

VLR-4/19/88 NRHP-2/1/89

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Pine Knot
other names/site number N/A DHL File No. 02-617

2. Location

street & number VA Rt. 712 N/A not for publication
city, town XXXXXXXXXXXX Glendower X vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Albemarle code 003 zip code N/A

3. Classification

| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| | | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | 1 | 0 buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | 0 | 0 sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | 0 | 0 structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | 0 | 0 objects |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | 1 | 0 Total |

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

A. Bryan Mitchell
Signature of certifying official December 14, 1988
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC- Camp

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC- Camp

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood- weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY

Located in the vicinity of Scottsville, Pine Knot is a simple single-pile frame two-story dwelling constructed circa 1905. The building remains today as originally built, with an unfinished interior and without modern conveniences of any kind. Never intended for full-time use, the building has functioned since its construction as a rural retreat. A deep, full two-story front porch extends across the front of the facade.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Situated in a wooded tract of land in Albemarle County, Pine Knot is a simple and rustic balloon-framed dwelling built for use as a hunting lodge. Two stories in height, it is one room deep with a rectangular plan. The structure rests on unmortared stone piers. The framing, which is still exposed on the interior, is sheathed in weatherboards. Composition shingles cover the gable roof, which originally was covered with wood shake shingles. Windows are 6/6 double-hung with louvered shutters. Exterior chimneys of rough slate are located on each end elevation.

The front elevation is symmetrical, with a central entrance and a shed-roofed two-story front porch which extends across the full width of the facade. The gable roof of the principle structure meets the shed roof of the porch, thus creating a continuous roof slope which is interrupted by a central, gabled dormer. The porch roof is supported by rough tree trunks and the floor rests on stone piers. A four-paneled front door with transom is flanked by single windows on either side. Three windows on the second floor repeat this pattern of fenestration. The rear elevation has an identical pattern of windows and central door. A shed canopy is positioned above the door.

The interior is very simply finished with two end fireplaces on each floor. Mantel shelves and lower shelves flanking the fireplace opening are projecting slabs of stone. The first floor plan consists of a single rectangular room with an exposed straight stair along the rear wall. Simple partition walls divide the upstairs into simple sleeping rooms. Cot frames constructed from trees are not original features of the building, but instead were added at an unknown date by Boy Scouts.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture
Politics/Government

Period of Significance
1905-1908

Significant Dates
1905-1908

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
President Theodore Roosevelt

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pine Knot, in Albemarle County, was the Virginia country retreat of Theodore Roosevelt between 1905 and 1908, while he was president. Pine Knot served the chief executive's need for privacy, relaxation, and communion with nature--a need later filled by Camp Rapidan and, currently, by Camp David.

JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA

Pine Knot is eligible for registration under Criteria A and B. It is eligible under Criterion A because of its association with the problem of affording some measure of privacy for America's most public figure and his family. Pine Knot was the first retreat for a president in this century to be established close to the capital. Under Criterion B, the house is eligible because of its association with Theodore Roosevelt, the first conservationist to serve as president. Roosevelt, a noted outdoorsman and naturalist, used the property for hiking, hunting, horseback riding, and birdwatching--activities he deemed essential to his well-being.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Edith K. Roosevelt, the wife of President Theodore Roosevelt, purchased Pine Knot on 22 May 1905. The fifteen-acre tract, which included a two-room frame cabin, was intended by Mrs. Roosevelt to serve as a rural retreat for her nature-loving husband.

The Roosevelts first visited the property together on 9 June 1905; the president was immediately attracted to the place. He spent what was described as "a quiet, pleasant day, undisturbed by savages, wild animals, reporters or kodaks." The Roosevelts enjoyed their new property for two days, then returned to the White House.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Tarter, Brent. "Pine Knot: Theodore Roosevelt's Virginia Retreat." Virginia Cavalcade 1984), 33:186.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

VA Division of Historic Landmarks
221 Governor St.
Richmond, VA 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approx. 90 acres

UTM References

| | | | |
|---|------|-----------|-------------|
| A | 1,7 | 71,79,7,0 | 4,19,22,9,0 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C | 1,7 | 71,79,4,0 | 4,19,16,0,0 |

| | | | |
|---|------|-----------|-------------|
| B | 1,7 | 71,83,2,0 | 4,19,19,3,0 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| D | 1,7 | 71,73,5,0 | 4,19,15,6,0 |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the E side of VA 712 approx. 2700' SE of intersection of VA 712 with VA 713; thence approx. 1650' SE following E side of VA 712; thence approx. 1650' SW; thence approx. 1900' W; thence approx. 1800' NE; thence approx. 1400' NNE to point of origin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The bounds have been drawn to include the house and property historically associated with Pine Knot. The land has been acquired by the Roosevelt family for preservation through an easement donated to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| name/title | John S. Salmon, Historian & Julie L. Vosmik, Architectural Historian | date | December 1987 |
| organization | VA Division of Historic Landmarks | telephone | (804)786-3143 |
| street & number | 221 Governor St. | state | VA |
| city or town | Richmond | zip code | 23219 |

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The president and Mrs. Roosevelt came back to Pine Knot in November 1905, this time accompanied by two of their children. Other visits occurred in October and December 1906, December 1907, and May 1908. During his return to the cabin in October 1906, Roosevelt completed a draft of his annual message to Congress.

Most of Roosevelt's time at Pine Knot, however, was spent doing what he enjoyed most: hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and bird-watching. He often was accompanied in his jaunts by local blacks who served as guides and hunting companions. According to local tradition, Roosevelt once attempted to borrow the hunting dogs of a black neighbor, who refused to lend them. When Roosevelt protested that he was the president of the United States, his neighbor retorted, "I don't give a damn if you're Booker T. Washington, you can't borrow my dogs."²

Despite this incident, Roosevelt became a popular figure in southern Albemarle County, even though his visits were intermittent. Some elderly residents of the area still remember him.

Roosevelt's last visit to Pine Knot in May 1908 was particularly notable because he was accompanied by the naturalist John Burroughs. The two men respected and admired each other's scientific abilities; Roosevelt himself had published two ornithological monographs. For two days they tramped through the woods around Pine Knot, with the older Burroughs occasionally urging the president to slow his pace so as not to frighten the wildlife away. Burroughs understood and was amused by Roosevelt's enthusiasm, however, and between them the two men identified seventy-five species of birds.

Although Roosevelt left the presidency in 1909, Mrs. Roosevelt did not sell Pine Knot immediately. In 1911, in fact, she bought an adjoining tract of seventy-five acres in case he won reelection in 1912. Roosevelt was defeated, however, and never returned to Pine Knot. The property was sold by the Roosevelt family in 1941.

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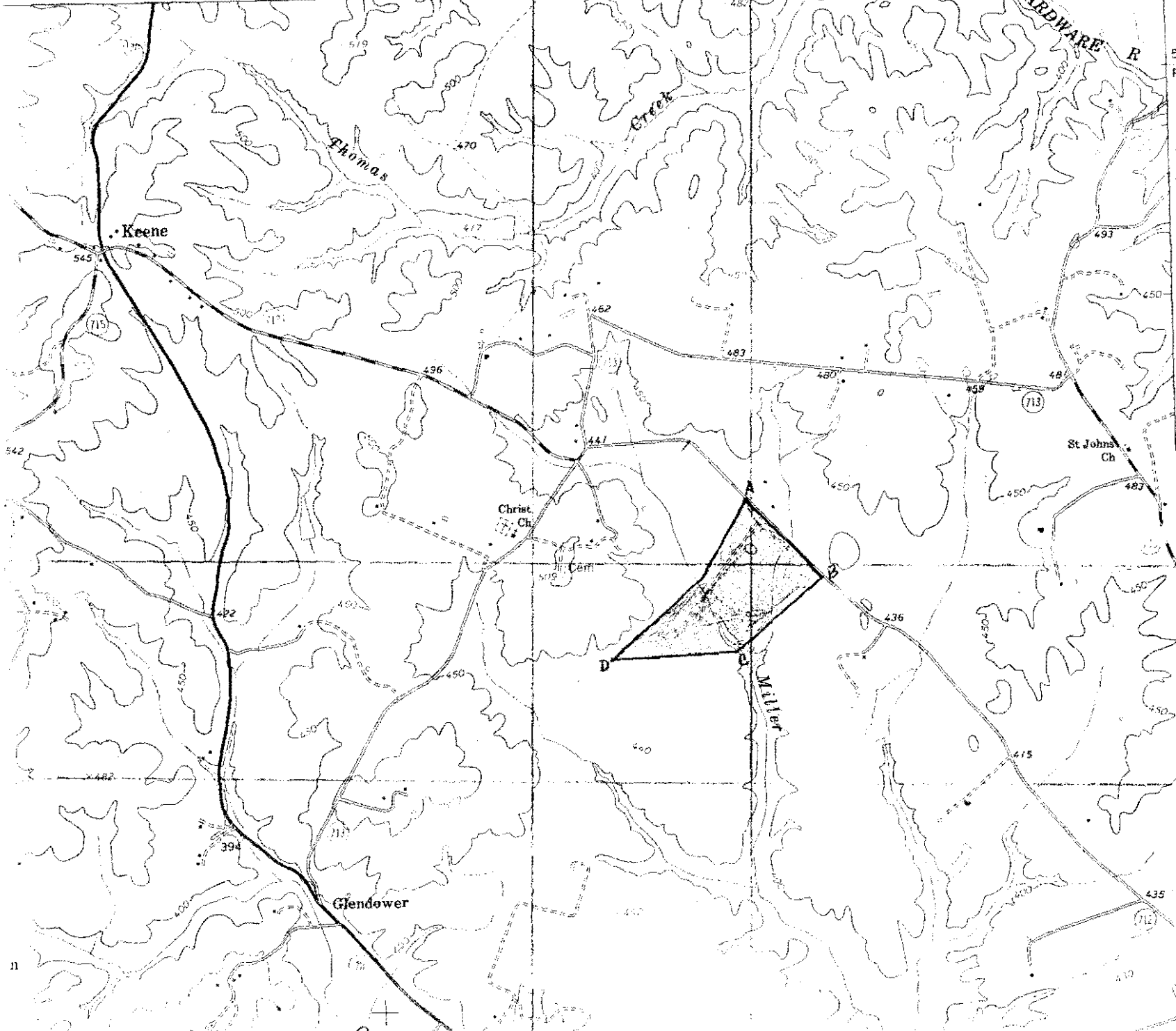
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Endnotes

1. Brent Tarter, "Pine Knot: Theodore Roosevelt's Virginia Retreat," in Virginia Cavalcade (1984), 33:186.
2. Ibid., 190.

715 716 32'30" 1 990 000 FEET 718 719 78°30' 37°52'30"



4193 02-600
 PINE KNOT
 ALBEMARLE CO., VA
 UTM References:
 A-17/717970/4192290
 B-17/718320/4191930
 4192
 C-17/717740/4191600
 D-17/717350/4191560
 Esmont, VA

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88003211

Date Listed: 2/1/89

Pine Knot
Property Name

Albemarle
County

VA
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

2/1/89
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The Criteria and Areas of Significance listed in section 8 of the form need to be clarified. The State intended to nominate the property for Criterion A (for association with the development of presidential retreats) and Criterion B (for its direct association with President Theodore Roosevelt). This is clear from the section entitled Justification of Criteria. The form, though, has checked Criteria A and C, and the areas of significance listed are Architecture and Politics/Government. In consultation with Julie Vosmik of the VA SHPO staff, the form is now amended to have Criteria A and B checked, and Criterion C and Architecture are removed as an area of significance.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)