

VLR-12/9/92 NRHP-2/11/93

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Andrew Johnston House

other names/site number DHR File No. 279-01

2. Location

street & number 208 North Main Street not for publication N/A
city or town Pearisburg vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA county Giles code 071 zip code 24150

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 statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Hub C. Miller 4 Jan. 1993
Signature of certifying official Date

Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official 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
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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> 2 </u>	<u> 1 </u>	buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	objects
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 1 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling
HEALTH CARE Clinic

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Museum

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
roof ASBESTOS
walls WOOD: Weatherboard
BRICK
other WOOD

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

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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)

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

- 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.

- 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

1829-1859

Significant Dates

1829

1859

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(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: _____

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10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 1.4 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	523370	4131110	2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Amy K. Rose

organization Mary Washington College date December 1990

street & number 208 Monroe Hall telephone 703-899-4037

city or town Fredericksburg state VA zip code 22401-5358

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Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Andrew Johnston House

Pearisburg, Giles County, Virginia

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Property Owner
=====

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

name Giles County Historical Society (% Tony Williams)

street & number 706 South High Street telephone 703-921-1540

city or town Pearisburg state VA zip code 24134

=====
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 Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Andrew Johnston House
Pearisburg, Giles County, Virginia

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Andrew Johnston House was built in 1829 by Andrew and David Johnston, Scottish immigrants who came to Pearisburg, Virginia, in the early nineteenth century. It is a two-story, central-passage plan, brick house over a low basement. The house is laid in Flemish bond brick and features a cavetto cornice in the Federal style. The house was owned by the Johnston family until 1985 when it was donated to the Giles County Historical Society, which uses it as a museum and research center. A small contributing outbuilding on the northwest corner of the lot was built as a doctor's office about 1857 for a later owner, Dr. Harvey G. Johnston. A noncontributing brick garage was built in the mid-twentieth century.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The Andrew Johnston House is a two-story brick house designed in the Federal style and laid in Flemish bond with a low drip course and exterior end chimneys. The house has an I-house plan; it is two stories high, one room deep with a central passage, and an entirely symmetrical facade. The principal massing of the house is 44'4" x 18'6". A one-story, one-room-deep dining room ell (19'5" x 19') extends eastward from the north room of the main block and is part of the original house. The house has a low basement with an entry through the house and from the outside on the south elevation through a bulkhead door. It has a gable roof with two exterior end chimneys. The foundation walls are twenty-two inches thick, while the upper story walls are eighteen inches thick.

The west elevation is the principal facade and is five bays wide. Four basement level windows, (1'4" x 4'), are placed directly below the larger first-floor windows. These ground-level windows are covered with wooden grates. The first-floor windows are nine-over-nine-light, double-hung sash, measuring 5'5" x 2'8". The second story has slightly smaller, (4'7" x 2'8"), six-over-six-light double-hung windows. All the windows of the main house have wooden frames with carved paterae in the corner blocks and the window surrounds have pintles for shutters. The one-story, flat-roofed front portico is topped by a balustrade and is supported by two Ionic and two Tuscan columns. The cornice of the porch is detailed with a single row of dentils. The front door is 3'5" x 8'10" and a glazed transom is situated above the door.

The north elevation is two bays wide with a chimney rising between the windows. The first-floor and second-floor windows are the same size and have the same decorative treatment as the windows on the principal elevation. Two small attic windows measure 1'8" x 1' each. The chimney has a depth of fourteen inches and a length of 4 feet 10 inches. On this elevation there is one basement level window located at the northwest corner. The north elevation has a one-story, two-bay rear ell that is original to the building. The ell has the only window with shutters in place--the other shutters have been removed for repair. The door is decorated by a fanlight as well as a rectangular transom above it. The porch on this entrance may be a replacement, as it is supported by battered columns typical of twentieth-century porches. East of the dining room is a weatherboarded frame addition on a stone foundation that was built in 1930. A chimney on the rear of this addition has been blocked up inside the kitchen.

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Section 7 Page 2

Andrew Johnston House
Pearisburg, Giles County, Virginia

The south elevation of the ell has a porch which is original to the house. The porch roof features five square posts and a handrail with a balustrade. The south elevation of the main block is blank and contains only the two attic windows and the bulkhead entrance to the basement.

The basement is divided into two rooms. A smaller room on the north end of the house mirrors the dimensions of the first-floor chamber. The larger room contains a wooden staircase that leads to the first floor. A hearth has been bricked up in the larger room. In the southeast corner is the doorway leading up to the yard.

The first floor of the Andrew Johnston House has two rooms of equal size separated by a large central passage. Each room has a baseboard, but no chair rail or crown molding. The floors on the first floor were all replaced with oak in the 1920s. The mantels in both the dining room and the north room have an architrave and mantelshelf held by pilasters. The dining room mantelpiece has a sunburst carving centered above the hearth. All the doors of the house are six-panel types with many of the original brass rim locks.

The parlor (south) was remodeled in 1969 and a portion was enclosed for a lavatory. The doorway surround in the parlor is an architrave that resembles the mantelpiece in the north room.

The central passage has two doors leading out of the house; the front door on the west end of the passage and a door leading to the porch off the dining room facing east. The stairs rise on the south side of the passage and a door beneath the stringer leads to the basement. The staircase consists of a plain balustrade with a simple newel. Each tread is 3'4" x 11" with a 5 1/2" riser. The stairs rise ten steps to the landing at the east end of the passage and four steps up to the second floor. The pattern repeats to the attic.

The second-floor plan mirrors that of the first with the exception of a bathroom added at the west end of the passage between the two rooms. The chair-rail survives in all the upstairs rooms and the chambers retain their original pine flooring. The hallway flooring was replaced in the 1920s when the downstairs floors were changed. The north chamber contains a fireplace with a simpler mantelpiece than those of the first floor. The south chamber has an alcove that replaced the fireplace. The attic is an open room the length of the gable roof.

On the northwest corner of the property is Dr. Harvey G. Johnston's office; a small, one-story, weatherboard-covered structure with a brick foundation measuring 17'2" x 29'7". The office has an exterior end brick chimney on the east elevation and a rear ell. There is a raised basement under the entire building with ground-level windows. On the east elevation there is a shed addition, added at an unknown date. This office was built between 1857 and 1859.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 3

**Andrew Johnston House
Pearisburg, Giles County, Virginia**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Andrew Johnston and his brother David were founding settlers of Giles County, and in 1806, were contracted to lay out the town lots of Pearisburg, the county seat. Andrew was a farmer by occupation and raised a family of five children on his town lot farm. His eldest son, Harvey, was the principal doctor of Giles County during the mid-nineteenth century. The individual achievements of these two men make them important in the context of local history. Andrew Johnston made important contributions to the development of the Virginia frontier, and represents the Scottish migration to this area around the turn of the nineteenth century. Harvey Johnston's contribution was his service to the community. This property is being nominated under Criterion C for significance at the local level in the area of architecture and is representative of the stature of the Johnston family in the community.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Andrew Johnston and his brother David, the sons of Scottish immigrants, came to the New River Valley from Tidewater Virginia in the first decade of the nineteenth century.¹ They were among the residents of the area in 1806 when Captain George Pearis engineered the separation of Giles County from the larger Monroe, Tazewell, and Montgomery counties. The county seat, Pearisburg, was officially established in 1808.² The brothers Johnston were commissioned by the town to survey and lay out the town lots in the county seat.³ They were also among the original merchants of the town, opening the first tannery; Dr. John H. Rutter was the first resident physician and W. C. Charlton, the first tailor.⁴ Together they built the brick house in the center of town in 1829.⁵ Andrew Johnston and his family resided in the house while David Johnston lived outside of town. After living in the house only a short time, Andrew Johnston died 14 November 1838.

Johnston's will makes the first mention of the house. It describes the boundaries of the lot as being "forty acres beginning in the middle of wagon road (now Main St.) from Giles Co. Courthouse to Chapman's and Snidow's ferry (on the New River) to where his land joined the land on which the town is situated." In addition, he describes his town lot as consisting of the half acre upon which the house, barn, and yard were situated as well as the ten acres of pasture land across the wagon road.⁶

Johnston's eldest son, Harvey Green Johnston, was born in 1824.⁷ He earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Virginia and then went to Philadelphia to study medicine at the Jefferson Medical School.⁸ He has been called one of the most highly educated men of his time.⁹

Harvey G. Johnston inherited the house after the death of his mother Jane Henderson Johnston in June 1853. There he established a medical practice to serve Giles County.¹⁰ Between 1857 and 1859 Dr. Johnston built an office in the northwest corner of the town lot.¹¹ Local histories suggest that Brigadier General Rutherford B. Hayes made his headquarters in this office during the Civil War; however, no documentation substantiates this claim. The office was in constant use until Johnston died in 1881. His second wife, Mary Halsey Johnston, inherited the property.¹²

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Andrew Johnston House
Pearisburg, Giles County, Virginia

Upon her death, the house and property went to Dr. Harvey G. Johnston, Jr. The second Dr. Johnston also operated his medical practice out of his father's office until his death,¹³ when the property was willed to his brother, Fowler Johnston of Roanoke, Virginia.¹⁴ He deeded the property to the Giles County Historical Society in 1985, "in memory of Andrew Johnston, Dr. Harvey G. Johnston, Sr., and Dr. Harvey G. Johnston, Jr., and their desire that property of importance to the history of Giles Co. Virginia be maintained and preserved."¹⁵

ENDNOTES

1. History of Virginia vol. VI Virginia Biography, (Chicago and New York: American Historical Society, 1924), p. 505.
2. David Johnston, A History of Middle New River Settlement and Contiguous Territory, (Radford, VA: Commonwealth Press Inc., 1906), p.157.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Giles County Will Book B, p. 194.
7. History of Virginia, p. 505.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
11. Giles County Land Book, 1858.
12. Giles County Will Book # 5, p. 137.
13. Johnston, p. 158.
14. Giles County Order Book #2, p. 224.
15. Giles County Deed Book #191, p. 837.

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**Andrew Johnston House
Pearisburg, Giles County, Virginia**

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PRIMARY SOURCES

Giles County Will Books, Giles County Courthouse
Giles County Land Book, 1858, Giles County Courthouse
Giles County Deed Books, Giles County Courthouse

SECONDARY SOURCES

Johnston, David. A History of Middle New River Settlement and Contiguous Territory,
Radford, VA: Commonwealth Press, Inc., 1959.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property corresponds to Giles County Tax Parcel 40A (10) C-18A.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the portion of the property historically associated with the Johnston House that was conveyed to the Giles County Historical Society and that maintains historic integrity.

Andrew Johnson Home
Pearisburg, Giles Co.,
VA
UTM REFERENCE:
17|523370|413110

PEARISBURG QUADRANGLE

