

VLR - 3/17/99
JRP - 6/29/99

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 **John Moore House**
other names/site number **DHR file no. 81-28**

2. Location

street & number **183 Big Hill Road (state route 646)** N/A not for publication
city or town **Lexington** X vicinity
state **Virginia** code **VA** county **Rockbridge** code **163** zip code **24450**

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

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/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

___ 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):

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

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
0	1	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

<i>Category</i>	<i>Subcategory</i>
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	spring house

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

<i>Category</i>	<i>Subcategory</i>
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	spring house
OTHER	archaeological site
DOMESTIC	secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	stone
walls	brick
roof	metal
other	wood
	brick

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

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

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 # _____

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- 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 fifty years.

Period of Significance

ca. 1830- ca.1840

Significant Dates

1831

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property **10.175 acres****UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	627380	4191370	3	17	627430	4190980
2	17	627540	4191280	4	17	627270	4191060

___ 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	Everett A. Martin, Jr., property owner; and Leslie A. Giles, consultant		
organization	c/o Landmark Preservation Associates	date	January 8, 1998
street & number	6 Houston Street	telephone	(540) 464-5315
city or town	Lexington	state	VA
		zip code	24450

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	Mr. and Mrs. Everett A. Martin, Jr.	
street & number	1536 Blanford Circle	telephone (757) 489-0333
city or town	Norfolk	state VA zip code 23505

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

John Moore House
Rockbridge County, Va.

DESCRIPTION

Summary

Located in Rockbridge County, Virginia, on Big Hill Road (state route 646) just outside the hamlet of Denmark, the John Moore House stands on approximately ten acres at the base of Big House Mountain above Kerr's Creek. The house is located on a slight rise overlooking a small spring-fed pond and a stone spring house. An archaeological site in an open area to the northeast of the house represents the remains of an earlier dwelling on the property. The property retains several large deciduous trees (principally maple, oak, and willow) in the residential yard and around the pond, and a woodlot extends to the rear of the house. One relatively recent (twentieth century) poured concrete storage building is located near the house's southeast corner.

Inventory

1. John Moore House (1831). Contributing building.
2. Spring house (ca. 1830). Contributing building.
3. Archaeological site (late 18th century). Non-contributing site.
4. Storage building (ca. 1920). Non-contributing building.

House: Exterior

The property's primary resource is the John Moore House -- a two-story, three-bay brick Federal-style farmhouse built in 1831. The house's tall foundation is of coursed, roughly hewn stone, with a basement-level entry along the front (north) elevation near the northeast corner of the house. This entry has a braced-board door with inconspicuous modern hardware. Two vent-like openings on the foundation's east side have multi-pane windows. The gable roof is covered with standing seam metal painted dark green, with minimal overhangs on the front and rear elevations, and no overhangs on the two gable ends.

The original walls are of handmade bricks, burned on the property, which are laid in Flemish and English bond. The front elevation, which is three bays wide, has central entries on the first and second floors flanked by nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows on the first story and nine-over-six windows on the second story. The two central entries incorporate arched fanlight transoms and four-pane sidelights around single-leaf, six-panel wooden doors. The first-story fanlight has muntins radiating from a center point like the rays of a rising sun; the second-story fanlight, with a more compressed arch, has splayed muntins. The first-story entry is reached from ground level up a double stair to the front porch, which has Tuscan columns and a classically influenced balustraded flat-roofed balcony. Added to the house in 1993, the porch replaced a deteriorated two-story wooden porch with turned posts and sawn brackets that was installed in the 1890s. The building's

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

John Moore House
Rockbridge County, Va.

Description (continued)

west gable end wall features a centered exterior brick chimney flanked at attic level by two four-light windows, with a single first-story window opening with nine-over-nine double-hung wood sashes. The east gable end has an off-center exterior Flemish-bond brick chimney, a first-story window with nine-over-nine sashes, and a second-story window with six-over-six sashes. Over the life of the house some sections of original brickwork have been replaced, due to severe deterioration, with modern bricks laid in stretcher bond. For example, it appears that extensive wall reconstruction was undertaken at the northern half of the east gable end wall, with additional repairs needed on the northeast corner. In all instances, the newer bricks differ slightly in texture from the original handmade bricks, but a unifying coat of yellow paint obscures these differences in most cases.

The rear (south) elevation, which has nine-over-six sashes in the second-story windows, is largely obscured by a gabled, weatherboarded frame ell that is smaller in scale than the main section. Added to the house in 1993, this ell replaced a one-and-a-half-story weatherboarded frame ell that stood in approximately the same location until about 1980. The earlier ell, which had a massive exterior end brick chimney and shed roofed side porch, provided kitchen, pantry, dining room, and servants' quarters for the house. The modern two-story ell has a one-story shed-roofed porch on the west side and a one-story shed extension on the east side, with single and grouped windows on the first and second stories. The ell accommodates most of the house's modern functions, including the kitchen, an informal dining area, the utility room, and a bathroom on the first level, and a bedroom and two bathrooms on the upper level.

House: Interior

The interior of the original 1831 portion of the John Moore House features two main living levels, plus a partial basement/cellar and a large attic. Finishes throughout include random-width heart pine flooring, painted plaster walls and ceilings, and wooden baseboards, chair rails, wainscoting, and other moldings. According to Marita Murray, who lived in the house prior to any of the modern alterations, the walls and ceilings in most rooms were white plaster, with colorfully painted woodwork. A center-passage plan organizes both the first and second floors. Entry through the front doorway, which has reveals with recessed panels, leads into the wide center passage. The center passage is dominated by an open-well staircase detailed with a ramped walnut handrail, recessed vertical-paneled spandrel, ornate tread brackets, simple rectangular balusters, and a turned newel post with a brass cap caged within a circle of plain balusters. The center passage also features recessed panel wainscoting, beveled toe kicks at the bases of fluted door surrounds, and molded corner blocks detailed with three concentric circles. The trim above the front door also features a wooden keystone detail.

A single large room occupies either side of the center passage. The west room, now the living room,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

John Moore House
Rockbridge County, Va.

Description (continued)

was originally the parlor. Centered on the west wall of the room is a fireplace fronted by a Federal-style tripartite mantel. The mantel's frieze has a carved sunburst motif center panel flanked by recessed panels, turned columns flanking the fireplace opening, and a stacked-molding mantelshelf with an unusual convex top shelf. The woodwork in the room, now painted white, was historically painted in contrasting colors of cranberry and yellow, with the turned columns of the mantel marbled in gray and white. The wainscoting in the room features plain recessed panels defined by ornately turned, cutout, and pierced moldings. The windows and door surrounds have simple fluted casings with bulls-eye corner blocks having four concentric circles. The first floor's east room, now the dining room, was originally partitioned into two smaller rooms. In the 1970s or 1980s a partition wall between the two rooms was removed, along with the fireplace and mantel that occupied the east wall in the front (north) space. Evidence of the original plan remains in a hearth-sized patch to the flooring where the fireplace used to be, and in variations to the recessed-panel wainscoting between the north and south halves of the space. The original fireplace and Federal-style mantel of the rear (south) section of the space remain intact. The mantel features a frieze with two recessed panels, recessed-panel pilasters beneath a deeply molded stacked mantelshelf. Decoratively feathered dark green and peach paint colors, now covered over with a more neutral white, were originally used on the room's woodwork. Excepting the window in the north wall, the door and window surrounds have unfluted trim with bulls-eye corner blocks featuring two concentric circles. The north wall window retains fluted trim and corner blocks with four concentric circles.

On the second floor, the passage features woodwork at the porch entry surround that matches that used in the main entry surround of the first-floor. Otherwise, the wood trim used in the space is somewhat plainer than the downstairs. The two bedrooms that flank the hallway have fireplaces and recessed-panel wainscoting. In 1993, modern walk-in closets were partitioned off in each of the two large rooms, but they do not seriously detract from the overall historic character of the rooms. As on the first floor, the east room's fireplace is off-center. The space was originally divided into two bedrooms; its partition wall and north fireplace were removed prior to 1993 renovations. The remaining Federal-style wood mantel has fluted pilasters, a recessed-panel frieze, and a deep stacked-molding mantelshelf; the style of the carved sunburst motifs may indicate Germanic influence. The room has three windows and one door. The north and south windows and the door frame have fluted casings with bulls-eye corner blocks with two concentric circles; the six-over-six window on the east wall has dissimilar trim and was inserted in the former chimney location during 1993 renovations.

In the west bedroom, the fireplace is centered on the west wall and has a brick hearth. The Federal-style mantel incorporates two recessed panels into a wide frieze beneath a stacked-molding mantelshelf, and exhibits an unusually large amount of fluting elsewhere in the piece. The room's

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

John Moore House
Rockbridge County, Va.

Description (continued)

two windows incorporate two types of surrounds: the north window's frame has fluted trim with bulls-eye corner blocks, while the south window's trim is plain, without corner blocks. The door surround leading to the hallway is likewise quite plain; when a second door was added to link the bedroom to a new bathroom in the 1993 ell, the trim was designed to match the older doorway.

The main stair leads from the second-floor hallway up to an unfinished attic. Sash-sawn rafters, with Roman numerals cut into them, are pegged together at the ridge, and skip sheathing of wide boards serves as a base for the standing-seam metal roofing. Small roofing nails visible in the skip sheathing suggest that the roof was at one time covered with wood shingles. The east gable end shows evidence of smoke damage and light charring, suggesting a chimney fire (perhaps the impetus for removing the chimney and fireplaces at the north end of the wall).

The raised basement at the east end of the house, accessed from the exterior through a low doorway, has exposed stone foundation walls and hewn floor joists that support the first floor. Now used as a mechanical room and for garden storage, the space historically served as a root cellar and general storage room. At the other end of the original house, the foundation encloses a crawl space rather than a full walkout basement. The joists supporting the first floor in that location are of peeled logs rather than hewn timbers.

Outbuildings and Landscape Features

The coursed-stone spring house, located about seventy-five yards north of the house and near the front of the property at the head of a spring-fed pond, was built about 1830. The two-level building has a gabled roof covered in standing seam metal, an upper-level gable-end doorway accessed by an exterior flight of stairs, and two lower-level door in the south elevation with flat-arched openings.

At least one archaeological site, located about one hundred fifty yards northeast of the house, has been documented on the property. *Testing of this Cunningham Floodplain Site* (Virginia archaeological inventory number 44RB0089), which commenced in autumn 1979, focused on a raised mound of stone and dirt located on a coluvial fan south of and overlooking Kerr's Creek. Eleven test squares, each three feet by three feet, were excavated. Artifacts found during the testing phase included eighteenth-century ceramics, bone handled tableware, and silver-plated buttons; a partial stone foundation was also uncovered. In the spring and summer of 1980 a more intensive examination, involving the excavation of sixty-eight trenches, each three feet wide by six feet long, was undertaken. The excavations turned up an artifact assemblage that included refined wares (primarily creamware and pearlware) along with salt glazed stoneware. Most of the artifacts were either cut nails, bone fragments, metal buttons, metal hardware, or glass. Extant building features uncovered, also dating to the late-eighteenth century, included the partial remains of a west wall or

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5John Moore House
Rockbridge County, Va.

Description (continued)

foundation, and the base of a chimney.¹ The Cunningham Floodplain Site is listed as non-contributing in the inventory not for any lack of potential significance, but because the historical and archaeological documentation does not substantiate the presumed Cunningham house's presence during the property's proposed period of significance, ca. 1830-ca.1840. In addition, Washington & Lee University files on the 1979-1980 testing and excavation projects do not provide sufficient information to clearly define the boundaries of the site, nor do they describe the methodology and fieldwork techniques employed by archaeologists and students working on the site. If additional information on the excavations becomes available, the site should be re-evaluated for its contributing status. If at that time the site is considered to be contributing, the nomination should be amended to indicate the property's eligibility under Criterion D, adding Archaeology as an Area of Significance and expanding the Period of Significance to include the late-eighteenth-century site.²

A small kitchen garden at the house's side entry is defined in part by a low stone wall that is a remnant of the foundation that supported the previous kitchen ell at the rear of the main house.

The final building on the property, an early-twentieth-century poured-concrete storage building dating to about 1920, stands near the southeast corner of the house's modern ell. Reputedly used as an apple drying house and as a playhouse, the outbuilding features a standing-seam metal gable roof, weatherboard siding in the upper gable ends, and a single-leaf door. While the outbuilding is architecturally compatible with the historic character of the John Moore House, the resource is considered to be non-contributing due to its construction after the property's period of significance.

¹ McDaniel and Russ 1984: 15.

² In conversations with John McDaniel and Katherine Strohe of Washington & Lee University (January 11-12, 1999), it was determined that files on the Cunningham Floodplain Site provided only minimal information on the nature and extent of the archaeological excavations at 44RB0089; Virginia Department of Historic Resources archaeologists Tom Klatka and Keith Egloff provided guidance in defining the site as non-contributing at this time, due to the insufficiency of documentation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

John Moore House
Rockbridge County, Va.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary and Justification of Criteria

The John Moore House, located in Rockbridge County, Virginia, was the seat of the early-nineteenth-century farm of John Moore and his wife Betsy Cunningham Moore. The property's primary resource, a Federal-style farmhouse built in 1831, incorporates refined woodwork that draws from Federal precedents and folk traditions. A contemporary stone spring house is an additional contributing resource on the property. The John Moore House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance. One of the county's more interesting rural dwellings, the John Moore House is a well-preserved example of domestic architecture that demonstrates a personal interpretation of the Federal style, as built for a prosperous Rockbridge County farm family of the early nineteenth century. The property's period of significance begins ca. 1830 and extends through ca. 1840, encompassing the decade during which the construction of the house and spring house took place.

Acknowledgments

The authors wish to thank the following individuals for their assistance with research questions or for reviewing the nomination report: architectural historian Dan Pezzoni of Landmark Preservation Associates; John McDaniel and Katherine Strohe of the Washington & Lee University Anthropology Department; Anne Beckett, Suzanne Durham, Keith Egloff, John Kern, Tom Klatka, Molly Meredith, and Marc Wagner of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources; staff of the Special Collections at Leyburn Library, Washington & Lee University; staff of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Rockbridge County; and area residents Francis W. Lynn, Seatta Teaford, and Marita Murray.

Historic Background

John Moore came to the Kerr's Creek area from the nearby community of Collierstown after his marriage to Elizabeth "Betsy" Cunningham in 1801. Betsy's father, James Cunningham, operated a farm on over 500 acres along Kerr's Creek until his death in 1808. Cunningham had begun acquiring property in the area by 1782, and with his wife raised nine children there. The inventory of Cunningham's estate, made in 1808 "at his dwelling house," enumerated among his personal property seven slaves, a cupboard and other furniture, seven chairs, two sets of fire irons, one rifle, five beds and one bedstead, one eight-day clock, one wagon, six horses, one bull, six cows, thirteen sheep, and thirty geese.³ Remnants of the Cunninghams' dwelling, apparently a stone house, survive as the archaeological site known as the Cunningham Floodplain Site (44RB0089). Following Cunningham's death in 1808, John Moore assisted his in-laws with the management of the farm, and by 1814 he and another brother-in-law had joint possession of the acreage. Tax records from 1820 (the first year building improvements were enumerated separately from land) indicate the presence of buildings valued at \$500, presumably representing the dwelling house of James Cunningham.

³ Rockbridge County Will Book 3: 184.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

John Moore House
Rockbridge County, Va.

By the late 1810s John Moore had determined to acquire full title to the Cunningham property. Between 1817 and 1819 Moore convinced seven Cunningham siblings to sell him their interests in the property. Adding these to his wife's portion, Moore then controlled eight-ninths of the estate. Moore was finally able to obtain the outstanding share of the estate from Jacob Cunningham in 1830. Adding the Cunningham lands to 326 adjoining acres he had purchased in 1820 and 1823 from the Watts, McCampbell, and Walkup families brought Moore's holdings along Kerr's Creek and its tributaries to a total of 776 acres. Through the 1820s and 1830s Moore added new holdings; by his death in 1838 the farm acreage had increased to at least 835 acres. A farm of this scale, on productive floodplain lands, was typically used for market-oriented agricultural production, rather than subsistence farming.

According to Hartbarger family recollections, "An Eastern architect did all the beautiful hand carving work inside [the Moores' house]," and the stone spring house was built in 1830.⁴ Local tax records document two increases to the property's assessed value due to the addition of buildings, reflecting modifications that would have taken place in 1831 and 1833. The alterations raised the value of improvements on the land from \$800 in 1831 to \$1,447.11 in 1832 and \$1,656.86 in 1834. These totals are sufficiently high to reflect the scale and quality of construction evidenced by the brick house and stone spring house that remain on the property.

John Moore's will, probated in 1838, devised his house and lands to his wife Betsy. Moore's son William T. Moore and son-in-law James F. Harper (husband of Moore's daughter Elizabeth "Patsy" Moore) served as executors of the will. Local tradition holds that Harper and his family moved into the "mansion house" after John Moore's death. Betsy Cunningham Moore outlived her husband by eighteen years, and lived during that time in the household of her son Abner W. Moore. Abner and his brother William jointly operated the farm through the 1850s. John Moore's will stipulated that upon Betsy's death the estate was to be sold and the proceeds divided among their children. The inventory of John Moore's estate, prepared in 1856 after the death of Betsy Cunningham Moore, listed a farm of 882.5 acres valued at \$22,262.⁵

With the sale of the farm in 1857, William Moore and James F. Harper acquired half-interest in the property; they purchased the remaining half from the Moore estate the following year. Harper, a merchant, died in 1860, apparently leaving large debts that the proceeds from his personal estate could not cover. Harper's half of the Moore farm, which according to an oral agreement reputedly included 550 acres and "the mansion house," was divided and sold to help satisfy the debts. In 1866

⁴ Lynn: 123-124.

⁵ Will books 8: 74 and 14:147.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 8John Moore House
Rockbridge County, Va.

Harper's son Calvin, acting as administrator of his father's estate, purchased the property on which the house stood from special commissioner R.H. Brown. Unfortunately, that title was rescinded by decree in early 1874 and the property left the Moore family for good in the early 1880s, when Samuel M. Dunlap purchased 286.68 acres with the house for \$10,000.⁶

In 1892, Dunlap sold 95 acres, and later another 3-3/4 acres, to H.H. Teaford, reducing the tract upon which the Moore house stood to 188 acres. In 1896 the property was sold to Thomas W. and Emily Wilhelm Hardbarger for \$2,507. The Hardbargers operated the farm for many years; from the produce of the farm they supplied milk, butter, beef, mutton, and chickens to the Rockbridge Alum Springs. With the help of hired laborers, the Hardbargers cultivated a large portion of their land for grain and other crops for feeding livestock, and operated a small-scale dairy with fifteen cows. Members of the Hardbarger [later spelled Hartbarger] family owned the property until 1959, at which time they sold the 188 tract to Sallie Henry Payne. Payne sold the property to James T. and Barbara D. Adams in 1972. The Adamses divided the land as a large-lot subdivision styled "Denmark Estates," and sold a 10.175-acre tract with the old Moore house to Viola L. Wise in 1978. Wise conveyed the property to Harold P. House and Alyce H. McCarthy less than a week later.⁷

Beginning in 1979, the property owners allowed the Washington & Lee University anthropology department to undertake archaeological investigations on the property. The Cunningham Floodplain Site (44RB0089) was one of over sixty historic sites identified in the late 1970s-early 1980s by John McDaniel and Kurt Russ and their students in the Washington & Lee University anthropology department. Of the sixty-plus sites initially identified, thirteen historic sites were tested by Washington & Lee faculty and students between 1979 and 1984. Of those thirteen, the Cunningham Floodplain Site appeared to archaeologists to have "the earliest initial occupation--probably before 1800. More imported refined wares, high quality tablewares and plated buttons have been found on this site than any other [in the study]."⁸

The information obtained from the Cunningham Floodplain Site and the other historic sites in the study area that were identified and/or excavated during the early 1980s helped to establish for researchers at Washington & Lee a chronology of early settlement along Kerr's Creek that contradicted much of the oral history and popular local interpretations that claimed an eighteenth-century origin for both floodplain and mountain hollow residential sites, and that perpetuated stereotypes of rural mountain isolation. The archaeological evidence also appears to have disproved a tradition that the eighteenth-century house ruins on the site represented a dwelling burned during

⁶ Will Book 14:318; Deed books JJ:229 and XX:424; Chancery Order Book 1873-1876: 127.

⁷ Deed books 78:131, 87:334, 249:371, 328:453, 370:422, and 370:501; Lynn: 126.

⁸ McDaniel and Russ 1984: 15.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 9

**John Moore House
Rockbridge County, Va.**

the 1763 Indian massacre of settlers along Kerr's Creek. As interpreted by archaeologists, the artifact assemblage recovered during the excavation post-dated 1763, and there was no evidence of the building having been burned, as local lore supposed.⁹ Unfortunately, detailed records of the excavations (other than lists of artifacts) were not maintained or have been lost, so that much of the information obtained at the site is not readily available to researchers.

The house attained its present appearance and condition in 1993, after Margaret J. Maass obtained the property and renovated the house (as described in the previous section). The current owners, Everett A. and Nancy L. Martin, acquired the property in 1996.¹⁰

⁹ Babits 1984: 84.

¹⁰ Deed books 505:651 and 564:854.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 10

John Moore House
Rockbridge County, Va.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 11

John Moore House
Rockbridge County, Va.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (continued)

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated parcel includes the entire 10.175-acre tract, known as tax parcel 45-3-D, which is depicted on the enclosed sketch map of the property. The sketch map is derived from Rockbridge County tax map 45 and a plat of the property prepared May 25, 1978 by John F. Hartis, C.L.S.

Boundary Justification

The area nominated for listing encompasses the current legal boundaries of the 10.175-acre tract associated with the John Moore House and its stone spring house. The boundary includes sufficient surrounding acreage to emphasize the rural and picturesque character of the property's historic setting, including the large spring-fed pond in the front yard.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

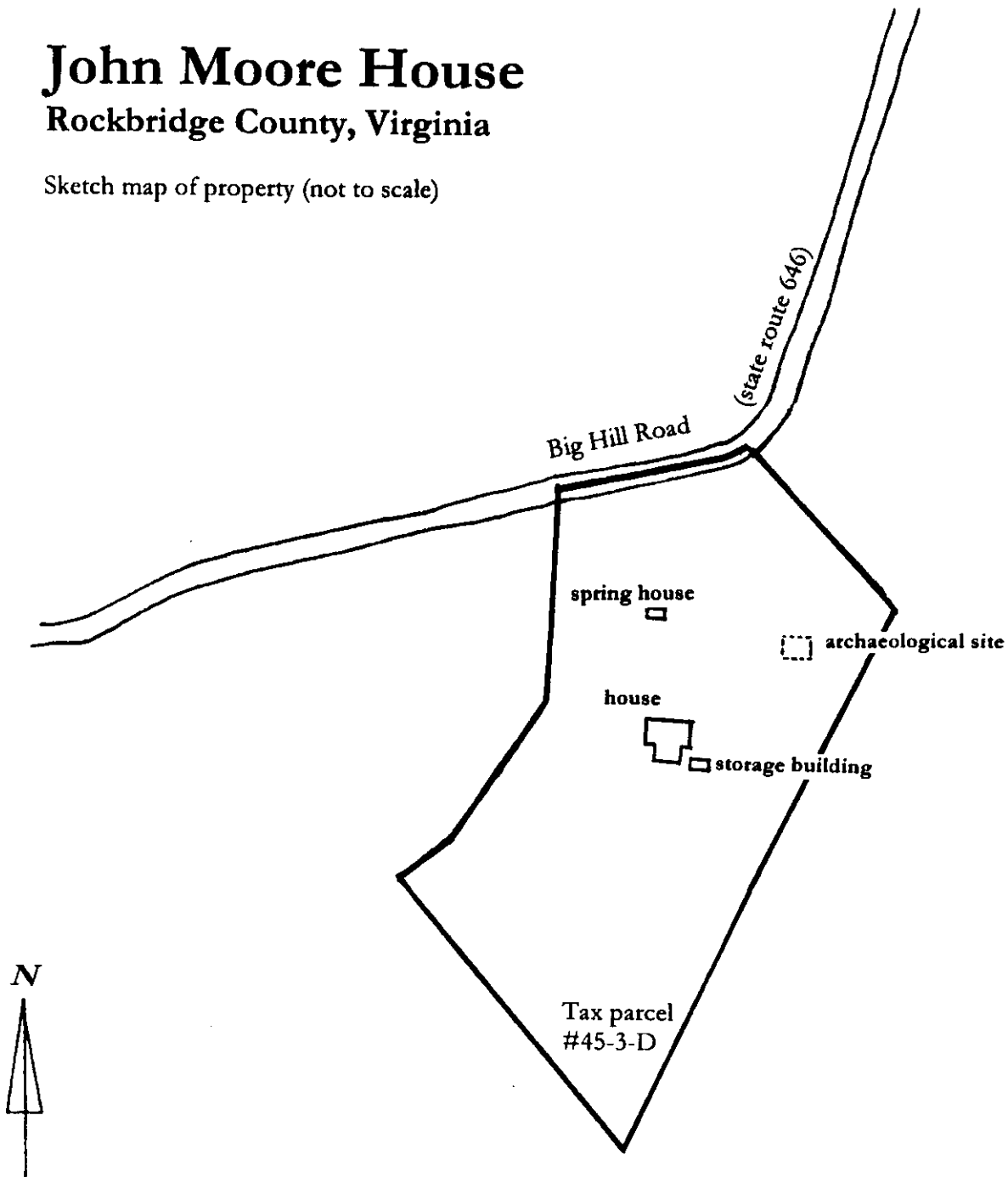
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Exhibit Page 13

John Moore House
Rockbridge County, Va.

John Moore House Rockbridge County, Virginia

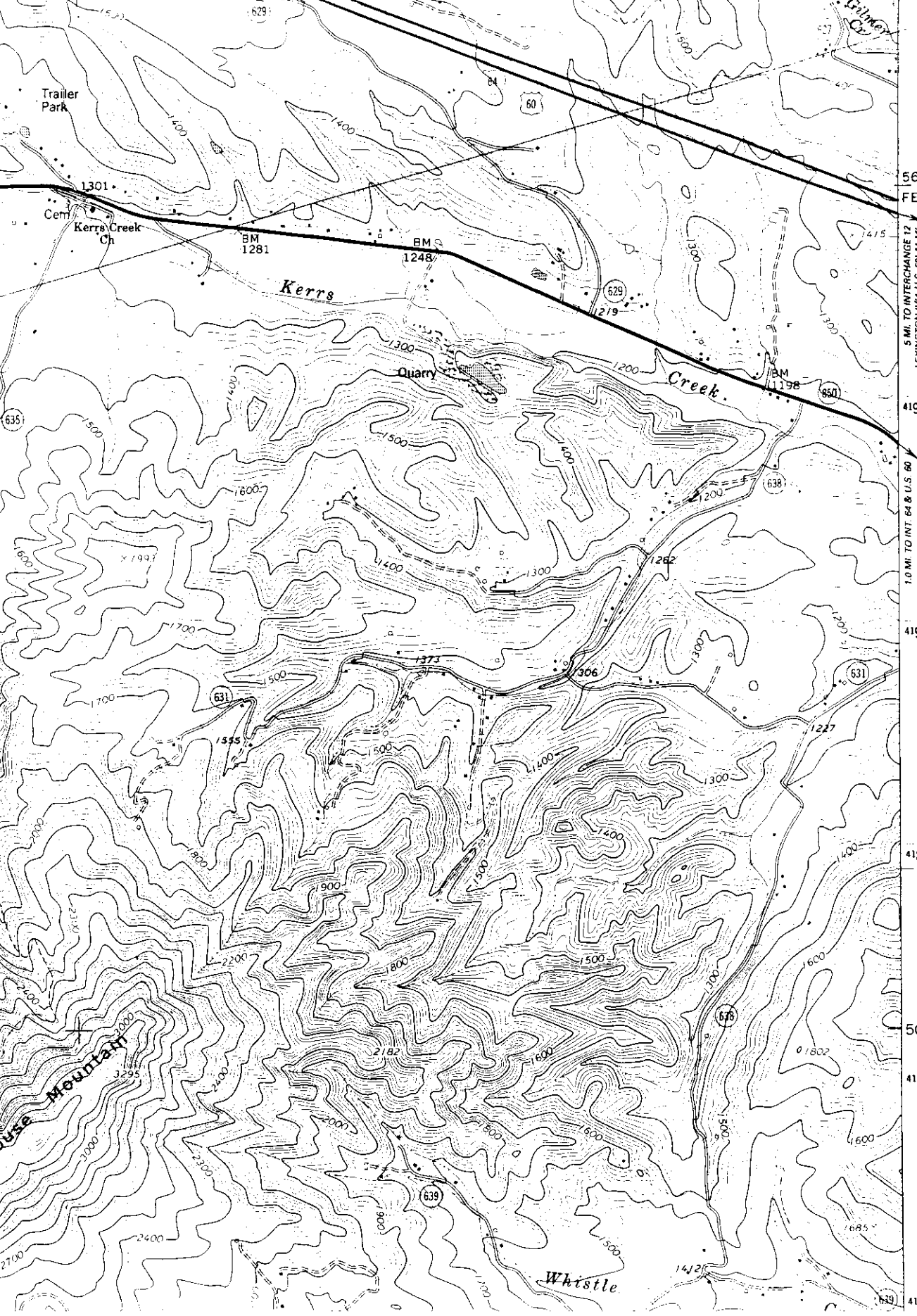
Sketch map of property (not to scale)



COLLIERSTOWN QUADRANGLE
 VIRGINIA
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5159 IV NW
 (GOSHEN)

28 32'30" 629 630 631 1 710 000 FEET 79° 30' 37° 52' 30"



John Moore to ...
 Rock ...

UTM references ...

1. E 627380 N 4191370
2. E 627540 N 4191250
3. E 627430 N 4190980
4. E 627270 N 4191060

560 000
 FEET

5 MI TO INTERCHANGE 12
 LEXINGTON (VIA U.S. 60 11 MI)

1.0 MI TO INT. 64 & U.S. 60

4191

4190

4189

50'

4188

4187

