

VLR - 3-13-02
NRHP 4/6/02

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

Taylor Springs
Rockingham County, VA

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 Taylor Springs
Other names/site number formerly Taylor Springs Mill DHR File # 082-0635

2. Location

Street & number 3712 Taylor Spring Lane Not for publication N/A
City or town Harrisonburg vicinity x state Virginia
Code VA county Rockingham code 165 zip 22801

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature] April 18, 2002
Signature of certifying official Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property 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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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>4</u>	<u>1</u>	Buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Objects
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

6. Function of Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

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

Current functions (Enter categories from instructions)

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

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other/ Mid 19th century: Late Federal, Greek Revival

Other/ Large frame outbuilding, date not known

Other/ Small frame outbuilding, date not known

Other/ Mid 20th century limestone springhouse

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation	Stone
Roof	Metal Tin
Walls	Brick
Other	Brick chimneys
	Wood porches

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

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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

Period of Significance
ca. 1850-1940

Significant Dates
ca. 1850
ca. 1940

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder Joe Nielson, architect of 1940 addition

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

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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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.071

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

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>		<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
1	17	688750	4251545	2	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

_____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the property are in accordance with the tax plat found in Rockingham County Deed Book 1498, p.44. (See attached Plat map)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the existing three-acre lot described on the attached plat. It includes the previously referred to contributing and non-contributing buildings. The parcel was originally larger in the nineteenth century but pieces of land have since then been sold and today these parcels remain in other ownership.

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Cleary Larkin
Organization: Frazier Associates Date 9.15.01
Street & Number: 213 N. Augusta Street Telephone 540-886-6230
City or Town: Staunton State VA Zip Code 24401

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 SHPA or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name Edwin B. and Sandra B. Roller
Street & Number: 3712 Taylor Spring Lane Telephone 540-574-0555
City or Town: Harrisonburg State VA Zip Code 22801

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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Summary Paragraph

Taylor Springs is a two-story, gable-roofed, brick Valley I-house that dates from the mid-nineteenth century with significant additions in 1940. The dwelling is located on a three-acre parcel of land at the intersection of Massanetta Springs and Taylor Springs roads in Rockingham County. The property is bisected by Congers Creek, along which a mill was formerly located, known as Taylor Springs Mill. Surrounding the current house are four outbuildings: a small non-contributing barn; a limestone springhouse; a frame office or kitchen that has an exterior end chimney; and a relocated frame storage shed that used to be the kitchen wing to the house.

Detailed Description

The Taylor Springs property is bisected by Congers Creek forming a front pasture that is currently the home to a family of llamas. This field is surrounded with a board fence and a small, board-and-batten barn (circa 1980) with a gabled corrugated metal roof, is located in its southwest corner. A wooden footbridge connects the two parcels and leads to a lush, well-tended yard, with numerous deciduous and evergreen trees scattered throughout the site. Evergreens run along the south and west borders and old boxwoods surround the house and the larger, neighboring outbuilding. A low, stone wall marks the north edge of the property. There is a small picket gate at the entry where a blue stone walk leads to the front porch. A brick patio and fountain are located directly off the rear porch.

A small limestone springhouse built in 1940 is located in the front yard near the footbridge. Its traditional design has random ashlar walls and a gable roof covering an open side entry with a batten door. The spring is not currently running through the building. Directly south of the main house is a rectangular, one-story frame building clad in weatherboard with limestone piers for a foundation. The gable roof is covered in standing-seam metal and has exposed rafter ends. Six-over-six, double-hung, sash windows flank the central entry on the east facade. The south gable end contains an exterior brick chimney, which might have been rebuilt or replaced. Although the date of the building is unknown, it is clearly visible in photographs taken during the 1940 additions. It could have once been a detached kitchen or an office but it has been used

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for storage for the last fifty years.

To the southwest of this outbuilding is a rectangular fenced-in yard with a smaller outbuilding at its northwest corner. This frame storage shed has a standing-seam metal gable roof with two smaller shed-roofed wings. The main part of this structure was attached to the south end of the main dwelling's basement and used as a kitchen. When additions were built in 1940, it was moved to its current location. The west elevation, which was once attached to the house, was then enclosed with vertical boards. It is assumed the shed wings were added then as well.

The original dwelling is a mid-nineteenth century, two-story, brick, late Federal-style farmhouse with some Greek Revival elements and a raised basement. The five-bay facade is framed with partially engaged end chimneys with corbelled caps. Below the standing-seam metal gable roof is a stepped brick cornice. The brickwork consists of an unusual six-course common bond with a row of Flemish bond for its header course. The windows are nine-over-six sash on the first floor and six-over-six on the upper level. Four-over-four sash are found in some basement windows and four-light casement attic windows flank each chimney. The central hall plan is single pile.

The existing front porch was redesigned to create a more classical appearance when the 1940 south wing was added. The narrow, turned, porch posts were replaced with four Roman Doric columns supporting a simple frieze. A new balustrade replaced a board railing and a decorative Chippendale-inspired balustrade was added around the low-sloped porch roof. Lastly, a new graceful stair replaced the old wooden steps.

The 1940 south addition is very similar to the original house in nearly all of its characteristics. The masonry courses, windows, doors, chimney and roof were all designed to blend in with the character of the existing building. This sympathetic design was created by Joe Nielsen, architect and owner of Nielsen Construction in Harrisonburg. His construction firm also received the contract for construction of the 1940's addition. The addition is a one-story brick wing, also with a raised basement, engaged chimney and a standing-seam metal roof. The front of this addition contains a porch with exterior entries into the addition and the main house. The porch is supported by four brick piers and features rectangular paneled pilasters and columns, and the same decorative railing as the main porch. The columns support a shallow entablature, which, in turn, supports a

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gently curved porch roof. Below the porch is a sunken entry area with a stone floor. The front and side windows of the addition are nine-over-six sash on the first floor and six-over-six in the basement.

The original rear porch was similar to the front porch with its shallow hip roof and simple supporting round posts. During the 1940 remodeling this porch was rebuilt, resulting in a new shed roof supported by rectangular columns. The porch was connected with an entry to the end of the south wing which wrapped around the original house. Around 1960, the porch was enclosed with large paned windows and the north end was connected to a new two-car garage addition that is set back from the plane of the main block of the house. This wing has a brick foundation with weatherboard siding and three sets of six-over-six paired windows in its facade.

The interior features a single-pile, central-passage plan. The open-string stair consists of an open well with two flights and an intermediate landing. It has a paneled spandrel, simple rectangular balusters and handrail, and a plain circular newel. An original window is located in the center of the landing at the top of the stair. It is partially covered by a wood paneled wall, added in the 1940s to enclose the attic stairs. The stairs continue up to the second floor, with another landing and window between the two bedrooms.

The decorative elements of the house are very simple and mostly the same throughout the rooms. The house has pine flooring with tall plain baseboards and a simple molded chair rail that doubles as the windowsills. Doors and windows are surrounded by plain, flat trim with raised plain corner blocks. The doors are mostly a two-paneled design with rim locks and porcelain knobs. The front door is capped with a four-light transom.

On the main level, the dining room is located on the south side and the parlor is on the north. Both rooms contain fireplaces with simple Greek Revival-styled mantels with curved shelf boards supported by a plain frieze and pilasters. A new door to the left of the dining room fireplace leads out onto the porch addition. This door has the same molding as the original doors but is more modern, with nine lights over a recessed panel. Originally, there was a window in the center of the west wall of the dining room. Today, there are folding doors that lead to the master bedroom suite by way of the back hallway. Along this hall are a small bathroom and closet. To the left is the master bedroom and to

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the right, a small sun porch that acts as a connector between the main house and the garage.

The master bedroom in the 1940s wing continues the use of the large baseboard, molded chair rail and random-width pine flooring. Along the north wall is a large set of built-in closets. The south wall contains a central fireplace with built in bookshelves under the windows. The fireplace has an Adam-inspired mantel, with flat pilasters and molded shelf. It has a decorated frieze with beaded panels and a central horizontal carved patera. The pilasters are flat and similar to those in the living and dining rooms, but they have smaller vertical carved paterae beneath the shelf. The east wall of the bedroom contains a door, similar to the front door that leads out onto the porch addition. This door is flanked by two nine-over-six windows.

The enclosed sunporch is a rectangular room at the rear of the original house. It has a slate floor and a long row of windows and entry on its east elevation. The original eastern window in the living room is visible here. A small closet and door to the garage are located on its northern wall. It was built as an exterior porch in 1940 and was probably enclosed when the 1960s garage was added.

Upstairs, the original large bedchamber on the north end remains, but it appears that the south chamber was divided into two smaller bedrooms before the 1940s remodeling. At that time one of these smaller bedrooms became a bathroom and built-in closets. The fireplace in the north chamber remains, but has been reworked with a smaller firebox, brick hearth and an asymmetrical, vertically paneled mantel with beaded surround.

A door next to the north bedroom leads up the attic stair. The attic is a small gabled room with wide planked flooring and visible brick walls. Evidence in the attic shows the possibility of a fire at some point in the south end of the house. The ceiling joists are covered with fiberboard, so it is impossible to glean additional details about the structure of this space.

The basement of the house was originally a large room (possible kitchen) to the south of the stair and an unfinished space to the north. The 1940 renovation involved rebuilding and enclosing the stair and remodeling the basement into a family room. An original wall,

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once aligned with the upstairs hall, was removed to make a larger space. The south wall enclosing the basement stair is covered with knotty pine paneling while early plaster remains over the masonry north wall. Ceiling joists have vertical saw marks and fiberboard insulation has been added between them. A fireplace at the south end of the room has a reproduction mantel made of cherry with a decorated frieze and molded shelf. The firebox has been reduced in size. To the left of the fireplace is a door that leads out to the sunken porch under the addition. To the right is a bricked-in masonry opening that was once a small window but is now used as a shelf. The door in the west wall of the family room leads to the basement wing containing the kitchen and a storage closet.

The kitchen is a large room with pine cabinetry, maple counters and built-in closets. The ceiling consists of sections of tongue-and-groove boards separated by beaded, pine joists. The flooring here, as well as in the rest of the finished basement, is linoleum. A fireplace with a small, built-in oven was added at the south end of the kitchen in the late 1980s. A central door, flanked by two windows, leads into the sunken porch on the east side of the house.

The north space of the basement serves as a furnace room and is still unfinished, with a low overhead height and small windows in the east wall. The foundation of the north fireplace remains along the north wall as well as a possible old coal chute.

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Statement of Significance

Taylor Springs is a prime example of a mid-nineteenth-century Valley farmhouse with Late Federal and Greek Revival characteristics and a 1940 addition that is in keeping with its original character. The simple I-house form, brickwork and symmetrical facade reflect the continuing influence of Federal design even at the middle of the nineteenth century in the conservative Shenandoah Valley. The interior of Taylor Springs reflects the growing popularity of the Greek Revival style as evidenced in the plain woodwork, unadorned mantels and two-panel doors. The farmhouse and its accompanying outbuildings, as well as a mill (long demolished), were typical of their era and relate to the high wheat production where nearly everybody farmed and every county had literally dozens of mills to grind the grain produced on the farms. The dwelling appears to have been the miller's house for the nearby Taylor Springs Mill. The house's original fabric retains much of its integrity while its mid-twentieth century additions remain very true to the original architectural character.

Historical Background

The area, just east of the City of Harrisonburg, known today as Massanetta Springs, was known historically as Taylor Springs. Jonathan and William Taylor were brothers who bought the property with its cluster of springs around 1814. Shortly thereafter they leased the area around the springs to the Methodist Episcopal Church for a period of ten years. The church wanted to use the land as a place for summer camp revival meetings.¹ The Taylors died (and are buried at nearby Cross Keys) without ever building anything on the nominated tract, although there is evidence that structures were erected on other parts of the several hundred-acre property.

In late 1847 or early 1848 Evan Henton purchased two pieces of land from William Taylor; one was ninety-five acres in size and the other was 13.323 acres. Both pieces are described as "Taylor Springs." Henton owned the property from 1848 until 1857. At some point he acquired enough surrounding acreage to expand the size of the tract to 250 acres. Henton must have accumulated some moderate wealth. In the 1849 personal property tax list of Rockingham, he is listed as having two white males above the age of sixteen in his household as well as three slaves, one over sixteen and two between the age

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of twelve and sixteen. He also owned six horses or mules and a metallic clock. For that wealth, he paid a tax of \$1.49.ⁱⁱ

Henton's property did not have any structures on it when he purchased it as noted on the land tax list in 1848. In 1849, he still had 108.2.3 acres with no buildings. The 1850 records are incomplete, but in 1851 Henton suddenly has 202.2.3 acres and \$800 worth of buildings. The appearance of the additional acreage is a mystery, and it certainly could have contained the buildings. However, this value figure could have meant that the existing house could have been built at that time. In addition, a newspaper advertisement from 1855 lists one hundred acres of the property being in timber and this tract may have accounted for the additional acreage. In 1854 the value of the buildings increased and the tax notation is "\$200 added for buildings." This is probably not enough of an addition for a mill, but it could have represented an addition to the house, or an outbuilding or barn.ⁱⁱⁱ Evidence also points to the fact that Henton was the proprietor of Taylor Springs which he operated as a medicinal resort area. The springs were "remarkable for their unfailing cure of all cases of Chills and Fevers, Dyspepsia, etc. The bathing qualities of the water are not less healthy and invigorating," described Henton when he offered the property for sale in 1855. The bathing area could accommodate two hundred people, he said.^{iv} The \$1,000 worth of buildings probably did not include the development around the springs; that possibly shows up on a second piece of land later in the tax record.

Like many Virginians of the time, Henton began to feel the urge to move west and so placed his property on the market in 1855. Part of his newspaper advertisement read: "Being desirous to move to the West the subscriber now offers for sale this very desirable and valuable WATERING PLACE, known as Taylor's Springs -situated in the county of Rockingham, on the Rockingham Turnpike, and four miles East of the Valley Turnpike, and the same distance from Harrisonburg. This delightful watering place is attached to his Farm, which he also offers for sale. It contains About 250 Acres."^v The "farm" of 250 acres is probably the Taylor Springs Mill tract.

Henton began advertising his Taylor Springs tract in the spring of 1855 with the idea of auctioning the property on October 15 1855. Abraham Miller was apparently the successful bidder on the property or purchased the property shortly thereafter. Three different sources confirm this. A newspaper article from 1872 roughs out the early history of the medicinal springs and notes that Henton sold the property to Miller sometime after 1854,^{vi} an 1872 deed extracting the property from chancery court showed

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that Abraham Miller was once the owner,^{vii} and finally the land tax records show in 1858 that the land was "conveyed by Evan Henton" to Miller. Henton paid taxes on the land up to and including the year 1857, at which time the value of the buildings increased from \$1,000 to \$1,300, but there is no accompanying notation to explain the increase.^{viii}

It is not known if a mill existed on the property before the Civil War. Henton's 1855 sale bill does not mention a mill on the property at the time of his sale, although the potential was there. "It is well watered, the stream from the medical spring alone being sufficient to turn a mill, and possessing many other superior advantages" read one portion of the advertisement.^{ix} If a mill had been in place at the time, it seems Henton would have mentioned it. Did Abraham Miller build a mill on the property? It is very possible that he did, although no proof has been found. The one clue is that in 1865 the property description says, for the first time, "Mill Creek" rather than "Taylor Springs" which suggests that a mill might have been located on the property.

The property routinely is called Taylor Springs Mill starting in 1870. Between the sale of the property to Abraham Miller in the late 1850s and the acquisition by the Cupp family in the early 1870s, the property was continually in the Rockingham courts. The 1872 newspaper article mentioned that Miller acquired the land from Henton and then the land passed to George E. Deneale in the early 1860s and from him to Leneas Woodson in 1870.^x An 1872 deed supports this fact although it was even more muddled than the newspaper article intimated. Additionally, Miller must never have relinquished claim on the property. He paid taxes on it until 1873. In 1872 a chancery case, Jane E. Woodson vs. Abraham Miller, settled the claims on the property. Jane Woodson, the widow of Leneas Woodson, was awarded the property because her husband had purchased the property from George E. Deneale who sold it for William Deneale who held it in trust for Lurena Deneale whose father was John M. Batts and John M. Batts had purchased the land from Abraham Miller.^{xi} Exactly when those transactions took place is uncertain, but they had to have occurred before 1870 because that is the year that Leneas Woodson died.^{xii} The land awarded to Mrs. Woodson was described as being about one hundred acres and being that parcel of land "known as the Taylor Mill tract."^{xiii}

That would not be the end of the property's complex chain-of-title. The economic effects of the Civil War and the chaos of having a large county of land with no recorded deeds created a bureaucratic nightmare for the courthouse in the late 1860s and the 1870s. One man emerged with the ability to sort things out. General John E. Roller was born in Mt.

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Crawford in 1844 and served in the Civil War. After the war he attended the University of Virginia and was admitted to the bar in 1867. He settled in Harrisonburg and set up his law practice in 1869. "Much litigation involving titles resulted from the destruction of these records. General Roller was soon recognized as the leading land lawyer of his county and was engaged in most of these cases," wrote Noah Showalter in 1939 of Roller's activity in Rockingham.^{xiv} Although Showalter portrays Roller as an attorney who helped straighten out a legal mess, a closer examination of the deed books reveals that he also gained financially from these transactions. Roller was involved in nearly fifty cases where he acted as a trustee and confiscated land and even personal items like buggies, pots, and pans. At one time or another at least four area mills passed through his hands.

Somehow the Leneas Woodson estate wound up in the court in Goochland County in no less than three chancery court cases. As a result, the property called the "The Taylor Springs Mill Tract", which was now twenty-seven acres, was sold to John E. Roller. The deed was not recorded until April 1883.^{xv} Before the property emerged from the court entanglements, the estate of Leneas Woodson paid the real estate taxes (from 1874 or 1875 until 1882).^{xvi}

Back in 1879 when, according to the 1883 recorded deed, Roller thought he had acquired the property, he made an immediate move to divest himself of it. Roller had entered into an agreement with William P. Cupp and his wife Mary Cupp whereby the Cupps agreed to purchase the twenty-seven-acre Taylor Springs Mill Property. Although the agreement had been made, no deed had been recorded because the Cupps had not yet paid for the property. In order to secure the land, the Cupps had recruited Hugh Connell to join them in their interest in the property. His part of the agreement was to repair and reconstruct the mill on the property, which was, according to the deed, in progress in July 1879. The property was to remain Roller's until the Cupps made good on their financial deal.^{xvii} As a result, the Cupps were living on the property, running the mill, and paying the real estate tax, but Roller was listed as the owner in the tax books.^{xviii}

Finally on June 10, 1892 Roller turned the Taylor Springs Mill tract (twenty-seven acres) over to the Cupps for good, they having paid \$1,300 for the property. At the same time, William Cupp turned his interest in the land over to his wife Mary in order to protect their rights to it against possible financial problems on his part. More than likely the Cupps had already lived on the property for the better part of two decades and probably

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represent the greatest stability the property ever knew in the nineteenth century. In fact in some of the twentieth-century deeds the mill is referred to as Cupp's Mill. From 1895 forward, the property tax is paid by Mary Cupp.

The land tax records in the late 1860s and early 1870s for the property are confusing and perhaps were even recorded wrong as tax collectors and lawyers tried to sort out the tangle. In 1870 and 1871 the mill tract is listed with \$3,000 buildings but in 1874 the mill tract is listed with just \$1,000. This is the year that repairs and reconstruction were carried out, so the mill must have fallen into quite a bit of disrepair. Whether or not repairs were carried out is not known, but the property values dropped further to \$700 in 1880 where they remained until 1905. In 1906, the value dropped further, to \$500, but all properties in the county were reassessed and this drop may simply reflect that re-evaluation.^{xix}

At some point the Cupps did have a working mill on the property. In 1887 a deed is recorded granting D.B. Hartman the use of the wastewater from the Cupps' mill.^{xx} An 1885 atlas of Rockingham shows a gristmill in the area. The Cupps are listed as living across the road (east) of the mill. The house where the Cupps were living is probably not the present house at Taylor Springs unless the road was moved slightly east and the millrace was an eastern diversion of the natural streambed. Evidence seems to point to the latter being more likely. The house, as indicated on the map, was occupied by Noah Bowman. Perhaps he was operating the mill or renting the house. At any rate, he was never an owner of the property.^{xxi}

By the late 1880s the springs themselves had been separated off from the mill tract and were owned by a different individual. Abraham Miller sold that portion of the property to "All Healing Springs Company" in 1873.^{xxii} Dr. Burke Chrisman who was president of a mineral water company bought the property in 1888 and renamed Taylor Springs. The new name, Massanetta Springs, represented a combination of the local Massanutten Mountain and his wife's name, Henrietta.^{xxiii} In the twentieth century, deeds often describe the property as being between a quarter and a half-mile from Massanetta Springs.

The life of the mill, however long or short, played out in the early 20th century. Bill Jones of Penn Laird, Virginia wrote in a letter dated September 2 1996 about the mill that

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was once on the property that his aunt, Alberta I. Jones, purchased in 1928. Even by 1928 the mill was long gone, he said.

“As a youngster I was told many times about a mill that stood in the meadow at the corners of Rt. 687 and Rt. 688 at Congers Creek. Congers Creek feeds from the springs at Massanetta or just slightly north...My homeplace was originally twenty-five acres...The mill race flowed east and then south, then turned back west to the mill. I assume that the flow of Congers Creek was not sufficient to run the mill and that water was dammed up and then released to provide a stronger current. I also remember being told of people making ice on the mill pond in the winter months. The old mill “race” was very evident when I was young. Some has been filled in now, and some covered with dense growths of honeysuckle and brush...At the springhouse when I was growing up, I can verify that there were several authentic mill stones...I used to play on them. I was told that although the mill was gone in 1928 when my folks bought the place, they had later seen a picture (or drawing) of the mill in a magazine of some kind.”^{xxiv}

The mill might have ceased operations at the death of Mary Cupp in 1911.^{xxv} Her son, Hunter Cupp, inherited the property but was living in Alexandria, Virginia by the time he sold it to W.F. Berry in 1920. Clara Ella Griffith bought the property from Berry in 1921 and Alberta I. Jones bought it in 1928. By this time the mill structure was no longer standing and the house returned to use as a farmhouse, only the tract of land was now just over twenty-five acres.^{xxvi}

The property was purchased by the Blough family, which spent the 1940s and 1950s consolidating a substantial amount of land in the area and farming it under the name Bloughmead Farms. Carman and Katherine Blough built the kitchen addition, the springhouse, and new porches around 1940. Architectural drawings from that period show the plan of the house as it was before this addition and also numerous schemes for the addition and new porches. During this construction, they moved the existing lean-to kitchen to the rear of the site to accommodate the new addition. Around 1960, the Bloughs also built the garage and glassed in the rear porch. From the 1940s until 1985, when Betty Blough Martin sold the portion of the farm containing the nominated tract, the property underwent its most stable period. Martin sold the land to Charles H. and Mary L. Scott in 1985. The Scotts made some minor changes to the interior of the house

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and also built the small barn on the front of the property. The Scotts sold it to the present owners, Edwin B. Roller Jr. and his wife, Sandra, in 1997.^{xxvii}

The history of the property is one of constant change and yet the house itself has withstood more than 150 years to remain as the one stable element in an unstable landscape. The house's close proximity to the historic springs, which have served as a site for religious revival since the early nineteenth century, is interesting as is the fact that it would have been very close to heavy troop movement during Confederate General Stonewall Jackson's military actions during his 1862 Valley campaign. Action from the battle of Cross Keys almost certainly spilled onto the property and Confederate General Turner Ashby was killed nearby. Troops would have again been in the area in 1864 when Federal forces plundered Rockingham, burning barns and mills. If a mill stood on the property at that time, chances are that it did not survive.

During all those years, the house has served as a farmhouse and may have doubled as a miller's house with a mill located only a few yards away. Whether a farmhouse or a miller's house, it is a tangible reminder of the most important economic factor in the Valley of Virginia --wheat farming. This economic involvement, along with its adjacency to the Massanetta Springs resort and numerous Civil War skirmish sites, gives the property noteworthy historic significance in the area. But most importantly, it is a prime example of a mid-nineteenth century farmhouse with Late Federal and Greek Revival characteristics. The house's original architectural integrity remains relatively untouched and even its twentieth-century additions are sympathetic to its original architectural character. It has withstood battles and depressions and continues to stand despite twenty-first century development pressures.

Note: Understanding the history of this property is difficult because of the dearth of Rockingham land records prior to the Civil War and the ensuing tangle of land cases after the war. During the war the deeds were accidentally burned in a fire while residents were trying to protect them from falling into Federal hands. After the war the chaos of having no recorded deeds to prove ownership kept the lawyers in the county very busy. As a result, land ownership must be traced through land tax records, which were themselves chaotic as a result of the war, chancery records, and corroborating evidence.

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- ⁱ Stan Cohen, *Historic Springs of the Virginias* (Charleston, WV: Pictorial Histories Publishing Co., 1997), 77.
- ⁱⁱ Rockingham County personal property tax list, 1849. Basement of the Rockingham County Courthouse, Harrisonburg.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Rockingham land tax records. Basement of the Rockingham County Courthouse, Harrisonburg.
- ^{iv} *Mills of Rockingham County*, vol. II, Compiled by Janet Baugher Downs and Earl J. Downs with Pat Turner Ritchie (Dayton, VA: The Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society, 1998), 612.
- ^v *Ibid.*
- ^{vi} John W. Wayland, *A History of Rockingham County, Virginia* (Harrisonburg, VA: C.J. Carrier Co., 1980), 394.
- ^{vii} Rockingham Deed Book 9/161-162.
- ^{viii} Rockingham land tax records
- ^{ix} *Mills*, vol. II, 612.
- ^x Wayland, 394.
- ^{xi} Rockingham Deed Book 9/161-162.
- ^{xii} Rockingham Will Book 4/3A.
- ^{xiii} Rockingham Deed Book 9/161-162.
- ^{xiv} Noah D. Showalter, *Atlas of Rockingham County, Virginia* (Harrisonburg, VA: N.D. Showalter, 1939), 62.
- ^{xv} Rockingham Deed Book 22/54.
- ^{xvi} Rockingham land tax records.
- ^{xvii} Rockingham Deed Book 16/420.
- ^{xviii} Rockingham land tax records.
- ^{xix} *Ibid.*
- ^{xx} Rockingham Deed Book 31/374-375.
- ^{xxi} *Atlas of Rockingham County, Virginia* (Philadelphia: D.J.Lake & Co., 1885).
- ^{xxii} Rockingham land tax records.
- ^{xxiii} Cohen.
- ^{xxiv} *Mills of Rockingham County*, vol. I, compiled by Janet Baugher Downs and Earl J. Downs with Pat Turner Ritchie (Dayton, VA: Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society, 1997)346.
- ^{xxv} Rockingham Will Book 8/374.
- ^{xxvi} Rockingham Deed Books 117/422, 120/199, 143/45.
- ^{xxvii} Rockingham Deed Books 255/214-215, DB 207/108, DB355/213-215, 219/297, 160/89, 170/297, 761/138, 1498/44.

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