

VLR-9/13/00 LISTED NRHP- OMB No. 1024-0018
11/22/00
*included in Scottsville HD

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 Mount Walla
other names/site number VDHR file no. 298-0009 , other # : 298-0024-0001

2. Location

street & number 604 Poplar Springs Road N/A not for publication
city or town Scottsville N/A vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Albemarle code 003 zip code 24590

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature] 10/4/2008
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other (explain):

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
FUNERARY	cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
FUNERARY	cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Federal
- Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation
- walls
- roof
- other
- Brick
- Wood
- Metal
- Stone

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ___ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
[X] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
[X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
___ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- ___ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
___ B removed from its original location.
___ C a birthplace or a grave.
___ D a cemetery.
___ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
___ F a commemorative property.
___ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past fifty years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

Ca. 1820-1861

Significant Dates

1836

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Jefferson, Peter Field

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 13.4 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing		
	1	17	720640	4186480	3	17	720960	4186310
	2	17	720910	4186550	4	17	720660	4186290

___ 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	<u>L. Daniel Pezzoni</u>	date	<u>June 29, 2000</u>
organization	<u>Landmark Preservation Associates</u>	telephone	<u>(540) 464-5315</u>
street & number	<u>6 Houston St.</u>	zip code	<u>24450</u>
city or town	<u>Lexington</u> state <u>VA</u>		

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name	<u>James P. Hogan</u>		
street & number	<u>PO Box 610</u>	telephone	<u>(804) 286-6355</u>
city or town	<u>Scottsville</u>	state	<u>VA</u> zip code <u>24590</u>

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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Mount Walla
Albemarle Co., Va.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

Mount Walla is a story-and-a-half frame house located on a 13.4-acre parcel on a hill overlooking the town of Scottsville and the James River. The 42-by-18-foot core of the house most likely dates to the ca. 1820-ca. 1840 period, as suggested by documentary evidence and visible architectural fabric, although a late eighteenth-century date of construction and extensive nineteenth-century remodeling are plausible. The house features beaded weatherboard siding, a metal-sheathed gable roof, a brick foundation and gable-end chimneys, and classical entry porches on the south river front and the north elevation. The hall-parlor interior features Federal-style treatments such as a three-part mantel and elaborate door and window surrounds, as well as an enclosed winder stair. The house was enlarged several times during the second half of the twentieth century, and a one-story frame guest house of complementary design was erected next to it in 1970. Also on the property are an antebellum frame smokehouse and a nineteenth-century and later family cemetery enclosed by a Victorian iron fence. The property slopes away from the house on the south, east, and west sides, and it is improved with brick walkways and walls dating to the 1960s and 1970s. Trees including tulip poplar, walnut, magnolia, white pine, hemlock, cedar, and holly ornament the grounds near the house, the periphery of the property is wooded, and flower beds and other landscaping have recently been added.

Inventory

1. Mount Walla. Ca. 1820-ca. 1840; 1950s-1960s; late 1980s; late 1990s. Contributing building.
2. Smokehouse. Ca. 1820-ca. 1840; ca. 1970. Contributing building.
3. Cemetery. Late 19th and 20th c. Noncontributing site.
4. Guest house. 1970. Noncontributing building.

Exterior

Mount Walla's historic core is characterized by a three-bay window-door-window arrangement on the south-facing river front and the landward north front. Rising on the gable ends (now partially obscured by the 1950s-1960s additions) are brick chimneys with double stepped shoulders and stretcher-bond brickwork on their visible faces. Comparison to a 1930s WPA photograph suggests rebuilding of the upper parts of the stacks. The brick foundation is laid in three-course American bond (repeated under the twentieth-century additions) and is interrupted by windows with glazed sash behind horizontal wood bars.

The dominant features of the north and south facades are the three-bay entry porches. The south

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**Mount Walla
Albemarle Co., Va.**

Description (continued)

porch stands on a solid brick foundation with brick lattice vents and modern brick and slate steps. Turned wooden classical columns and pilasters on modern replacement square-section pedestals support a pedimented roof with a skirting of wood shingles at the base of the plain tympanum. The north porch is raised on brick piers and features square-section wood columns with entasis. Both porches have exterior and interior cornices, railings with rectangular-section banisters, and ceilings sheathed with beaded slats.

Other exterior features of the original section include six-over-six windows with louvered wood shutters, small square four-light windows in the gables, a cornice ornamented with convex and concave quarter-round moldings, beaded rake boards (apparently with a slight taper), and a modern paint scheme of Palace Tan on the weatherboards and white on the porches and trim. The north and south entries have six-panel doors, modern wooden screen doors with Chinese Chippendale latticework in the lower panels, and surrounds with complex symmetrical moldings and faceted lozenge carvings in the corner blocks. Tucked into the corner on the north face of the west chimney is a small pent room (a closet inside) with beaded corner and rake boards, a brick foundation, and other features suggesting it is original to the house or, alternatively, an early nineteenth-century remodeling. Under the pent room is a doorway to the basement with a diagonal batten door under a bracketed stoop.

The various twentieth-century additions were designed to harmonize with the original fabric and consequently they have brick foundations and chimneys, beaded weatherboard siding, and divided muntin windows. The 1950s-1960s additions have old siding; the siding on the later additions is modern. Somewhat more modernistic in character is the late 1990s garden room addition on the east end, which has multiple tall glass doors and windows affording views of the James River.

Interior

Mount Walla's hall-parlor interior is characterized by plaster wall and ceiling finishes (some on split lath), wood floors, brick fireplace linings and hearths, and six-panel doors on butt hinges. The north and south entries open into the home's largest original room (the hall), which has as its focal point a three-part Federal mantel. The projecting center and end tablets of the mantel frieze are carved with elliptical sunbursts above a reeded band and below a heavy bed molding that supports a shelf with a reeded edge. In place of pilasters are pairs of slender turned colonnettes with entasis that are joined at the top by small arched elements. Additional refinement is provided by the door and window surrounds, which feature symmetrically molded

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Mount Walla
Albemarle Co., Va.

Description (continued)

trim and heavy entablatures with cornices that reference the mantel bed molding. The window surrounds are carried below the chairrail by tapered pilasters with unornamented faces. The reeding of the mantel is repeated on the room's chairrail. On the ceiling is a simple annular plaster medallion. The enclosed stair to the garret opens into the room, with a fluted trim board at the axis of the winders. A door to the right of the mantel opens into a 1950s-1960s addition that now serves as a connector to a 1980s bedroom, bathroom, and closet wing. The 1980s bedroom has a canted ceiling, Georgian Revival architrave-type door surrounds with dentil moldings in the entablatures, and a brick fireplace with a Georgian Revival mantel.

The smaller room or parlor, which occupies the west end of the first floor, features a formerly exterior doorway with symmetrical moldings in the surround and a design of nested squares in the corner blocks. This doorway now opens into a 1950s-1960s addition containing a bathroom and closet. Another door opens into the pent closet, which has a dark stained interior finish and large cut nails that once served as clothes hooks. The parlor also features a vertical beaded board wainscot, molded chairrail and baseboards (apparently a mix of old and modern trim), and the top of a modern stair to the basement located under the garret stair.

The garret contains two small bedrooms with a 1950s-1960s bathroom and closets inserted between them. The stairwell is provided with a board railing of pegged construction. Each room features a small architrave mantel, beaded baseboards and door and window trim, and small hatchways in the knee walls leading to narrow attic spaces at the eaves. In these spaces are visible straight-sawn and hewn common rafters and straight-sawn roof boards, the latter studded with cut nails suggesting former existence of wood roof shingles.

The remodeled basement features brick floor pavers (some set in herringbone pattern), raised paneling on the walls, and exposed hewn ceiling joists. The smaller west basement room, into which the modern stair from the main floor descends, has a segmental-arched fireplace (probably original) with a modern mantel. The stair has a square-section newel post and square-section banisters set at a diagonal. A doorway at the east end of the larger east basement room (the present dining room) opens into a small kitchen under the 1950s-1960s addition, which in turn connects to a larger kitchen and sitting area with a Georgian Revival mantel and paneled overmantel under the 1980s wing. French doors open from this wing into the 1990s garden room, which has rough textured plaster walls, an exposed roof structure, and a brick chimney breast.

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**Mount Walla
Albemarle Co., Va.**

Description (continued)

Outbuildings and Landscape Features

Directly off the west end of the house, separated from it by a walkway and gate, stands a one-story frame guest house built in 1970 to a design by a Philadelphia architect. The building stands near a former kitchen, bricks from the foundation and chimney of which are said to have been used as a facing on the guest house foundation. The building has a metal-sheathed gable roof, beaded weatherboard siding, stretcher-bond brick facings on the foundation and a gable-end chimney with two stepped shoulders, a basement garage, and eight-over-eight windows with louvered wooden shutters. The front (south elevation) entry porch has a gable roof supported by narrow classical columns and features a Chinese Chippendale railing and a brick and slate floor and steps. The front entry has a six-panel door and a screen door similar to those on the main house. Inside are drywall walls and ceilings, wood floors, hewn ceiling beams (decorative), and chairrails and door and window surrounds with stock moldings. The mantel appears to be a recycled Greek Revival piece with symmetrical moldings on the faces of the pilasters.

A short distance northwest of the house, across a driveway, stands a frame smokehouse that appears to date to the ca. 1820-ca. 1840 period. The tall building has a metal-sheathed gable roof with a weathervane, beaded weatherboard siding, corner boards, and rake boards, and a ca. 1970 foundation of cinder blocks faced with historic bricks laid in stretcher bond. A historic batten door and a modern six-over-six window have beaded surrounds, and the former is reached by a set of modern brick steps that tie into a low wall that borders the driveway. A modern batten dutch door with grated window opens into the basement.

The unfinished interior shows evidence of charring consistent with past use for smoking meat. The heavy hewn corner posts, studs, and down braces are connected with mortise-and-tenon joints and large pegs. Heavy joists, a few of which are missing, span above a modern light-frame ceiling structure. The common rafter couples are pegged and either lapped or mortise-and-tenoned at the ridge, and the collar beams are lapped and nailed to the rafters. As in the main house, only cut nails have been observed in the building's construction.

The smokehouse door is hung on wrought strap hinges, the upper one with a spade-shaped end and wrought nails attaching it to the door, the lower one with a broken end and bolted to the door. (One or both hinges may be modern additions.) There is a large wooden lock box with decorative iron end plates, and the keeper consists of a carved wooden board attached to the left jamb by multiple cut nails for strength. Attached to the right jamb is a vertical board with two crudely cut holes, apparently attachment points for some sort of work table, rack, or other built-

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Description (continued)

in feature that once stood in the space. The basement interior has unfinished cinder-block walls and a concrete floor.

The cemetery lies to the north of the house and is enclosed by an iron fence with decorative fleur-de-lis finials and gates with plaques identifying them as the work of the Stewart Fence Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. The oldest tombstone appears to be that of Mary Ellen Foland (1873-91), a rounded marble headstone framed by carving in the form of velvet rope with tassels. The segmental-headed marble tombstones of long-time Mount Walla occupants Peter V. Foland (1845-1915) and his wife Elizabeth C. Foland (1845-1921) are decorated with simple floral designs. Also in the cemetery stands a marble monument dedicated to Peter Field Jefferson (presumably Jr.) and his wife Elizabeth Wood. It is unknown whether individuals associated with the property before Peter F. Jefferson Jr., who died in 1867, are buried in the cemetery. Down slope from the cemetery next to the driveway stands a short marble obelisk that appears to have originated in a cemetery context but now serves as a garden ornament. At the northeast corner of the nominated parcel, framing the entrance drive, are brick gate pillars.

Integrity Statement

The historic core of Mount Walla retains a high degree of architectural integrity from the antebellum period. Character-defining exterior features and finishes such as beaded weatherboards, double-shouldered chimneys, and the two entry porches remain in place, as do interior features such as the hall-parlor plan, mantels, and door and window surrounds. Post-1950 additions to the house, though extensive, are scaled so as not to overpower the historic core, or are screened by plantings and topography. More change has occurred to the grounds. Extensive brick walkways, walls, and other landscape features were added about 1970, and a guest house was constructed next to the main house. The classicism of these elements is not out of keeping with the architecture of the historic fabric, however. The frame superstructure of the smokehouse survives virtually unaltered from the antebellum period. Mount Walla preserves its historic visual connections to Scottsville and the James River.

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**Mount Walla
Albemarle Co., Va.**

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Mount Walla is an originally small but finely detailed Federal-style house overlooking Scottsville and the James River in southern Albemarle County, Virginia. The hall-parlor-plan dwelling is graced by classical entry porticos on both the river and land fronts, and inside are door and window surrounds with entablatures, a plaster ceiling medallion, and a three-part Federal mantel with sunbursts and colonettes. Mount Walla most likely dates to the period 1820 to 1840 when Scottsville emerged as a regional river and canal port, although the house may incorporate eighteenth-century fabric. In 1821 the property was acquired by Scottsville businessman Richard Moon, whose early life in the west earned him the nickname "Tennessee Dick," and in 1836 it was purchased by Peter Field Jefferson, grandnephew of the president. Jefferson made a fortune by speculating in James River and Kanawha Canal scrip, and his income was supplemented by ownership of the town's ferry and a fleet of canal boats as well as a tobacco warehouse and mills in Albemarle and neighboring Buckingham counties. Mount Walla passed to Jefferson's grandson Peter V. Foland and his descendants, and in 1966 it was acquired by popular hostess Mildred C. Brown. The house received a series of additions during the second half of the twentieth century, more than doubling its size. Today a guest house joins the main house, a family cemetery with Victorian iron fence, and an antebellum smokehouse on the beautifully landscaped grounds.

Applicable Criteria

Mount Walla, which is included as a contributing building in the Scottsville Historic District (state and national designations), is individually eligible for listing under Criterion C in the area of architecture for the richness and sophistication of its Federal styling. Also of note is the home's diminutive hall-parlor form, which may be evidence of eighteenth-century fabric. The property is eligible under Criterion B in the area of transportation for its association with Peter Field Jefferson. Jefferson was involved in many aspects of Scottsville's economic development during the town's antebellum heyday, but his ownership of canal boats and the town ferry and his relationship to the construction of the James River and Kanawha Canal provide a common transportation theme. The period of significance extends from ca. 1820, reflecting the possibility that the house was built in the 1820s by Richard Moon, until 1861, the year of Peter F. Jefferson's death. The nomination acknowledges the possibility that the house dates to before ca. 1820, but the architectural qualities for which it is significant date to ca. 1820 or later. Mount Walla is eligible at the local level of significance. Information in support of designation appears throughout the historic context.

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Mount Walla
Albemarle Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

Acknowledgments

A number of individuals and organizations assisted in the preparation of this report. Foremost among these was the owner of the property and the nomination's sponsor, James P. Hogan. Others who provided assistance included Fletcher J. Wright III, Scottsville; Margaret M. O'Bryant of the Albemarle County Historical Society, Charlottesville; Olive Graffam, Curator of Collections, Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington, D.C.; and Suzanne Durham, June Ellis, Marc Wagner and Jack Zehmer of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Historic Context

Most written accounts of Mount Walla's history suggest a date of construction in the late eighteenth century. However, most primary source materials, and the visible architectural evidence of the house itself, point to an early nineteenth century date of construction. Two sources of documentary information have a particular bearing on the date or period of construction: deed records from 1828 and 1836, and tax records from the 1830s-1840s period. Curiously, the deed and tax records are contradictory--the deeds suggest Mount Walla was in existence in 1828 and the tax records suggest the house was built in 1840--but contradictions aside the information can be interpreted to imply that Mount Walla was built between 1820 and 1840, a period that accords well with the Federal styling of the house (especially the end of the period), as explained in the architectural analysis section of the report.

The 13.4-acre parcel presently associated with Mount Walla is part of a much larger holding assembled by John Scott beginning in 1764. Scott had moved to his Albemarle County property from Cumberland County by 1789, and some historians believe it was Scott who built Mount Walla during the 1770s or 1780s. The Scott family gave their name to Scottsville, originally known as Scott's Landing or Scott's Ferry. According to Scottsville historian Virginia Moore, the eighteenth-century community was a "little riverport run by John Scott (or two Johns, father and son) who had just built Mount Walla on a hill out of the way of floods and was busy promoting his ferry, tavern, and other business enterprises."¹

Town lots were surveyed at Scottsville in 1815 and 1818, and the town was incorporated in

¹ Wootton, "Mount Walla;" Lay, *Architecture of Jefferson Country*, 43; and Moore, *Scottsville on the James*, 36.

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Mount Walla
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Statement of Significance (continued)

1818. A year later John Scott sold a ten-acre parcel including the site of Mount Walla to James B. Holeman, who in 1821 sold 77.25 acres adjoining Scottsville to Richard Moon. Believed to be a son of William and Charlotte Moon of the Scottsville-area plantation Stony Point, Richard Moon emigrated to Bledsoe County, Tennessee as a young man and then returned to Albemarle County. As a result of his travels he was nicknamed "Tennessee Dick," and court records often record the initial T in parentheses after his name to distinguish him from another Richard Moon who died in 1819. Richard Moon petitioned the county court to build a grist mill on the Hardware River in 1823, an enterprise known as Albemarle Mills in 1828, and he owned a brick store at the ferry landing in Scottsville and considerable real estate in the town. In 1832 a Richard D. (Dinges?) Moon, presumably Tennessee Dick, served as a tobacco inspector in Scottsville.²

The property Moon purchased in 1821 adjoined his relative Littleberry Moon, who between 1816 and 1819 built a two-story brick house that stands today approximately 700 feet east of Mount Walla. Richard Moon is known to have lived on his tract adjoining Scottsville in February 1828. A deed of that year contains the earliest known reference to a dwelling that may be Mount Walla. If the house is indeed nineteenth century in date, it may have been built by Moon shortly after he acquired the site in 1821, during the period of Scottsville's early development.³

On October 8, 1836, to satisfy a debt, Richard Moon's agent Thomas Gilmer sold at public auction an 88-acre tract including "the Dwelling house of the said Richard Moon T." to Peter Field Jefferson (ca. 1785-1861), a grandnephew of President Thomas Jefferson. Tax records for the early years of Jefferson's ownership suggest that it was Jefferson, not an earlier property owner, who built the house. In 1838, the first year Jefferson's 88-acre tract appears in the tax records, the value of buildings on the parcel was given as \$0. In 1839 the value appears to have increased to \$300, and in 1840 buildings on the tract were valued at \$1,600. Tax records of the

² Albemarle County Deed Book 22, p. 2, 302, Deed Book 23, pp. 65 and 475, Deed Book 27, p. 74 Deed Book 30, p. 123; Albemarle County tax records for 1836; Woods, *Albemarle County*, 282; and Moon, "Sketches of the Moon and Barclay Families," 8-9, 55-58.

³ Albemarle County Deed Book 27, p. 74; Sandra J. and Timothy M. Small personal communication. The Littleberry Moon House at 600 Poplar Springs Road is today owned by Timothy and Sandra Small. Some accounts identify Mount Walla as Littleberry Moon's house (WPA, "Mount Walla").

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Mount Walla
Albemarle Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

era are open to considerable interpretation, however, and in the case of Mount Walla may simply have failed to record the existence of a dwelling at first. Several secondary accounts do however credit Jefferson with adding the fine Federal-style finishes to the house.⁴

Like Richard Moon, Jefferson was intimately involved in the economic life of Scottsville and vicinity. Virginia Moore described him as an "eccentric with a streak of genius in business." In 1825 Jefferson purchased from Moon a small parcel adjoining Scottsville's ferry landing, and in 1829 he purchased the ferry itself, which was still known as Scott's Ferry. Jefferson profited handsomely from the James River and Kanawha Canal, which was built through Scottsville in the mid-1830s. The canal company purchased river-front property from Jefferson and it built a road from his ferry landing to a bridge that crossed the canal. According to Moore, Jefferson made \$75,000 speculating in the scrip used to pay the canal workmen, and with fellow "river baron" John O. Lewis he owned a large share of the two hundred or so canal boats that plied the canal. Jefferson was also involved in the storage and processing of two of the region's principal crops: tobacco and wheat grain. In 1834 he built an impressive two-story brick tobacco warehouse in Scottsville, and in 1856 he (or his son Peter Field Jr.) purchased Albemarle Mills, which came to be known by the alternate name Jefferson Mills. At the time of his death he also owned a mill across the James River in Buckingham County. If, as Virginia Moore asserts, Scottsville was the largest flour market in the state during the late antebellum period, then Jefferson was well placed to profit from his milling activities.⁵

The 1850 census lists Peter F. Jefferson as a 65-year-old "farmer" living with his wife Jane (b. ca. 1785) and sons Thomas (b. ca. 1825) and Field (ca. 1830-1867). According to tradition, Peter Field Jr. ("Little Field") operated the mill on the Hardware. The census does not list the value of Jefferson's real estate (perhaps he chose not to divulge the figure). After Peter F. Jefferson's death Mount Walla and the ferry passed to his grandson, Peter Valentine Foland (1845-1915). In the 1870 census Foland listed himself as a "ferryman" and owner of \$8,000 in real estate, which from other sources is known to have included a brick store in Scottsville.

⁴ Albemarle County Deed Book 35, p. 59; Albemarle County tax records; and Stevens, *Virginia House Tour*, 88.

⁵ Albemarle County Deed Book 27, p. 74, Deed Book 28, 202, Deed Book 55, p. 81, Will Book 26, p. 245; Moore, *Scottsville on the James*, 65-66, 72; Lay, *Architecture of Jefferson Country*, 214; and WPA, "Jefferson Mills."

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Mount Walla
Albemarle Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

Living with him at Mount Walla were his wife Elizabeth (Betty) Clarke (1845-1921), two infant children, and a merchant named J. W. Straton. According to tradition, a schoolhouse stood in the yard at Mount Walla after the Civil War, perhaps for use by the Foland children who would have been school-aged during the 1870s and 1880s. The Folands are said to have named Mount Walla from a supposed Indian word meaning "high point overlooking a fertile valley."⁶

Mount Walla remained in the hands of the Foland family and their descendants until 1951. Pictorial sources from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries show a surprising regularity to the house and its surroundings through the years. The earliest source, an oil on board painting that probably dates to the mid-nineteenth century, shows the hall-parlor core of the house on an open hill top surrounded by a few shade trees, with a weatherboarded kitchen off its west gable end and a smaller building, probably the smokehouse, standing in its present location. A springhouse, now gone, may be represented downhill. The house and kitchen were virtually unchanged in 1907 when they appeared in the distance in a photograph commemorating the last crossing of the town ferry, except that the cornice, shutters, and south porch were painted a darker color than the body of the house. At that time a walkway extended downhill to a board fence that defined the southern boundary of the property, and a wood post and wire fence led uphill to the east of the house.⁷

The most detailed photograph from the period was taken as a part of the Works Progress Administration documentation of the house in 1937. The hall-parlor core remained unelaborated. Concrete steps rose to the south porch and wood steps descended from the west gable-end entrance towards the kitchen, which was outside the range of view (or already torn down). A tarpaper chickenhouse stood off the northwest corner, and beds of daffodils led in a double row downhill from the house along the course of the walkway that shows in earlier views. The WPA

⁶ Moore, *Scottsville on the James*, 97, 100; Wootton, "Mount Walla," 2; and Friedman, "High Point Views Valley." In the mid-twentieth century a variant of the name--"Mount Wallow"--gained currency. As one writer explained: "The unlovely label is said to be a facetious play by Peter Field Jefferson . . . respecting his literally wallowing in the filthy lucre produced by the Jefferson enterprises" (Stevens, *Virginia House Tour*, 88). According to one tradition, the smokehouse served as the Foland's schoolhouse (James P. Hogan personal communication).

⁷ Wootton, "Mount Walla," 2; Martin, "Mount Walla," 601-02; Moore, *Scottsville on the James*, plate 32; and ca. 1910 photograph of Scottsville in private collection.

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**Mount Walla
Albemarle Co., Va.**

Statement of Significance (continued)

write up on Mount Walla, which is largely erroneous, suggests a date of "prior to 1800" for the house.⁸

In 1951, Peter and Elizabeth Foland's daughter Harriet (Hattie) Foland Moulton (1869-1955) and other heirs sold Mount Walla and seventy acres to John A. Christoffel, and a year later Christoffel sold the property to William H. and Brady F. Brown. The Browns are known to have made some modifications to the house, hiring Tom Hale to install indoor plumbing and the stair to the basement. In 1960 the Browns sold a reduced tract of approximately thirteen acres to Henry C. Lowry. With the Browns and with Lowry, who was curator at Shadwell (Thomas Jefferson's reconstructed birthplace), Mount Walla entered its present phase as a cherished historic home. Either the Browns or Lowry made the first additions in the 1950s or early 1960s: small hip-roofed wings on the two gable ends of the house, the east appendage thought to have been constructed out of materials from a building that formerly stood in the Free Union area.⁹

In 1966 antiques dealer Mildred C. Brown acquired Mount Walla and made additional improvements to the property. She hired a Philadelphia architect to design a guest cottage, which was constructed in 1970 with timbers and floor boards from a demolished Richmond warehouse. According to a 1978 newspaper article, Brown also added Williamsburg paint colors to the interior of the main house, rehabilitated the smokehouse, added Colonial Revival brick walls and walkways, and "recultivated" the flower and boxwood gardens. Also during Brown's tenure, in 1974, the house was documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey. Mrs. Brown is remembered for her hospitality to students in the architectural history curriculum at the University of Virginia and many others with whom she shared her home and its beautiful view of the James River.¹⁰

After Mildred Brown's death in 1984 a part of her extensive collection of antiques, including the nineteenth-century painting of the house, was donated to the Daughters of the American

⁸ WPA photograph at the Library of Virginia, Richmond.

⁹ Wootton, *Mount Walla*; Stevens, *Virginia House Tour*, 88; and James P. Hogan personal communication.

¹⁰ Wootton, "Mount Walla;" Friedman, "High point views valley;" and James P. Hogan, Fletcher J. Wright III, and Jack Zehmer personal communications.

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Albemarle Co., Va.**

Statement of Significance (continued)

Revolution and curated at the DAR's Washington headquarters. Later in the 1980s Charlottesville architect Henry J. Browne designed a bedroom wing that was added to the east end of the house. The present owner, James P. Hogan, acquired the property in 1996, tapped Browne again to design a garden room addition built on the east end of the 1980s bedroom wing. Hogan made other enhancements to the property including burying power lines and clearing and landscaping a five-acre area around the house. Today Mount Walla ranks among Scottsville's more gracious historic homes.¹¹

Architectural Analysis

Although ca. 1770 is typically given as the date of Mount Walla, no architectural or documentary evidence has been uncovered to support such an early date. All visible exterior and interior features and finishes are Federal Style in inspiration (with some Greek Revival influence) or are consistent with architectural practice during the first half of the nineteenth century. The Federal decorative features may represent a thorough remodeling of an earlier house, but cryptic details such as the cut nails used to attach the floor boards in the presumably undisturbed attic spaces under the eaves (where earlier features such as hand-wrought nails would be expected to survive if the house was eighteenth century) suggest otherwise. Documentary evidence for the house tends to support a nineteenth-century date of construction, as discussed above in the historic context section.

Assuming a nineteenth-century date of construction, two scenarios seem most plausible: construction of the house by Richard Moon in the 1820s or by Peter Field Jefferson about 1840. Moon purchased the Mount Walla property in 1821 and is known to have lived somewhere on his 77.25-acre tract by 1828, presumably at the prime Mount Walla site overlooking the town and the location of Moon's many activities there. In the Jefferson scenario, Moon would have lived in an earlier and no longer extant dwelling on the property, and Jefferson would have built Mount Walla from scratch about 1840, when tax records register a significant increase in the value of buildings on the property. Historians of the house beginning with Henry C. Lowry have assumed that Jefferson remodeled the house in the Federal style. A 1964 newspaper article reported: "It was Peter Jefferson who hired an itinerant woodcarver to produce the fine mantels and moldings." The Federal style is often thought to have passed out of favor in the 1820s, but as Albemarle County architectural historian K. Edward Lay notes, the popularity of the Federal

¹¹ Martin, "Mount Walla," 532-533, 602; James P. Hogan personal communication.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

style extended beyond 1820 "by a decade or more" in rural areas such as Albemarle County. The presence of symmetrical moldings in the exterior and interior door surrounds indicate a Greek Revival influence and suggest that the home's finishes date towards the end of the ca. 1820-ca. 1840 period.¹²

Richard Moon was a well-to-do merchant, and Peter F. Jefferson was probably one of the county's wealthiest individuals in the late antebellum period. It seems odd that either of them would have built a residence as small as Mount Walla, but wealth did not always translate into architectural grandeur in traditional Virginia. Moon's neighbor and kinsman Littleberry Moon also began small, with a one-story brick hall-parlor house that later owners expanded. Another factor may have been Mount Walla's proximity to Scottsville, which in the 1820s was a newly established town with uncertain prospects. The builder of a large house in or adjacent to a town that failed would likely have been unable to recoup his investment. What Mount Walla lacked in size it compensated for with the refinement of its Federal styling.¹³

¹² Lay, *Architecture of Jefferson Country*, 107-109. It is also plausible that Jefferson remodeled a slightly earlier dwelling--perhaps a plainly finished spec house--built by Moon. Little is known about the kitchen that stood at Mount Walla into the early twentieth century, but it is not inconceivable that this building represented an earlier dwelling on the property; older houses were often retired to serve as kitchens or in other support capacities when newer houses were built.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 124.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated parcel corresponds to Albemarle County tax parcel number 13100-00-00-080A0.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated parcel correspond to the present property lines for the parcel on which Mount Walla, the smokehouse, and other resources stand.

ESMONT 5 MI. N

Mount Watha
Albemarle Co., Va.
UTM ref. (zone 17):
1. E720640 N4186480
2. E720910 N4186550
3. E720960 N4186310
4. E720660 N4186290

47°30"

4185

4184

4183

520 000

