

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: SCOTT	
FOR MPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: KILGORE FORT HOUSE	
AND/OR HISTORIC: KILGORE FORT HOUSE	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: S E side of Rt. 71. .8 mi. S of intersection with Rt. 670			
CITY OR TOWN: Nickelsville vicinity (William C. Wampler, Ninth District Congressman)			
STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Scott	CODE 169

3. CLASSIFICATION				ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP			
☐ District ☐ Site ☐ Object ☒ Building ☐ Structure 		☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both 		Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered 	
				☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress 	
				Yes: ☐ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☒ No 	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
☒ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment 		☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum 		☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific 	
				☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) 	
				Comments 	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY		
OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. Rhea Broadwater		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Nickelsville	STATE: VIRGINIA	CODE 51

15. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Scott County Court House		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Gate City	STATE: Virginia	CODE 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE 11	

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☒ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE						
The Kilgore Fort House is a two-story timber structure with gable roof and rests on a limestone foundation. On the northeast gable end is a massive stone chimney laid in lime mortar with two insets or splays that narrow the stone pile in its rise to the stack. The building's construction is in the simplest form, being of hewn rectangular timbers, V-notched at the corners. Originally, structural and defensive strength was enhanced by a heavy interior timber partition notched into the walls exposing the ends to the exterior, thus forming two rooms on both floors. This partition has been removed by sawing the wooden members off at the interior wall surface. The first, second and attic floor joists are also set into the structural timbers. The second floor openings are apparently their original small size, indicating the defensive nature of the building; the first floor windows existing on the north and west have been enlarged. The doorways and all window openings are finished by simple framing boards. The roof presently has rough shingle shakes but is deteriorating. Interior flooring is missing for the most part on the first floor, but most of the boarding remains intact on the second and attic stories. A steep ladder stair (closed stringers with treaders) remains, linking the first and second floors, and a ladder leads to the attic level.						

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☒ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☒ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

History

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Frontier Forts were built to guard mountain gateways, river valleys, and other strategic points, and also as places of refuge for neighboring frontiersmen and their families during times of danger. Subsequent to Braddock's defeat, Colonel George Washington organized the defense of Virginia's frontier around a system of such forts stretching the length of the Valley from the Potomac to North Carolina. While the major danger of French and Indian invasion passed with the Treaty of Paris (1763) and the removal of French influence from North America, Indian depredations remained a reality on the frontier.

The settlement of extreme Southwest Virginia during the last-third of the eighteenth century followed very closely the standard for frontier development. The Indians remained an active threat to settlers in this region during and immediately following the American War for Independence. The Old Kilgore Fort House was the last of a chain of frontier forts extending at one time from Castlewood to Cumberland Gap. Built at the end of the first, more dangerous, generation of settlement on this new Virginia frontier, the Kilgore Fort House represents a transitional type of structure.

By circa 1785-90, strongly-built and fortified houses were taking the place of the earlier blockhouse and stockaded forts. Robert Kilgore's Fort House represents this stage in frontier social and architectural development. Both the lower and upper stories were separated into two rooms by log partitions built as strongly as the outer walls themselves, suggesting a defensive strategy with the potential for several last stands. Although threatened on several occasions, the Kilgore House survived the last Indian uprising.

Robert Kilgore lived in the old house until his death in 1854 at the age of eighty-eight. He was a prominent primitive Baptist minister as well as a farmer. He was pastor of Nickelsville Baptist Church for more than forty years; and his namesake of a later generation left Southwest Virginia to become an Evangelist of national repute. The Manuscript census returns for 1850 indicate that Kilgore Fort House was a fairly prosperous farm in the ante-bellum period. While a younger Robert Kilgore and his family were operating the farm, the elder Robert lived on in retirement at the house he had built.

Kilgore Fort House is in advanced structural deterioration due primarily to the breakdown of the mortar in the stone chimney causing it to lean downhill and consequently push the upper portion of the building in that direction. A majority of the timbers, however, are in good condition. The building is presently the object of an active local movement to restore

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(Number all entries)

8. it as the focal point for a public wayside park. The efforts and preliminary plans by the Tennessee Valley Authority, Lenowisco Planning District Commission, Scott County Planning Commission, and the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission assure that the Kilgore Fort House will be properly restored and that the recreational and parking areas will not infringe on the historic aspects of the building. Its picturesque site on a gentle slope beside Copper Creek lends to the fort house an isolated frontier quality that will be respected by these plans.

The Kilgore Fort House is perhaps the oldest building in the county and even in its present condition, a significant landmark. Indeed, its importance is national in scope, being one of the few extant structures in southwestern Virginia that represents the early westward movement into Kentucky, Tennessee and beyond.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Robert M. Addington, HISTORY OF SCOTT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, 1932.
Howard A. MacCord, "Forts in Colonial Virginia," VIRGINIA CAVALCADE, XX
(Autumn 1970): 5-11.
Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Free Inhabitants and
Agriculture.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	36° 44' 05" 82° 26' 03"	
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 3/4 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff	
ORGANIZATION Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission	DATE January, 1972
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building	
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE Virginia
	CODE 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

James W. Moody, Jr., Director

Title Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date

JAN 18 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
MAPS AND SURVEYS DIVISION

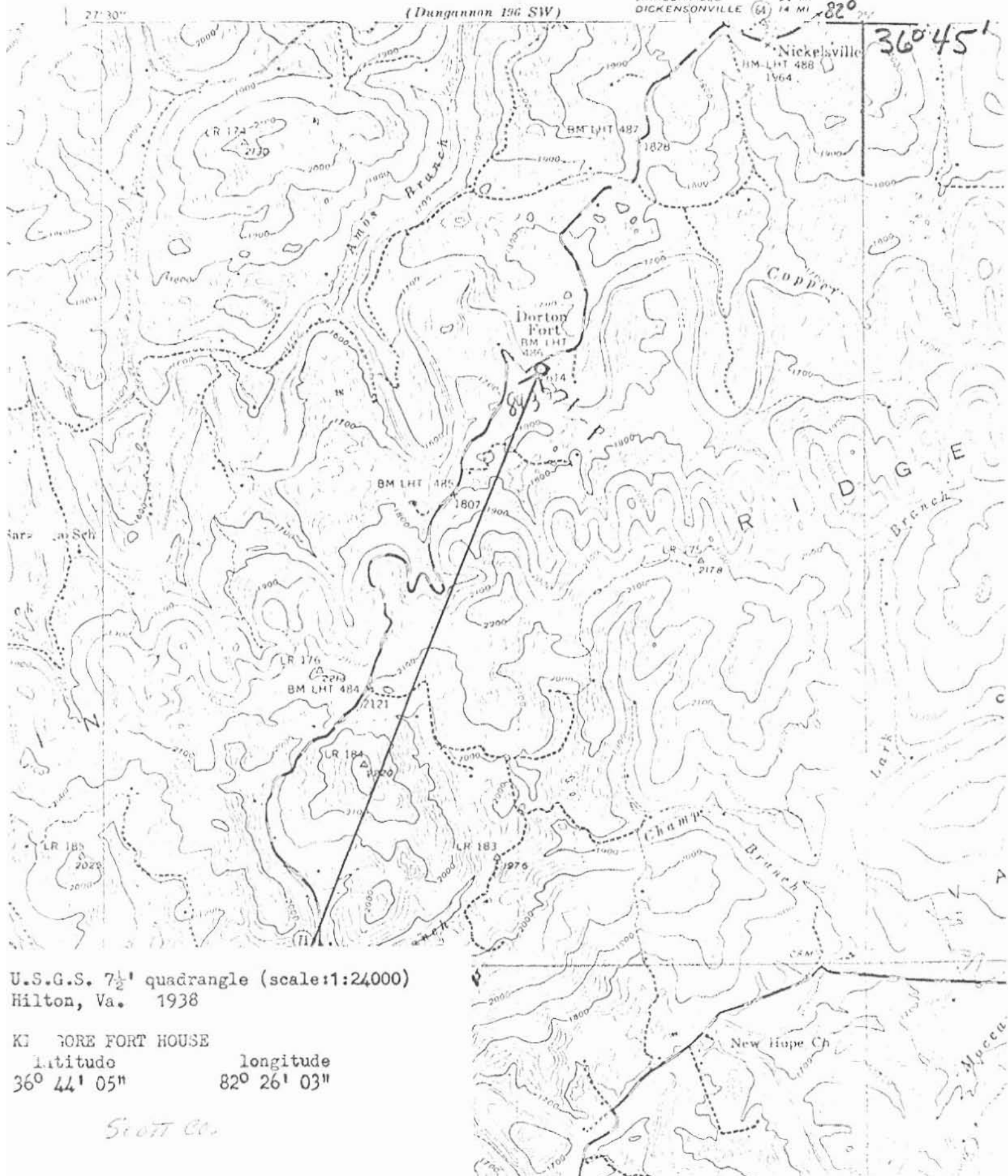
(Dungannon 196 SW)

HANSONVILLE
DICKENSONVILLE

22 MI
14 MI

82°

36° 45'



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Hilton, Va. 1938

KI MORE FORT HOUSE
Latitude 36° 44' 05"
Longitude 82° 26' 03"

Scott Co.