1873 one-story, gable-roofed, wood-frame office/dairy (contributing); a ca. 1873 fieldstone run-in shed (contributing); a ca. 1950, one-story, gable-roofed, wood-frame stable (contributing); the remains of a ca. 1950 formal boxwood garden (contributing); a ca. 1960, one-story, gable-roofed, concrete block stable (non-contributing); a circa 1960, one-story, pyramidal, frame spring-house (non-contributing); a ca. 1980 one-story, gable-roofed, pole-built machine shed (non-contributing); a circa 1980 in-ground swimming pool (non-contributing); several ca. 19th-century, dry-laid, fieldstone fences (contributing); and a ca. 1990 one-story, gable-roofed, pole-built stable (non-contributing). The property also includes a ca. 1820 cemetery, a contributing site, that features one inscribed marble slab marker and three unmarked fieldstone markers (with foot stones).

Landscape

Extending along a rise, paralleling Airmont Road between Upperville and Bloomfield, the 68.8-acre Rock Hill Farm overlooks an intact historic rural landscape dominated by open pasturage that is demarcated by board fencing and 19<sup>th</sup> century fieldstone fences. The land around the main house is dominated by mature hardwoods while the barn yard complex is characterized by a clear, open landscape. The remains of a small formal garden, which appears to have once been elaborate, are located behind the main house. Although most of the garden's features and plantings have vanished over time, mature American boxwoods and evidence of pathways remain intact. Based on the evolution of the main house, it appears that the formal garden was installed ca. 1902 or ca. 1947 and is a contributing site. To the northwest of the main house is a small cemetery with four graves featuring one inscribed marble-slab marker and three un-inscribed fieldstone markers (with two fieldstone footstones). A small, ca. 1980 in-ground swimming pool is also found northwest of the main house.

1797 Main House – Exterior (contributing)

The stucco-covered fieldstone dwelling at Rock Hill features an extremely well-preserved ca. 1797 core that was expanded to the side in ca. 1873 and to the rear in ca. 1902 and ca. 1990. The façade (southern elevation) retains its historic ca. 1873 appearance with the later, 20<sup>th</sup>-century additions visible only on the secondary

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elevations. The gable-roofed, main block features a three-bay façade with a central doorway and two interior-end, stucco clad, corbelled chimneys. The building's fieldstone foundation has also been covered with stucco. A ca. 1870, two-bay, shed-roofed addition projects to the east and features an exterior single-leaf doorway. Except for the north elevation of the ca. 1902 kitchen addition, the entire assemblage has been finished with stucco and is roofed with standing-seam metal.

The dwelling's simple, unadorned, almost-symmetrical façade (south elevation) features a ca. 1947 gable-front porch that, as indicated by historic photos, re-uses paired, chamfered posts from a ca. 1873 Italianate-style, flat-roofed porch. The porch rests on a three-step, poured-concrete foundation and features scrolled brackets that rise from the post's capitals and extend to support the plain-sawn cornice. Six-over-nine, double-hung sashes flank the central, single-leaf, six-raised-panel door on the first story and three six-over-six, double-hung sashes span the second floor. All windows and doors on the façade feature partially inset window frames and louvered, double-leaf shutters. Similar to all of the 1797 window frames, the frames on the façade feature a molded inset surround composed of a large ovolo back band mounted to a plain sawn base. A restrained, scrolled-modillion and pierced dentil cornice completes the façade. A short hyphen, which appears to date to ca. 1902, connects the shed addition to a ca. 1797 smokehouse. The hyphen extends two bays, with a single-leaf doorway to the south and paired six-over-six, double-hung sashes to the north. The pyramidal-roofed, fieldstone smokehouse is pierced with one central doorway on the eastern façade that is filled with a vertical-board, single-leaf door. Stucco covers the smokehouse and a small, open-framed cupola projects from the pinnacle of the standing-seam metal roof.

The western elevation of the main block features two symmetrically placed windows on all levels (basement, first, second and garret). The basement windows are secured with horizontally set wooden bars, the first-story windows are filled with six-over-nine, double-hung sashes, the second story features six-over-six, double-hung sashes, and four-light casement windows are located on the garret level. The elevation is distinguished by deep, raking soffits and boxed-gable returns. A small, ca. 1990, gable-roofed hyphen connects the main block to a ca. 1990 gable-roofed, wood-frame addition. The hyphen includes a central, double-leaf, glazed doorway flanked by a pair of modern aluminum, one-over-one, double-hung sashes. Similar to the main block, the addition is finished with stucco. The addition features projecting eaves and a pair of modern aluminum, one-over-one, double-hung sashes.

The first-story of the ca. 1797 northern, or rear, elevation is primarily hidden by the ca. 1990 addition, although three second-floor, six-over-six, double-hung windows remain visible. The addition features one-over-one, double-hung wood windows on all elevations. The north (rear) elevation of the ca. 1870 shed addition features a large, uncorbelled exterior-end, stucco-finished chimney. To the east of the shed addition is a ca. 1902, one-story, gable-roofed kitchen addition. The rear of the addition includes a single, off-center six-over-six, double-hung sash window and is finished with German siding. The northwestern corner of the ca. 1870 smokehouse is attached to the kitchen addition and presents a plain, unadorned stucco face with a single, narrow, centered, vertically set ventilation hole on this elevation.

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The east elevation presents a view of Rock Hill's rich architectural history. Each construction period is visible, with the simple, stuccoed east wall of the ca. 1870 smokehouse projecting forward from the other additions. Located to the north of, but not attached to, the smokehouse is the gable-end of a ca. 1902 one-story kitchen addition. One, central, six-over-six, double-hung sash adorns this elevation, which, unlike the addition's north elevation, is stuccoed. Nestled behind the kitchen addition are the side elevations of the ca. 1990 addition and the ca. 1870 shed addition. The ca. 1990 addition features two symmetrically placed one-over-one, double-hung sash windows and a louvered vent in the gable. The ca. 1870 shed addition originally included three window bays on each story, each filled with a six-over-six, double-hung sash. However, the ca. 1900 hyphen blocks the westernmost windows on the first floor. Beyond the ca. 1870 shed addition, the gable end and four-light casement garret windows for the 1797 main block can still be seen.

1797 Main House – Interior

The interior of the 1797 main block was initially built as a three-room "Quaker" or "Penn" plan with an attached kitchen. While the original floor plan was altered slightly on the first floor and more significantly on the second floor, the 1797 interior still retains almost all of its decorative woodwork and door hardware. A later ca. 1873 addition expanded the original attached kitchen and enlarged a bedroom on the second floor. Finally, the building obtained its current form when two additions were made in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including a small, ca. 1902 kitchen and the larger ca. 1990 bedroom/bathroom/sitting room rear addition.

*First Floor*

As is characteristic of Quaker plan houses, the main entrance on the façade leads to a large (21 feet 5 inches by 13 feet 6 inches), wide hall that spans the full width of the house and is approximately twice the size of the two smaller, secondary rooms. As is also typical, the hall contains a fireplace centered on the gable-end wall and a winder stair that accesses the second floor. In the case of Rock Hill, the hall is found on the east side of the dwelling, with the two smaller rooms originally occupying the west side. Two windows with paneled jambs are found on the south and north elevations and survive intact with their sashes and trim. Doorways are located on all four elevations, with exterior doors leading from the north and south elevations and internal doorways found to the east and west. All of the windows and doors, except for the doorway to the enclosed stair, are trimmed with double architraves that feature small ogee breaks between the architraves and larger ovolo backbands. Plinth blocks support the door trim on the principal doors with the architrave running to the floors only for the doorway to the dining room. The walls above the wainscot are finished in lime plaster and the floors are laid with four-inch wide pine boards that have been darkly stained. A simple, classical cornice completes the room.

The hall also exhibits the most elaborate woodwork found in the house and was, therefore, most likely the principal room throughout Rock Hill's period of significance (1797-ca. 1950). Stylistically the woodwork



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appears to reflect a transition from the Georgian to the Federal period, with the raised-panel doors, crosseted chimney piece with detached chimney cap representing the earlier Georgian period, and the flat-paneled wainscot and restrained cornice drawing from the later Federal aesthetic. The wainscot runs along the lower

third of all the walls except for the east elevation, which features full-height paneling on the eastern end. The paneling is topped with a large torus flanked by fillets that features a double-architrave similar to the door and window trim, but is further embellished with two additional layers lead down to an astragal-terminated cove and also serves as a sill for the windows. The crosseted chimneypiece of moldings inside the architrave. The first layer after the architrave transitions with a small cove while the second, and closest to the firebox, terminates with a simple bead. The firebox itself appears to have been infilled with one foot of masonry that has been subsequently plastered over. Currently a stove is installed in the firebox and it sits on a stone exterior hearth. The interior hearth is not visible but other period hearths in the dwelling are paved with brick. Directly above the chimneypiece is a narrow tri-partite paneling element with a shallow chimney cap mounted to top rail. The chimney cap is anchored with a narrow band of fretwork supported by a small ogee. An ovolo extending above the fretwork is transitioned by a fillet to a projecting fascia that in turn is led by a series of fillets to the corona. Above the chimney cap is tripartite paneling that extends to the cornice.

Adjoining the fireplace to the south is the doorway that leads to a closet and past that the open winder stair. As documented in a 1937 Works Progress Administration (WPA) survey which records and open bookshelf in this location, the door that currently fills the space was added sometime after ca. 1937 and perhaps is a reused door from elsewhere in the house. The doorway itself is incorporated into the paneling that surrounds the fireplace, including a panel spanning the space above the doorway to the cornice that together composes a single, integrated unit which covers the central portion of the room's southern elevation. To the north of the fireplace is a ca. 1797 doorway that leads to a small closet and then on into what was the attached kitchen in ca. 1797. No door survives in either the closet or the kitchen doorways.

The north elevation features a ca. 1797 window to the east (this window survived the ca. 1990 addition to the rear and is currently used as a borrow light) and a doorway to the west. The doorway originally served as an exterior door but now accesses the ca. 1990 addition. While the door appears to be modern, the original, 1797 rim lock and ca. 1797 strap hinges have been reinstalled on the new door.

A single door is found on the southern side of the west elevation, although a break in the wainscot suggests that it once held two doors (as is typical of a Quaker plan), although only the western door survives. The ca. 1797 elbow-handled rim lock and door hinges survive in place on the remaining door. The southern elevation mirrors the northern elevation with the ca. 1797 door, bow-handled, brass rim lock and wrought-iron strap hinges, surviving in situ.

West of the hall is a long room (13 by 23 feet) with a centrally located, projecting triangular chimney stack that features a fireplace on each of its exposed sides. In 1797, a partition that aligned with the peak of the

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triangular chimney stack would have divided this space into two rooms (west room: 12 by 13 feet; eastern room: 11 by 13 feet); however, in ca. 1947 the partition was removed to create one big room. Except for a doorway that would have led from the northern room into the hall, all of the woodwork survives in place, including chimneypieces, doors, chair rail, windows, and baseboards. The chair rail, which is typical of the 1797 chair rails in the house, is topped with a torus flanked by fillets. A cove terminated with an astragal

supports the torus and the moldings are mounted on a beaded rail. The 1797 baseboard, which is also typical of baseboards found throughout the house, is accentuated with a simple bead.

The entire western room is finished with modern, hardwood floors, plaster walls, and a plaster ceiling. The plank jamb windows, found on the western and southern elevations, exhibit the same trim as the windows in the hall except for the wooden stool. Spanning the entire length of the eastern wall is a set of modern, ca. 1947 bookshelves. A single doorway is found on the northern elevation. The trim for this doorway is identical to the doors in the hall and currently the door leads to the ca. 1990 addition. The southern elevation features a window to the west and a closet to the east. Physical evidence demonstrates that the closet was added in ca. 1947 when the partition was removed, although the door and trim are identical to other 1797 trim in the dwelling and appears to have been reused during a later renovation. The door may have originally been used to communicate between the northwestern room and the hall or between the two original eastern rooms.

The current dining room, which incorporates the 1797 attached kitchen, is a long room (12 feet by 24 feet 7 inches) with a finished floor level approximately one-and-a-half feet below the main block. The dining room walls and ceiling are plastered. The floors are covered with narrow-gauged wooden strips. The principal feature of the room is a large, central fireplace on the northern wall with a ca. 1873 chimneypiece. An enclosed winder stair with a vertical-board door is located to the east of the fireplace and a three-over-six, double-hung window is found to the west. The eastern elevation features a doorway that leads to the ca. 1900 kitchen addition. A vertical-board door fills the opening. The southern elevation holds two doorways, an exterior doorway and a doorway that leads to a small closet. The exterior door features a nine-light over two-light door while the closet doorway holds a vertical-board door that is secured with a ca. 1797 Suffolk latch (the doorway has been reused). The western elevation features a single doorway that accesses the hall.

To the east of the dining room is a small narrow mud-room that features exterior doorways on the south and east elevations and a doorway on the north elevation that leads to the kitchen. Possibly built in ca. 1902, the mud-room features simple, square-sawn window and door trim. The top halves of both exterior doors are glazed and a small closet is found in the southeastern corner of the room.

The kitchen, which also dates to ca. 1902, retains much what appears to be a ca. 1947 renovation. A pantry is found on the west elevation and six-over-six, double-hung windows are found on the north and east elevations. Surprisingly, the ca. 1947 countertop, range and what appears to be a ca. 1947 dishwasher are found in the northeastern corner of the room, while a ca. 1947 International Harvester refrigerator

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(International Harvester refrigerators date from 1947 to 1955 when the product line was sold to Whirlpool) is found in the southeastern corner.<sup>1</sup>

The ca. 1990 addition consists of four rooms and is connected to older sections of the house through doorways leading from the hall, west room, and dining room (a ramp leads from the dining room door up to the principal room in the addition). All doorways lead to a sitting room area that in turn accesses the remaining three rooms. To the north of the sitting room are two bedrooms while the door to the bathroom is found to on the east elevation. Drywall is found on the ceiling and walls throughout the addition and the floors are finished with modern hardwood flooring (except in the bathroom). All the ca. 1990 windows and doorways are trimmed with stock "colonial" moldings and all rooms feature baseboards finished with stock "colonial" ogee caps. All modern doorways are filled with modern, six-raised-panel, "colonial" doors. Skylights are also found in the sitting room and bathroom. The bathroom features tile floors, a handicap accessible shower, toilet and sink. The ca. 1797 and ca. 1873 windows and doors that were covered by the addition have been preserved intact and remain visible.

*Second Floor*

The second-floor plan closely mirrors the first floor, with three rooms over the dwelling's main block and a single bedroom over the dining room wing. The main block features trim dating from 1797 as well as later Colonial Revival trim that appears to date to ca. 1947. The 1797 door jambs and trim, several of which have been moved, are identical to the first-floor examples and include plinth blocks. All of the windows feature plank jambs, six-over-six, double-hung sashes, are trimmed with a simple ovolo molding, and rest directly on the chair rail. A majority of the chair rails are also identical to the first-floor rails, although the rails found in the hallway are slightly more complex. Later door trim, possibly dating to ca. 1947, features simple, Colonial Revival-style moldings. Both of the bedrooms and the hallway also feature molded cornices. Finally, a simple beaded baseboard is found throughout the second floor.

The principal entry for the second floor is the winder stair that leads from the hall up to the second floor. A small hallway is found at the top of the stair. Doorways found on the north and west elevations of the hallway both access bedrooms, with the southern elevation holding a window and the eastern elevation containing a doorway to the main stair and the entrance to the enclosed winder stair that leads to the attic. There is also clear evidence that changes were made to the plan of the second floor when a bathroom was added in ca. 1947, although the most significant room, the principal bedroom, retains its 1797 footprint and trim.

The principal bedroom is found to the north of the hallway. The most striking aspect of the room, and perhaps one of the most important decorative elements of the house, is a carved overmantel found over the fireplace in the southeastern corner of the room. The chimneypiece itself is composed of a simple, double architrave that frames the fireplace. However, resting on the architrave is a complex, vernacularly fashioned overmantel that features several classically inspired motifs. Flanked by two flat-paneled pilasters, the primary decorative element is a large, central urn which is in turn flanked by a draping vine accentuated with leaves

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and flowers. The vine is supported on either side by what appear to be acanthus leaves whose stems continue down to plinth blocks that rest on the top of the chimneypiece. The space below the urn features a flat plane that is enclosed by a molded frame. All available evidence suggests that the overmantel dates to 1797 and it remains remarkably intact. The room is also distinguished by a chair rail and cornice that both appear to date to 1797 (based on the way the cornice is integrated into the overmantel). The cornice is principally composed of an ovolo mounted over a cove, with the two elements separated by a smaller cove and fillet. The chair rail is identical to the example found on the first floor. The northern wall of the bedroom holds a 1797 six-over-six, double-hung-sash window. A single ca. 1947 doorway to a bathroom is found on the northern end of the western wall. The southern wall also holds a single doorway which, based on the trim, dates to 1797. Finally,

the principal bedroom features a small closet in the northeastern corner. The closet door and trim appear to date to 1797, but the ornamental, brass rim lock clearly dates to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The southwestern bedroom features windows on the south and west walls, a doorway to the bathroom in the western corner of the northern wall, and has a closet in the northeastern corner. The windows date to 1797, but the closet and doorway to the bathroom both post-date the original construction period and appear to date to ca. 1947.

The L-shaped bathroom is found in the northwestern corner of the second floor and features six-over-six, double-hung windows on the northern and western elevations. The door frame leading to the principal bedroom dates to 1797, although it may have been moved, while the doorway leading to the southwestern bedroom appears to date to ca. 1947.

A single large bedroom built in ca. 1873 occupies almost all of the space above the dining room, while portions of the remaining space may have originally been built in ca. 1797, but were heavily renovated in ca. 1873. The room is approximately two feet below the finished floor level of the main block's second floor. The walls and ceiling of the room are covered with plaster and narrow-gauge pine finishes the floors. The room's door and window trim feature a ramped backband applied to a square-sawn base. A pair of closets is found on the southern end of the room and they also date to ca. 1873. A single doorway that accesses the main hall winder stair is found on the western elevation. The north elevation features two doorways, with the western doorway leading into a bathroom and the eastern one leading to a small hallway that accesses the winder stair that leads down to the dining room. The bathroom's fixtures appear to date to ca. 1960 and the small hallway appears to have been heavily renovated in ca. 1873. The hallway features a small closet and a simple, square-baluster railing that is anchored by square newel posts.

*Attic*

The attic has been divided into three rooms and is floored with random-width, face-nailed, pine boards. Plaster covers the walls and the exposed roof framing features lapped-and-pegged log common rafters with intermittent pegged-log collars. Two, small four-light casement windows are also found in the gable ends.

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Sash-sawn vertical boards attached with machine-cut nails are used to finish the frame partitions that divide the attic into three rooms.

The largest of the three rooms is found on the east side of the attic. The eastern room also holds the access to the winder stair. A doorway is found in the center of the western elevation. A simple, vertical-board door is found in the opening and it provides access to the attic's southwestern room. The final room in the attic, located north of the south-eastern room, is the smallest of the three rooms. The distinguishing aspect of this room is a bathtub with faucet located along the southern wall.

*Cellar*

A cellar is situated under the main block of the house and is accessed by a set of stairs located off the

southeastern corner of the house. The cellar features exposed stone walls, which were once whitewashed, and a clay floor. 1797 log floor joists remain exposed on the eastern side of the cellar (under the hall) and a hewn girt runs the full length of the building, but the joists on the western side have been replaced with modern-dimensional lumber (probably in ca. 1947). The principal feature of the cellar is the large stone base for the eastern chimney. The chimney base is built with two side walls and a large central opening, similar to a traditional fireplace; however, it is fairly clear that it was never intended as a fireplace as timbers span the top of the opening, blocking any possible flue, and there is no evidence of soot staining on the wall.

Architectural Evolution of the Main House

In 1797 the dwelling at Rock Hill Farm featured a layout characteristic of a traditional Quaker-plan house. The two-story house included three rooms on the first floor of the 25-by-34-foot main block and a one-story 14-by-16-foot kitchen addition found on the dwelling's northeastern corner. The plan appears to have remained unchanged until ca. 1873 when the kitchen was enlarged to two stories and lengthened to occupy the full width of the main block. A 1937 survey recorded by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) reveals that at some point prior to that date a one-story kitchen addition was added to the southern end of the house and the existing kitchen was enlarged and converted into a dining room. Physical evidence suggests that the addition was made in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and it is probable that it dates to ca. 1902, when Humphrey Chamblin inherited Rock Hill from his father. It appears that the hyphen that joins the smokehouse to the main block was also built at that time, although there was never any internal access between the two buildings. The WPA survey also reveals that the three-room Quaker plan survived at least until the 1937 survey and it appears that the changes to the first- and second-story floor plans (including the introduction of modern plumbing and bathrooms) did not happen until later, possibly ca. 1947 when the house was sold to L.K. Truscott or possibly in ca. 1951 when Mary Willis and Ann Titus purchased the farm. The final addition to the dwelling occurred in ca. 1990 when a two-bedroom, one-story addition was added to the dwelling's northern elevation to accommodate the needs of the aging Ms. Willis and Mr. Titus.

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Secondary Resources

ca. 1797 Bank Barn (contributing building)

Set perpendicularly to the main house, the ca. 1797 bank barn retains much of its 18<sup>th</sup>-century appearance. The side-gable, wood-frame building measures 32 foot by 38 foot and is defined by a large central doorway, a standing-seam metal covered roof and a fieldstone foundation. A central, louvered cupola is found straddling the ridge and the exterior walls are covered with board-and-batten siding. The façade (west elevation) is dominated by a large, central doorway filled with a sliding door and is accessed by a wide, earthen ramp (or high drive). To the north of the barn, a long (40 foot), wood-framed, gable-roofed addition extends out from the main structure. Built to hold additional stables the ca. 1902 addition features standing-seam metal roofing, board-and-batten siding, and a poured-concrete foundation. Windows are also found in the foundation on either side of the earthen ramp. The windows are filled with square bars installed horizontally, although the eastern window is currently covered with plywood.

The southern elevation is sheathed with board-and-batten siding and includes a central, single-leaf, vertical-board doorway on the first floor that is flanked by two windows that are filled with vertical-board shuttered sashes. A louvered vent is also found near the peak of the gable and a single vertical-board door is found near the eastern end of the foundation.

The east, or rear, elevation contains open livestock housing on the ground floor, with a small office on the southern end, and a central doorway flanked by two windows on the second floor (principal first floor). The door is filled with a single-leaf, vertical-board door and the windows are covered with single-leaf, vertical-board shutters. The exterior walls of this elevation are covered with board-and-batten siding. The northern elevation holds a single, open window bay in the gable and is covered with corrugated-metal siding.

The interior of the barn is divided into three bays by four timber-frame bents. The center aisle and northern bay are open to the roof framing while two-thirds of the southern bay's first floor has been partially enclosed with tight-laid, horizontal boards to form a granary/tack room. In general the interior walls are characterized by large-dimension, vertical posts which support equally large girts. Up-braces are found spanning between the top of the posts and the girts. Smaller, non-structural, horizontal studs are found between the vertical posts and support the exterior's vertical-board siding. The exposed roof framing is made from pegged common rafters resting on a larger, intermediate purlin. The rafters are also pegged and have lap or bridle joinery.

ca. 1797/1900 Garage (contributing).

An 18 foot by 33 feet 10 inches side-gabled garage stands to the east of the main house. While the building was renovated in the last-quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, surviving hand-hewn plates visible on the first floor of the western section provide evidence that it was likely originally constructed in ca. 1797. Originally, this

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portion of the building, which is built from fieldstone and measures 18 foot square, may have served as a tenant or possibly slave housing, although no documentary evidence has been found that describes a specific use. The eastern section is constructed with wire-cut nails using full-sized dimensional lumber, revealing early-20<sup>th</sup>-century construction. The roof, which is pierced by a corbelled, stucco-clad, interior-end brick chimney on the west end, is covered with standing-seam metal. Stucco finishes the masonry walls on the west end while board-and-batten clads the framed eastern half of the building. The eastern section of the garage also rests on a fieldstone foundation. The most prominent aspect of the structure's three-bay façade (southern elevation) is a large, double-leaf, door bay on the south end that is filled with bi-folding, vertical-board doors. These doors access the garage space in the interior. Located immediately to the west of the garage door is a single-leaf door followed in turn by a six-light casement. The second floor of the façade holds one six-over-three, double-hung sash over the garage door and a one-over-one, double-hung sash in the center of the western portion of the building. The windows and doors are trimmed with square-sawn boards with a simple drip-edge capping the first- floor openings. A half-round, metal gutter runs along the simple, square-sawn fascia.

The eastern elevation features board-and-batten siding and does not include any fenestration. Similar to the southern elevation, the eastern half of the structure is covered with board-and-batten siding, while the western half is stuccoed fieldstone. A single six-over-three, double-hung sash window is found on the second story of the board-and-batten section while two windows are found on the first and second stories for the stucco-clad section. The first-floor window is a two-light sliding sash while the second floor features a one-over-one, double-hung sash window.

The western elevation is dominated by a simple, open-riser stair finished with square posts and horizontal rails that climbs up to a single-leaf, inset door found on the second floor. The doorway is filled with a modern hollow-core door and is trimmed with square-sawn boards. There are no window or door bays on the first floor and the only other distinguishing characteristic of the elevation is the projecting eaves that have been finished with a simple, square-sawn rakeboard.

The interior of the southern garage section features open framing and an earthen floor. Both the first- and second-floor interiors of the western portion, which does not communicate internally with the garage section, were remodeled in the late-20<sup>th</sup> century. The first floor features exposed ceiling-joist framing (modern dimensional lumber except for the plates), plaster-covered walls and a cement slab floor. A small bathroom has been partitioned in the southeastern corner. The frame partition is covered with unpainted plywood and includes a single-leaf door on the northern elevation. The second floor of the western section of the structure includes dry-wall covered ceilings and walls with modern, narrow-gauged, hardwood-strip flooring.

ca. 1873 Office/Dairy (contributing building)

The well house/dairy is a small (11 feet 6 inches by 14 feet 9 inches) wood-frame building with a fieldstone

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foundation and a side-gabled standing-seam metal roof. The walls are clad with board-and-batten siding. The façade (northern elevation) includes a simple, one-leaf doorway on the western side of the elevation that is accessed by a set of three fieldstone stairs. Two six-light sashes can be found to the east of the doorway and a single, open window bay is located in the foundation to the north of the stairs. The roof extends on the eastern side of this elevation to cover a cast-iron hand pump that is surrounded by a square wooden deck with a fieldstone foundation. On the west elevation, a gable-roofed, open-framed projection covers the stairwell that leads to the cellar.

The walls and ceiling of the interior of the first floor have been covered with hardboard and appears to have been renovated sometime in the third quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The floors are laid with pine boards.

The basement retains access to an intact, fieldstone-lined well that appears to date to ca. 1797 and a parged-brick milk cooler located on the eastern wall. The walls of the cellar appear to have once been plastered and whitewashed, although much of the plaster has failed, revealing the fieldstone foundation.

ca. 1873 Corncrib (contributing building)

The long corncrib (36 feet 3 inches by 12 feet 1 inch) is a gable-end, wood-frame building that is covered with a standing-seam metal roof and rests on a fieldstone foundation. A majority of the exterior walls are enclosed with narrow, vertical-skip siding although a small portion of the southern end features wider, tightly laid vertical-board siding. The southern elevation serves as the principal façade and it features a central opening that leads to a drive bay which extends the length of the building. Two single-leaf, vertical-board doors flank the central entrance and a central, loading doorway is found in the gable. A single-leaf, vertical-board door fills the opening. No doorways or windows are found on the remaining elevations, except for two small windows on the northern elevation that flank the opening for the central-drive bay. Both windows are filled with vertical-board operable shutters.

ca. 1797 Smokehouse (contributing building)

The 11 foot-square smokehouse, which is attached to the main dwelling but does not connect internally, is a one-story, stucco-clad, fieldstone structure that is capped with a pyramidal roof sheathed with standing-seam-metal. The building features a single, central, vertical-board filled doorway on the southern façade and an open-framed cupola extending from the roof's peak. Small, narrow, vertically-set vents are found on each of the three secondary elevations. The walls of the smokehouse's interior are finished with two generations of plaster, both of which are smoke-stained. The ceiling is unfinished and the joists, complete with nails that were once used to hang meat, are exposed. Both the principal central joist and the door-header are hand-hewn, suggesting that the building was constructed along with the main dwelling in ca. 1797. The remaining roof framing is made from circular-sawn, dimensional lumber. The floor features exposed clay.



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ca. 1873 Run-in Shed (contributing building).

To the west of the ca. 1797 bank barn sits a small, four-bay livestock shelter. The shed features a side-gable roof covered with standing-seam metal and a fieldstone foundation. The rear elevation (north) is also made from field-stones, although the side elevations (east and west) are covered in board-and-batten siding. The façade (south elevation) is open and defined by three square posts that rest on poured concrete peers. A gutter runs along the south and north elevations and is attached to the eave which features exposed rafter tails.

ca. 1950 Stable (contributing building)

The small, one-story, wood-framed, gable-roofed stable features a standing-seam metal roof, stucco-clad walls, and a cinder-block foundation. The symmetrical façade (southern elevation) holds a large, open, central entrance flanked by two, fixed, six-light windows trimmed with simple, square-edged boards. Exposed rafter ends and a half-round, metal gutter define the roof line. The simple, stucco-clad eastern elevation is broken only by a small, rectangular, louvered vent in the gable. The northern elevation includes two symmetrically placed window bays filled with fixed, four-light sashes. The windows are trimmed with square-edged boards. The western elevation mirrors the eastern elevation.

ca. 1960 Stable (non-contributing building)

The façade (southern elevation) of the one-story, gable-fronted, cinder-block stable features four, symmetrically placed door-bays that have been inset under the roof. The roof is covered with standing-seam metal and is supported on the southern side by four square posts that are attached to the roof framing by triangular, wood-gusset braces. The door bays on the façade are filled with single-leaf, vertical-board Dutch doors trimmed with square-sawn boards. A single, centrally placed ladder is located on the façade and is used to access the loft above the stables. The eaves feature exposed rafter tails with half-round guttering. The west elevation is broken by a single window on the first-floor level. The symmetrical north elevation features four two-light sliding windows with concrete sills that light the interior of the stalls. Similar to the façade, the rear elevation includes half-round gutters mounted in front of the exposed rafter tails that run along the eave. The eastern elevation mirrors the western elevation.

ca. 1960 Spring House (non-contributing)

Found near Airmont Road and southeast of the main house, the spring house is a one-story, wood-frame, pyramidal roofed building that rests on a poured concrete slab foundation and features an asymmetrical, single-leaf doorway on the façade (eastern elevation). The walls of the square-plan building are clad with wooden weatherboards and the roof is covered with standing-seam metal. A single window bay, trimmed with square edge boards, is found in the center of each secondary elevation and they are filled with vertical

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wooden boards. A distinguishing characteristic for the building is a square opening found at the peak of the roof.

ca. 1980 Machine Shed (non-contributing building)

Northeast of the main house, and due north of the main barn complex, is a large, modern four-bay machine shed. The pole-built, side-gable shed is covered with corrugated-metal siding and roofing. The façade (east elevation) features three open bays with exposed round posts supporting the roof. The southern bay is enclosed with corrugated-metal siding.

ca. 1990 Stable (non-contributing building)

At the far west end of the barn complex is a long, one-story, wood-frame (pole-built), gable-roofed stable. The walls and roof of the stable are covered with corrugated sheet metal and a small, pyramidal-roofed ventilator is found straddling the ridge in the center of the roof. Large, sliding barn doors are found in the center of both gable-ends (north and south elevations with the south elevation serving as the facade) and five window bays pierce the gable-side elevations.

ca. 19th-Century Fieldstone Fences (contributing structure)

Fieldstone fences, indicative of historic field boundaries in the region, are found to the north of the main house, to the west of the graveyard and near the main road. The fences, which are not contiguous, are all made from dry-laid fieldstone using indigenous stones. The fences appear to date from the 19th century,

although sections of the walls could date to the early 20th-century. While the fences are currently in slight to moderate disrepair, they still clearly serve their original purpose of dividing the landscape.

ca. 1820 Cemetery (contributing site)

Located to the northwest of the main house is a small, ca. 1820 cemetery that includes a marble-slab marker and three unmarked fieldstone markers with two fieldstone footstones. The marble grave marker, which has become dislodged from its base and is missing an upper corner, features a sawn top with a half-round projection in the center and falls, by way of ovolos, to flanking half-round projections at the corner (although the right hand side is missing). The inscription on the marble slab has also been partially lost, but the remaining text reads:

REBECCA S. RIV (piece broken off)  
was born  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1827

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Died April 30<sup>th</sup> 1843  
Aged 15 years  
10 months 22 days

Loudoun County census research undertaken by Linda Devan (current owner of Rock Hill), reveals that a free African-American by the name of George Rivers lived near Rock Hill and that he had a wife and two daughters under the age of 10 in 1830. Because Rivers is the closest match for the partially missing name, and because George Rivers appears to be the right age to have had a 15-year-old daughter in 1827, it is speculated that the Rebecca buried at Rock Hill is his daughter.

No information has been found that identifies the occupants of the three graves marked with fieldstones. However, since many of the Humphreys are buried in the graveyard of the nearby Ebenezer Church, it is possible that the graves hold slaves who were owned by the Humphreys. The cemetery at Rock Hill presents an interesting contrast between the grave markers of a possible free antebellum African American and those of her enslaved neighbors.

ca. 1950 Formal Gardens (contributing site)

Just to the rear of the main house are the remains of a small formal garden measuring approximately 25 feet by 25 feet square. The boundaries of the garden are defined by mature American boxwoods. Currently only grass is found in the garden, but the remains of paths as well as slightly elevated sections of grade appear to show that it was once divided into four parterres.

ca. 1980 Swimming Pool (non-contributing structure)

A small, in ground, oval shaped swimming pool is found to the west of the main house. The pool features a poured concrete deck with the pump and filter centered on the pool and just to the west. No fencing or flower beds define the pool and the deck is at or just below grade level.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Summary Statement of Significance

Rock Hill Farm is located in the rural, rolling Piedmont landscape of Loudoun County, Virginia, on Route 719. As noted on a date stone found in the building's gable, the principal Quaker-plan dwelling was built in 1797 when Abner Humphrey, a local farmer and non-Quaker slaveholder, owned the property. Abner Humphrey also appears to be responsible for the construction of the ca. 1797 Pennsylvania bank barn, ca. 1797 tenant house, ca. 1797 smokehouse and possibly sections of the ca. 19th-century fieldstone fences. Rock Hill would continue to be owned by descendants of Abner Humphrey until 1947, and the family is responsible for a majority of the post-1797 changes made to the farm, including a ca. 1873 office/dairy, a ca. 1873 corncrib, and a ca. 1873 livestock shelter. Locally significant under Criterion C for architecture, the dwelling itself is also a well-preserved example of a Quaker-plan house with preserved 1797 woodwork that represents the work of a master craftsman. Because such a dwelling is closely associated with Quaker settlements in Loudoun County, the Rock Hill Farm house, as well as the bank barn, also stand as testaments to the influence of Pennsylvanian Quaker architectural and agricultural traditions on their non-Quaker neighbors. The period of significance for Rock Hill spans from 1797, the construction date of the main house and several secondary resources, to ca. 1950 which represents the later architectural and historical evolution of the farm. The contributing resources at Rock Hill, as well as its rural, agricultural setting, have maintained their historic character, style, craftsmanship, construction methods and materials and so also retain their historic integrity. The property has also been placed in a conservation easement, ensuring the farm's long-term preservation.

Historic Ownership of Rock Hill Farm and its Historic Context

As recorded on a date stone that is incorporated into the northern gable, the house at Rock Hill Farm was originally built by Abner Humphrey in 1797. The house, along with the surrounding acreage, did not convey out of the Humphrey family until 1947 when it was sold to Reed and Margaret Thomas. Rock Hill Farm's current state of preservation is undoubtedly due to being held within the same family for 150 years.

During most of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the land encompassing Rock Hill Farm appears to have been purchased as an investment, as was typical of land in Virginia's 18<sup>th</sup>-century Piedmont. The speculative intensions of the early owners resulted in the land being sold or conveyed multiple times in the mid-to-late 18<sup>th</sup>-century. The 68.8-acre tract that currently comprises Rock Hill Farm was originally part of a much larger patent obtained by William Cox of Prince William County in 1741. However, it was quickly passed on to Colonel Benjamin Grayson (Colonel of the Prince William County Militia and senior justice of Prince William County), who in turn passed it on to his son, Spencer Grayson. In 1767, Hector Ross purchased 576 acres of the grant and held the property until 1795 when he sold the land to Thomas Drake. In 1796, Abner Humphrey (ca. 1763-1824) purchased 676 acres from Thomas Drake and, as documented by the date stone, built the existing house on the property one year later in 1797.<sup>2</sup>

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During Abner Humphrey's construction of the house at Rock Hill Farm, Loudoun County was experiencing significant growth and prosperity that was mirrored throughout much of Virginia's Piedmont. Loudoun's rich soils and waterways were advantageous for grain production and by 1800 a thriving milling industry had been founded throughout the area. According to Loudoun County Court Order Books, there were seventy-nine known mills petitioned to be built in the almost forty years between 1757 and 1796, four of which were in the immediate vicinity of nearby Upperville.<sup>3</sup> Later, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, improvements in transportation, including a canal system, made markets such as Alexandria and Baltimore easily accessible for farm produce, greatly increasing the national and international market for grains grown throughout Loudoun County. By 1810 the Ashby's Gap Turnpike Company was chartered to build the country's first toll road (existing Route 50) as a public-private partnership to carry produce from Upperville, to Aldie, and then on to Alexandria. With the construction of the Ashby's Gap Turnpike, Upperville became a local center for surrounding farms, such as Rock Hill Farm, which subsequently experienced tremendous prosperity.<sup>4</sup>

While the 1820 federal census does not record an occupation for Abner Humphrey, it does reveal that he owned a total of ten slaves (four males and six females) which suggests he was a farmer. When compared with other slaveholders in nearby Albemarle and Fairfax counties it also appears that he was more prosperous than many of his neighbors. On average, in 1782, 51 percent of the households in Albemarle and Fairfax owned slaves, with each household owning an average of four slaves.<sup>5</sup> When taken together with the richly ornamented house he constructed at Rock Hill Farm, the more than double the average number of slaves suggests that Abner Humphrey had found farming to be very prosperous and would be counted among the wealthiest inhabitants of the county. The large (by Virginia standards) and well built bank barn with a tightly-laid threshing floor, also suggests that Abner Humphrey was a farmer and that he was principally invested in wheat production. His will records information on the slaves that were responsible for his thriving farm. In the will two "slave girls", Dinah and Milly, are specifically conveyed to one of Humphrey's daughters, Mary Settle, and granddaughter, Elizabeth Settle. While the other slaves are not mentioned by name, the slaves are recorded as being split among Humphrey's remaining children.<sup>6</sup>

According to deed records, Thomas Humphrey appears to have purchased the land from his father in 1821. He is listed as a farmer in the 1850 federal census and, based on the surviving buildings at Rock Hill Farm, appears to have made very few changes to the farm. Thomas Humphrey appears to have died sometime after 1850 and deed records reveal that his wife Phebe continued to own the property until 1873, when she sells it to her son-in-law, A.G. Chamblin (1830-1902).

It is during Phebe Humphrey's ownership that an oral history collected by Elizabeth Morgan, a researcher at the Works Progress Administration in 1937, records that the farm was the site at which Mosby's Rangers (a band of irregular, or guerilla, soldiers who fought for the Confederacy) divided up money after the "Green Back Raid." The Green Back Raid occurred in October of 1864 when Confederate Colonel John Singleton Mosby (1833-1916) and eighty of his men derailed a train on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad near Duffield's station in what is now West Virginia. In the course of the raid they removed \$173,000 (or

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greenbacks) that were heading south to pay General Sheridan's troops. While the raid had little strategic value, it did raise the morale of the southern partisans (who were only a few months from the fall of Richmond and eventual surrender of General R.E. Lee) and forced Sheridan to continue using his men to guard the tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The Baltimore and Ohio was especially important to the Federal cause because it served, in the words of a contemporary newspaper reporter, as the "great artery to the west" for the Northern Army.<sup>7</sup> However, it is also recorded that the disbursement of the money taken from the train was made at nearby "Old" Ebenezer Church and no definitive account has been found to prove either case.<sup>8</sup>

A.G. Chamblin is listed in the 1890 federal census. The record reveals that he was married to Susan E. Chamblin (born 1833) and that they had one son, Humphrey (1867-1931) living with them. In addition, the census reveals that they had two servants living with the family at Rock Hill--a young cook named Susan Baszell (born 1880) and a second girl named Ella Baszell (born 1889), who was possibly Susan's sister.<sup>9</sup> An oral history collected by the WPA also reveals that A.G. and Susan Chamblin had two additional children, Lucy and John.<sup>10</sup> However, it was Humphrey Chamblin, who never appears to have left the farm, that inherited Rock Hill when his father died.<sup>11</sup>

According to the 1910 and 1920 census records, Humphrey Chamblin was married to Allie Chamblin (died ca. 1947) and was a farmer by trade. The census also records that Humphrey and Allie did not have any children and that when Humphrey died in 1931, his wife inherited the property. The WPA survey records that in 1937 Allie Chamblin was no longer living at Rock Hill and had rented the farm to "Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Pearson."<sup>12</sup> Chamblin sold Rock Hill Farm ten years later to C. Reed and Margaret Thomas, breaking a chain of family ownership that had lasted 151 years.

The Thomases in turn quickly sold Rock Hill Farm to L. K. Truscott, Jr. and his wife Sarah in 1947. The Truscotts again did not retain ownership of Rock Hill for long and in 1951 they sold the farm to the sisters Mary K. Willis (d. 2007) and Ann A. Titus. These two sisters were well respected thoroughbred horse breeders and were responsible for the three stables that date to post ca. 1950, as well as the machine shed and modern addition to the rear of the main house. It may also have been Ms. Willis and Ms. Titus who were responsible for altering the porch on the façade. When Ms. Willis died in 2007, she left the property to the Nature Conservancy. The property was placed into a conservation easement by the Conservancy and sold to Rock Hill Farm's current owners, Vas and Linda Devan in 2008.

Quaker Plan

Quaker-plan houses, or "Penn plan" houses as they are also called, appear to have originated in Pennsylvania and are related to the Germanic-influenced, flurkuchen-plan houses. However, Quaker-plan houses appear to have been much more common in the mid-Atlantic region.<sup>13</sup> The development of Quaker-plan houses and the Flurkuchenhaus in the American colonies both are believed to have been influenced by William Penn's 1684 instructions to the settlers of Pennsylvania. In his instructions, Penn recommends that settlers in

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Pennsylvania build “a house of thirty foot long and eighteen broad, with a partition near the middle, and another to divide one end of the house into two small rooms.”<sup>14</sup> However, more recent scholarship has shown that ethnic traditions brought to Pennsylvania by the 17<sup>th</sup>-century English and German settlers also had a clear influence on the development of the design.<sup>15</sup>

A typical Quaker-plan house includes three rooms on the first floor and, occasionally, a kitchen attached to a side elevation. The main room, or hall, often displayed the most ornamental woodwork and served as the primary entertaining space. It extended the entire width of the dwelling, had a centrally placed fireplace on one of the walls and featured a winder stair in one corner. The attached kitchen was also usually accessed from the hall. The other two rooms in a typical Quaker-plan house were used as a parlor and a chamber. These rooms were approximately half the size of the main room and typically heated by corner fireplaces that shared a common chimney stack.

The hall also held the principal entry into the building and so created an “open” plan that allowed visitors to enter directly into a main living space. This contrasted with the “closed” Georgian and Federal plans which used entrance passages to segregate newly arrived visitors from the main living spaces. Eventually, closed plans would come to dominate domestic architecture in Virginia and the lack of control over visitors in Quaker plans may have played a part in their eventual abandonment. Quaker-plan houses were also distinguished from Georgian- and Federal-style houses on the exterior. Because the main entrance accessed the hall, the facades of Quaker-plan houses were often faintly asymmetrical, although the doorway was placed in roughly the center of the façade to lend the appearance of symmetry. Finally, interior-end chimneys located centrally on both gable ends also help to define a typical Quaker-plan house.<sup>16</sup>

As originally built, the ca. 1797 section of the house at Rock Hill Farm demonstrates a classic representation of a Quaker-plan house. It had a three-room plan with a full-width hall leading to two smaller first-floor rooms. The hall also features a centrally located fireplace with a winder stair located against the eastern wall. A chamber and parlor were found opposite the hall, although the partition between them was removed in ca. 1950. The two smaller rooms also once shared a chimney stack, with each featuring a corner fireplace. Physical evidence also suggests that each room would have had independent access to the hall, as would have been typical. Finally, as documented in a January 1804 Mutual Assurance Society insurance policy, a small kitchen was also attached to the southern elevation and was accessed by a surviving 1797 doorway that leads from the hall. The 1797 kitchen was later incorporated into a larger, ca. 1873 addition.

Even with the removed partition on the first floor, the house’s main block retains almost all of its original woodwork and door hardware. Moreover, when doors were moved to accommodate new partitions during the ca. 1947 renovations, the 1797 doors and doorways, complete with their original hardware, were reused. Most significantly, the two principal rooms of the house, the main hall and the second-floor best bedroom remain well preserved. An especially interesting and important survivor is the vernacularly detailed overmantle in the principal bedroom.

Quaker-plan houses were common in the Delaware Valley and have been found as far south as North

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Carolina.<sup>17</sup> As noted by architectural historian David Edwards, who undertook an architectural survey of Loudoun County for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in 1980-83, the plans are also commonly found in Loudoun County, especially in the Quaker-dominated areas such as the Goose Creek Rural Historic District [see the ca. 1822 Dr. Isaac Eaton House (VDHR File Number 054-0317)]. However, they are not commonly found outside of Loudoun County.<sup>18</sup> As evidenced by the dwellings documented in the Goose Creek Rural Historic District, these plans also seem to have been abandoned by the 1850s when central-passage houses became dominant.<sup>19</sup> The Quaker-plan dwelling at Rock Hill Farm is also noteworthy because it was built for a slave-holding non-Quaker, revealing that the popularity of these plans and the craftsmen who built them had spread beyond the Quaker communities by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Architectural historian David Edwards has noted that these dwellings are common in Loudoun in both Quaker and non-Quaker settlements, although no formal investigation or survey has been made at the time of this nomination.<sup>20</sup>

Bank Barns

Bank Barns, two- or three-story structures that were built for hay and grain storage, wheat processing, and to shelter livestock, are commonly built into a hillside (or bank) and usually feature an earthen ramp on the gable side that leads to a centrally located main entrance. Livestock were usually kept in the earth-insulated cellar access to the stalls or stables found on the southern or eastern side to project it from the wind. The main floor, which was accessed by the earthen ramp, was primarily used for threshing wheat, storing hay, and storing grains. The earthen ramp allowed carts to be driven up to the level of the main floor and conveniently unloaded. Having the hay mow on a floor above the livestock also allowed for dropping the food down to the animals in winter. Similar to Quaker-plan houses, these barns, sometime called “Pennsylvania Barns,” appear to have developed in the Delaware Valley and appear to have a mixed English and German ancestry. According to architectural historians Gabrielle M. Lanier and Bernard L. Herman, bank barns are derived from barn traditions found in northern and western England as well as German and Swiss precedents. Additionally, these barns were influenced by an indigenous move towards agricultural efficiency that promoted centralized farming operations that centered on a single building. In general, bank barns developed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and continued to be built into the 20th century.<sup>21</sup>

The two-story bank barn at Rock Hill Farm exhibits many of the features characteristic of a typical bank barn. Built into a hillside, the principal entrance is located in the center of the gable side. On the interior, the floor features two layers of floorboards laid tightly together and face-nailed, ensuring a tight surface for threshing. Originally, flanking the center bay were two hay mows, but sometime in the mid- to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, according to physical evidence, a one-story grain or tack storage room was constructed in the east mow. The first floor is also supported by massive log joists, as would be required to hold the accumulated weight of an entire season’s hay. The cellar is also currently outfitted to house livestock (cattle and horses), although the stall and stable framing all date from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the 20th century. The barn also records Abner Humphrey’s desire for a centralized farming operation and that he may have been heavily invested in wheat production. Later changes to the barn yard, such as the ca. 1873 corncrib and the ca. 1873



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office/dairy, both reveal that by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the trend towards centralization had reversed itself and that the later owners built specialized, single-use, detached farm buildings.

While 18<sup>th</sup>-century bank barns are fairly common in Loudoun County, such as the A. Janney Barn (VDHR File Number 053-0157) and the Levi White Barn (VDHR File Number 053-0323), they are less commonly found outside of Loudoun County.<sup>22</sup> The bank barn at Rock Hill stands as a testament to the adoption of agricultural techniques that were developed in Pennsylvania, in contrast to Virginia's more prevalent Tidewater Virginia influences. Additionally, it survives as a very well preserved example of a Piedmont Virginia bank barn, with the framing and construction methods surviving almost unaltered.

**Archaeological Potential**

While no archaeological testing has been completed and no concrete evidence has been found to support the survival of any archaeological deposits, the yards surrounding the main house and outbuildings at Rock Hill Farm appear to be relatively undisturbed and could retain intact archaeological resources. Specifically, the grade around the buildings and sites does not appear to have been disturbed, suggesting the possible survival of middens or other intact deposits of miscellaneous refuse. One notable exception is the rear yard found behind the house. Because of the ca. 1990 addition and installation of the formal boxwood garden, any underlying archaeological remains are likely to have been disturbed. A future archaeological survey could reveal material culture related to domestic and farm life of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>, centuries, as well as the locations of any outbuildings no longer extant on the property. A more tangible area of archaeological interest is the cemetery and further investigation could likely reveal the existence of additional unmarked graves due to the common practice of ephemeral or temporary grave markers in the region during the properties period of significance.

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Loudoun County Deed Book 2n, page 132

Loudoun County Deed Book O, page 181

**Loudoun County Land Tax Records Consulted, with Year:**

Loudoun County Land Tax Book – 1846, Mercer District

Loudoun County Land Tax Book – 1855, Mercer District

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Loudoun County Land Tax Book – 1861, Mercer District  
Loudoun County Land Tax Book – 1872, Mercer District  
Loudoun County Land Tax Book – 1877, Mercer District  
Loudoun County Land Tax Book – 1885, Mercer District  
Loudoun County Land Tax Book – 1895, Mercer District

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries incorporate the entire 68.8-acre Rock Hill Farm parcel owned by the current owners. The boundary corresponds to the Loudoun County Land Book Legal Description #200807210044507 (NR Bloomfield, Tract 1), shown in the accompanying Loudoun County tax map (#654-30-3243-000).

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries for Rock Hill Farm at 20775 Airmont Road incorporate all of the 68.8 acres currently associated with the parcel that includes the main dwelling and barnyard at Rock Hill Farm. All of the acreage associated with the parcel has also been associated with Rock Hill Farm since the main house's initial 1797 construction period.

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**The following information is common to all photographs:**

**Name:** Rock Hill Farm  
**Location:** Loudoun County, Virginia  
**VDHR File No.:** 053-1057  
**Photographer:** Gardiner Hallock, Arcadia Preservation, LLC  
**Date of Photo:** January 2009  
**Location of Digital Photographs:** Virginia Department of Historic Resources Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

VIEW OF: Rock Hill Farm Main House and Farm Yard, looking N  
PHOTO: 1 of 12

VIEW OF: Main House - South Elevation (Façade), looking N  
PHOTO: 2 of 12

VIEW OF: Main House - West Elevation, looking E  
PHOTO: 3 of 12

VIEW OF: Main House - North Elevation, looking S  
PHOTO: 4 of 12

VIEW OF: Main House – East Elevation, looking W  
PHOTO: 5 of 12

VIEW OF: Hall – East Elevation, looking NW  
PHOTO: 6 of 12

VIEW OF: Principal Bedroom, Chimney Piece Detail– East Elevation, looking SW  
PHOTO: 7 of 12

VIEW OF: Bank Barn, looking NE  
PHOTO: 8 of 12

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VIEW OF: Corncrib, looking NW  
PHOTO: 9 of 12

VIEW OF: Garage and Smokehouse, looking NE  
PHOTO: 10 of 12

VIEW OF: Office/Dairy, looking SE  
PHOTO: 11 of 12

VIEW OF: Cemetery, looking S  
PHOTO: 12 of 12

**Additional Documentation**

Figure 1. Plan of Rock Hill Farm (Loudoun County, Virginia). Drawn by Arcadia Preservation – 2/2009 – Not to scale.

Figure 2. Tax map created using the Loudoun County Mapping System ([www.Loudoun.com](http://www.Loudoun.com)) – Not to Scale.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/ihc/faq.asp>, 2/5/2009

<sup>2</sup> Loudoun County Deed Book O, page 181

<sup>3</sup> John Fishback, "Loudoun Mills."

<sup>4</sup> Eugene Scheel, *Loudoun Discovered*, 26-28.

<sup>5</sup> Allan Kulikoff. *Tobacco and Slaves*. Chapel Hill, NC. University of North Carolina Press. 1986 (page 154).

<sup>6</sup> Loudoun County Will Book P, page 57. Jan. 11, 1825

<sup>7</sup> Ashdown and Caudill. *The Mosby Myth: A Confederate Hero in Life and Legend*.

<sup>8</sup> Virgil Jones. *Ranger Mosby*. 215

<sup>9</sup> Federal Census, Loudoun County 1900

<sup>10</sup> "Rock Hill" WPA survey, 1937

<sup>11</sup> "Rock Hill" WPA survey, 1937; Loudoun County Deed books

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Lanier and Herman. *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic*. p. 21-24

<sup>14</sup> Hugh Morrison. *Early American Architecture*. p 505

<sup>15</sup> Lanier and Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic*, p. 21-24

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Electronic Correspondence with David Edwards, VDHR, 1/26/2009

<sup>19</sup> Goose Creek Rural Historic District Nomination, 1983. Continuation sheet #4

<sup>20</sup> Electronic Correspondence with David Edwards, VDHR, 1/26/2009

<sup>21</sup> Lanier and Herman. *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic*. p. 181-184

<sup>22</sup> Electronic Correspondence with David Edwards, VDHR, 1/26/2009

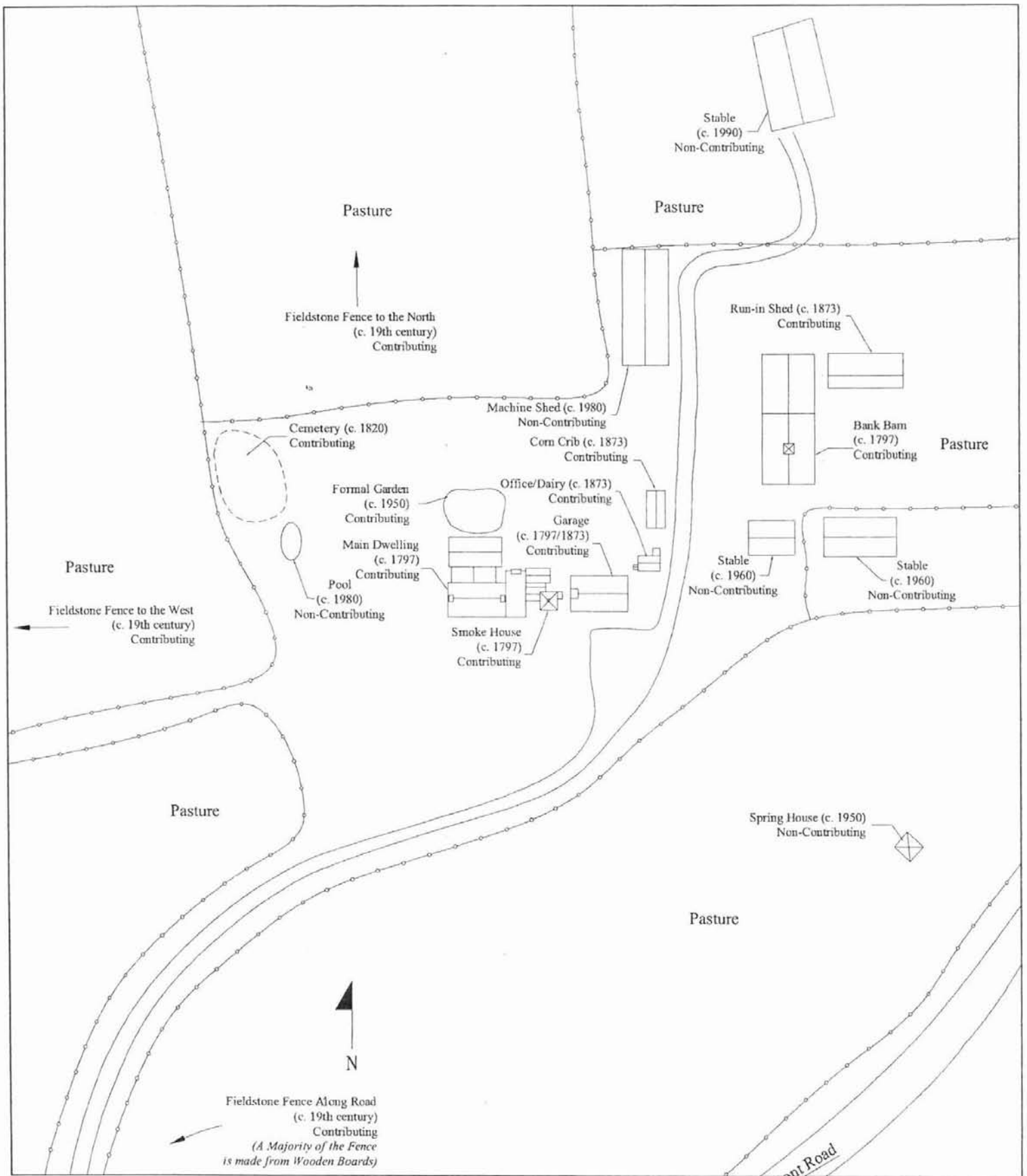
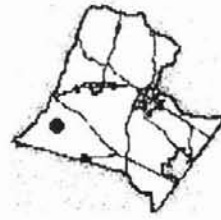
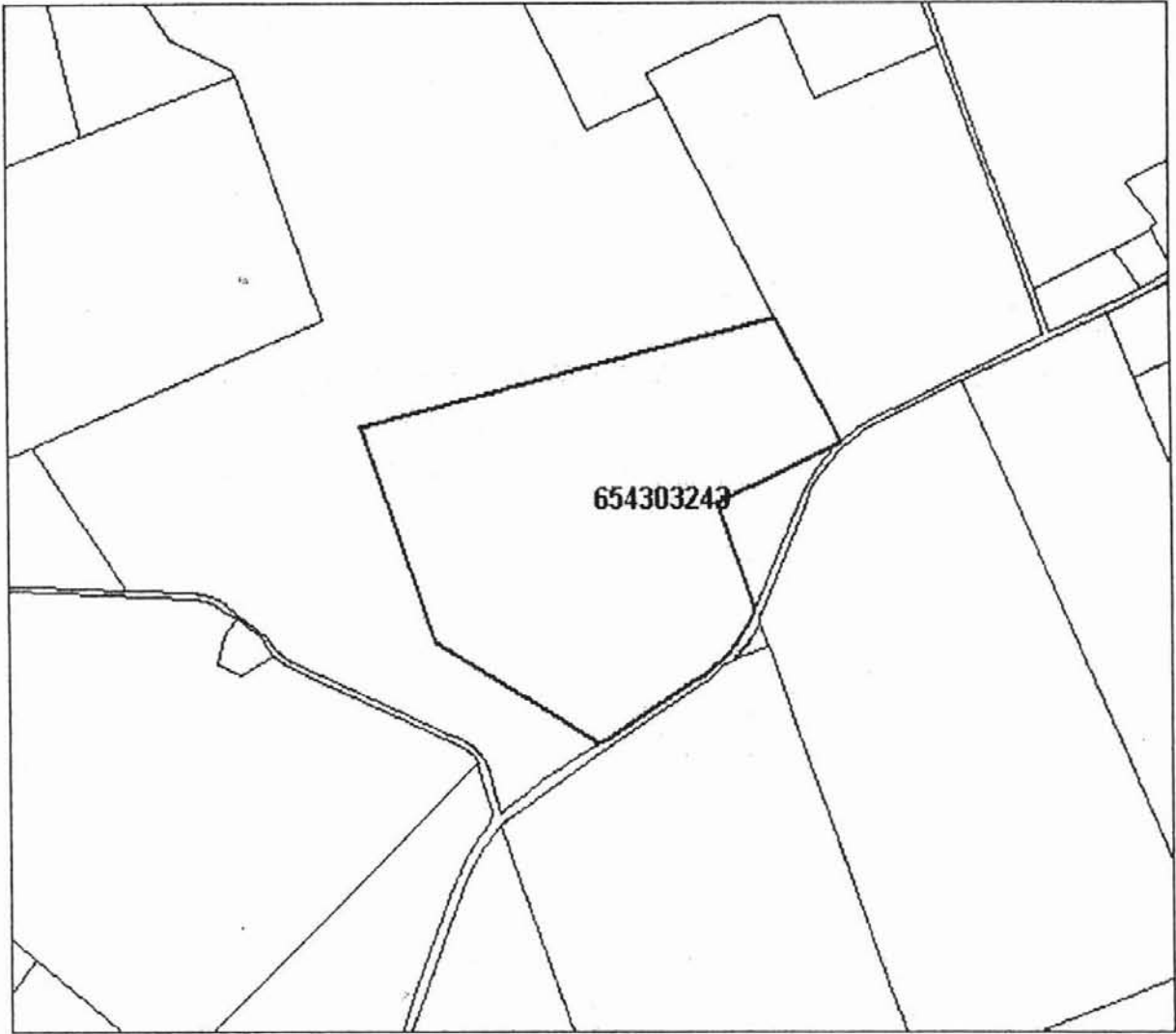


Figure 1. Plan of Rock Hill Farm (Loudoun County, Virginia) #053-1057  
 Drawn by Arcadia Preservation – 2/2009 – Not to scale





7,068,594



7,063,517

11,669,587

Map Width=5,804 feet

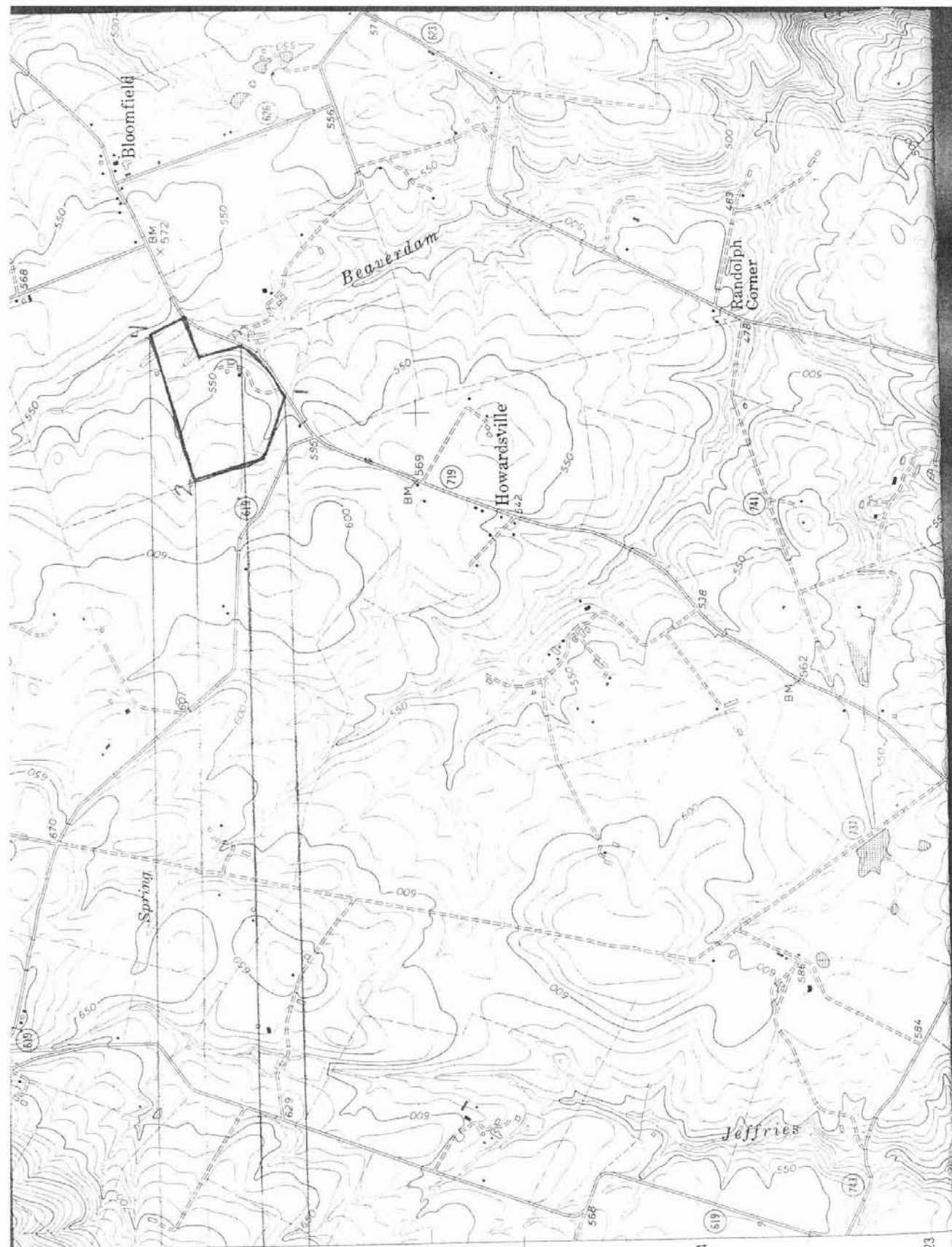
11,675,392

Created on 2/19/2009 9:33:09 AM

PIN	Address
654303243	20775 Airmont Rd Bluemont 20135

Figure 2. Tax map created using the Loudoun County Mapping System ([www.Loudoun.com](http://www.Loudoun.com)) – Not to Scale

Rock Hill Farm  
Loudoun County, VA  
#053-1057



UTM's  
 ZONE: 18  
 EASTING: NORTHING  
 4 255122 4324948  
 2. 254511 4326215  
 3. 255189 4326372  
 1 254900 4325745

2'30" 4325 4324  
 Rock Hill  
 20775 ARMONT RD  
 LOULOU, Va., VA  
 VEH # 053-1057  
 BLUEMONT QUAD  
 1141 1127 4323