1. NAME

COMMON: Ash Lawn
AND/OR HISTORIC: Highland

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 4 1/4 mi. NW of Rt. 705, 3 1/4 mi. SW of intersection Rt. 53.
CITY OR TOWN: Sincere vicinity (Seventh District Congressman James Kenneth Robinson)

3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
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<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
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PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertaiment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Park
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)
- Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Jay W. Johns
STREET AND NUMBER: Lee-Jackson Memorial, Inc., 405 Citizens Commonwealth Center Building
CITY OR TOWN: Charlottesville
STATE: Virginia
CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Albemarle County Court House
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Charlottesville
STATE: Virginia
CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
DATE OF SURVEY: 1960
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: D.C.
I. General Statement:

A. Architectural character: Ash Lawn is an example of a simple late-eighteenth-century cottage with mid-nineteenth century additions to the west.

B. Condition of the Fabric: Good.

II. Description of the Exterior:

A. Overall dimensions: The original part of the house is three bays long, three bays wide and one story high. It is joined to a mid-nineteenth century two-over-two central hall addition by a short wide hall serving as a parlor, which may be a portion of the original wing of the house. There is a small shed addition on the southwest corner of the old section. The slope of the terrain creates an English basement on the south side.

B. Foundations: Brick.

C. Wall construction: Clapboards, painted white. The western four rooms are of brick noggin covered with clapboard.

D. Porches: The north porch on the original portion of the house has a gable roof supported by two piers and two pilasters along the wall of the house. A shed roof covers a small two-story porch formed on the south side by the irregularities of the floor plan. A pedimented two-story portico supported by modified Tuscan columns is on the east facade of the addition. A balcony juts under the second floor doorway on this side.

E. Chimneys: Two interior end chimneys with brick stacks are in the addition. A chimney is in the connecting parlor, with a central chimney in the original portion of the house. A large brick chimney rises above the north doorway in this portion.

F. Openings:

1. Doorways and doors: The doorways on the north and south of the older portion have molded trim. Six-paneled doors open into the house. The first and second floor east doorways in the facade of the addition have three-paneled transoms, three-paneled sidelights and molded trim. The doors are four-paneled.

2. Windows: The windows in the addition have molded trim. These wooden double-hung windows have six-over-six sashes. In the older section some of the windows have a molded trim, while others have plain trim. The sash in the wooden double-hung windows varies from different sizes of four-over-four to six-over-six to nine-over-nine. The windows have shutters.

G. Roof: A gable roof with a shed extension to the south is covered with tin. The connecting passage-parlor and the cottage section share the same ridge line, although the slope differs. The addition to the east has a gable roof.

III. Description of the Interior:

A. Floor plan: The eastern addition has a two-over-two central hall plan. A wide room or passage serving as a parlor connects this to the four room square cottage. These four rooms are divided by narrow passage ways. The small southwest addition provides more hall space.

B. Stairway: A narrow enclosed single-run stair ascends in the south passageway.

C. Doorways and doors: The doorways have architrave trim and four-paneled doors.

D. Trim: A chair rail with a simple molding at the top and a baseboard with a molding at the top are found in some of the rooms. In other
7. rooms, there is only a plain baseboard.

E. Heating: There are fireplaces in every room in the old section of the house with mantels ranging from simple to elaborate styles. The more elaborate include sunbursts and reeded engaged columns, or a wide molded cornice with a plain frieze and pilasters. The simplest are made up of a plain shelf, frieze and pilasters.

IV. Site:

A. General setting: The front of the old section of Ash Lawn faces north toward Monticello which is visible from its porch. The addition facade faces east with a long row of boxwood leading from it to the marble statue of Monroe. The eastern entrance is dominated by this boxwood. Many other paths are lined with huge boxwood and additional box provide a frame for the statue by Piccirilli.

B. Outbuildings: A complex of three outbuildings stands south of the house including a gable-roofed ice house, a gable-roofed cabin with an exterior end brick chimney, and a smokehouse with a pyramidal roof.
8. SIGNIFICANCE

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| SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) | 1799 |

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Ash Lawn in Albemarle County was one of the homes owned by James Monroe, thrice governor of Virginia, Minister to France and England, Secretary of State and of War, and President of the United States from 1817 to 1825. Monroe bought the property in the late eighteenth century to be near his friends Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and William Short, and made it his home for a number of years. Monroe called this property Highland or The Highlands, and termed the house there his "cabin castle." Monroe requested a design for a house from Jefferson at several different times and Jefferson promised to supply one. It is not definitely known, however, if Jefferson contributed to the design of Highland.

The house, the western section of the present structure, was finished in 1799, and insured with the Mutual Assurance Company in 1800. This house served as Monroe's home between many absences incurred by his travels abroad and his duties to his state and country. Although Monroe retained the Highland property until 1830, he was required to spend more time in Washington, and consequently spent more of his free moments at his Loudon County estate, Oak Hill. Even though Monroe was unable to spend as much time at Highland as he would have liked, his property in Albemarle near his friends retained a special meaning to him.

Monroe sold Highland to E.A. Goodwin for $18,140 in 1830. The property was purchased later by Joseph E. Massey. The eastern section of the house was constructed about 1860. The passageway-parlor connecting the two sections of the house is probably an original wing of the Monroe house. Jay W. Johns purchased the property from the Massey heirs in 1930. Ash Lawn is presently an historic house museum administered by the Lee-Jackson Memorial, Inc. of which Johns is the founder and the president.

G.H.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files at the Alderman Library, U.V.A., Charlottesville.
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission files.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 200 acres

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff
ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 116, Ninth Street, State Office Building
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond
STATE: Virginia

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National □ State □ Local □

Name: J. A. Fishburne, Director
Title: Landmarks Commission
Date: January 16, 1973

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register
**PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. **NAME**
   - COMMON: Ash Lawn
   - AND/OR HISTORIC: Highland

2. **LOCATION**
   - STREET AND NUMBER: 0.4 mi. NW of Rt. 795, 0.8 mi. SW of intersection with Rt. 53.
   - CITY OR TOWN: Simcon vicinity
   - STATE: Virginia
     - CODE: 51
     - COUNTY: Albemarle

3. **MAP REFERENCE**
   - SOURCE:
     - U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle Simcon, Va.
   - SCALE: 1:24,000
   - DATE: 1967

4. **REQUIREMENTS**
   - TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS:
     1. Property boundaries where required.
     2. North arrow.
     3. Latitude and longitude reference.

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**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. **NAME**
   - COMMON: Ash Lawn
   - AND/OR HISTORIC: Highland

2. **LOCATION**
   - STREET AND NUMBER: 0.4 mi. NW of Rt. 795, 0.8 mi. SW of intersection with Rt. 53.
   - CITY OR TOWN: Simcon vicinity
   - STATE: Virginia
     - CODE: 51
     - COUNTY: Albemarle

3. **PHOTO REFERENCE**
   - PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
   - DATE OF PHOTO: 1972
   - NEGATIVE FILED AT:
     - Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
     - Richmond, Va.

4. **IDENTIFICATION**
   - DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
     - View from the north.
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