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

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 <u>How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form</u> (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 "NA" for inct 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 stypewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

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<u>Cedar Hill</u>	<u>Rockbridge County, Virginia</u>
5. Classification	
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as appl private public-local public-State public-Federal	-y)
Category of Property (Check only one box) x building(s) district site site object	
Number of Resources within Property	
ContributingNoncontributing73buildings10sites10structures00objects93Total	
Number of contributing resources previously listed Register0	
	N/A" if property is not part of N/A
6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instruct Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single AGRICULTURE Agricu	tions) dwelling ltural outbuilding
Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Agricu	ions) dwelling iltural outbuilding
<pre>====================================</pre>	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories fro	om instructions)
Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation STONE: limestone walls BRICK roof STONE: slate other METAL: iron, tin WOOD	

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

Cedar Hill

Rockbridge County, Virginia

Applicable National Register Criteria (Ma boxes for the criteria qualifying the p Register listing)	rk "x" in one or more property for National	Criteria Considerations (Mark =X= in all the boxes that apply.) A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
A Property is associated with events that have made a signific of our history.		B removed from its original location.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant	in our past.	C a birthplace or a grave. D a cametery.
x C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type or represents the work of a master, or possesses high arti- and distinguishable entity whose components lack indivi-	s, period, or method of construction tic values, or represents a significant dual distinction.	E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information imp	portant in prehistory or history.	$_$ F a commension stive property. $_$ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.
Areas of Significance (Er 	nter categories ARCHITECTU	from instructions) JRE
Period of Significance	1821-1910_	
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Significant Person (Compl	ete if Criteric	n B is marked above)
	N/A	······································
Cultural Affiliation	N/A	
Architect/Builder	unknown	
	anificance (Evo	lain the significance of the property on
Narrative Statement of Si 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 # _____

	mary Location of Additional Data
X	State Historic Preservation Office
	Other State agency
	Federal agency
	Local government
	University
	Other
Name	e of repository:

Rockbridge County, Virginia

<u>Cedar Hill</u>

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Acreage of Prope	erty _46.4 acres_
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)
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5	17 640870 4175250 See continuation sheet.
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name/title	Thomas M. Kastner
organization	dateFebruary 1994
street & number_	Route 4, Box 247telephone_703-261-1221
city or town	Lexington state_VA_ zip code24450
Additional Docum	======================================

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)

Cedar Hill

z=====================================	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO	or FPO.)
nameMr. and Mrs. T. M. Kastner	
street & number Route 4, Box 247	telephone703-261-1221
city or townLexington	state_VA_ zip code24450

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 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 overage 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form.

Estimated statement: Public reporting ourden for the form is estimated to sverage 18.1 nours per response including the time for sevening methodicals, gathering data, and completing and revisiving the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. 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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Cedar Hill Rockbridge County, Virginia

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Located along an old valley trail following the ridge line east of the Maury (formerly the North) River, Cedar Hill constitutes the core of one of the prosperous farms that were developed in Rockbridge County in the Late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The main house, atop a 100-foot hill immediately adjacent to the road, has a magnificent vista of the Blue Ridge lying two and a half miles to the east. The house is a vernacular I-house typical of the Valley of Virginia, well-built and maintained from the date of its construction in 1821. Changes made over the years have been executed in harmony with the basic architectural scheme. Two log outbuildings adjacent to the main house and a spring house, all believed to date from the first half of the nineteenth century, remain in use as do three other agricultural dependencies built in the early 1900s. The property, although reduced in size by subdivision to some 46 acres, continues to operate as a farm despite local trends toward further fragmentation and residential construction.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The farm house is situated with several dependencies atop a limestone knob adjacent to State Route 608, the former Lexington to Lynchburg turnpike, and commands a striking view not only of the farm itself but much of the surrounding countryside (Photo 1).¹ The vista eastward is particularly impressive and presents an unimpeded view of the Blue Ridge, two and one half miles distant as it borders the eastern edge of Rockbridge County (Photo 2).

The house, with an estimated construction date of 1821, has a basic I-house plan: two rooms wide and one room deep with a central hall and gable-end chimneys.² There are two stories with a full attic and half cellar. Construction is in the Federal style with neo-classical features typical of houses erected in the Valley of Virginia in the early nineteenth century (Photo 3). The house is built with its principal axis running southwest-northeast and its principal elevation facing northwest.

A brick one-and-a-half-story extension was added to the northeast end some time before 1827, followed by a further extension in direction with a brick pantry and wood-frame summer kitchen in the late 1800s.³ The summer kitchen was torn down and replaced by a modern sitting room/utility room extension in 1971. All such additions have been well-constructed and are in harmony with the basic architecture of the main house (Photo 4).

The main house is symmetrical in design with two stories and a gable roof. Construction is of brick laid in Flemish bond. The foundation is of coursed limestone rubble. In all likelihood the bricks were made on the site and the stone obtained from a small quarry at the base of the hill below the barn. The single story addition with loft, built sometime between 1821 and 1827, extends to he northeast. Its construction matches that of the main block, although the brickwork is somewhat rougher in workmanship. The main block has two interior end chimneys, while the 1821-1827 addition has an exterior chimney on the northeast. In 1971 yet another extension was built on the northeast end, its style and construction in keeping with the existing building.

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Cedar Hill Rockbridge County, Virginia

The roofs of both the main house and the 1821-1827 addition are of slate, while the 1971 extension has a standing-seam-metal roof. The slates are dark grey and laid in alternating bands of hexagonal and plain pattern.

The main block has two porches, neither of which is original. The three-bay front porch has a concrete base with wrought-iron ornamentation metal-over-wood roof with a wrought-iron frieze.⁴ The porch replaced an earlier wooden which reportedly collapsed in the early 1900s. A four-bay frame porch with a metal roof extends across the rear of the entire main block and is believed to date from the turn of the century (Photo 5).

Two large paneled doors (Photo 6) provide entry at either end of the central passage or entry hall. Both are topped by transoms of similar design, one with hinges at the top for opening and the other with hinges at the side. The 1821-1827 addition has a heavy board-and-batten door opening inward on massive strap hinges (Photo 7).⁵

The main house has a symmetrical, five-bay arrangement with two windows on either side of the central entrance doors, front and rear, on the first floor, and five windows across both the back and front on the upper floor. The lower windows are nine-over-nine, double-hung sash, while those on the upper floor are six-over-nine. The exterior sills are of heavy wood construction. All windows won the first floor topped by simulated lintels of plaster with a slightly raised keystone (Photos 8 and 9).

The gable roof is complemented by a molded wooden cornice and has four lightning rods, one of which incorporates a uniquely-designed weather vane.

The 1821-1827 addition includes two six-over-nine sash windows matching those on the upper floor of the central block of the house. Its main entry faces the southeast and has a small bracketed door hood sheltering the entrance. The southeast roof of this addition was pierced with three skylight windows in 1991 in order to light the loft. These are flush with the roof and blend unobtrusively into the roofline.

The 1971 addition continues the extension of the 1821-1827 addition to the northeast, ending with a small balcony/veranda (Photo 10). It replaced a smaller frame structure which had served as a summer kitchen.⁶

The interior of the main house follows the basic I-house scheme. (See attached floor plans.) To the right of the entry hall is a large parlor currently used as a library; to the left a room of equal size serves as a dining room. The 1821-1827 addition contains a large kitchen three steps lower than the rest of the house. The 1971 addition consists of a large sitting room on the northwest and a laundry and bathroom to the southwest. The northwest (front) wall of the sitting room features two large thirty-two-pane windows and opens to the veranda on the northeast.

An upstairs hall lies above the entry hall and is reached by a quarter-turn stair with a landing to the left of the main entrance (Photo 11). The stair treads are about three feet in length. The newel, handrail, balusters, and string are executed simply. This scheme was originally

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continued to the attic but was modified in the 1930s to accommodate the installation of a bathroom in the northwest (front) end of the upper hall. Access to the attic is now provided by an enclosed quarter stair with winders which ascends from the master bedroom. The section above the library has been divided into two rooms. The front (northwest) room is the larger and contains a fireplace. To the left of the stairs is a single large room that matches the dining room below in size and serves as a master bedroom. Above the kitchen lies a half-story loft used as a study. It is reached by a small, enclosed, quarter-turn stair with winders that ascends from the western corner of the kitchen.

While all the brickwork is Flemish bond, the walls of the main block are constructed in a thirteen-inch pattern, and those of the 1821-1827 and 1971 additions in a nine-inch pattern.

A half-cellar with a dirt floor underlies the dining room. Beneath the rest of the house is a two-foot crawl space and a three-foot crawl space under the kitchen. The joists of the lower floor of both the main house and kitchen are peeled logs. For the upper floor and attic the joists ar hewn beams approximately four-by-eight inches in cross section. The rafters of the main house two-and-one-half-by-five inches and those of the 1821-1827 addition are three-by-six inches in cross section. In both cases the beams meet with half-lap joints secured with wooden pegs, the ridge beam lying between short extensions of the beams. Sheathing of the roof consists of one-by-twelve inch boards with four inch spacing.

Ceilings in the main block of the house are plastered and are ten feet in height on the first floor and $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height on the second floor. The kitchen ceiling is $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height with exposed beams.

All door and window moldings are executed simply with matching proportions. Interior doors of the main house are paneled alike (Photo 12). The window sills are at least 18 inches deep. Paneled wainscoting is found in the lower rooms, while those above have only a chair rail.

Heat was originally provided by six fireplaces. The mantels in the library, dining room, and two upper rooms are plainly carved with a simple folk design that is stylistically distinctive. The style is found locally only in an adjoining farmhouse built about the same time as Cedar Hill. The craftsman is unknown (Photos 13 through 16).

All Flooring in the house is original and consists of broad pine planks joined tongue-ingroove (Photo 17), varying in width from 5 to 7 inches in the main block of the house. The kitchen flooring is more varied (5 to 9 inches) and of rougher joinery with some seams caulked rather than closely fitted. The main attic and kitchen loft floors are also of a rougher nature and formed mostly of nine-inch boards. The kitchen has an interesting trap door (30x30 inches) leading to a root cellar (Photo 18).

One feature of particular note in the main block of the house is the use of nine cobalt blue panes in alternate lights of one window in the library (formerly the parlor). These panes were supposedly installed in the 1870s by a former owner, J. G. Cress, to alleviate the tedium of country life for a young bride accustomed to life in the city. Considering that this

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window, facing the southeast, presents what is today seen as an incomparable vista of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the embellishment seems perhaps superfluous if not downright puzzling. In any event the new window apparently served its purpose as Mrs. Cress continues in residence until 1903.

The main house and 1821-1827 addition were whitewashed in the 1930s and have remained so with the 1971 extension treated to match. All exterior trim is painted white.

Two log outbuildings stand immediately to the northeast of the 1821-1827 addition (Photo 19). The larger is a rectangular, V-notch log building (Photo 20). It has a tall exterior chimney on the southeast end. This building has seen a variety of uses over the years and has undergone several renovations (1892, 1932, and 1989).⁷ It is currently used as a guest cottage. It very likely served for most of the nineteenth century as both a summer kitchen and possibly a slave quarters. Interior provisions for habitation such as a full-length loft, shelf pegs, candle scars and the estimated age of the logs support this conjecture.

A second square, pyramidal-roofed log outbuilding once served as a smokehouse. It features massive chestnut logs with half-dovetailed ends (Photo 21). It was altered in 1935 with the addition of three sash windows on the northeast side facing the Blue Ridge Mountains, and again in 1990 with a concrete floor and cedar shake roofing.

In addition to the main house and two log outbuildings described above, the property contains several other farm buildings believed to date from the early 1900s. An exception is the springhouse, which may date from the mid-nineteenth century. Of stone construction, it stands over a spring that is shown on the earliest surveys of the property and to this day serves as the principal water supply (Photo 22). The other outbuildings are a large frame barn (Photo 23), cattle weighing shed (Photo 23), three-bay carriage shed (Photo 24), turkey house, chicken house, and pigpen. Only the first three of these are considered contributing.

Also located on the property is a site containing the ruins of an early dwelling (Photo 26). The site is adjacent to an earlier road path and is not shown on the survey of 1827 or a later map of 1855. A cursory examination of the site suggests a building of log or frame construction with a stone foundation and brick chimney.

Comparison of the path of the "Great Road" as shown on the 1827 survey and that of today's Route 608 indicates a change in routing from the original course along the foot of the hill and adjacent to the spring to the more northerly route now followed. The old roadbed is clearly discernible and considered a contributing structure in this nomination.

ENDNOTES

^{1.} The location of the house, while inconvenient to both the nearest source of fresh water and the road, is not uncommon for local residences built in the early nineteenth century. It very likely expresses not only an appreciation of the aesthetics of the resulting vista but also a prudent concern and respect for the rapid flooding of the areas many small streams.

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2. The date of construction is based upon local tax records which show a large rise in valuation for building improvements between 1820 and 1822.

3. The first addition, while obviously built as an extension, is shown on a sketch of the house made on a survey dated 1827.

4. Tradition has it that the original wooden porch collapsed during a party and the replacement was ordered from New Orleans. The ornamentation is believed to be unique in the local area.

5. This door is panelled only on its outer face. The same is true of the door between the main house and the 1821-1827 addition, although the latter is hung on conventional hinges.

6. This earlier frame structure is believed to date from the turn of the century and included a brick pantry which was incorporated into the 1971 addition.

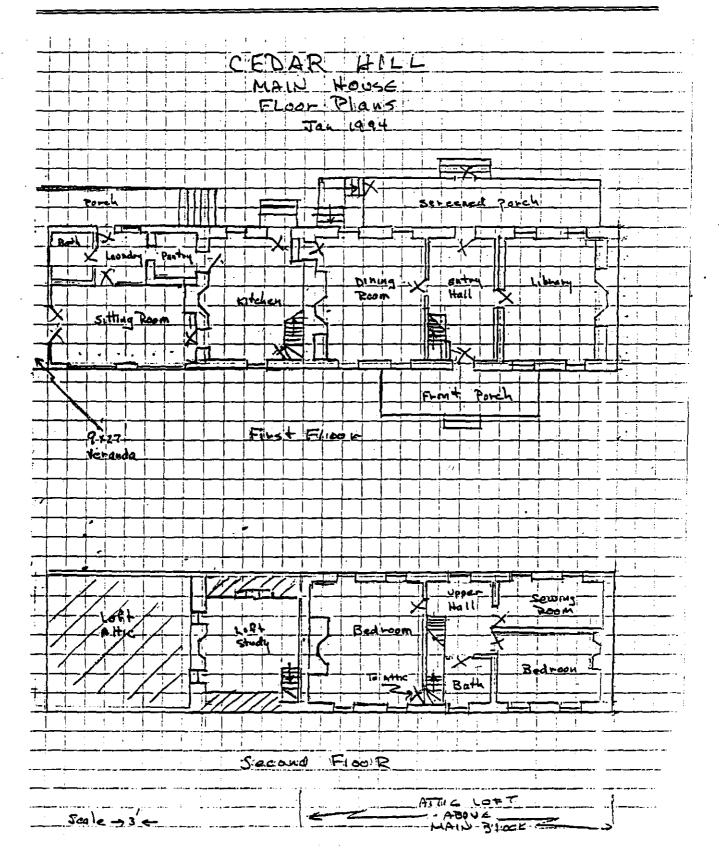
7. The earliest date is surmised from a fragment of the New York Times for 23 November 1892, found during the latest renovations.

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Cedar Hill Rockbridge County, Virginia

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Situated in the shadow of the Blue Ridge and lying athwart a historic trail and later road paralleling the Maury River on its way south to the James, Cedar Hill is representative of the early farms established by the first settlers of the upper valley. These farms became the foundation of the region's economy in the first half of the nineteenth century. The current property, although reduced in size due to subdivision in the 1920-1940 period, constitutes the core of the old farm. The principal dwelling, a brick, five-bay, vernacular I-house, sits atop a hill surrounded by its dependencies and overlooking the local countryside. Two of the dependencies are log buildings dating from the early nineteenth century while the majority (five) are agricultural outbuildings of the early twentieth century. Also included as contributing resources are an old springhouse, the site of an early dwelling, and a section of abandoned roadbed marking the route of an early trail and road. The main house is an excellent example of its type. Along with its log outbuildings, it has been continuously occupied and maintained. Changes and additions made over the years have been wellconstructed and in harmony with the original architecture. Although reduced in size, the property continues to exist as a farm and all outbuildings remain in use although adapted to present needs. Given the present trend towards residential growth in the surrounding area, Cedar Hill is considered a notable landmark of local significance.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The earliest record of the property associated with Cedar Hill is found in Virginia Land Office records of 1740, when John McDowell was granted a patent for 400 acres "along the Big Spring Branch running into the North Branch of the James." Following McDowell's death in the famous Indian fight of 1743, the property passed to his son Samuel who in turn sold it to his brother James in 1757 for $\pounds 100.^{1}$ Ten years later (July 18, 1767) the property again changed hands with the sale by James and his wife Elizabeth to James Templeton of 300 acres for "250 pounds current and lawful money of Virginia." Templeton apparently created a prosperous farm as the census of 1782 lists him as owning 3 slaves, 6 horses, and 11 cows. When Templeton died in 1793, the farm was divided between his sons, David and James, with James getting the land along the Big Spring Branch. The tax records of 1815 show James Templeton as owning 196 acres taxed at \$323.17. Tax records of 1822 show land taxes at \$379 and a further \$1200 for building improvements. This indicates that the main block of Cedar Hill was probably started sometime after 1815 and finished in 1821. In 1827 the property was sold to Galbreath Hamilton, who was newly arrived from Wythe County. A copy of the survey made as a part of this sale is attached for reference. It is the earliest recorded survey of the property and is of particular interest because it includes a rough sketch of the house showing both the main block and the addition of a single room and loft to the northeast. Many other landmarks shown are readily seen today and are unchanged except for a slight change in the routing of the "Great Road" (now state Route 608) to the north of the spring. The next transfer of the property occurred in 1849, when Hamilton went into retirement by selling the property and all his possessions to his son, A. J. Hamilton. A. J. Hamilton remained the sole owner until 1869 when the property (house and farm of some 360 acres) was sold to J. G. and W. D. Cress. In 1876 W. D. Cress left his interest in the farm to his brother, J. G. Cress, who in turn passed the property to his wife,

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Georgia Cress, upon his death. Mrs. Cress subsequently sold the property to Joseph E. McCormick in 1900. McCormick continued farming, making considerable investments in new outbuildings and improvements to the main house such as the new porches on the front and rear. In time McCormick deeded most of the property to his sons while keeping the old house and surrounding fifty acres for himself. In 1930 he sold this core property to Dr. James Moser of Washington, D.C. Dr. Moser used the old house as a summer home until taking up permanent residence in 1948. He resided on the property until 1971, when it was sold to Dr. and Mrs. William B. Echols, of Rockbridge County. The Echolses, in turn, sold the property to Commander and Mrs. T. M. Kastner, of Wisconsin and Czechoslovakia, in 1987. The Kastners are the current owners.

The main block of the house, which dates to about 1821-22, remains essentially unchanged except for the replacement of porches on the front and rear. While what was replaced is unknown, these additions have been made in a restrained, utilitarian fashion and fit in well with the original architecture. A one-and-a-half-story addition was made between 1821-1827, again very much in harmony with the general style and construction of the main block of the house. Finally, in 1971, another addition was made in keeping with the existing building. In each case the additions have been remarkably consistent with the style and siting of the main house, thereby preserving its character.

While the history of the log dependencies is less precisely known, both remain very much as originally constructed with "modern" improvements made in 1891, the 1930s, and 1988 on the larger building and in the 1930s and 1989 on the smaller.²

The interior of the main house features details typical of an early-nineteenth-century I-house. Interior woodwork includes six-paneled doors throughout, architrave door and window moldings, paneled wainscoting and chair rails. These details are notable for both simplicity of style and excellence in workmanship. Large wooden mantels are found around the four hearths of the main block of the house. Like the other woodwork, they are simple in style yet of good craftsmanship. Their ornamentation consists of austere, linear carving varying in detail with each mantel. The patterns are highly unusual and are rumored to be the work of slaves known to have been employed on the property in the 1820s.

The remains of an earlier dwelling on the property may constitute merit as a possible archæological site. The dwelling on this site, now only an overgrown depression with scattered stone and brick remains, while shown on very early maps and surveys, had disappeared by 1855. These ruins may predate the larger, extant log dependency as the site of an initial dwelling or may have been a slave quarters.

While the significance of the property is largely architectural, the historical patterns of development and occupancy are worth noting. Farming operations predominate from the earliest known date until 1926. Ownership was for extended periods, with a post-Civil-War transfer to remote relatives from New York contributing significantly to the continuity of operation and maintenance.³ In 1926 the property was reduced to its current configuration of the old house and various outbuildings located on 46 acres. All buildings on the property remain in use.

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While none of the owners (with the exception of the McDowells) is historically notable, they have maintained the agricultural tradition of Cedar Hill. A minor exception to this lack of individual distinction might be taken in the case of A. J. Hamilton. In 1841, Hamilton was one of the first youths of Rockbridge County to enter Virginia Military Institute, then in its second year of operation. Young Hamilton apparently found life at VMI unduly hard and achieved the notoriety of being the first to desert the institution. Happily, this incident did not prevent him from spending the next 28 years in becoming a respected member of the Rockbridge County community.

ENDNOTES

1. There is no evidence that any of the McDowells lived or farmed the property. The existence of the farm as a historic property is assumed to date from its ownership by the Templetons.

2. Tradition has it that the larger log building predates the main house and was later used as a kitchen and slave quarters. Census records show the existence of from five to seven slaves on the property during the first half of the nineteenth century.

3. The Cress brothers who purchased the property from A. J. Hamilton in 1876 came to Virginia from New York, although they were born in Georgia. They were reportedly Hamilton's cousins. Hamilton is believed to have disposed of the property due to his own ill health.

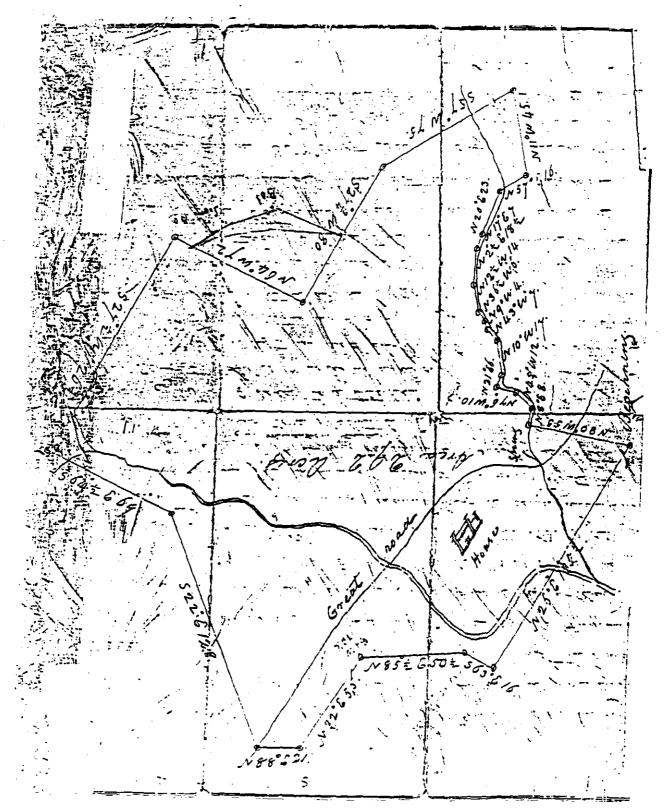
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SURVEY August 4, 1827



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Rockbridge County Land Tax Books
Rockbridge County Will Books
Virginia Land Office Records 1747
Virginia Military Institute, Alumni File

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is accurately described as Tract ((15))-IN, on the Rockbridge County Tax Maps, Buffalo District, Section 89.

Boundary Justification

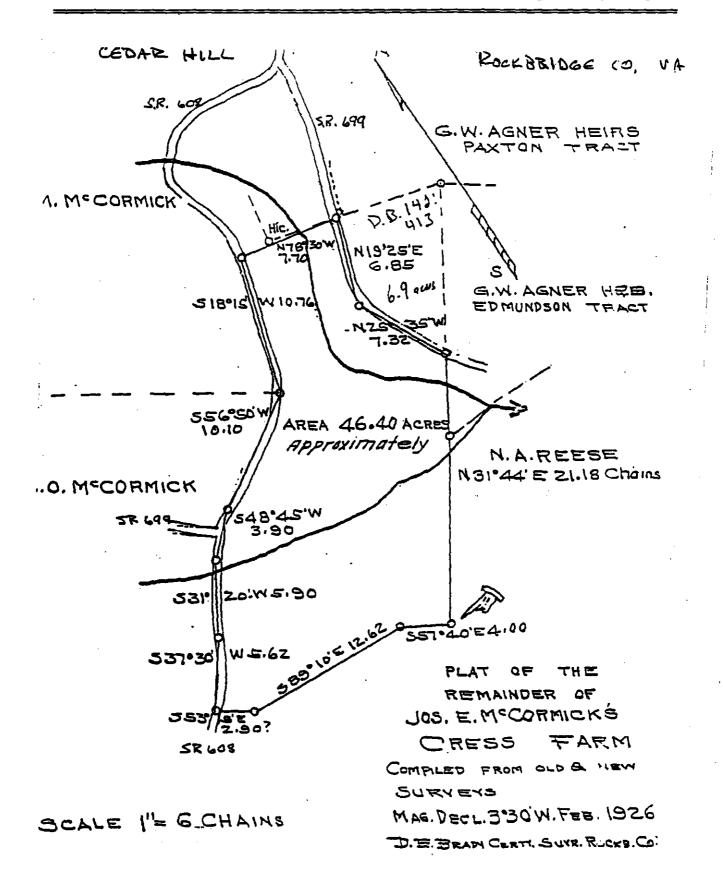
The boundaries of the nominated area include the main house and principal dependencies and resources historically associated with the farm. The boundaries correspond to the current legal boundaries of the farm and exclude the portions of the original farm that have subsequently been developed.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Cedar Hill Rockbridge County, Virginia

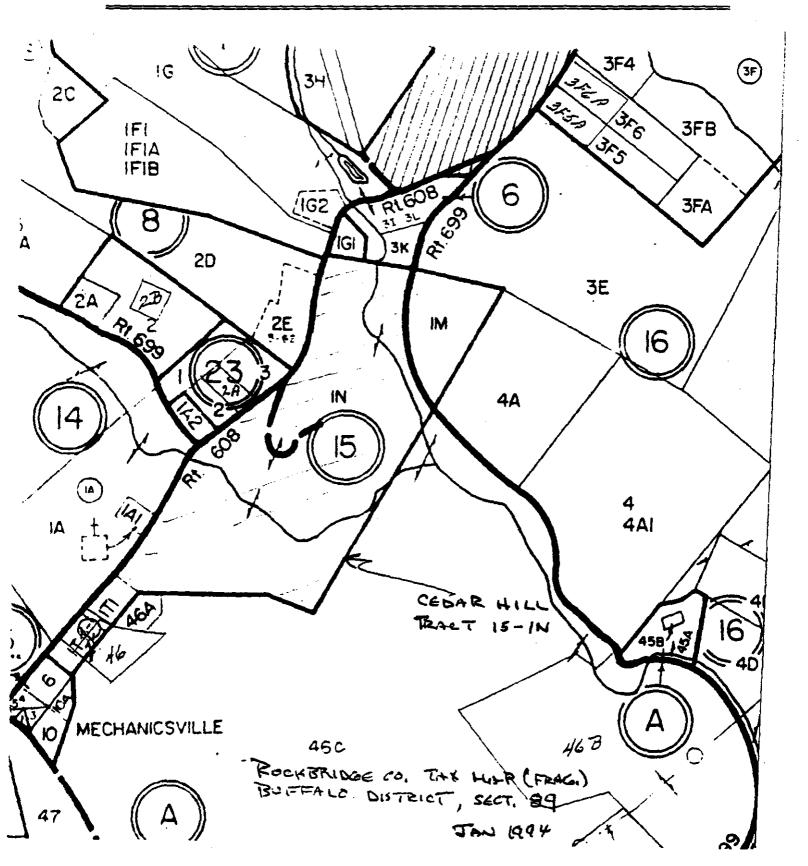


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