

VLR-3-13-02  
NRHP-5-30-02

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: Monte Verde VDHR

DHR File # 028-0029

other names/site number: Mount Verde, Mt. Verde, Omnium Hill (See continuation sheet)

2. Location

street & number: 405 Monte Verde Road

not for publication ☐

city or town: Center Cross

vicinity ☐

state: Virginia code: VA county: Essex code: 057

zip code: 22437-2026

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (~~See continuation sheet for additional comments.~~)

Signature of certifying official

Date

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

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4. National Park Service Certification

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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

 1     0 buildings 0     0 sites 0     0 structures 0     0 objects 1     0 TotalNumber of contributing resources previously listed in the National  
Register \_\_\_\_\_Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic \_\_\_\_\_ Sub: Single Dwelling \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic \_\_\_\_\_ Sub: Single Dwelling \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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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: Slate Shingles

wall: Wood weatherboard

other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_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**

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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.

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

- ☐ 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 1815 - 1952

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates: 1815  
1951

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder: Joseph Janey, 1815; Joseph J. Ballentine, Jr., 1958

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 # VA-729 (1936)  
☐ 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:

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 12.78 Acres \_\_\_\_\_

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	345000	4186213	3	18	344742 4186476
2	18	344777	8186427	4	18	344846 4186476

☒ See continuation sheet.

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

## Boundary Justification

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sara Ann Lindsey

organization: Owner

date: August 1, 2001

street &amp; number: 6104 Woodmont Road      telephone: 703-329-1737 or 804-443-4136

city or town: Alexandria      state: Virginia      zip code: 22307

## 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)

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Property Owner

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

name: Douglas Griffith and Sara Ann (McMullen) Lindsey

street & number: 6104 Woodmont Road      Telephone: 703-329-1737 or 804-443-4136

city or town: Alexandria      state: Virginia    zip code: 22307

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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 Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NAME OF PROPERTY**

Joseph Janey, the builder of Monte Verde, gave that name to his house and plantation when it was fashionable to give Italian names to Virginia plantations, such as Monticello and Monte Bello. In 1832 when Janey's tombstone was chiseled in Baltimore the word Monte was spelled Mont. As time went by the community assumed this stood for mount. Therefore, the name began to be spelled Mount Verde or even Mount Vird. It was mispronounced as Mount Verd or Mount Vird. In 1951 when Lt. Colonel and Mrs. William McElveen Fleming purchased the house they were conversant enough with foreign languages to be uncomfortable with the name Mount Verde. They renamed the house Omnium Hill.

In 1936 in The Historic American Building Survey (VA 729) the house is listed as Mount Verde. In the 1970 Survey of Historic Buildings in Essex County made by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and in their 1976 Virginia Catalog (file no. 28-29) it is listed as Mount Verde and Omnium Hill.

After careful research of deeds, wills and tax records the current owners have rechristened the house with its original name, Monte Verde. Since the paved road (SR 603) to the southwest of the house was named Monte Verde Road by the State Highway Department in 1999 the original name should be perpetuated for some time.

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**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

Monte Verde, in rural Essex County, Virginia, stands on a ridge overlooking the Rappahannock River and Bowlers Wharf one and one-half miles to the northeast. The house is located on Monte Verde Road (State Route 603) that runs between U.S. Route 17 to the southwest and the river. The house is approached from the land side and sits on two acres of lawn in the southeast corner of a 12.78 rectangular tract. The house began as a modest two-story frame plantation house built in 1815 by Captain Joseph Janey. Changes made to the house over time have been sympathetic and carefully done. An antebellum one-story wing at the southeast end of the house and a one-story wing added to the northwest end of the house in 1958 repeat the English bond brick foundation and the beaded weatherboards of the 1815 house. The Federal woodwork on the interior of the main block is the original. In the two public rooms on either side of the central passage on the first floor are high-style Adam mantels with supporting colonnettes. The well preserved house maintains its historic integrity and setting. The acreage on which the house stands is still surrounded by cultivated fields and wooded ravines, as it was when the house was the seat of a much larger plantation.



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**ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS**

Monte Verde, a modest, frame, two-story, Federal plantation house, is located in rural Essex County, Virginia, on Monte Verde Road (SR 603). The road runs between U.S. 17 to the southwest and the Rappahannock River to the northeast. The house is reached by a one-half-mile pea gravel lane that runs through cultivated fields from Monte Verde road.

The house stands on a ridge overlooking the Rappahannock River and Bowlers Wharf one-and-one-half miles to the northwest. It is approached from the land side. It sits on two acres of lawn in the southeast corner of a 12.78-acre rectangular tract. The rest of the acreage is covered with forest. The house tract is still surrounded by cultivated fields and forested ravines as it was when the house was the seat of a much larger plantation.

**Exterior - 1815 section**

The 1815 section was built by Captain Joseph Janey as the seat for his Monte Verde plantation. It sits on a ridge one-and-one-half miles from the Rappahannock River. When the river was the major artery for transportation the main entrance at Monte Verde was on the northeast, or river, facade. With the advent of the automobile the main entrance was changed to the southwest, or land, facade.

There are no outbuildings on the 12.78 acres. The overseer's house, smokehouse and outside kitchen shown on an 1816 Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia policy have disappeared as have the agricultural buildings, slave quarters and school house. An 1840 barn, the Janey family cemetery begun in 1832, and a former tenant house are located on adjacent property.

The Federal 44-foot-by-20-foot, two-story frame section was completed by 1816. It has four asymmetrical bays, a center passage with entry porches at either end, and a gable roof covered with composition shingles. There are brick chimneys with offset stacks at each end of the 1815 section.

The northeast and southwest facades have four identical bays. First- and second-story windows occur above small basement windows with hand hewn crossbars in the brick foundation. There is a window over each entry porch on each side of the house. Many of the double-hung windows throughout the house retain blown-glass panes.

In 1958 paneled shutters were placed on the first-floor windows and louvered shutters on the second-floor ones. Old shutters were removed in 1951.

The original entry doors are six paneled. The two at the ends of the central passage on the first floor have rectangular transoms with four panes of blown glass. The interior doors on the first and second floors also have six panels.

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The brick chimneys at the ends of the main section are now partially covered by the end wings. A 1958 photograph taken prior to the construction of the northwest wing shows the entire chimney at that end of the house and reveals that it had beveled double shoulders. The stack rises above the roof of the wing and is offset from the house.

The original beaded weatherboards are cypress. Cypress still grows on the banks of neighboring streams. In the interior all of the woodwork and flooring is pine, the joists are oak and the planking under the roof shingles is tulip poplar. Pine, oak and poplar still grow on the property.

In 1951 the northeast and southwest entry porches were removed. The original bricks in the foundation of the river-side porch were used to build L-shaped brick steps ascending on both sides of a 7-foot-six-inch long and 3-foot- wide landing on the southwest or land-side porch. A new brick foundation for the river-side porch was covered with a wooden floor.

In 1958 architect, Joseph J. Ballentine, Jr., embellished the two entry porches. On the land side porch blackened steel handrails simulating iron were placed on the 1951 L-shaped steps. A front-gable roof, covered with slate shingles, is supported by chamfered posts consisting of a lower portion square in section and an upper portion octagonal in section. A simple wood balustrade runs between the columns.

Since the river-side porch was originally the main entrance it opens into the widest end of the central passage unencumbered by the enclosed stair that protrudes into the hall. It is the larger of the two porches and measures 14 by 8 feet. In 1958 six brick steps 6' 11" long were laid to the new river-side porch. The front-gable roof was covered with slate shingles. The roof rests on four columns, similar to those on the land-side porch. The porch is enclosed with removable glass panels and a glass storm door for year-round use.

**Interior – 1815 Section and Antebellum Wing**

The interior floor plan and the building material of the main section and the antebellum wing received only minimal modification in 1951 and 1958. The 1815 section has one room on either side of a central passage on all floors. A narrow enclosed L-shaped stair connects all four levels. It is entered from the southwest corner of the hall on each level, except in the cellar where it is entered from the southeast room.

All the spaces in the main section of the house have original 6-inch baseboards and 5-inch chair rails and original doors and windows with their frames. There is no cornice at the ceiling. The tall Adam-style mantels in the two public rooms on the first floor contrast with the chaste Federal woodwork throughout the rest of the house. The mantels are identical except that the paterae in the drawing room is concave while that in the dining room is convex. The mantels are 5 feet 3 inches tall and the mantel shelves are 15 feet 7 inches long.

The adornments on the mantels are carved in wood. Under each shelf is a row of beading underscored by an inverted dentil motif. In the center of each entablature is a horizontal-oval-patera in a sunburst design. Similar smaller vertical

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paterae are on the end blocks. Pairs of free standing colonnettes ringed with acanthus leaves flank the fireplace opening. They stand on plain rectangular plinths.

In 1951 bathrooms were added in the southwest ends of the central passage in the basement and on the second floor. In 1958 a kitchen was installed in the first floor of the antebellum wing. A door was cut in the brick foundation of the central passage in the basement into the space dug under the northeast porch. The northwest wing was constructed in 1958 and a door was cut into the new wing from the drawing room of the 1815 house.

In 1951 electrical and plumbing fixtures were installed. The walls on the first and second floors were replastered. The woodwork was scraped and repainted. The floors were scrubbed with soap and water and then shellacked. Broken windowpanes were replaced. Square iron rim locks with brass doorknobs and 3-inch brass keys were installed on the entry and interior doors. To avoid the intrusion of modern utilities and to maintain the federal character of the house the ceilings on the first floor were lowered slightly to hide electrical heating coils.

**Basement – 1815 Section**

The two-story section has four floors, including the basement and the attic. There are a series of rooms in the cellar connected by five vertically sheathed doors of varying ages. A door in the northwest room connects the cellar with the crawl space under the 1958 wing.

The 20-by-20-foot northwest cellar room has a dirt floor, brick walls and exposed pit-sawn oak joists in the ceiling. There are two small basement windows on the northeast and southwest walls.

The central passage has a brick floor laid in a herringbone pattern. The same flooring is found in the southeast cellar room and in the room under the antebellum wing. There is a door on each of the four walls of the center passage. They serve the northwest and southeast cellar rooms, a 1951 bathroom and the room under the 1958 northeast porch. The northwest and northeast walls are brick. The wall of the southeast cellar room is covered with vertical boards. The southwest wall is plastered as are the walls of the bathroom.

In reaction to the Atomic Bomb scare during the Cold War, a bomb shelter was dug under the northeast porch in 1958. To form a protective ceiling, 8 inches of concrete was laid under the existing brick floor of the porch. The southwest wall of the room is the brick foundation of the house. The other three walls are cinderblock covered on the outside by the brick foundation of the porch. The floor is made of concrete.

The 20-by-16-foot room southeast of the passage has a plastered ceiling and brick floor. There is one basement window on each of the brick walls. The L-shaped enclosed stair rises to the first floor from the southwest corner of

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the room. The stair is paneled in molded squares. The fireplace in the center of the southeast wall has a plain brick arch. The opening is 2 feet 8 inches high and 3 feet 5 inches wide, so it may never have been used for cooking. The hearth is brick. The door to the left of the fireplace opens into the cellar room of the antebellum wing.

**First Floor – Main Section**

The northwest room on the first floor of the main block has always been used as a drawing room. A high-style Adam mantel is on the northwest wall. The door to the 1958 northwest wing is to the right of it. Two large nine-over-nine sash windows on the northeast and southwest walls rise above a chair rail. The windows rise to within 3 inches of the 10-foot ceiling. The door to the central passage is in the center of the southeast wall.

The dining room is 20 by 16 feet. This southeast room is similar to the drawing room. Even the Adam mantels are similar except for the paterae. The dining room is narrower and has only one window at either end. There are doors on either side of the fireplace that open into the antebellum wing. The door on the right-hand side is a 20<sup>th</sup>-century four-paneled door. The window on the southwest wall was moved two feet to the southeast by a previous owner to accommodate a Victorian china cupboard.

**Second Floor – Main Section**

On the second floor there is a bedroom on either side of what was originally the central passage. In 1951 a bathroom was put in the southwest end of the passage leaving a small rectangular hall between the two bedrooms. There are identical plain mantels in both bedrooms and closets on either side of the fireplace. In 1958 Japanese Shoji sliding doors backed with rice paper were installed. In 1985 a thin layer of plywood was placed in front of the latticework.

**Attic – Main Section**

The stair to the attic is entered through the bathroom. In the attic, old vertical-board doors open to rooms on each side of the landing. The original HL iron hinges at the tops of the doors and H hinges at the bottoms are still in use. The unfinished pine floorboards are 10 feet wide. There is a small double-hung window northeast of the chimney in each room.

The northeast attic room is as large as the northwest bedroom, hall and bathroom on the second floor. Plaster was removed from the ceiling in 1951 revealing tulip poplar planking under the roof shingles. Oak joists are joined by mortises and tenons. The plaster in the southeast room is crumbling exposing hand split laths.

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**Antebellum Wing**

The one-story, one-bay antebellum wing with its metal shed roof repeats the brick foundation and the beaded weatherboard of the original house and is the same depth as the house. Tradition maintains it was built for use as a pantry.

The cellar room has brick walls and a herringbone-patterned brick floor. There is a small double-hung window with cross bars on each facade. A door connects it to the main section and another door leads to the 1958 exterior steps. A green house was built over the steps in 1958.

The first floor of the wing is level with the first floor of the main block. In 1958 a modern kitchen with outside wooden landing and steps was installed in the northeast end of the wing and a window was placed over a sink on the southeast wall.

On the exterior of the wing the pantry/eating space is unidentifiable from the rest of the wing. But on the interior there are puzzling clues. On the kitchen side of the door between the kitchen and the pantry/eating space there are iron brackets on which to slide a bar. The wall that separates the two spaces is made of 10-inch vertical boards. The other three walls are covered with 2-inch vertical beaded boards. These 2-inch boards and a four-paneled door to the dining room are 20th-century materials.

An early 20<sup>th</sup>-century photograph reveals some clues. It shows a small open porch occupying the space of the pantry/eating room. The iron brackets inside the present kitchen were used to bar the porch door from the inside. When the porch was enclosed, beaded weatherboards from the main house were used on the outside of the enclosure. A double-hung-sash window was placed in the southwest wall of the wing and a door was cut into the dining room.

**1958 Wing**

In 1958 the three-bay gable-roofed northwest wing was built. The wing has two rooms: a bedroom/library and a long narrow bathroom/dressing room/laundry. Both rooms run the 20-foot width of the main block. The floor of the wing is 19 inches below the level of the drawing room and, therefore, is entered by a landing and three steps to the left of the fireplace in the bedroom. The corresponding open space to the right of the fireplace has cupboards under ceiling-high library shelves. There are two windows on the northeast and southwest walls. The two doors at the ends of the northwest wall enter into the bathroom. There is a crawl space in the cellar.

The interior of the wing replicates the 10-foot ceilings, the woodwork and plaster walls of the house. The pine flooring and mantel were rescued from a Federal house demolished in Fredericksburg. The mantel has diamonds under the shelf and fluted pilasters. The hearth and surrounds are brick painted black.

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**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Monte Verde, in rural Essex County, Virginia, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture. Its 1815 center section built by Captain Joseph Janey is characteristic of the two-story, weatherboard, gable-roof houses built in rural and urban areas in Virginia in the Federal period. These were once numerous in eastern Virginia, but now constitute a much smaller group. Few of them have been so sympathetically preserved as Monte Verde. The survival of almost all of its original interior trim, floors and stairs gives an unusually complete picture of the construction and simple ornamentation of early Federal plantation houses. Only minimal modifications have been made to the exterior and interior of the central-passage-plan main section. A one-story, one-bay, frame, antebellum wing on the southeast is thought to have been built as a pantry. The 1958 one-story, three-bay, gable-roof, frame wing on the northwest and the entry porches were designed for Lt. Col. and Mrs. William McElveen Fleming by Joseph J. Ballentine, Jr., an architect from Fredericksburg. The exterior and interior of both wings reflect the style of the main house and employ sympathetic designs and materials, but can be easily distinguished from the original portion of the house.

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**Historical Background**

On 20 December 1815 Captain Joseph Janey purchased 793 acres in Essex County, Virginia, from William and Sarah Smith. He named the property Monte Verde and built the house on it. Before his death in 1832 he had added to his holdings Bowler Plantation to the northwest and Corbin Hill Plantation to the southeast. The house at Monte Verde became the seat for 2,400 contiguous acres that began at the shoreline of the Rappahannock River.

On 17 July 1816 Janey insured a two-story, 44-foot by 20-foot house; an overseer's house; a smokehouse and an outside kitchen with the Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia. The outbuildings are no longer standing. In the 1816 Essex County Land Tax Book Monte Verde was valued at \$2,051.85. In 1818 the value rose to \$3,872.87.

Janey's main business interest was an import-export business at Bowlers Wharf. Therefore, in 1815 he hired James Dyke to oversee the plantation and what would eventually number 54 slaves. Corn and wheat were the cash crops. In the 1832 inventory at the time of Janey's death there were 47 head of cattle, 40 sheep and 50 hogs, as well as horses, mules and oxen. Janey's estate also included 1,666-2/3 acres in Kentucky, indicating that he, like other Tidewater planters bought property in the west to replace lands depleted by the growing of tobacco.

According to his tombstone in the Janey Cemetery on property adjoining the 12.78 acres of Monte Verde, Joseph Janey emigrated from France in 1790. In 1806 he purchased a 1-1/4 lot at Bowlers Wharf on the Rappahannock River. He established an import-export business in conjunction with his brother, Claude, and sister, Mary de Baille, who remained in France. His American business associate, Edmund Macon Ware, continued to operate the business for the French relatives when Janey died in 1832.

Janey was part owner of two schooners that sailed to the West Indies: the *Mary Foster* and the *Napoleon*. However, his personal wealth and that of the company were greatly enhanced in the 1820s when steamships began regular runs from Baltimore to Fredericksburg and Bowlers Wharf became a scheduled stop. When Janey died his executor was bonded for \$200,000 and 98 people owed his estate money.

He became a naturalized citizen in 1796. In the War of 1812 he was a Captain in the Sixth Regiment of the Essex County Militia. He led his troops to the Potomac River where they fired on British gunboats. He also served as a Justice of the Peace and a School Commissioner in Essex County.

In 1816 when he completed the house at Monte Verde Janey married Adelaide Garland, the widow of William Griffin Garland. She had a daughter, Virginia, by her first marriage but no children by Janey.

When Janey died in 1832, he left his personal property and personal real estate to his widow. When she died in 1849 the 2,400 acres was divided between her daughter, Virginia, and the daughter's children from the first two of her three marriages.

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The house and the original 793 acres of Monte Verde were left to a granddaughter, Adelaide Lorimer, who married Cosmos Gordon whose family owned Kenmore in Fredericksburg. Their daughter, Adelaide Janey Gordon, is buried in the Janey cemetery.

In 1857 the Gordons sold Monte Verde to Robert L. Hipkins and between 1857 and 1875 Hipkins's trustees divided the 793 acres into four sections. John Henshaw Clarkson from Middlesex County bought 2 noncontiguous pieces: the one with the house and one at Center Cross. He also purchased Corbin Hill and continued to farm. He was part owner of a local mill with the Newbills of neighboring Ashdale Plantation.

In 1896 Clarkson's widow and children sold the house and 155 ½ acres to Clayton Stafford, a widower from New Jersey, who bought more land and continued agricultural activities. In 1947 the house and 138 acres were sold on the Courthouse steps to George and Julia Boughan by a committee for Clayton Stafford. Two years later in 1949 Fred Lemuel Garrett, Jr., bought out the Boughans. He divided the 138 acres with a neighbor, Eugene Garrett, but he kept the house and stored lumber in it. This is the only time the house was not used as a family dwelling.

Through the Garrett ownership the house became associated with the watermen of the Chesapeake Bay region. The Garrett family received the second license issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia to seed oysters in the river.

In 1951 Lt. Colonel and Mrs. William McElveen Fleming purchased the house on 12.78 acres. They added a wing on the northwest end, respecting the architecture of the main house and made other alterations to the property. In 1985 Douglas Griffith Lindsey and his wife, Sara Ann McMullen Lindsey, purchased the house and the 12.78 acres from Mrs. Fleming. They live in Alexandria, Virginia and use Monte Verde as a year-round rural family retreat.



**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Bible of Edmund Macon Ware.** Property of Betsy and Neill Ware. Dunnsville, Virginia.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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	Zone	Easting	Northing
5.	18	345106	4186320
6.	18	345092	4186259

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Monte Verde is identified as parcel 53-188B on the tax parcel maps for Essex County, Virginia.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary includes the house and the 12.78 acre-parcel on which it stands, the historic house tract of the early Monte Verde plantation.

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Essex County, Virginia**

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

The following information is common to all photographs:

Property: Monte Verde, DHR File # 028-0029  
Location: Essex County, Virginia  
Photographer: John G. Zehmer, Va. Dept. of Historic Resources  
Date: 2001  
Negative filed: VA Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA  
Negative Number: 19537

Photograph 1 of 7: Northeast façade (river front)

Photograph 2 of 7: Southwest façade (land front)

Photograph 3 of 7: West chimney

Photograph 4 of 7: Foundation and basement window

Photograph 5 of 7: First floor, center hall

Photograph 6 of 7: First floor, drawing room

Photograph 7 of 7: First floor, dining room

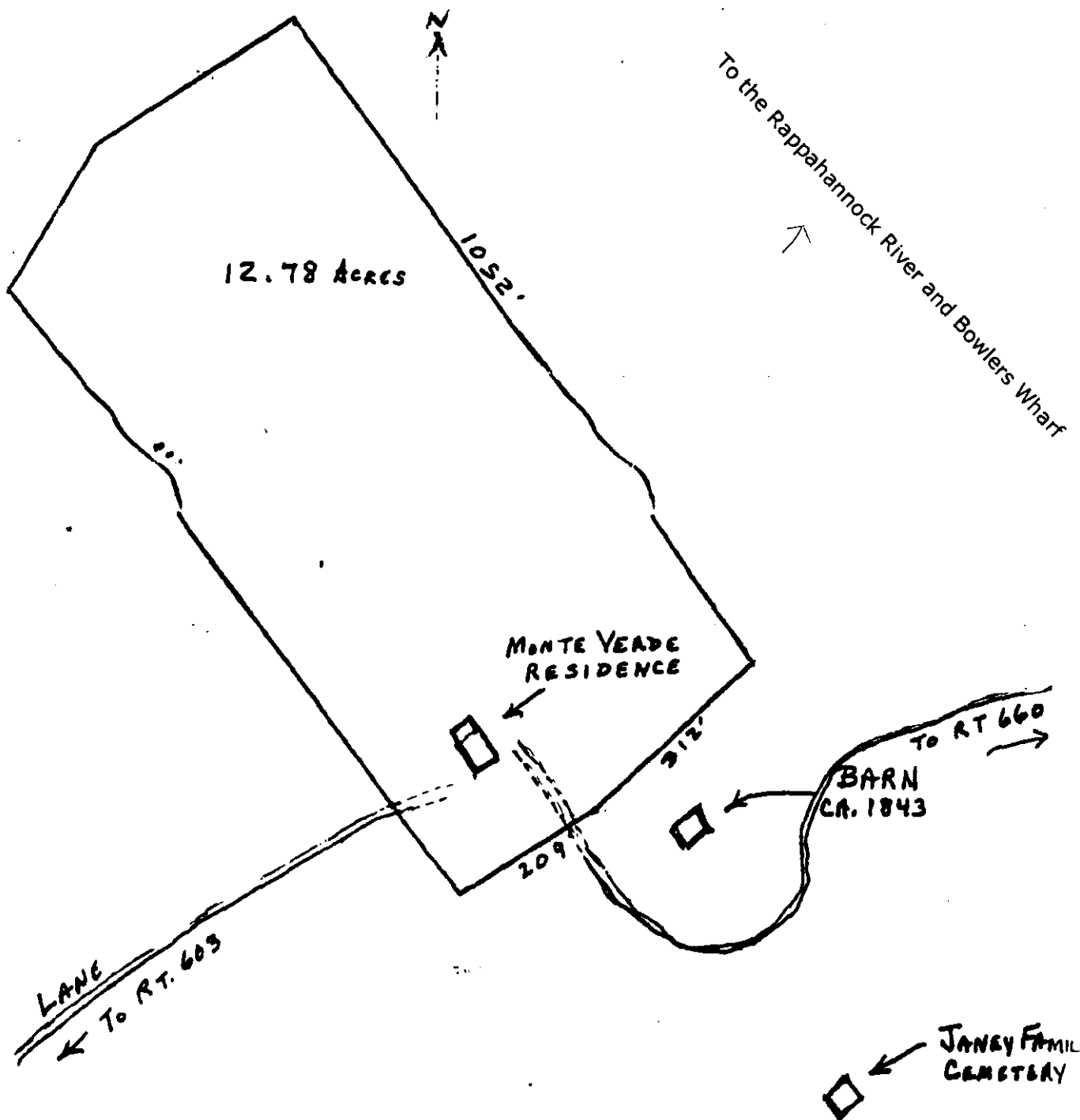
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Monte Verde

Essex County, Virginia

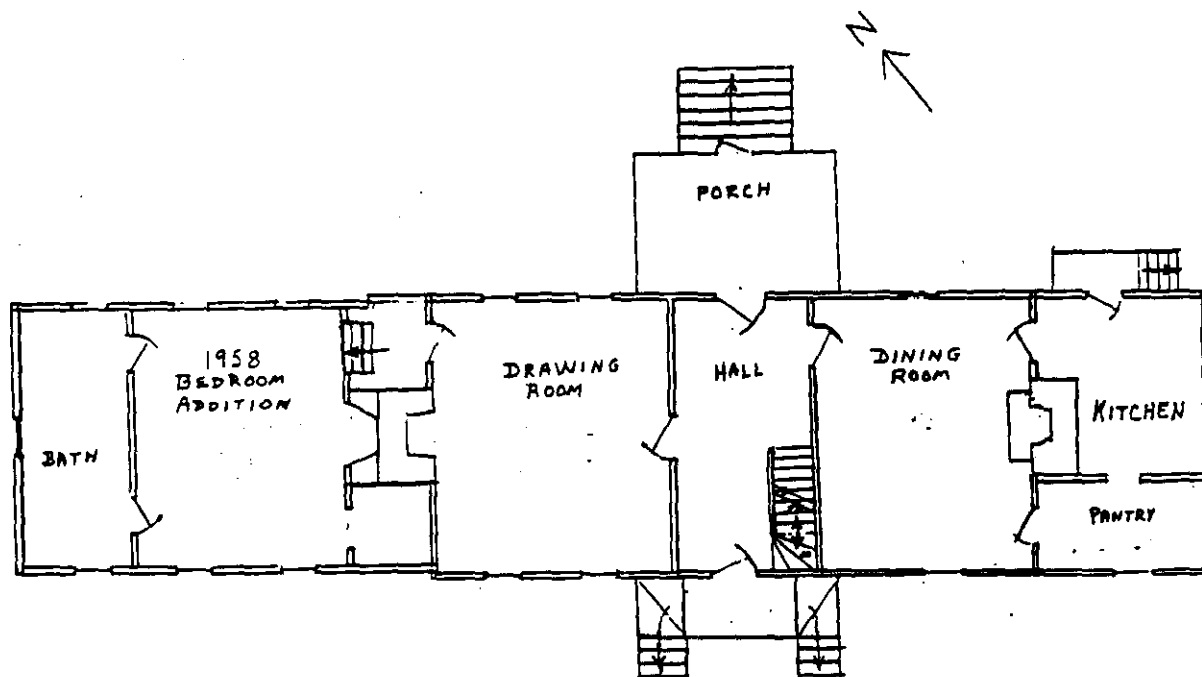
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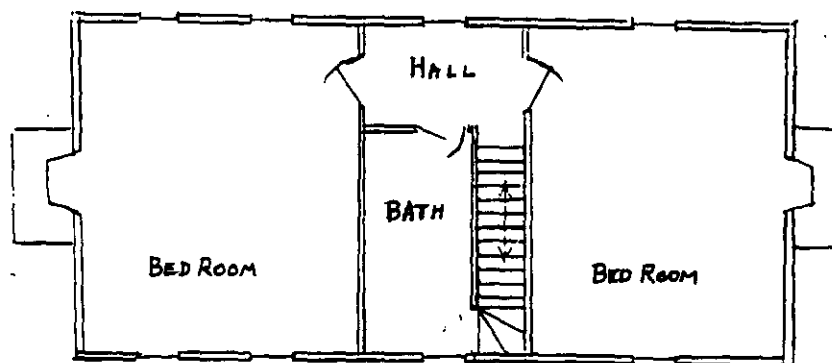
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Monte Verde  
Essex County, Virginia

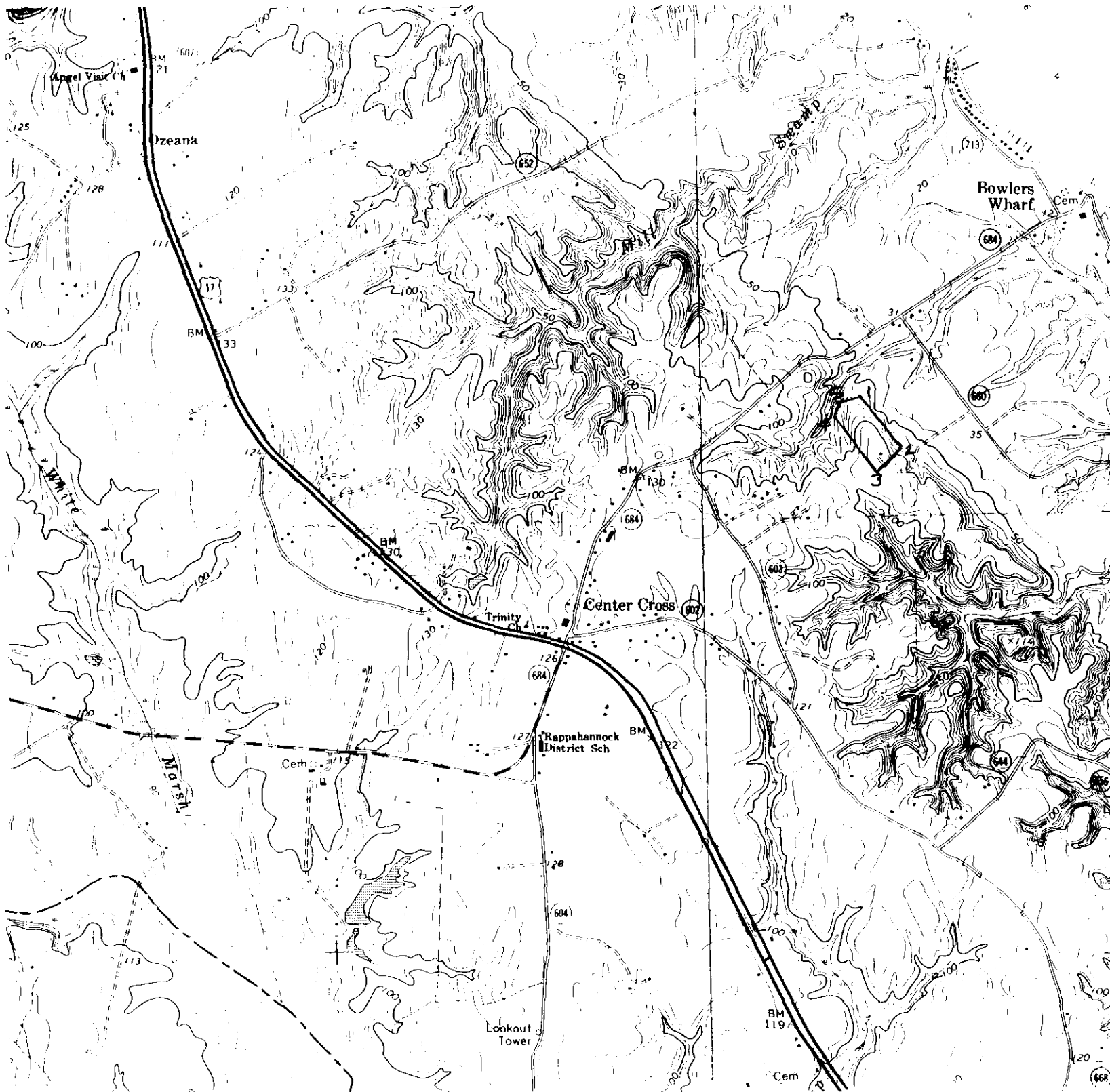
Section Floor Plan Page 15



First Floor



Second Floor



Monte Verde  
Essex Co., VA  
UTMs

1. 18/344750/4186550
2. 18/344930/4186310
3. 18/344820/4186210
4. 18/344620/4186460
5. 18/344660/4186530

DUNNSVILLE  
QUAD

#26-29