

VLR 6/1/05
NRHP 4/15/08 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Haven B. Howe House, VDHR # 077-0047
other names/site number Claytor Lake State Park

2. Location

street & number 4400 State Park Road not for publication NA
city or town Dublin vicinity NA
state Virginia code VA county Pulaski code 155 Zip 24084

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

M. Catherine Jensen 2/28/08
Signature of certifying official Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- 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 Keeper

Date of Action

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Haven B. Howe House
Pulaski County, Virginia

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 1 </u>	buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	structures
<u> 3 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	objects
<u> 3 </u>	<u> 1 </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: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation and Culture Sub: Museum

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Italianate

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
roof Metal: Aluminum
walls Brick

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)

Architecture
Conservation

Period of Significance 1876-1912

Significant Dates 1876

1879

1911

1912

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Haven Boyd Howe

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder (Unknown)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 (approximately)

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

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 _____ 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: Marc C. Wagner and Jean O. McRae (Marker and Register Section/Resource Information Division)

Organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources date April 27, 2005

street & number: 2801 Kensington Avenue telephone 804-367-2323 Extension 115

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23221

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 Commonwealth of Virginia/Department of Conservation and Recreation

street & number 203 Governor Street, Suite 306 telephone _____

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23219-2010

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7: Summary Description

The Haven B. Howe House is a fine example of a high style, late nineteenth century, farmhouse. Constructed from materials available on the Howe property and within the region, the house also features ornamental wrought iron porch supports. Built in the 1870s, during the Reconstruction period, the house's combination of Federal and Greek Revival balanced form and plan is complimented by Italianate detailing, one of the best examples of this style found in the rural area of Pulaski County. The house, built for and by Haven Boyd Howe, served as residence for the Howe family through the 1940s and has since become a Commonwealth of Virginia state park facility. As a showcased building at Claytor Lake State Park, it is primarily used as a nature exhibition center and for office space. Despite the shift of use, the architectural detailing on the exterior and interior have remained little changed.

Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources:

Haven Boyd Howe House, 1879, 1 contributing building
3 limestone mounting blocks, c. 1879, 3 contributing objects
Gazebo, c. 1980, 1 non-contributing building

Setting

The Haven B. Howe House is located in the Dublin District of Pulaski County, Virginia. Presently located in Claytor Lake State Park, the house sits at the edge of a 4,500-acre, 21-mile long manmade lake. Created in 1939 when the Claytor Dam was completed, Claytor Lake is located immediately to the southeast of the house. Before 1939, the house sat on a hillside plateau, the front of the house facing northwest and the rear facing southeast. The back yard of the Howe House overlooked Dunkard's Bottom when the New River flowed through the valley before 1939. The lake now comprises part of the dramatic natural setting along the rear of the property.

When built, the Howe House was at the focus of a cattle farm, Crescent Falls Stock Farm, which included many outbuildings. At its most expansive point, the farm was comprised of about two thousands acres. At present none of these buildings survive, but it is worth noting the complex that once surrounded the house and other buildings that are mentioned in the Mary Cloyd Howe Farrow memoir, A Way of Life in Virginia at the Turn of the Century.

In 1972, Mary Cloyd Howe Farrow, Haven Howe's youngest daughter, noted that the self

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sustaining farm had a smokehouse, woodshed, carriage house, barn (for horses and cows), springhouse, and a one-room storehouse in the front yard that at one time was converted into a school building. In addition, she also mentions an icehouse that was near “Big Lease Pond”—probably about where Interstate 81 was built. There was a garden and a three or four hole outhouse. Initially, a windmill powered water pump stood provided water for the house and house garden area (this was later replaced by a hydraulic pump)¹.

Like the many houses of this social level in 1870s rural Virginia, the evening light was provided by kerosene lamp. Before electrification, the house was converted over to an acetylene gas system. Many houses that converted over to acetylene had small buildings that houses gas storage and machinery. This small building or structure was most likely within 200 feet of the house².

Overall Form and Architectural Style

The brick two-story house was built between 1876 and 1879. The overall form of the house is an offset T-plan. The front section is a long rectangle and the rear ell projects in an asymmetrical placement towards the southwestern end of the primary block. The resulting configuration at the rear of the house allows for southeast exposure and provides a large sheltered raised porch off the ell, the area where most of the daily outside chores would have been performed.

Stylistically, the house is a combination of popular architectural movements that developed nationally between the 1840s and the 1880s. It exhibits balanced traditional Federal/Greek Revival plan with Italianate detailing. The Howe House illustrates a balanced primary elevation, essentially a traditional form, with projecting one-story bays on both end walls. The Italianate style predominates the exterior and interior architectural detailing.

Mary Cloyd Howe Farrow recalls that there was a frame ell that extended from the present rear brick ell. She notes: “The long ell back of the main house (now demolished) had a summer kitchen and another room with a large open fire place for the big iron pots used for rendering lard during hog-killing season, making the year’s supply of soap in the spring, and general laundry purposes³.”

¹ Farrow, *A Way of Life in Virginia at the Turn of the Century*, 18.

² *Ibid.*, 20.

³ *Ibid.*, 20

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Exterior Detailed Description

There are two patterns of brickwork on the building. The primary elevation is stretcher bond, while the other three elevations display a mixed course; three courses stretcher punctuated with a stretcher and header course. The bricks on the primary (entrance) elevation appear to be carefully selected with a consistent color and texture, while the secondary walls have bricks of varying color and texture. There are three brick chimneys, all are interior configuration. Two chimneys are symmetrically spaced on the front roof ridge and one chimney on the rear; all chimneystacks feature projecting courses and corbelled tops.

As one of the features of Italianate styling, a centered front gable projects on the primary elevation, above the main entry. The hipped roof has a gentle pitch with v-crimp metal panels and moderately deep eaves. For most of the 20th century, the roof appears to have been metal. Earlier images, taken in the 1970s show a standing seam metal roof⁴. The v-crimp metal panels replicate the original standing seam roof appearance.

The decorative eaves/cornice area exhibits an Italianate style wide frieze, soffit, and fascia. Delicate milled brackets are centered above each vertical line of the windows. Brackets are symmetrically spaced along the central gable cornice. The brackets are also paired closely at all corners. The one-story end bays have the same cornice molding profile with brackets. Both bays have five walls that create four corner transitions were the brackets are tightly paired.

The primary elevation, with decorative porch, is the most sophisticated and formal elevation. Three bays wide, the symmetrical design is solidly set by the center gable, which is highlighted by an ornamental framed round attic window. Haven Howe was a prominent member of the local Masonic lodge, at one point becoming the lodge master. While it is not explicitly stated in any of his papers or memoirs, the star pattern in the fanciful attic light is most likely a symbol of Howe's Masonic affiliation.

The front entrance features a transom topped by segmental arch and sidelights. French windows flank the entrance and are comprised of a two-over-four pane, double-hung, sashes. All windows above basement level, on all sides of the house, are capped with wooden segmental arches and have operating shutters, some of which may have been remilled during a 1970s renovation.

There are a mix of window forms which may indicate that older windows were replaced in the

⁴ Conte, "Howe Home Under Construction-The Old Homeplace isn't what it used to be," The Southwest Times. An image that is included with the article, which dates to 1977.

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earlier part of the 20th century. Six windows at the rear show six-over-six pane, double hung sashes, while most of the other windows are two-over-two configuration. The six-over-six are more likely to be the older. Windows on the one-story end bays have smaller four-over-four pane, double-hung sashes, and the basement windows vary with either two-over-two or three-over-three pane sashes.

The house has two porches. The elaborate front porch features ornamental iron supports, a rare architectural feature for Pulaski County rural properties at this period. While officially unconfirmed, it is believed that this may be the one of very few ornamental wrought iron-supported porches in rural southwestern Virginia. There are four supports across the front and two supports at the rear porch corners. Obviously a product of foundry work, and most likely brought in by railroad, each support is a fine example of 1870s ornamental industrial work. The support bottom portions are solid, while the upper portions consist of open work with a cage-like pattern of thin vertical members. There are ornamental wrought iron railings that span between each of the supports. Each railing panel features moderately elaborate organic patterns. It is not known whether these railings are a later installation or original to the Haven Howe construction period. The iron supports, railing panels, and later handicapped railing, have been recently painted white to match the rest of the decorative trim. The front porch deck is wood with concrete steps up from ground level.

The three-bay porch has a shallow-pitched hipped roof, rimmed with modern gutters. The porch cornice is moderately simple, consisting of a wide frieze board, soffit, and fascia, with simple Italianate brackets above each support. The spans between supports show a gentle segmental curve that echo the wooden segmental arches over all the first and second floor windows and above the front entrance.

The rear porch runs along the inside of the ell facing southeast, and looking out over Claytor Lake. The land at the back of the house falls away so that the basement area is at grade from the end bays and along the rear. The porch is raised to provide access to both the basement and first floor levels. Simple square brick piers support the upper wooden deck level (two bays wide). The hipped porch roof has a gentle pitch with modern gutters and simple frieze, soffit and fascia molding profiles. While a porch of some type has most likely always existed along the rear, the present porch has probably been rebuilt at earlier periods, but maintaining the same configuration each time.

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Secondary entrances are along the rear end of the ell, under the rear porch, and at the rear porch first floor level. The first of these entries is a solid wood paneled door providing access to the basement level, while the other basement entries have multi-paned glass and wood paneled doors. The two doors allowing access to the first floor from the rear porch are solid wood paneled doors.

General Interior

The present interior of the Haven B. Howe House consists of 13 primary spaces. Originally built as a residence, the house is now used by the state for office space and exhibit area. The Department of Conservation and Recreation has utilized the spaces with the minimum amount of remodeling and minor updating that has occurred is reversible. The most significant updating has been the installation of two public restrooms at the basement level.

Room Plan

The house follows a generally symmetrical or balanced plan with a center stairwell hall and a single room to either side. This well-established Virginia center hall plan tradition is evident on both first and second floors of the Howe House. The rear ell contains a single room on each of the basement, first, and second floors. The basement has a general area with fine-carved wooden interior stairs. Bathrooms have been built into the east end and another room at the west end that is currently used as additional public activity space.

As a residence, the first floor would have had a more formal parlor and formal dining area flanking the center hall while the second floor would have had less formal private living areas. The first floor of the rear ell contained a kitchen on the first floor and the second floor was used as a bedroom for extended family⁵. The basement was most likely used as a kitchen, food storage, and food preparation space in the nineteenth century. A summer kitchen and smoke house were likely to have been situated not far from the main house. It is not known where Haven Howe had his farm office, but given that there were numerous outbuildings, he most likely did not have a primary office in the house. The exact siting of the domestic buildings is unknown but there is enough room between the house and the lake edge that sites may exist above the water line.

⁵ Farrow, *A Way of Life in Virginia at the Turn of The Century*, 29. Mary Cloyd Howe Farrow refers to the rear ell second floor room as Lucy's Room (her sister).

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Interior Detailed Description

The interior treatment of the Howe House matches the very fine Italianate detailing on the exterior, all of which is executed in carefully selected wood that was harvested on the original extensive Howe property. The interior walls are all in excellent condition with a plaster sheathing and occasional use of subtle patterned wallpaper (modern). The wall thickness at the second story indicates that there are load bearing structural brick walls that run from front to back and define the center hall and flanking rooms on all three floors. The interior structural walls incorporate fireplace flues and also assist in supporting the open stair structure.

Mary Cloyd Howe Farrow's memoir provides the best descriptions of the work that went into the house. Ms. Farrow was Haven Howe's youngest daughter, and she wrote her account of the farm in 1972, when she was 82 years old. She was not present at the construction period of the house so her knowledge relies on what she learned from Haven and Catherine Howe.

Over a period of two or more years, timbers consisting of oak, pine, maple, walnut and birch were felled from the surrounding forest and the lumber prepared from his own sawmill. Bricks were molded by hand from the bountiful supply of red clay and kiln-dried on the grounds. A circular dip in the front yard to one's left facing the house shows the dim traces of the brick kiln. A large part of the interior woodwork was done by papa himself employing his creative talent for that type of handicraft. The front hall floor is of alternating boards of walnut and poplar; the spiral stairway from the basement to the third floor, treads, and banister rails are solid walnut, the large hand turned newel post, all are features of signal interest. Some of the fireplace facings are soapstone, a soft gray rock with a waxy texture, easily cut by hand into any shape or size. This stone was transported by ox wagons from Floyd County across the mountain trails to the ferry on the River near our home, thence to the building site. The hexagon shaped gray and yellow slate tiles on the dining room floor were procured from dealers in another part of the state and were brought by wagon transportation also. The house was under construction for about five years...6

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A close inspection of the woodwork, which appears never to have been painted and shows fine graining, reveals the amount of careful selection that occurred in order to choose boards that were heart or center cut without knotholes. All interior woodwork on the upper floors and basement stairs is varnished and appears to have either a light or no stain work.

In general all the interior trim, window and door casings exhibit a simple architrave pattern with wide boards. Transitional casings between the rooms and end bays also feature wide board trim. All baseboards are high and have a thick molding cap. All doors are solid wood with two square panels at the bottom and two rectangular panels at the top. The front entrance hall features the boldest architectural detailing in the house with the sweeping curvilinear stairs (apparently supported by beams let into the structural interior walls and possibly a cable system). The floor has a striped appearance with alternating walnut and poplar boards that run from front to back of the hall space.

The “spiral stairway” that Mary Cloyd Howe Farrow refers to in her description exhibits top-quality workmanship. From basement to second floor, each run of the stair curves into a landing (not a true spiral), and there are two large newel posts, one at the basement level and one at the first floor entry hall. The fine turned spindles of the balustrade also span all three runs, including an extra rail at the back of the entry hall that spans an open space above the basement steps.

Present Setting and Immediately Surrounding Resources

Today the house sits in a modern park landscape that began developing in the late 1940s. Daniel Howe, the last Howe family member to live on the property was present when Claytor Dam was completed in 1939 and continued to live in the house until 1947. The house is the only significant element that survives from the once extensive Crescent Falls Stock Farm tract and agricultural complex. There are three large mounting stones in front of the house that date to the period of significance, and are considered contributing objects. A 1980s gazebo, behind the house, near the lake is considered a non-contributing building.

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The Haven Boyd Howe House is nominated under two National Register of Historic Places Criteria. The house is one of the finest late nineteenth century masonry houses in Pulaski County. It is significant for its fine Italianate style and it also features a rare, for rural southwest Virginia, ornamental wrought iron porch structure. It is well documented that the owner, Haven Boyd Howe took an active role in the construction of the house and is probably directly responsible for parts of the fine interior woodwork. Haven Boyd is significant locally for his role as a prominent farmer, member of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors, and as a one term member of the Virginia House of Delegates (representing Pulaski and Giles counties), and he is significant at a state level for his long-term efforts to conserve the quality of water in the New River and other major rivers in Virginia and in states where Virginia's tributaries lead. The Haven Boyd Howe House is nominated under Criterion B, for Haven B. Howe's role as a conservationist and Criterion C, for its highly sophisticated Italianate architectural design.

Cloyd and Howe Family History

Haven Boyd Howe (1847-1912) is a descendent of early settlers of Pulaski County. His paternal grandfather, Daniel Howe (1758-1838), a Continental Army soldier, and a participant in the battle of Kings Mountain, North Carolina, moved to the area that eventually became Pulaski County. Daniel Howe held the office of presiding justice and sheriff, and served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1799-1801. Haven Howe's father John Dunbar Howe (1801-1885), was born in Pulaski County, and served as Pulaski County Justice and Sheriff. John D. Howe operated a store in Newbern (on Main Street). John D. Howe married Sarah B. Shepherd.

Haven B. Howe married twice. He wedded Catherine McGavock Cloyd (1852-1895) on April 16, 1873. Shortly after his wedding, he began work on the house, which took several years to build (two to four years based on varying accounts). Catherine Cloyd was the daughter of David M. and Elizabeth M. McGavock Cloyd. Haven and Catherine Howe had three sons and three daughters: Emma (1874-1921); David Cloyd (1876-1920); Lucy Gordon (1879-?); Daniel Sheppard (1884-1951); Thomas McGavock (1884-1940); and Mary Cloyd (1890-?). Catherine Howe, died at the age of 43, at Johns Hopkins Hospital (Baltimore), suffering a ruptured appendix. On June 13, 1900, Haven Howe married Mary Eliza Bussell of Gate City, Scott County, Virginia. Haven and Mary Howe did not have any children and continued to live at Crescent Falls Stock Farm, the name of the extensive gentleman's farm that surrounded the

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Catherine McGavock Cloyd's family were also early settlers of the region. Back Creek Farm (VDHR file number 077-0002-VLR & NRHP listed), one of the earliest houses in Pulaski County, was probably built for Joseph Cloyd (1742-1833) in the late 18th century. The Civil War battle of Cloyd's Mountain occurred in the area of Cloyd family farmsteads, and several houses served as makeshift hospitals and temporary military headquarters. Thomas Cloyd settled Dunkard's Bottom, an area of about 7000 acres along the New River, well south of Cloyd's Mountain. The name Dunkard's Bottom derived from earlier settlement of Dunkers, a German religious sect. Dunkers settled in several regions of southwestern Virginia during the eighteenth century. According to family history, Thomas Cloyd lived in one of the earlier German settlement houses until his large 2-story, 3-bay brick Greek Revival house was finished in the 1847, appropriately named "Dunkard's Bottom"⁷. When Haven Boyd Howe and Catherine McGavock Cloyd were married in 1873, she received a dower interest from David Cloyd's estate (her grandfather). The area that became Howe's Crescent Falls Stock Farm comprised of approximately 2000 acres of the significant Cloyd holdings. The land included mountain and river bottomland at the New River. A great portion of the property, including the Dunkard's Bottom and house site of the same name, are under the present day Claytor Lake. A chimney that has been reconstructed near the Haven Boyd Howe House is thought to be from the Christian family house, one of the early homesteads that comprised the German settlement. The chimney was moved from Claytor Lake and reconstructed in 1989.

Haven Boyd Howe

Haven Boyd Howe was born in Newbern, Pulaski County, in 1847. About 1850, his father moved the family to Sunnyside, in the northern Back Creek area of the county. Sunnyside (VDHR file number 077-0021) is a 3-bay, 2-story, simple Greek Revival style house, dating to the mid nineteenth century. Sunnyside most likely influenced Haven Howe's choice of architectural plans when he built his own dwelling in the 1870s. The Haven B. Howe House shows similar form characteristics as well, although the vertical dimensions of the Italianate style Howe House measure higher than Sunnyside. Sunnyside also features an offset rear ell.

Haven Howe attended Roanoke College for a short time during the Civil War. He became a member of Company F, Fourteenth Virginia Cavalry, enlisting in 1864, at the age of seventeen.

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He served in the Valley of Virginia until the end of the war, taking part in the battles of Milford,

⁷ Farrow, *A Way of Life in Virginia at the Turn of The Century*, 2. The publication shows a pre-1939 image of the Dunkard's Bottom House.

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and out of the Valley, at Dinwiddie Court House and Five Forks.

By the time Howe married in 1873, he had become a gentleman farmer. The 2000-acre parcel that would develop into his Crescent Falls Stock Farm, would become one of the leading cattle farms in the county.

Before the Civil War, beef cattle were already an extensive agricultural enterprise in Pulaski County. Pulaski had active cattle drives until railroad transportation supplanted the older tradition as a faster connection to eastern markets. The Civil War interrupted the business, but the county rebounded quickly, and William W. Bently, James Hogue Tyler, N. P. Oglesby, Francis Bell, Sr., and Haven Howe reestablished the enterprise. Dramatic growth in the cattle business occurred during the post war period, and this is manifested by a building campaign that introduced high style and sophisticated Victorian houses to Pulaski County and City of Radford.

Due to the strength of the cattle business, by 1890 the 534 farms of Pulaski produced almost \$300,000 in agricultural products on 74,000 improved acres, while Montgomery County's 1,351 farms produced only \$67,000 more on 103,000 acres⁸. During this same period in the late nineteenth century, railroad transportation evolved and mineral extraction industries also increased the wealth of southwestern Virginia business leaders.

Howe's daughter, Mary Cloyd Howe Farrow, remembers that he was an "energetic gentleman farmer." His farm was known as Crescent Falls Stock Farm, specializing in Hereford cows⁹. The resourcefulness of the Pulaski cattlemen was clearly evident in their response to a failing beef market in the late years of the closing years of the nineteenth century. In 1897, the price of beef hit a record low in southwestern Virginia. Francis Bell Sr. had been shipping his stock to English markets since the 1870s¹⁰. Howe, following Bell's lead, used the English beef market to survive difficult economic cycles as well¹¹. Cattle were shipped to Newport News, loaded onto ships and delivered to Great Britain, into the port of Liverpool.

Associated with his role as a prominent businessman and leader in Pulaski County, Howe

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became a county supervisor for Newbern District, serving one term, from July 1, 1879, to July 1, 1883 and he also served as a one term as a Delegate for Pulaski and Giles Counties, in the Virginia Legislature. He was an organizing member of the Masonic Henry Clay Lodge No. 280

⁸ Worsham, Rotenizer, and Cooper-Ruska, *Pulaski County Heritage Conservation Study*, 49.

⁹ Farrow, *A Way of Life in Virginia at the Turn of The Century*, 10.

¹⁰ Pezzoni, Rockwood-National Register of Historic Places nomination, VDHR file number 077-0045, 16.

¹¹ Farrow, 10.

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A.F. and A.M. in 1903 (Dublin). He was Master of the Lodge in 1906¹². The Star pattern attic window in his house most likely reflects his early association with the Masonic Order.

Haven Howe as Conservationist (Criterion B Significance)

Haven Howe was an early proponent of conserving land and waters of the New River Valley and because of his prominence in the community and the concern that polluted water would effect the livelihood of farmers in southwestern Virginia, he participated in a campaign to stop mining companies from discharging mine tailings directly into the New River. Because of his actions, he ranks as a significant figure in the history of Virginia's conservation movement. While it has not been confirmed, Howe may be some of the earliest environmental activists in Virginia. More research work needs to be completed to place Howe in the context of other state and national activists. The Howe House is nominated under Criterion B to symbolize his contribution to the conservation movement in Virginia.

While mineral extraction industry dates back before the Civil War, the impact of mining and related processes did not begin to have large-scale negative affects on southwestern Virginia until the last quarter of the nineteenth century. In Pulaski County, iron mines opened in Allisonia, Virginia, in the 1880s¹³. The Allisonia plant had smelting furnaces at the edge of the New River, and the by-product of the iron ore extraction process, silt and other tailings, were dumped directly into the New River. For most of the late 19th and early twentieth century the New River was heavily silted and polluted from southwestern Virginia and deep into West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, with significant impact to the Ohio River. In 1972, when his youngest daughter, Mary Cloyd Howe Farrow, wrote her memoir, she noted that Haven Howe had voiced concerns about the pollution and had encouraged legal action ¹⁴.

At the age of 64, in 1911, about a year before his death, Howe received a summons to appear in Federal District Court in Wheeling, West Virginia. The U.S. War Department sought a court order to ban the dumping of iron ore silt into tributaries that fed into the Ohio River. The silt was causing damage to government ships and interrupting navigation channels. Howe, probably one of several who testified, helped to influence the court to order a ban on dumping iron ore mud

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into the rivers as of January 1, 1912¹⁵. His importance as a conservationist in the southwestern Virginia region was celebrated in his obituary in the Roanoke Times (December 13, 1912): "It

¹² Farrow, A Way of Life in Virginia at the Turn of The Century, 13.

¹³ Ibid., 12.

¹⁴ Ibid., 12.

¹⁵ Farrow, A Way of Life in Virginia at the Turn of The Century, 12.

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was largely due to his determined efforts that the ‘muddy water fight’ for the New River was taken up by the United States War Department and won”¹⁶.

Comparative Architectural History of Howe House (Criterion C Significance)

The Haven B. Howe House is one of the finest examples of Italianate style architecture in Pulaski County. It may be one of few surviving rural properties in southwestern Virginia featuring ornamental wrought iron porch supports—a product that most likely was ordered from an urban foundry and shipped by railroad to either Dublin or Radford. It is not known whether an architect or master craftsman was involved with the planning and overall form and design of the building, but Mary Cloyd Howe Farrow’s memoir indicates that Howe took an active role in the construction, which took place over 3 (and possibly four years) spanning the period from 1876 to 1879¹⁷.

Farrow notes that her mother and father built a temporary frame house at “the hollow,” not far from the New River, in an area referred to as “bold spring”¹⁸. She notes that the location of the permanent house met two considerations: a hill site and close to a natural spring. In retrospect, the site of the Howe House is what has saved it from the eventual creation of the manmade Claytor Dam. Before the creation of Claytor Lake, the view shed of the Howe House, towards the south and east (rear of the house), included a valley bottom with the New River and a rising ridge further south.

Haven Howe grew up in the Back Creek area of Pulaski County at Sunnyside and would have been familiar with Belle-Hampton (VDHR file number 077-0003/ VLR/NRHP Listed), the home of his cousin James Hoge Tyler (1846-1925). Belle-Hampton is an early 19th century homestead built for the Tyler family, originally known as Hayfield. James Hoge Tyler was a contemporary of Howe and he went on to serve as Virginia Governor from 1898 – 1902. Before Tyler added an 1879 Italianate update to Hayfield, the 1820s brick vernacular Federal style house had a five or six bay primary elevation with a center hall plan. During his childhood Howe would have been most familiar with the balanced conservative architecture of Sunnyside and Belle-Hampton (Hayfield).

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Catherine Howe would have been familiar with the Cloyd family ancestral home Back Creek (VDHR file number 077-0002, VLR/NRHP listed). Back Creek was built in the late eighteenth century and is one of the finest examples of Federal style architecture in Pulaski County. The

¹⁶ Haven Howe Obituary, Roanoke Times.

¹⁷ Farrow, 17-18.

¹⁸ Ibid., 18.

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five-bay, 2-story, brick house has a center hall plan. Other Cloyd houses also show a balanced traditional design, like the Dunkard's Bottom house (demolished), dating to the 1840s, and not far from the present Howe House. Dunkard's Bottom was a 2-story, 3-bay Greek Revival style house.

Haven and Catherine Howe were clearly aware of the traditional form of the larger masonry houses in Pulaski County and brought this cultural memory forward when they worked on their house. The Howe House shows the persistence of the balanced center-hall plan traced from Federal and Greek Revival examples to post Civil War buildings. In addition to the adoption of a balanced interior plan for the Howe House, the positioning of the rear ell is similar to both Back Creek and Sunnyside, ancestral home of the Cloyds and Howes.

In the post war period, Pulaski County seems to have been more insulated than other areas of Virginia from the Panic of 1873 and the ensuing economic fallout. The Italianate architectural style swept through the area during the 70s and inspired many to remodel or build with delicate and ornate Italianate detailing. As Howe was building his house, Glencoe, in nearby Radford (VDHR file number 126-0045/VLR-NRHP listed) was being completed in 1875. Glencoe, a large two-story Italianate house, appears asymmetrical at a glance, but the interior shows a slightly modified center hall plan. It features segmental arches over windows and two one-story, five-sided bays at either end of the house. The proximity of Glencoe to the Howe House could indicate a design influence.

James Hogue Tyler, Howe's cousin, remodeled the 1820s Hayfield and renamed it Belle-Hampton in 1879. He chose a bold Italianate addition to literally front older building. The two-story, four-room, brick addition features a central gable and a bracketed cornice. The thin, delicate, brackets are much like those found at the Howe House and the open curvilinear central hall stairs echo the stairs at the Howe House. The fanciful addition and the Howe House were completed at about the same time.

As a comparison to the Italianate high style residential design movement in Pulaski County, the formal Greek Revival style appeared at one of the finest residences that still survives in the

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region. Cattleman Francis Bell, Sr. built Rockwood in 1874-75 (VDHR file number 077-0045/VLR-NRHP listed). Designed by Lynchburg architect Robert Calhoun Burkholder, Rockwood was executed in a more formal Greek Revival architectural vocabulary, with a sophisticated cornice, elaborate window hoods, and a massive portico that features Scamozzi Ionic capitals on

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two-story paired columns¹⁹. The one similarity between Rockwood and the Howe House can be seen in the interior center hall curvilinear open stairs.

Based on a brief survey of some of Pulaski County and City of Radford's finer 1870s architecture, the Howe House is comparable in quality and the only example of sophisticated rural architecture that features an ornamental iron porch in the County. The Howe House shows its inheritance of form from Pulaski's early 19th century houses, balanced center hall plan with rear ell, and use of the contemporary Italianate style, a bold use of detailing on porch, exterior cornice, projecting 1-story end bays, central front gable, and interior trim. It conveys formality and a celebration of the legacy of gentleman farmer and local (and state) level conservation activist Haven Boyd Howe.

The elaborate styling of the Howe House and the fine craftsmanship are clear justification for establishing significance to meet Criterion C for architecture for the National Register of Historic Places.

Claytor Lake and Virginia State Park

Haven Howe's son, Daniel Sheppard Howe, conveyed the property to the Virginia Conservation Commission in 1947. Claytor Lake was formed when Appalachian Power Company built a dam on the New River, just south of Radford, in 1939. This is the largest of the power company's 12 hydroelectric plants, with a total generating capacity of 83,000 kilowatts. William Graham Claytor, for whom the lake is named, was a Bedford County native and son of a State Senator, he served as both Vice President and Director of Appalachian Power and its parent company American Electric Power.

In early 1944, the people of the surrounding area expressed an interest in the establishment of a state park on the new lake. The idea continued to grow and in 1946 private citizens and businesses from Pulaski, Radford and Blacksburg raised the money needed to purchase 437 acres from Appalachian Power. This land was given to the state to be developed as Claytor Lake State Park. Due to a lack of operating funds, the Radford Chamber of Commerce operated the park during the summers of 1949 and 1950. The Division of State Parks took over the operation of the

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park in 1951. In 1962, 35 additional acres were purchased, bringing the total acreage to 472.

¹⁹ Pezzoni, Rockwood-National Register of Historic Places nomination, VDHR file number 077-0045, 18.

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The Haven Howe House is currently a Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) facility, used as a Nature Exhibit Center that focuses on the lake's wildlife habitat. The staff also uses some of the spaces for office area. The DCR staff at Claytor Lake have designed an exhibit panel that explains the Howe conservation legacy. DCR has been a strong steward of the historic property and they have maintained the historic physical integrity of the house at a high level. The conservation spirit of Haven Howe is clearly celebrated by the survival and careful maintenance of his fine house.

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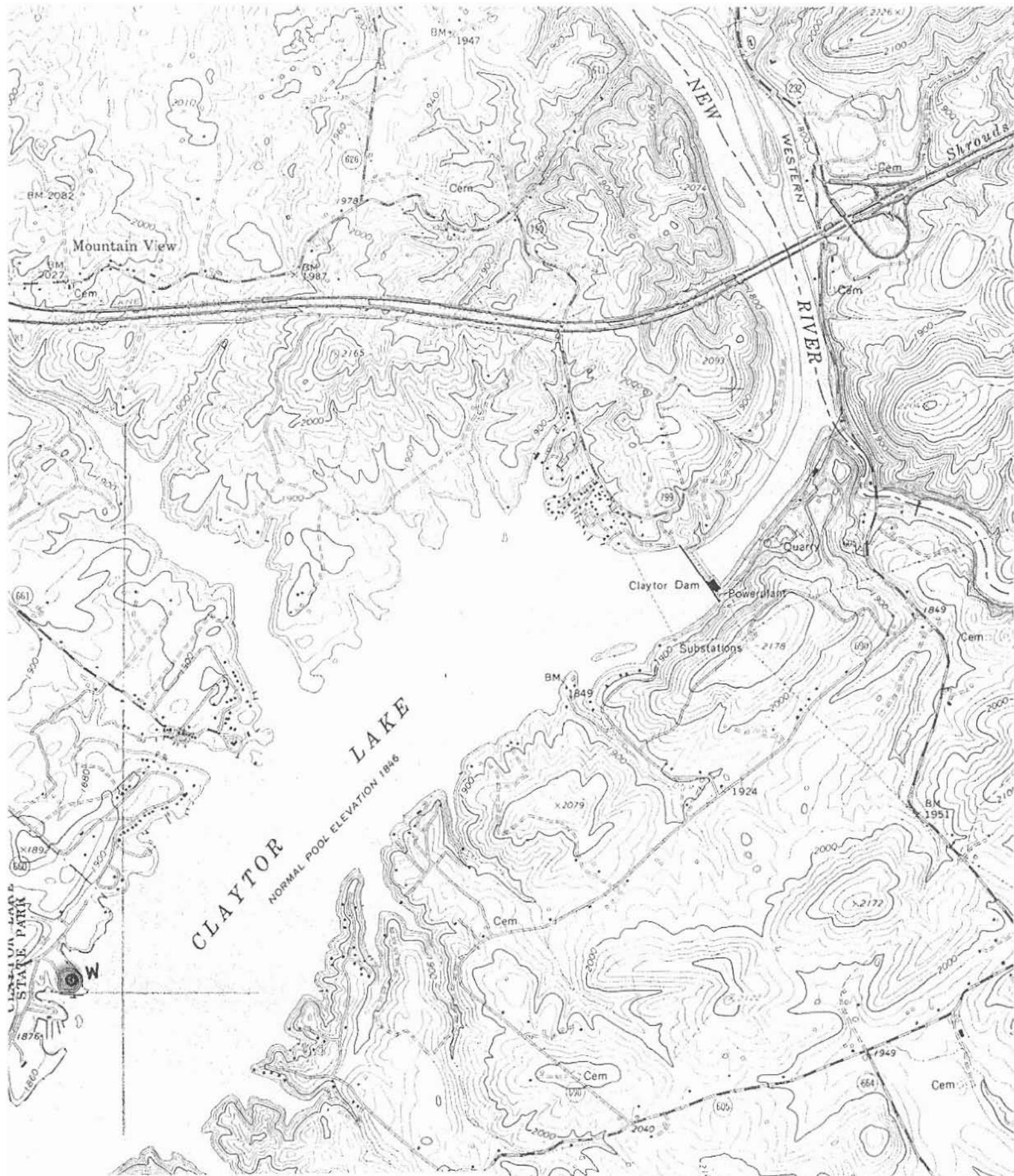
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Name of Property: Howe House, Claytor Lake State Park
 Quad Name: Radford South

UTM Coordinates of Area or Building Surveyed

Zone	Easting	Northing
W 17	533740	4101060

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