

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Sunnydale Farm
other names/site number VDHR File No. 097-0403

2. Location

street & number 12439 Sunnydale Farm Road N/A not for publication
city or town Pound vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Wise code 195

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

April 21, 2011
Date

Deputy Director & Deputy SHPO
Title

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
0	0	district
5	1	site
3	0	structure
0	0	object
11	1	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)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE: animal facility

INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility

INDUSTRY: extractive facility

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

FUNERARY: cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

FUNERARY: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Stone

walls: Wood

roof: Asphalt

other: Concrete

Glass

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Sunnydale Farm, located in northern Wise County, Virginia, is a complex of contributing and noncontributing buildings, structures, and sites dating from the nineteenth century or before to the 1960s. The nominated area of approximately forty acres embraces cleared and forested hillsides and vales ranging from 1,600 to nearly 2,000 feet in elevation. The farm is watered by Mill Branch, a tributary of Pound River which is in turn a tributary of the Big Sandy and Ohio rivers. The nominated area adjoins Mountain Cove Road (State Route 631) on the south end and a lane known as Sunnydale Farm Road passes through it. The principal historic building is the Sunnydale Farm House, which was built about 1919 for Mary Branham by her son Chant Kelly. The story-and-a-half Craftsman bungalow has frame construction with vinyl and novelty weatherboard siding, a stone foundation and interior chimney, and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. Two gabled dormers project from the roof; the left-hand one was added in the 1950s when the house was extended on the west end. Other features of the south-facing house include an engaged front porch with arched spans and rooms at the ends with picture windows, an engaged back porch, a stone fireplace and book shelf wall, and remnants of newspaper wallpaper in the garret. The house was remodeled in 2002 by Chant Kelly's daughter Chances Varson and her husband, Paul Varson. Near the house are a stone well, a ruinous stone and frame root cellar, a frame chicken house, and a frame blacksmith shop with a wagon and tractor storage bay. On the ridge to the north of the house is a family cemetery with conventional marble and granite monuments. The oldest death date is 1903 but it is possible there are older interments that are now unmarked. In the hollow to the north of the ridge are the stone chimney of a nineteenth-century log tenant house and an adjacent cellar pit. Scattered around the tenant house ruins are various stone piles and lines and the trace of a logging road. A number of the stone piles have the form of low rectangular-plan cairns (hypotheses about their former function and provenance are presented in the architectural discussion of Section 8). To the southeast of the main house, across a pond, are mine openings mostly constructed in the late 1940s and/or 1950s but apparently including one opening dating to the nineteenth century. Associated with the openings are the timber ruins of a tipple and bridge. Beyond the eastern boundary of the nominated area are the 1973 Paul and Chances Varson House and an associated cinder block and frame barn and log playhouse and further east are additional mine openings.

Narrative Description

Inventory

1. Sunnydale Farm House. Ca. 1919; late 1940s; 1950s; 2002. Contributing building.
2. Well. 19th century. Contributing structure.
3. Root cellar ruins. Ca. 1919. Contributing site.
4. Blacksmith shop. Ca. 1919; ca. 1975. Contributing building.
5. Chicken house. Ca. 1919. Contributing building.
6. Cemetery. Ca. 1903. Contributing site.
7. Tenant house (Millard Cabin) ruins. 19th century. Contributing site.
8. Tenant house root cellar ruins. 19th century. Contributing site.
9. Stone pile complex. Date uncertain. Contributing structure.
10. Coal mine openings. 19th century; 1940s-1950s. Contributing structure.
11. Coal mine tipple and bridge ruins. 1940s-1950s. Contributing site.
12. Pond. 1960s. Noncontributing site.

Sunnydale Farm House

The Craftsman features of the house are its bungalow form, with a spreading gable roof that embraces front and back porches; the prominent gabled front dormer; broadly overhanging eaves in the main and dormer roofs; 3/1 wood sash windows (some have been replaced with 1/1 sashes); and a wood-framed glass-panel door with decorative muntin patterns (the door may be original but its entryway originally featured sidelights that have been removed). The front porch too is Craftsman, as indicated by its tapered and paneled wood posts of squat dimensions on wood pedestals, close-set square-section balusters, and the arched spans between the posts—a wide segmental span next to a narrower and more rounded span in line with the front entry. A historic photograph of the house suggests the posts and arches may not be original features, although based on their style they were presumably in place by the end of the historic period. Descending from the narrower opening is a relatively long flight of concrete steps that show two or three periods of construction. As built or shortly after the steps were provided with stepped cheeks or side walls of ashlar masonry with concrete copings and carefully crafted projecting mortar joints. Later, additional steppings of concrete scored and textured to match the ashlar were added. At the base of the steps are plinths, the west one ashlar and early or original, the east one apparently a replacement of scored and textured concrete. The steps, which have pipe railings, are more finely constructed than the painted coursed rubble foundation under the house. The foundation under the 1950s west end is cinderblock, also painted.

At the ends of the front porch are rooms with front picture windows. The right-hand room is an enclosure of the east end of the porch that was made in the late 1940s as a room with a view for Chant Kelly's bedridden wife, Lucille Strange Kelly. The left-hand room is an original feature of the 1950s addition designed to balance the enclosure at the opposite end. The original picture window sashes, which had more muntin divisions than the present ones, were replaced in 2002. The house was vinyl-sided in 2002 except inside the porch where original and later (through the 1950s) novelty weatherboard siding is exposed (the wood porch floor and ceiling are also visible inside the porch). Other exterior features include high kitchen windows; x-braced and wood and glass panel basement doors; 2/1, three-pane, and one-pane basement windows; and replacement back porch posts. There is no evidence of the interior stone chimney on the roof. It appears that some of the house's 3/1 windows were reused in the 1950s dormer and addition and some were newly purchased for the work. The house originally had a row of storage compartments, accessed from the outside, at the east end of the back porch. The space occupied by these was absorbed into the interior space in the 2002 remodeling.

As constructed the house apparently had a modified two-room plan, two rooms deep, with the front entry opening into a living room illuminated by a bank of three windows under the porch and presumably one or more windows on the west end (the latter removed when the 1950s addition was made). The room has a stone fireplace surround with an infilled opening, the stonework set into floor-to-ceiling shelves of varnished wood. The wood floor and gypsum board walls and ceiling of this room are typical throughout the house. The gypsum board was added in 2002 over original rough wood partitions that had been wallpapered repeatedly over the years. A few period panel doors survive in the house but most panel doors date to the 2002 remodeling. The kitchen in the 1950s addition has two original features. At the end of the base cabinets is a Moderne-inspired shelving peninsula with rounded cantilevered shelves at the end and latticework above used for growing climbing plants (a use that continues). The south end of the kitchen, used for dining, has a corner cabinet with glass upper leaves, paneled lower leaves, a silverware drawer, and Moderne-inspired hardware. The cabinet was made by Bob Corder in the 1940s for the original kitchen and moved to the present kitchen in the 1950s.

An enclosed stair rises from the back kitchen entry to bedrooms in the garret. The garret rooms formerly had exposed rafters and wall studs covered with wallpaper. Remnants of pages from the January 1933 issue of the *Southern Planter* cover a partition in the west room. Wallpaper was added over the newspaper in some spaces and later sheetrock was used to sheathe the walls and ceilings. Steps under the kitchen stair lead down to the unfinished basement, which has unpainted stone walls, exposed ceiling joists, and a concrete floor. The stone chimney base is encased in concrete that has been scored to simulate masonry. The well-lit south end of the basement under the 1950s addition was used as a work area.

The largest surviving farm building is the blacksmith shop located east of the house. The tall one-story frame building has weatherboard siding (painted red with white trim) and a metal-sheathed front-gable roof. The building has a front-to-back wagon storage bay on the west side, a blacksmith shop in the southeast corner, and a lumber storage bay in the northeast corner. Widely spaced ceiling joists, mostly sapling poles with the bark still on, span over the three spaces and are used as supports for stored lumber and suspended items (formerly wagon beds, currently a camper top). About 1975 Paul Varson took a pre-existing shed-roofed chicken house on the farm and attached it to the west side to serve for storage. About the same time he constructed a pole-supported open-sided shed addition on the east side. The walls that separate the blacksmith shop from the other spaces are formed of vertical boards. The shop is entered through a vertical batten door. Rubble scattered on the floor appears to be part of a rubble pavement that has since become covered with dirt and debris. In the shop is a stump-mounted M&H Armitage Mouse Hole Forge anvil, a hand-turned grindstone on a wooden support, and a forge consisting of a tripod-supported iron basin with a sheet metal fireback. Crude wood shelves on the north wall are piled with boxes of hardware, spools of wire, pieces of machinery, and so forth. Tools, a scythe, wire, and other items hang on the partition next to the door and on the floor of the shop are strewn cast and wrought iron andirons, a plow, a barrel, saw blades, and sundry other items. Stored elsewhere in the barn are the wheels of Pound's former firefighting equipment and the pigeonholes that were formerly used in the town's post office.

Behind the blacksmith shop stands a chicken house, a one-story shed-roofed frame building with vertical board siding covered with deteriorated brick-pattern asphalt. The building has three south-facing windows formerly fitted with hinged screens (one screen survives), a screen door on the west end, and various hatchways through which the chickens came and went. A small partitioned-off compartment occupies the west end of the wood-floored interior but most of the space is taken up by roosts constructed of sticks and scantling. Near the blacksmith shop and chicken house are the ruins of a root cellar built into a bank. The stone cellar has remnants of a frame roof and walls with weatherboard siding and metal roofing. Off the west end of the house is a nineteenth-century (probably antebellum) stone well that was formerly associated with a log house that stood in front of the present house. The well has a sandstone enclosure or curb of square plan and a cylindrical stone shaft down to the water level. In the first half of the twentieth century an open-sided gabled superstructure stood above the well with a winch-operated bucket for drawing water. In the nineteenth century the well had a sweep, a pivoting pole at the top of a post with a pole or rope suspended at one end that was used to lower and raise a bucket. To the west of the well is a farm lane that runs through the remnants of an apple orchard. About a dozen trees survive, some in the nominated area and some on an adjacent property. The trees bear "horse apples" that can be used for cooking. (An orchard was in existence on the farm by 1860.) To the east of the house is a pond created after the site was surface mined for coal in the 1960s.

Cemetery

The small family cemetery occupies the crest of a ridge to the north of the house. The maintained area is rectangular in form with plantings of dogwoods, daylilies, and mature cedars. The oldest marked graves are at the west end and include the marble tombstones of Martin Branham (1826-1903), Matilda Branham (1826-1905), and Mary Branham Kelly (1867-1951). The older tombstones have simple tabular forms, some with segmentally curved or otherwise decorative tops, some with simple decoration. The headstone of George B. Branham (1893-1924) depicts lambs, a cross, and what may be shepherd's crooks and is carved with the inscription "The Lord is my shepherd" above an oval recess that may once have contained or have been intended to contain a porcelain photo plaque. Also in this group is the small marble tombstone of Wayne Kegley Dingus, dated 1934, with a design of a star between heavenly gates. Later monuments, such as that of Chant B. Kelly (1894-1979) and his wife, Lucille S. Kelly (1904-1993), are gray granite. According to family tradition there are unmarked graves in the cemetery, among them the graves of tenant family children.

Tenant House Ruins and Associated Resources

In the hollow to the north of the cemetery are the ruins of a former log tenant house that appears to have been built in the second half of the nineteenth century, possibly after the Civil War. The most visible remnant is a stone chimney which rose on the east gable end of the north-facing house. The sandstone blocks were laid in mud mortar which has partially weathered away, and they form a tent-like rain guard at the top which shed water away from the interior of the chimney. The fireplace is spanned by a large stone lintel that has cracked in two and the opening is partially infilled by twentieth-century bricks that may have been added as a fire-resistant lining and/or may have helped support the broken lintel. The chimney leans inward as the result of the removal of the support once provided by the walls and gable of the house. Other remnants of the house include a rectangular stone foundation and a portion of a twentieth-century brick stove flue fallen on its side near the center of the house footprint. The house is known to the family as the Millard Cabin after a twentieth-century occupant, Millard Branham, who was Chant Kelly's cousin. It is also referred to as a "sharecropping cabin" by the family. Chant Kelly believed the house to have been old when he was a child in the 1890s. Behind and upslope from the house are the ruins of a root cellar evident as a roughly rectangular depression lined with scattered stones. To the east of the house ruins is a roughly linear pile of jumbled stones that runs downhill towards the intermittent stream that passes through the hollow. Whether this pile is a field clearing pile associated with the historic-period occupation of the location or whether it has another association is presently unknown, although its form is reminiscent of field clearing piles.

Stone Pile Complex

To the west of the tenant house ruins is a complex of stone features in a variety of shapes and sizes. At the east end of the complex are loose and piled stones that may form a roughly rectangular outline aligned north-south. The putative rectangular outline seems to parallel a road trace that is most evident as it ascends the north side of the hollow. Stone piles survive at one or more corners of the outline, suggesting bearing points for former corner posts, although other aspects of the outline are inconsistent with typical building foundations. To the west of the rectangular outline are a dozen or more clusters and piles of stones. Some of the piles are irregular and may have been so from the outset, or they may represent collapsed structures. Other piles were intentionally formed into low pedestal- or cairn-like structures that are rectangular in plan. Near the northwest edge of the complex is a large pile of stones that has more the character of the stone pile to the east of the tenant house ruins. Speculation on the former function and provenance of the complex is presented in the architectural discussion in Section 8.

Coal Mine Openings and Associated Resources

To the east of the house and pond are several mine openings or entrances. The westernmost opening is the most identifiable as such: a cave-like recess in a vertical face of sandstone with timber supports visible leading back into the mine. The stone face was the result of "facing," the process by which loose stone and overburden are removed to the point where the stone strata are thick enough to span the opening. A coal-rich stratum is visible on the east side of the opening, which is approximately five feet high and ten feet wide. Large slabs of stone have fallen from the ceiling to partially block the entrance. There is evidence the mine extends at least 900 feet from the openings in the direction of the house and within a twenty-acre mine reservation. One of the smaller openings formerly housed a fan used to ventilate the mine. One of the eastern openings is located at the end of a trench dug into the hillside that has mostly collapsed, hiding the opening except for a small hole at the top. The bottom of the trench is slightly humped in the middle—the remains of the bed of the coal car tracks. To the north of the openings in a ravine are the ruins of the tipple, now evident mainly as rotted timbers, and a bridge or short causeway formed of close-set logs with planks attached crosswise.

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)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

Ca. 1846-1960

Significant Dates

Ca. 1919

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Kelly, Chant Branham

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kelly, Chant Branham (architect)

Powers, James Adam (carpenter)

Powers, Willard (carpenter)

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 grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

Sunnydale Farm’s period of significance begins with the apparent establishment of the farm ca. 1846. Ca. 1846 also marks the beginning of the period of the farm’s nineteenth-century architectural evolution, represented by the well, the stone chimney at the tenant house ruins, the earliest of the coal mine openings, and possibly also the stone piles complex (although some or all the features in this complex may predate 1846). The tenant house chimney represents the traditional construction techniques to which the Sunnydale Farm House responded in its construction about 1919. The period of significance ends in 1960 by embracing the majority of the period of locally significant Chant Branham Kelly’s association with the property and by embracing the decade of the 1950s when

the last of the family's underground mining activities occurred, which were associated with the property's industrial significance. Sunnydale Farm is not of exceptional significance for the period after 1960.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

Sunnydale Farm, located in northern Wise County, Virginia, comprises historic domestic, agricultural, industrial, and funerary resources associated with the Branham and Kelly families. A log house probably built by Martin Branham about 1846 stood near the site of the present house, designed and built about 1919 for Martin's daughter Mary by her son Chant Kelly. Beginning in the early 1920s, Chant was a leading developer of the nearby community of Pound, building multiple commercial buildings, providing electrical, telephone, and fire prevention services, and acting as Pound's postmaster for twelve years starting in 1922 and as president of the town's chamber of commerce. For these and other efforts Kelly was honored in period press accounts and was later eulogized as the Father of Pound. The ca. 1919 farmhouse is a Craftsman bungalow with remnants of newsprint wallpaper, Art Moderne-influenced kitchen features, and a 1950s Craftsman addition and other later alterations. Also on the farm are the ruins of a log tenant house adjoined by a complex of stone piles, some of rectangular cairn-like form, that are of unknown provenance and former function. Other contributing resources include a ca. 1919 blacksmith shop, a family cemetery, and coal mine openings dating mostly to the 1940s-1950s with one opening that may be nineteenth-century in date. Sunnydale Farm is eligible for listing under Criterion B: community planning and development for its association with Chant Kelly. Although Kelly did not live on the property during the majority of the period when he was most active in developing the community of Pound, he maintained a strong association with it as its owner (jointly with his mother) and through farming it. Kelly's associations with the development of Pound continued after he became a full-time resident of the farm in 1946. The property is also eligible under Criterion C: architecture for the variety and interest of its architectural resources spanning from the mid-nineteenth century (and possibly earlier) to the 1950s and under Criterion A: industry for its well-preserved industrial resources, namely the virtually complete ca. 1919 blacksmith shop and the nineteenth- and twentieth-century coal mine openings. The ca. 1846 date of the apparent establishment of the farm is chosen as the begin date for the period of significance, although identification of the former function and provenance of the stone piles could potentially extend the period back in time or result in the definition of an additional and separate earlier period. Sunnydale Farm is eligible in the local area of significance.

Acknowledgements

A number of individuals and organizations assisted the work, foremost among them the owners of the property and sponsors of the nomination, Chances and Paul Varson, and their daughter and son-in-law Mary and J. J. Cromer. Others who provided assistance included Jeffrey B. Powell, P.E., PNP, Coalfields Expressway Project Manager; historian Jeffrey C. Weaver; archaeologist Donald E. Ball; David E. Rotenizer, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex; archaeologist Charles D. Hockensmith; archaeologist Joey T. Moldenhauer; M. Jay Stottman, Kentucky Archaeological Survey; Dr. Tammy Horn, Eastern Kentucky University; Wyatt A. Mangum, University of Mary Washington; and the staffs of the Wise County Public Library and the Wise County Historical Society. Assistance was also provided by Virginia Department of Historic Resources staff members Thomas Klatka, Michael Pulice, and Kelly Spradley-Kurowski.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

History

According to Chant Branham Kelly (1894-1979), the owner of Sunnydale Farm in the twentieth century, the farm was established by his grandfather Martin Branham (1826-1903) in the antebellum period. Kelly wrote in a memoir, "More than 40 years before I was born in 1894, Grandfather [Martin Branham] had taken up and had surveyed several thousand acres of land along both sides of Pound River for a distance of nine or more miles." Documentary evidence corroborates aspects of Kelly's account and suggests the Kentucky-born Branham had moved to the area by 1846, the date of a tax ticket in the possession of his descendants issued by Russell County, a portion of which went to form Wise County in 1856. Branham's last name is spelled "Brannun" on the ticket. The 1850 census listed a Martin "Brannum" and his Virginia-born wife, Matilda, as residents of Russell County. The 1860 census listed Martin, Matilda, and seven children ages two to thirteen as residents of Wise County (the couple had as many as eleven to thirteen children total, some of whom died as infants). The 1900 census noted that Martin had been married fifty-four years, which corresponds well with the birth of his first recorded child Martha circa 1847 and with the presumed beginnings of his and Matilda's homesteading on the farm in 1846. The family lived in a one-story log house built in two sections with stone chimneys at each gable end. Chant Kelly's account paints a picture of what the Branham landholding was like in the early days. "This land was covered with dense virgin forest. The yellow poplar and chestnut trees were up to 7 ft. in diameter, and the white oak and spruce pine (hemlock) were up to 5 ft. in diameter, all mixed with other native timber."¹

The 1850, 1860, and 1870 agricultural censuses provide a wealth of information on Martin Branham's farm. They document Branham's gradual acquisition of land: 200 acres in the 1850 census, 655 acres in the 1860 census, and 1,290 acres in the 1870 census. Little of the land was defined as improved, which generally meant cultivated: 10 percent in 1850, 9 percent in 1860, and 6 percent in 1870. Farming practices differed considerably from census to census, suggesting Branham was specializing in certain forms of agriculture in order to exploit shifting market conditions and the expanding capabilities of his operation as well as to counteract his distance from market.

The 1850 census is in some ways a portrait of pioneer conditions as it was taken only a few years after the farm was apparently established and probably initially cleared. Branham owned a single horse and raised a small crop of wheat (six bushels, although it is possible his harvest was affected by disease). However, his twenty-three swine and his harvest of 250 bushels of corn follow the backwoods model. Swine were well suited to foraging in Branham's mostly wooded acreage and could provide the basis of a food stock for Martin and Matilda's growing family. The emphasis on corn suggests he may have been selling his crop to drovers moving through the region via Pound Gap or he may already have been milling corn (he had a grist mill by the Civil War) and sending it down the Pound River to market. It is also possible he converted some of his corn crop into whisky, a value-added product better suited for long-distance shipment than bulk products.

The 1860 census shows continued emphasis on corn (300 bushels) but also an interest in wheat (145 bushels) and oats (100 bushels, compared to 30 bushels in 1850). By this date Branham had also established an orchard which produced \$25 worth of product. The most interesting aspect of his operation, however, was the production of 160 gallons of sorghum molasses. This was the third largest amount in the county (the first and second largest were 300 and 200 gallons) and Branham was one of only four farmers who produced over 100 gallons. The majority of Wise County farms reported no production. Successful varieties of sorghum had only recently been introduced to the United States in the 1850s and "made quite an agricultural sensation for some years," according to an early account. Original enthusiasm for the crop centered in the Midwest. The interest of Martin Branham and the others in sorghum cultivation and molasses production at such an early date suggests they were among the more progressive farmers in their community. Molasses, like the backcountry staple whiskey, was also a concentrated value-added product that Branham may have perceived as a promising specialization given his distance from market.²

In 1870 Branham shifted his attention to sheep raising. With 77 head he had the largest herd in the county (the next largest herds were 60, 52, and 44 head). The specialization may reflect, again, an attempt to counter the disadvantage

of distance from market, for sheep like other livestock could be herded rather than freighted. But since cattle and swine could also be herded and were favored backcountry livestock species for that reason, another explanation—perhaps wool production for domestic or small-scale commercial manufacture in the region—may be the case. A small-scale weaving factory that produced blankets and other goods was operated by Elizabeth Gibson in the Pound area in the late nineteenth century. Branham’s molasses production in 1870 was 30 gallons, more than most farmers but not among the highest ranking amounts. No Wise County farmer appears to have produced over 100 gallons of molasses in 1870, probably a reflection of cooling interest in the product after the Civil War. By 1870 Branham’s more extensive improved acreage probably contributed to larger crops of corn (450 bushels) and oats (300 bushels). Family tradition and records shed little light on Martin Branham’s forays into molasses and sheep production, but the general picture is confirmed by the comments of the late Lee Greer, who was born in the 1870s or 1880s and lived most of his life near Sunnydale Farm. Greer once told Martin Branham’s granddaughter Chances Kelly Varson that Martin was the “most prosperous farmer in the area.”³

Martin Branham’s occupation was given as farmer in the census schedules, but like other large landholders of the region he engaged in other enterprises as well. Chant Kelly’s recollections centered on Branham’s tanning operation located on Mill Branch. Branham used a hollowed-out large-diameter log for his tanning trough and produced “all purpose leather . . . for repairing saddles, making girts, making saddle pockets, making bridles, harness straps, new checklines and all such repair.” During the process the tanned cow hides were tacked to the wall of his barn, probably the double-crib log barn that once stood near the cemetery. The tannery was located on the bank of Branham’s grist mill pond, which is believed to have been located upstream on Mill Branch to the south of the nominated area. A photograph in the possession of the family shows the Branham grist mill: a small log building elevated on wood posts that adjoined a timber dam. The lowness of the dam and the elevation on posts suggests the mill may have been a tub mill. Kelly recalled that his grandfather “ground meal and flour for his family and the public,” and as the size of the mill indicates, it was never a large concern and in fact does not appear in the 1850, 1860, and 1870 industrial censuses, although it was apparently listed in an 1893 business directory under the name “Banham, Martin.” According to family tradition, the mill was in operation during the Civil War but passed out of use after the death of Martin Branham in 1903. During the war, while Martin was away serving in a Union infantry company, Matilda denied use of the mill to Confederate sympathizers, including other members of the Branham family. Mill stones have been retrieved from the mill and are currently used as a deck underpinning under the Paul and Chances Varson House.⁴

Presumably through the running of his own mill and perhaps through the construction and repair of others, Martin Branham gained enough expertise that he listed himself as a millwright in an 1893 business directory. The 1890s were a boom period in the county’s history as numerous coal mines were opened and the need for millwright services undoubtedly increased. Branham was aware of coal on his property by 1878 and presumably much earlier, and he mined “house coal” at a coal bank at the location of the present openings (inventory resource 10) during the nineteenth century. In the 1880s Branham also operated a store known as Martin Branham and Son, which was probably located near the intersection of Highway 83 and State Route 631 between the farm and the town of Pound, a vicinity known as Bonds Mill. Branham ordered stock for his store from Cincinnati and Knoxville.⁵

Martin and Matilda Branham’s youngest child (or their youngest to live past infancy) was Mary Branham (1867-1951). According to a 1970 newspaper account, Mary met an English-born cabinetmaker named John W. Kelly (b. ca. 1856) who came to the area to build water tanks for an English-owned coal company in Glamorgan. Kelly, who had been previously married and then separated, moved to the Pound area where he “became interested in making furniture and coffins from black walnut lumber.” Mary and John went to Tennessee (family tradition recalls they “ran away”) where they were married and where Chant Kelly was christened in a Catholic church in Knoxville after his birth in 1894. The Kellys did not get along and Mary returned to her parents’ farm with her infant son. Chant was raised as Chant Branham but in 1935 he traveled to Knoxville to confirm his parentage and had his last name changed to Kelly, retaining Branham as his middle name. Although his mother kept the last name Branham

throughout her later life, Chant had her tombstone in the Sunnydale cemetery inscribed to read Mary Branham Kelly.⁶

Chant Kelly attended area schools and despite the fact that his schooling was frequently interrupted by the need to work to support his mother, he valued education highly and was a life-long student. The bookshelves he constructed in the Sunnydale farmhouse are one indication of his interest in learning. In 1913 he entered the army and served several stints through 1919, including participation in the expedition against Pancho Villa and a training assignment during World War I. It was apparently just after the war, in 1919, that Kelly had the Sunnydale farmhouse constructed to replace the nineteenth-century log house as a residence for his mother. Kelly's carpenter was James Adam "Jim" Powers (1870-1965), who was assisted by his son Willard Powers. Jim Powers was the grandfather of pilot Francis Gary Powers of Cold War fame. Millard Branham, a relative who lived in the log tenant house on the farm, may also have assisted. A photograph of the house under construction is labeled "about 1919" and shows Kelly, Willard Powers, and others. Family tradition notes that Chant's mother lived in her new house for only a brief time before abruptly moving to the log tenant house. When asked why, she explained that she did not like living "among the public." (The log house Mary Branham had lived in previously was actually located closer to the public road. Perhaps the multiple windows of the new house—many more than in the log house—were her concern.) Mary was soon convinced to move back into the new house but when Chant and his family moved in in 1946 he built a small house (no longer extant) for Mary to live in near the Paul and Chances Varson House just outside the nominated area.⁷

After his military service and work and schooling out of state, Chant Kelly returned to the Pound area in the early 1920s. The community was by that date venerable but small. Wise County historian Luther Addington considered Pound to be the county's oldest town, by which he apparently meant it was the county's oldest concentrated settlement as Pound was not incorporated until 1950. As late as the early 1920s, writes historian Nancy Clark Brown, Pound "was little more than a 'wide spot in the road,' with no more than 2 or three business establishments spotted here and there." In 1922 Kelly was appointed Pound's postmaster and he focused his attention on developing the community. "In the following 30 years," notes Brown, "Chant Kelly did more to develop the town of Pound than any man in the history of the small mountain hamlet." Kelly purchased building lots from Augustus A. "Gus" Roberson and, according to a 1970 newspaper account (presumably based on an interview with Kelly), "He put in the first modern barber shop and then he built several other new buildings. He had a filling station, two restaurants, a hardware store, a drug store and pharmacy, a five and ten cent store, a pool room, and various other business buildings. In all, he built and rented 19 buildings." Kelly's daughter and son-in-law Chances and Paul Varson recall that a dry goods merchant named George Austin asked Kelly to locate his development about a mile from the present town at a place called Donkey but Kelly believed the present location at a crossroads was more conducive to a town. By 1928 Pound had progressed to the point that a University of Virginia economic study described it as "a fast growing little town of some 400 people" then undergoing a boom as a result of the completion of an automobile road (US 23) to Jenkins, Kentucky.⁸

Kelly's daughter Chances Varson and her husband Paul Varson add detail to the account of Kelly's development activities in their preliminary application for Sunnydale Farm. "Chant recognized the need for medical care for the town and recruited a doctor (Dr. E. L. Sykes) to move to Pound. Working with the doctor, Chant established the first drug store and made frequent trips to New York to obtain the needed medical supplies. Chant recognized the need for other businesses to make the town grow. He recruited a large hardware and building supply store, a grocery store, a pharmacist (Dr. S. P. Buchanan), a drug store, a filling station and other businesses to locate in Pound." Kelly supported public health in a number of ways. In the 1930s he operated Chant Branham and Company Patent and Proprietary Medicines, in 1940 he served as president of the Pound Sanitary District, and in 1945 he worked on behalf of an effort to obtain a hospital for Pound. Many of the first generation of buildings constructed by Kelly burned down in a 1934 conflagration but new buildings were built in their place. In 1935 Kelly, his wife Lucille Strange Kelly (1904-93), whom he had married in 1922, and the couple's young family lived in an apartment over Kelly's downtown store. Lucille was injured in the 1934 Pound fire and was bedridden the rest of her life. Kelly's

many efforts on behalf of his community were acknowledged as early as 1930 when the local *Vagabond Gazette* noted in its August issue that Chant was “a leader in every movement for the betterment of the town and surrounding country.” Later in the 1930s the *Coalfield Progress* praised him as “one of Wise County’s most loyal boosters.”

In their preliminary application the Varsons also describe Chant Kelly’s efforts to provide utilities for the growing town. “Chant’s initial appeal to the electric utility to extend service to Pound was unsuccessful, because the utility saw it as an unprofitable venture. As an alternative, Chant purchased a large motor generator and began supplying electricity to the town. At that point, downtown Pound was the only area around with electricity. After some time, the power company changed its position and agreed to extend electric service to Pound, only if they did not have to pay for the rights-of-way necessary to extend power lines. To ensure a long-term stable supply of electricity, Chant obtained the necessary rights-of-way, many times paying for it himself.” Kelly’s efforts to obtain telephone service for Pound were also rebuffed at first, but, the Varsons write, “As he did with the electric generator, Chant, undeterred, traveled to Chicago and purchased a used telephone exchange for Pound. Chant installed the exchange and began to provide limited telephone service in Pound giving the town the long needed connection to the outside world.” The 1934 fire that burned down much of the town prompted Kelly to travel to Indiana to purchase used firefighting equipment and establish the Pound Fire Department. The fire engine, which was designed to be pulled by horses, was pulled by men during its years of service in Pound. Its wooden-spoked wheels are stored in the blacksmith shop at Sunnydale Farm.¹⁰

In 1946 Kelly retired to Sunnydale Farm, which he had received along with his mother from the estate of Martin Branham early in the century. Kelly’s retirement was short lived; in 1950 local businessmen solicited his support in obtaining a flood control dam for Pound. (According to the Varsons, Kelly’s decision to move to the farm and out of Pound was motivated by the earlier reluctance of the town’s business community to contribute funds to the construction of a control dam.) The control dam project was during a period of renewed prosperity for Pound as a branch line had recently been constructed to connect coal mines in the area with the Chesapeake and Ohio in Kentucky. Chant studied the local topography in order to select the location where the dam was ultimately completed in 1966. Chant also spearheaded efforts to gain approval and funding for the project in Washington. Earlier he had been instrumental in obtaining a water system for Pound.¹¹

Chant Kelly remained actively engaged in farming and other activities at Sunnydale Farm during the period his main residence was in Pound. After 1946 he lived full-time on the farm and his residence coincided with improvements to the farmhouse such as the enclosure of the east end of the porch and connection to the electrical grid in the 1940s followed by the addition of the west rooms in the 1950s. During the period before and after he moved to the farm, Kelly dug “house coal” from Martin Branham’s coal bank for use in his blacksmith shop. His daughter Loyce Corder recalls toting sacks of coal with her grandmother from the coal bank to the house in the 1930s. One of the present openings—it is not known which one—is believed to have been begun in the nineteenth century by Martin Branham, who allowed his neighbors to dig house coal at the workings. Scientific interest in the county’s coal deposits dates at least as far back as 1872 when geologist J. P. Leslie commented that the county had reserves of “good blacksmith coal.” In 1878 Martin Branham reserved twenty acres of coal rights for his own use and the use of his heirs on the present property and an additional sixteen acres on presently adjacent parcels.¹²

Acquisition of coal rights preceded the large-scale mining that commenced in the early 1890s with the construction of rail lines into the county. Peak production occurred in the early twentieth century with a steep decline at the beginning of the Great Depression. Thereafter production continued at a more moderate rate. The pattern in the Pound area was different than in much of the rest of the county, however, because a direct rail connection was not made until the 1950s. Kelly took advantage of the new opportunity by developing his grandfather’s more modest workings into a commercial venture. Although trucks were used to haul the coal away from Kelly’s tipple, other aspects of the operation were virtually indistinguishable from the way coal was mined in the county in the early days. Kelly’s coal mine openings or entrances were hewn out of the rock in much the same way as shown in nineteenth-century illustrations. The several miners in Kelly’s employ used coal cars pulled by ponies to bring the coal out.

Kelly also had mine tunnels constructed at two other locations on his property in the 1950s. One of these locations is in the nominated area but its opening is no longer evident; the other location, a group of openings on a bench overlooking the Mill Branch ravine, is outside the nominated area. In the 1960s Kelly surface mined coal at the location of the present pond with the result that a marshy area was converted to the pond. After surface evidence of mining ceased by the end of the 1960s, the farm reverted to its pastoral historic character. Logged over wooded areas have grown back. The portion of the farm on which the nominated area is located is owned by Chant and Lucille Kelly's daughter Chances Kelly Varson, her husband Paul Varson, and their daughter Amy Varson.¹³

Architectural Discussion

The former and extant domestic architecture of Sunnydale Farm illustrates regional developments over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. As shown in historic photographs, the oldest documented dwelling on the farm, the ca. 1846 Martin and Matilda Branham House, was typical of the log dwellings constructed in western Virginia in its simple gabled form and plain finishes like weatherboard siding and wood shingle roofing. One and perhaps both of its stone chimneys featured distinct shoulders and a corbelled course at the top. Variation in the finishes from one end of the house to the other indicate that it was built in two phases, perhaps as the Branhams accumulated more wealth and their family grew during the 1840s-60s period. The house was adjoined by log farm buildings. A smoke house once associated with the log house now stands on a nearby farm.¹⁴

The other documented log dwelling on the farm, the tenant house that stood in the hollow to the north of the main house, was constructed with crudely saddlenotched logs that were not apparently sided. A photograph of the house taken around the 1960s shows the logs to have been relatively narrow and variable in dimension. The house is known to have been in existence in the late 1910s and based on comments by Chant Kelly was standing in the 1890s. If so it may have been built not long before the 1890s, despite Kelly's belief that it was old when he was a child. The fact that it was built with a fireplace large enough to cook in, and a brick flue was added later, presumably for a cook stove, supports oral history evidence that the house was built in the nineteenth century. Its form and the construction of its front porch were broadly similar to the Branham house.¹⁵

The form, style, construction, and finishes of the present ca. 1919 house differed dramatically from the vernacular traditions that had guided domestic planning on the farm previously. With its light nailed frame construction, one-and-a-half-story bungalow form, and Craftsman detail the Sunnydale Farm House was virtually indistinguishable from Craftsman bungalows built throughout the nation during the period. The family recalls that Chant Kelly drew the plans himself, just as he did for the buildings he had erected in Pound, although he would have been influenced by examples he had seen locally or in his travels or by illustrations in magazines and other print sources. The Craftsman 3/1 window sashes used in the house would have been manufactured at a sash and blind factory, one example of outside stylistic influence (the windows appear to have been available locally into the 1950s for they were also used for additions from that period). The stonework of the front steps is reminiscent of period stonework in Big Stone Gap and other coal mining boom communities of the region, and its carefully rendered mortar joints and ashlar coursing contrast with the vernacular character of nineteenth-century stonework on the property.

Several construction features of the Sunnydale Farm House deserve mention. A photograph taken during construction is interesting because it shows the house supported by wood posts rather than the present foundation, which used stones taken from the log house chimneys. Presumably the family waited until the living areas were ready for occupancy before moving Mary Branham into them and demolishing the log house. A feature that illustrates changing conceptions of domestic planning is the house's original bathroom. The room was roughed in during construction but according to family tradition the carpenter, James Adam Powers, felt a bathroom did not belong in a house and could not be persuaded to finish it. Instead the room was used for storage until 1947 after Chant Kelly's family had moved in and electricity had been run to the house.¹⁶

The family took an approach to wall finishes that has connections to older practices. The walls were sheathed with rough-sawn boards that were wallpapered and re-wallpapered every spring to cover soiling from the coal heat used during the winter. The yearly spring wallpapering was a variant of the older tradition of whitewashing a log interior every spring to cover accumulated fireplace soot. Less stylish newsprint was used in the upstairs rooms, a wall finish material that was used by other local families as well. Newsprint and wallpaper would have been used in the region's boxed or plank buildings where they would have served an insulating purpose in addition to aesthetics. This may also have been an intention for the house at Sunnydle Farm, even though it was of conventional sided frame construction. The spring rewallpapering continued until the 1970s when the family installed cleaner oil heat.¹⁷

Sunnydale Farm's most enigmatic historic resource is the complex of stone piles located near the tenant house ruins. Family tradition does not record the former function or provenance of the features, and it has therefore been assumed they are field clearing piles, which they in some ways resemble and which as a mundane function would probably not have been noted in family tradition. Some of the piles have an irregular heaped appearance and may in fact be the result of field clearing. Others were neatly constructed into square-plan pedestal-like structures that are unlike field clearing piles known to the archaeologists and historians consulted for this report. The taller structures, although neat in form, were constructed more loosely than the adjacent coursed-rubble tenant house chimney and other nineteenth-century masonry that survives on the farm or is shown in historic photographs. This suggests they were not intended to support a structure or structures as heavy as a building, but it is possible they were once strengthened by mud mortar that has since washed away. Also, with the exception of the possible rectangular outline, the piles do not appear to form the lines or patterns that would be expected for building foundations.

The following list presents some of the functions that have been considered. Multiple functions, either at the same time or over a century or more, are possible. Regarding the industrial hypotheses listed below, the site is not recorded in the 1850, 1860, and 1870 industrial censuses, but the omission should not be interpreted to mean the site did not have an industrial function due to the nature of some of the activities hypothesized, the decennial timing of the censuses, the threshold of product value (which excluded small industries), and the possibility that the county was underrepresented in the 1860 and 1870 censuses (only one industry was recorded each time).

Whisky still: Whisky distilling was common in Wise County as a way to convert bulk produce into portable value-added product. The pedestal-like structures are similar in appearance to supports for stills and barrels in historic images of primitive distilleries. Individual supports for loosely clustered equipment may explain the apparently random distribution of the pedestals. The rectangular stone outline could represent crude foundations for a building associated with a distillery operation, perhaps a storage building. Martin Branham is known to have produced a number of other value-added products so whisky making, although not attested for the period in family tradition, would be consistent with his economic activities. It is possible a later generation of the family may not have passed on a tradition of distillery use owing to social disapproval that was institutionalized by state and federal prohibition in the early twentieth century. Whether the location has, or once had, sufficient water to operate a distillery is undetermined.¹⁸

Molasses mill: Martin Branham was one of the county's largest producers of sorghum molasses in 1860. In molasses production the raw cane juice was concentrated in kettles or large tray-like "boiling pans" under which fires were built. The pedestals are not constructed as fireboxes but they could have supported the ends of boiling pans. However, they do not appear to be paired as supports. The molasses or cane mill itself was generally a small, portable, and valuable mechanism that would likely not have been left at a site.

Horse mill: Unlike a water-powered mill, which had to be constructed at or near a water source with sufficient flow and fall, a mill powered by a horse or other draft animal could be sited at the owner's choosing and could be operated year round. Some horse mills were constructed with a canopy that sheltered the mill and circular horse path and that consequently had a curved form. The presence of an early water-powered mill on the property would seem to have reduced the need for a separate horse mill, however a horse mill could have served Branham during

periods of low water flow or freezing conditions. Branham's side profession as a millwright indicates an interest in technical solutions that might lead to the erection of a horse mill.

Sawmill: A portable steam-powered sawmill might have left temporary stone supports. Wise County historian Luther Addington notes that the period during which such sawmills predominated was after 1915 when large band-saw lumber operations left the county, leaving small stands of timber for small-scale circular-saw operations. However, architectural historian Michael Pulice and archaeologist Thomas Klatka note that portable sawmills were in use in remote areas of Southwest Virginia earlier, by the eve of the Civil War according to Pulice. How the unconsolidated stone features may have served as sawmill supports is unclear owing to the vibrations and torques they would have been subjected to by the operation of the saw, log carriage, and other elements. Family tradition for Sunnydale Farm makes no mention of a sawmill at this location.¹⁹

Apiary: Honey and beeswax were important agricultural sidelines during the nineteenth century as they were high-value, low-bulk products well suited for areas distant from transportation. The stone piles have some attributes in keeping with apiculture. Elevating beehives above the ground protected them from vermin and damage from livestock and made it easier to attend to the hives without stooping. A number of considerations, however, argue against a beekeeping interpretation of the piles. Individual stone supports of the form and height of the constructed piles do not appear to be documented in the extensive literature on historic beekeeping in America and elsewhere. Bee gums—hollowed-out log sections used for hives—were common in America in historic times and were typically placed directly on the ground. Martin Branham produced small amounts of honey and beeswax during the middle decades of the nineteenth century—for example, seven pounds of honey and five pounds of beeswax in 1860—but seemingly not enough to justify the effort that would have gone into the construction of the piles. (Branham's neighbor William McFalls, who ran a tannery in 1893, produced 300 pounds of honey in 1870.)²⁰

Encampment: Wise County was the scene of intense guerilla conflict during the Civil War in addition to major military operations focused on Pound Gap, the region's principal transportation control point. The Branham family was divided; Martin Branham served in a Kentucky Unionist unit and his half brother Tandy Branham served as a quartermaster for the Confederate Camp Pound. A period description of Camp Pound, which guarded Pound Gap, refers to numerous "log hut" barracks and other buildings that were presumably crudely and hastily constructed. Sunnydale Farm is located near multiple gaps in Pine Mountain, the same barrier through which Pound Gap passes approximately five miles to the west. Also, during the war it would have had a mill and other resources for the supply of troops or irregulars. However, the constructed stone piles do not seem to relate to multiple individual structures like barracks huts. For example, they would have been ill suited to serve as bases for log, mud-and-stick, or other temporary chimneys. Also, Wise County Civil War historian Jeffrey Weaver notes that the gaps through Pine Mountain other than Pound Gap did not have roads and would not have been worth building a camp to defend (although pickets and so forth may have made military use of the gaps). Nor is there apparently any documentary evidence of a camp in the vicinity of Sunnydale Farm. Weaver adds, however, that the farm of a Unionist would not have been immune from military exploitation by Confederates and in fact may have been targeted for such, hence a possible motivation for the construction of a camp at Sunnydale Farm.²¹

Cemetery: Clustered Native American burial cairns occur throughout the Appalachians and adjacent upland areas from Georgia to Pennsylvania, although they have not been documented in Southwest Virginia to date. Such clusters are often located on high ground overlooking streams, a condition that the Sunnydale Farm piles satisfy. Interment through time and by a culture or under circumstances that would not have been governed by traditional European aligned burial could explain the apparent randomness of the piles. Eighteenth-century accounts describe Native American cemeteries in the Southeast that took the form of "clusters of rock piles," as noted by archaeologist Thomas Gresham. Clusters of stacked rock piles located in Gwinnett County, Georgia, have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places and were believed by the author of the nomination to be prehistoric, although that interpretation has been questioned. In a 2009 article Norman Muller reports on archaeological excavations of "stone mounds" in Georgia that have produced evidence that some are historic and

others prehistoric, the latter including evidence of interment. Archaeologist Thomas Klatka notes that travelers along Virginia's Great Wagon Road also left cairns as hastily constructed memorials to deceased companions. The Sunnydale Farm stone piles are located by a road trace in the vicinity of an important regional transportation route. There is no Branham-Kelly family tradition that ascribes the piles to funerary use, however lack of such local tradition is apparently common for other similar complexes.²²

Endnotes

1. Kelly, "Chant Branham Kelly recalls;" Lautzenheiser and Hall, "Reevaluation for Coalfields Expressway . . . Addendum: Sunnydale Farm," 4, 6, after p. 19; U.S. census; Cobb, "Martin Branham and Matilda Hall;" Gobble, "Index to the 1900 Census of Wise County, Va.," 9; Branham-Kelly Family Collection. A number of individuals and organizations assisted the work, foremost among them the owners of the property and sponsors of the nomination, Chances and Paul Varson, and their daughter and son-in-law Mary and J. J. Cromer. Others who provided assistance included Jeffrey B. Powell, P.E., PNP, Coalfields Expressway Project Manager; historian Jeffrey C. Weaver; archaeologist Donald E. Ball; David E. Rotenizer, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex; archaeologist Charles D. Hockensmith; archaeologist Joey T. Moldenhauer; M. Jay Stottman, Kentucky Archaeological Survey; Dr. Tammy Horn, Eastern Kentucky University; Wyatt A. Mangum, University of Mary Washington; and the staffs of the Wise County Public Library and the Wise County Historical Society. Assistance was also provided by Virginia Department of Historic Resources staff members Thomas Klatka, Michael Pulice, and Kelly Spradley-Kurowski.
2. Draper and Croffut, *Helping Hand for Town and Country*, 142; Reichert, "Sorghum Syrup in the USA."
3. Chances and Paul Varson personal communication; Addington, *Story of Wise County*, 43.
4. Paul Varson personal communication; Branham-Kelly Family Collection; Kelly, "Chant Branham Kelly recalls;" Lautzenheiser and Hall, "Reevaluation for Coalfields Expressway . . . Addendum: Sunnydale Farm," 10, 12, 13, after p. 19; Chataigne, *Chataigne's Virginia Gazetteer . . . 1893-94*, 1263.
5. Paul Varson personal communication; Chataigne, *Chataigne's Virginia Gazetteer . . . 1893-94*, 1264.
6. Chances and Paul Varson personal communication; Cobb, "Martin Branham and Matilda Hall;" *Southwest Virginia News*, August 13, 1970; Hatfield, *Never seen the moon*, 54.
7. Paul and Chances Varson personal communication; Varson and Varson, "Sunnydale Farm;" *Southwest Virginia News*, August 13, 1970; Ancestry.com; Lautzenheiser and Hall, "Reevaluation for Coalfields Expressway . . . Addendum: Sunnydale Farm," 8.
8. Paul and Chances Varson personal communication; Addington, *Story of Wise County*, 195-198; Robertson and Brown, *History of The Pound*, 245; *Southwest Virginia News*, August 13, 1970; Kennedy, *Economic and Social Survey of Wise County*, 17-18.
9. Varson and Varson, "Sunnydale Farm;" *Southwest Virginia News*, August 13, 1970; Robertson and Brown, *History of The Pound*, 113; Branham-Kelly Family Collection; Edwards and Salyers, *History of the Pound, Volume III*, 76; Hatfield, *Never seen the moon*, 54; *Coalfield Progress*, September 25, 1980.
10. Paul and Chances Varson personal communication; Varson and Varson, "Sunnydale Farm."

11. Paul and Chances Varson personal communication; Varson and Varson, "Sunnydale Farm;" Addington, *Story of Wise County*, 198.
12. Paul and Chances Varson personal communication; Addington, *Story of Wise County*, 205-230.
13. Paul and Chances Varson personal communication; Addington, *Story of Wise County*, 205-230, 235; "Paramont Coal Corp. Deep Mine No. 17."
14. Lautzenheiser and Hall, "Reevaluation for Coalfields Expressway . . . Addendum: Sunnydale Farm," 6, 8; Branham-Kelly Family Collection.
15. Branham-Kelly Family Collection; Lautzenheiser and Hall, "Reevaluation for Coalfields Expressway . . . Addendum: Sunnydale Farm," 9.
16. Paul and Chances Varson personal communication; Lautzenheiser and Hall, "Reevaluation for Coalfields Expressway . . . Addendum: Sunnydale Farm," 11.
17. Paul and Chances Varson personal communication; *Looking Back*, 213.
18. Regan and Regan. *Book of Bourbon*, 5, 39, 76; Stoneman, "Franklin County Moonshine," 70; Ball, "Gallery of Traditional Upland South Architecture," 67.
19. Michael Pulice and Thomas Klatka personal communication; Addington, *Story of Wise County*, 125-126.
20. Wilder, *Southern Bee Culture*, 79; Crane, *World History of Beekeeping*, 189, 195, 233; Crane, *Archaeology of Beekeeping*, 117-162.
21. Jeffrey Weaver personal communication; Weaver, *Civil War in Buchanan and Wise Counties*, 18, 109, 125; Addington, *Story of Wise County*, 109-110.
22. Thomas Klatka and Donald Ball personal communication; Gresham, "Historic Patterns of Rock Piling," 7, 24, 27; Muller, "Stone Mound Investigations as of 2009."

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See Narrative Statement of Significance

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: **VA Dept of Historic Resources, Richmond**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): VDHR File No. 097-0403

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 40 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>361200</u> Easting	<u>4113500</u> Northing	3	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>361860</u> Easting	<u>4112980</u> Northing
2	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>361870</u> Easting	<u>4113590</u> Northing	4	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>361500</u> Easting	<u>4112820</u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundaries of the Sunnydale Farm nominated area are portrayed on the 1:200-scale map that accompanies the report as Exhibit 1.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries of the Sunnydale Farm nominated area embrace that portion of the present property on which the historically significant resources described in the report are located. The boundaries exclude the eastern portion of the property on which stands a modern house, barn, and playhouse.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Daniel Pezzoni (with research assistance by Paul and Chances Varson)
organization Landmark Preservation Associates date December 8, 2010

Sunnydale Farm
Name of Property

Wise County, Virginia
County and State

street & number 6 Houston St. telephone (540) 464-5315
city or town Lexington state VA zip code 24450
e-mail gilespezzoni@rockbridge.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Sunnydale Farm
City or Vicinity: Pound vicinity County: Wise State: Virginia
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: October 2010
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Sunnydale Farm House south (front) and east elevations. View looking west. Photo 1 of 6.

Name of Property: Sunnydale Farm
City or Vicinity: Pound vicinity County: Wise State: Virginia
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: October 2010
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Sunnydale Farm House west and north elevations. View looking east. Photo 2 of 6.

Name of Property: Sunnydale Farm
City or Vicinity: Pound vicinity County: Wise State: Virginia
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: October 2010
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Blacksmith shop. View looking northeast. Photo 3 of 6.

Name of Property: Sunnydale Farm
City or Vicinity: Pound vicinity County: Wise State: Virginia
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: October 2010
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Tenant House ruins chimney. View looking southeast. Photo 4 of 6.

Name of Property: Sunnydale Farm
City or Vicinity: Pound vicinity County: Wise State: Virginia
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: October 2010
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Stone pile in the stone pile complex. View looking northwest. Photo 5 of 6.

Name of Property: Sunnydale Farm

City or Vicinity: Pound vicinity County: Wise State: Virginia

Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: October 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Coal mine opening. View looking south. Photo 6 of 6.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Sunnydale Farm

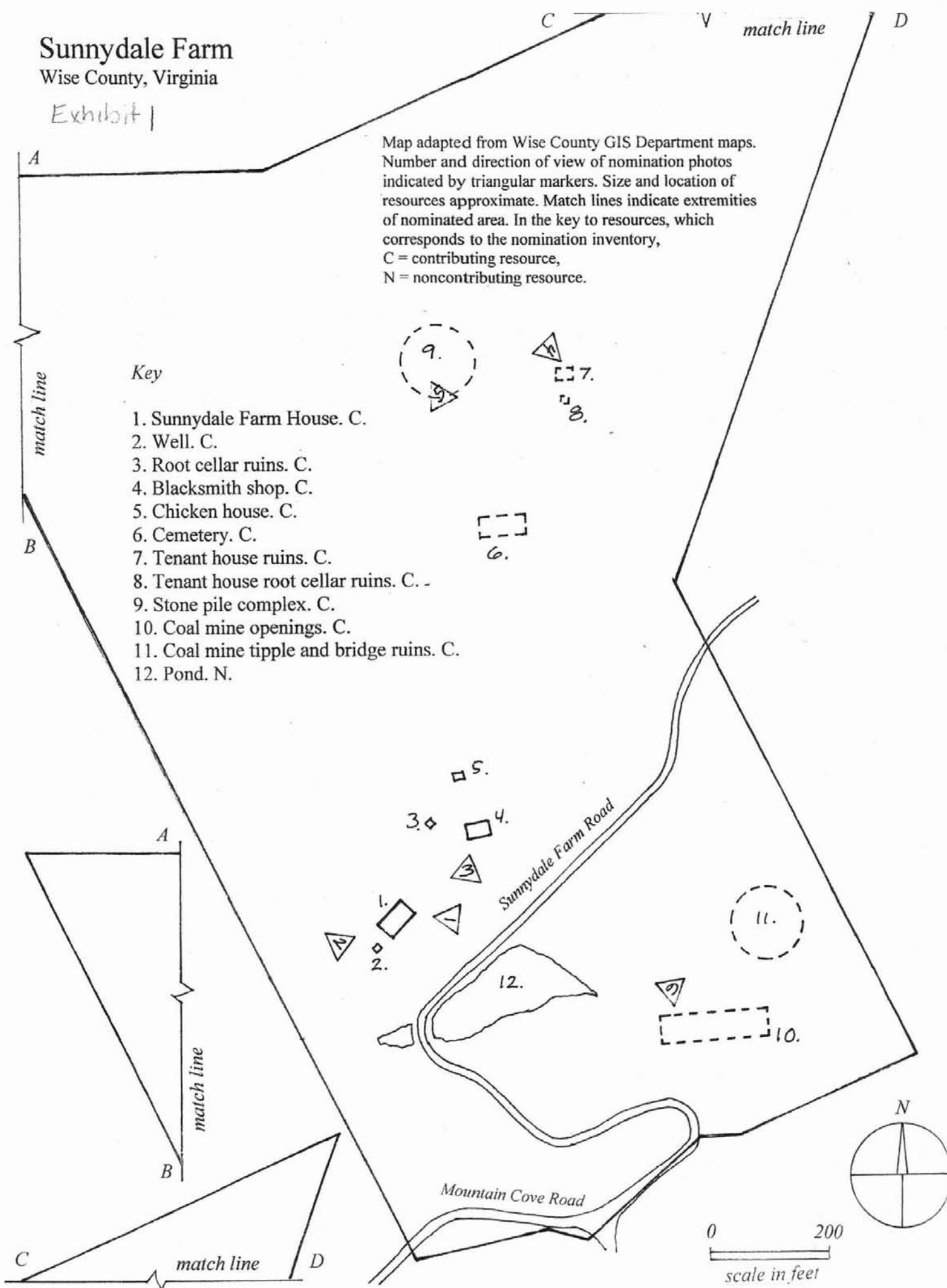
Wise County, Virginia

Exhibit 1

Map adapted from Wise County GIS Department maps. Number and direction of view of nomination photos indicated by triangular markers. Size and location of resources approximate. Match lines indicate extremities of nominated area. In the key to resources, which corresponds to the nomination inventory, C = contributing resource, N = noncontributing resource.

Key

1. Sunnydale Farm House. C.
2. Well. C.
3. Root cellar ruins. C.
4. Blacksmith shop. C.
5. Chicken house. C.
6. Cemetery. C.
7. Tenant house ruins. C.
8. Tenant house root cellar ruins. C.
9. Stone pile complex. C.
10. Coal mine openings. C.
11. Coal mine tipple and bridge ruins. C.
12. Pond. N.



Dept. of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Ave.
Richmond Ave.
23221

Ronnie & Brenda Mullins
P.O. Box 280
Ground, Va. 24279

Dear Wagner,

I'm writing about the Sunnydale Farm in Wise County. This is an historical site. It's a shame if it is not declared a historical site. The owner before the Carsons was Chant Kelly. He is considered the founder of Ground for all he did.

The architectural is awesome. The house, the stone well, a ruinous stone & frame root cellar, a frame chicken house, a frame blacksmith shop. Then there is the old long house.

It would be a loss to our community. So many people love this beautiful site. This is one of the most beautiful places in Wise County.

To let a road take this beautiful

place is a shame. The apple
~~orchard~~ orchard is very old, which the farmer
and neighbors still get apples from.

My husband grew up next to it
and I have enjoyed it for 38 yrs.

There are many more before us.

I feel it makes my property
worth more because of its historical
value.

Please make it a National
Historical site, it would help our
whole community.

Thank you,
Mrs. Brenda Mullins

Chant Branham Kelly

Chant Branham Kelly of Sunnydale Farm is widely acclaimed as "Pound's Founding Father" (See Attachment #1). Upon returning from service in the Army during the Mexican Expedition (or Poncho Villa Expedition) and World War I he found life in the hills little changed. Remembering the week long wagon trips he made with his grandfather twice a year to Abingdon...

RECEIVED

MAR 14 2011

Department of
Historic Resources

March 9, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Dewey Whitt, have lived all my life on the property that once was part of Sunnydale Farm. My family and I have known Chert Kelly Bunham all our lives and am aware of the many things he did for the Advancement of Farm, Virginia and the surrounding areas.

I would be honored to live to see the Sunnydale Farm be designated as a historical farm.

Sincerely,
Dewey Whitt



CLINTWOOD 2.7 MI. VANSANT 34 MI. 10' 4114 4115 ISOM 2.8 MI.

Sunnydale Farm
 Wise Co., Virginia
 DHR ID# 097-0403
 Denton's East, RT-Vaquod
 1927 NAD
 UTM sets (zone 17)
 1. E361200 N4113500
 2. E361870 N4113590
 3. E361860 N4112760
 4. E361500 N4112820