

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

Listed  
VLR: 6/16/2016  
NRHP: 8/15/2016

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Belle Plaine  
Other names/site number: DHR# 056-5043  
Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 2488 S. James Madison Highway  
City or town: Locust Dale State: VA County: Madison  
Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  X

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local  
Applicable National Register Criteria:  
X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of certifying official/Title:** **Date**  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of commenting official:** **Date**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Title:** **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Animal Facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Processing

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Field

FUNERARY: Cemetery

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Animal Facility

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

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

OTHER: Log Frame

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD; BRICK; METAL; GLASS

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Belle Plaine is a large, late-18<sup>th</sup>-century agricultural property situated in the rural landscape of southeastern Madison County, Virginia. The 212.338-acre farm is more particularly located on U.S. Route 15 (James Madison Highway) approximately 1.0 mile south of the community of Locust Dale. The property's main house is an evolved late-18<sup>th</sup>/early-19<sup>th</sup>-century, Federal-style, frame dwelling situated on a low rise near the northeastern corner of the tract. The dwelling's main block includes a central two-story, double-bay section flanked by a one-story, single-bay addition on the west and a one-and-a-half-story, double-bay section on the east. The latter incorporates all, or portions of, an earlier one-room, log dwelling erected possibly as early as the 1760s as evidenced by the presence of hewn, pine-log framing in the ceiling, walls, and floor. The house's rectangular plan is oriented east-west with its primary elevation facing south. Each component has a continuous brick foundation, beaded weatherboard siding, and a side-gable roof clad in standing-seam metal. A brick walkway runs northward from the driveway to the single-bay main entrance on the two-story section's east bay. This core footprint was later expanded during the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> centuries by several one- and two-story frame additions. Surrounding the main house is an assortment of contributing outbuildings of varying age, form, and function. Among these are four 19<sup>th</sup>-century, frame dependencies (smokehouse, corncrib/granary, tack house, and formerly detached kitchen), a 1909 wash house, and an early-20<sup>th</sup>-century frame garage/shed. There is also a contributing 1920s secondary dwelling situated near the east side of the farm tract. Additional contributing resources include a 1950s metal barn, 1950s grain bin and a 1950s artificial pond. There are four noncontributing buildings, a late-20<sup>th</sup> century hay barn/shelter, two late-20<sup>th</sup> century sheds, and late-20<sup>th</sup> century horse stable. In addition to these built resources, there are also two previously unrecorded cemeteries (including

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one associated with the property's former African-American inhabitants), both of which are contributing sites. A potential Civil War-era encampment and related earthwork also have been identified on the property. Though the Belle Plaine main house has undergone several expansions and alterations over time, as has the agricultural complex, the property as a whole remains in good condition and retains sufficient overall integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association to convey its historic and architectural significance. The main house is an excellent example of a vernacular adaptation of the Federal style to a rural setting and incorporates one of only a few known examples of late-18<sup>th</sup>-century log-frame architecture in Madison County.

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## Narrative Description

### Setting

The surrounding landscape retains a strong rural character marked by an undulating terrain of mostly open fields bounded by a waterway known as Great Run on the north and a densely wooded area to the east. Belle Plaine retains open agricultural fields across most of its expanse, with woodlands flanking Great Run where it traverses the northern end of the property. A gravel driveway leads from U. S. Route 15 (James Madison Highway) into Belle Plaine, passes through the property's main complex, and terminates at the 1920s secondary dwelling, which stands near the property's eastern boundary. A short distance from the secondary dwelling is the location of a potential Civil War encampment and earthwork. The Welch family cemetery is located northwest of the main complex and south of Great Run, while the African-American cemetery is located close to the property's southern boundary in the midst of agricultural fields. Roughly in the property's center and south of the main complex are the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century artificial pond, brain bin, and metal barn.

### Main House, Contributing Building

#### Exterior

The Belle Plaine property's main house is a Federal-style frame dwelling erected in the late-18<sup>th</sup>/early-19<sup>th</sup> century. It is situated on a low rise in the northeastern quadrant of the 212.338-acre tract with its rectangular-shaped plan oriented east-west and its primary elevation facing south. The house is set back some distance from the driveway and is surrounded by a lawn of manicured grass. A number of mature trees are visible to the north and a line of landscaped shrubs grows along the front of the main building. The house and yard are bordered on the east, north, and west by a white picket fence and on the south by a low, brick retaining wall.

#### *Main Block*

The Belle Plaine main house reflects several distinct periods of construction, reportedly beginning with an original, one-room, log dwelling erected possibly as early as the 1760s. The main block, which includes the two-story, two-bay section and its adjoining one- and one-and-a-half-story wings, dates from the late-18<sup>th</sup> to the early-19<sup>th</sup> century. The raised brick foundation beneath the central two-story portion is set in a five-to-one (5:1) common bond pattern that

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contains a full unfinished basement. The foundations beneath the two east- and west-adjoining sections are also continuous brick with the west-end addition's slightly raised to accommodate a crawl space. All three sections are wood-framed with beaded weatherboard siding. It should be noted that the presence of hewn, pine-log framing in the ceiling, walls and floor of the one-and-a-half-story, east-adjoining section suggests this may very likely be an original log dwelling that oral history maintains was erected on the property in the 1760s (Dove 1975:319; Hill 2015). Moreover, additional, hewn-log framing members visible along the east wall of the two-story section's basement ceiling further suggests that the earlier log dwelling may have extended several feet westward, into the two-story portion's existing footprint. If so, then it would appear that when the latter was added sometime in the late-18<sup>th</sup> or early-19<sup>th</sup> century, it incorporated a portion of the earlier building's log framing.

All three of the main block's sections are topped by a side-gable roof sheathed in standing-seam metal. The side-gable roof over the one-and-a-half-story, east-side portion (believed to be the dwelling's oldest section) is slightly steeper than the other two with two symmetrically placed, gable-end dormers on the south slope and a single, larger, gable-end dormer centered on the rear (north) slope. There is a large, interior, brick chimney at the west end of the two-story section and a second interior brick chimney at the east end of the east-adjoining, one-and-a-half-story section. Each has a corbelled cap, and both were originally exterior-end chimneys later enclosed by subsequent additions.

The main entrance is marked by a one-story, single-bay porch covering the eastern bay of the two-story section's primary (south) façade. The porch's wood frame is tied into the dwelling's brick foundation at the rear and sits atop a set of brick steps in front. The Hardiplank decking is a recent replacement. Covering the porch is a hipped roof supported by two square, wood columns. The exterior wood entry door has a 12-pane, glass section above a solid bottom panel. Behind this is a paired set of narrow, three-panel, wood doors topped by a four-pane transom window.

There are three secondary entrances on the house's main block. The first is centered on the east-adjoining, one-and-a-half-story section's primary (south) elevation. A small flat roof extends out over a short brick stoop flanked by simple metal railings. The roof is clad in standing-seam metal and supported at the rear by two elaborately scrolled, metal brackets. Centered at the back of the stoop is an exterior wood door with a six-pane glass section at top and a solid panel at bottom. This opens to a large, interior, six-panel, wood door. Early-20<sup>th</sup>-century photographs of the house show the porch with two additional square columns positioned interior to the two corner supports and a set of concrete steps. The former were removed sometime prior to 1930 and the steps sometime later. The next secondary entrance is set within a one-story, single-bay, frame addition on the east side of the two-story section's rear (north) elevation. This small addition was originally a rear porch, but was enclosed in the late-20<sup>th</sup> century. A brick stoop near its west end (which sits on a raised, brick foundation) leads to an exterior wood door similar to that of the main entrance that opens to an interior set of double-leaf doors. The latter were originally installed on the rear (north) façade of the adjoining two-story section. They were kept and then reinstalled when this rear addition was enclosed. The third secondary entrance is marked by a

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wood, vertical-plank door located at ground level on the west side of the one-story rear addition. This opens to a set of steps that descend down to the basement.

A number of the main block's original, double-hung, wood window sash have been replaced with six-over-six (6/6), double-hung, aluminum-clad wood units with true divided lights. The windows on the block's primary (south) elevation are symmetrically arranged with a single window centered on the one-story, west-end portion, three on the two-story section (two on the upper floor and one on the first floor just west of the front porch), and two on the east-end wing (one on either side of the entrance). All are flanked by wood louvered shutters. The gabled dormers on each side of the east-end section's upper half-story also contain six-over-six, double-hung units. Fenestration on the rear (north) elevation follows a pattern similar to that described on the south façade, though no shutters are present. There is a single six-over-six (6/6) sash window with shutters centered on the first floor of the block's west elevation and another without shutters on the south side of the east-end section's east elevation. A smaller, four-over-four (4/4), double-hung wood sash window is visible at the attic level, near the gable peak of the two-story section's east elevation and the west elevation of the west-end addition. Both appear to be original. So too, do the two small, fixed, four-pane, wood-frame attic windows visible on either side of the chimney on the west elevation. There are three additional windows along the two-story section's raised foundation, including two fixed, six-pane, wood-frame units on the north elevation and a fixed, rectangular-shaped, two-pane unit near the west end of the north facade.

### ***Additions***

As noted, the house's main block was expanded over time, beginning with a two-story, two-bay, section erected at the east end of the dwelling's main block. This two-story addition has a continuous brick foundation, a wood frame clad in beaded weatherboard siding, and a front gable roof sheathed in standing-seam metal. As evident from a 1930s photograph of the building, the eastern half of the first floor historically housed a single-bay porch that was enclosed sometime in the early-20<sup>th</sup> century. Fenestration consists of one double-hung wood window sash with flanking wood louvered shutters on the first and second floor of the south façade and two more without shutters symmetrically arranged on the ground floor of the east façade. Each sash is six-over-six (6/6) and covered by an exterior storm window. The two windows present on the east elevation's upper floor have two-over-two (2/2), double-hung, wood sash.

The dwelling's footprint was further expanded in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by several one-story, frame additions on the rear (north) side of the building. The first of these was a two-bay section added to the rear (north) elevation of the main block's one-and-a-half story, east-side wing that expanded an interior kitchen and provided an enclosed rear porch entry. This was followed by another two-bay, shed-roofed section and a smaller, rear-adjointing, square addition on the north elevation of the late-19<sup>th</sup>-century, two-story addition. Both have weatherboard siding and a standing-seam metal roof. The smaller addition was constructed to connect with a 19<sup>th</sup>-century, one-story, detached kitchen, incorporating it into the larger building footprint. The latter has a brick foundation supporting a wood frame sheathed in weatherboard siding and a side-gable roof

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clad in standing-seam metal. A narrow, exterior-end, brick chimney extends up the former dependency's north elevation. At the other end of the house, a small, shed-roofed, frame addition was constructed on the upper floor of the main block's two-story section to house a bathroom. This element is centered on the rear elevation and supported by a single, tall, brick pier and the west end of the rear entry addition on the floor below. As previously noted, a one-story, porch addition that was added at some point to the rear (north) elevation of the block's central, two-story section, was enclosed in the late-20<sup>th</sup> century. It was also extended eastward a few feet to accommodate an interior, rear hallway that connects to an east-adjointing, rear-kitchen addition. The now-enclosed porch has a raised brick foundation, weatherboard siding, and a shed roof clad in standing-seam metal. The rear entry door is positioned on the west end and a fixed, rectangular-shaped, four-pane, wood sash window is visible just under the roof edge at the east end.

The most recent expansions include a one-story, screened porch erected at the east end of the building in the 1980s and a one-story, shed-roofed addition on the rear (north) elevation of the core section's one-story, west-end addition, which was completed in the summer of 2015.

## **Interior**

### ***Basement Level***

A full, unfinished basement underlies the central two-story section of the house's main block. This space is accessed via a set of wood steps located beneath a staircase in the first-floor entry hall that descend northward along the basement's east wall. A large, vertical-plank door situated near the northeast corner of this space provides exterior access via a set of concrete steps that descend from ground level at the rear (north side) of the house. The floor is poured concrete throughout, and most of the brick walls are covered in grey paint. The eastern one-third of this level is sectioned off by frame partition walls clad in sheetrock, save for a narrow hallway that extends along the south wall from the bottom of the stairs. The walls were added by the property's current owner sometime after 1980 (Hill 2015). The remaining two-thirds of this level comprise one open space containing a furnace and other miscellaneous equipment. The ceiling in this area is clad in grey-painted, mineral-fiber panels. There is a brick- and stone-lined firebox topped by a jack arch centered on the west wall that, according to oral history, was used for cooking during the early-19<sup>th</sup> century. Oral history also maintains that a stone masonry chimney originally extended up the two-story section's west elevation, which was later replaced by the existing brick chimney (Dove 1975:319; Hill 2015). The stone visible in a portion of the back wall of the firebox may be a remnant of this earlier element. Rectangular openings situated near the top of the west wall in the basement's northwest and northeast corners, respectively, provide access to crawlspaces beneath the one-story, west-end addition and the two-story section's first-floor, rear entry addition.

The ceiling in the frame-walled section in the eastern one-third of this level is exposed, revealing hewn, pine-log framing members likely associated with the property's original, possibly 1760s log dwelling. Several hewn logs extend in a north-south direction nearly the full length of the basement. Two intersecting logs visible beneath the stairs exhibit mortise-and-tenon joinery.

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Portions of each log appear to be whitewashed, and their top and bottom sides hewn flat. There are also crawlspace openings near the south end of the east wall and the east end of the north wall.

### ***First Floor***

The first-floor spaces in the main block exhibit restrained Federal-style elements and detailing throughout, including chair rails, 6-inch base boards with a single bead at top, six-panel wood doors with molded door surrounds, and elaborately carved, wood mantels. The flooring in each room is narrow plank pine that is said to have been milled from trees harvested on the Belle Plaine property (Hill 2016). With the exception of the parlor space in the block's two-story section, all of the original plaster-and-lath in the first- and second-floor rooms has been removed and replaced with sheetrock by the current owner due to advancing deterioration.

The front entrance opens into a wide entry hall with a wood, closed-string staircase situated along the east wall that ascends to the second floor. The latter has a rounded handrail, simple square balusters, and a square newel post topped by a turned cap. Wood paneling covers the wall space beneath the steps and a drop finial is visible in the ceiling near the north end of the staircase. A door on the north side of the staircase leads to the basement steps. The stairs were reconfigured slightly by the current owners sometime in the 1980s. The change included the installation of a small landing at the midpoint to provide access to a bedroom space in the upper half-story of the main block's east-adjointing section. The staircase has a rounded handrail, simple square balusters, and a square newel post topped by a turned cap. Wood paneling covers the wall space beneath the steps. Additional details include a simple chair rail, a narrow band of crown molding, and a modest votive-style chandelier that hangs from the center of the ceiling.

An open doorway in the west wall of the entry hall leads to the west-adjointing parlor. This is a large space with high ceilings and narrow-plank pine flooring. The ceiling and walls are finished in the house's only surviving original plaster-and-lath. Additional details in this room include a simple, molded, chair rail, beaded baseboards, and the same narrow band of crown molding as that described in the entry hall (the hall and parlor are the only two spaces on this level with crown molding). The fireplace centered on the west wall of the room has a brick hearth, a replacement brick firebox, and the house's most elaborately designed, Federal-style wood mantel. The latter incorporates square, molded pilasters supporting a molded top shelf, and classical detailing, such as dentils and a carved frieze trim.

A six-panel wood door in the southwest corner of the parlor opens into a bedroom housed in the main block's one-story, west-end section. The space features pine wood flooring, a chair rail with a molded cap, beaded baseboards, and a fireplace on the room's west wall. The latter has a brick hearth, a replacement firebox, and a more modestly detailed, Federal-style mantel designed with molded square pilasters supporting a projecting, molded top shelf.

At the north end of the entry hall, an open doorway topped by a four-pane transom window (similar to the one over the front door) leads to the previously described rear entry addition. The

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paired set of narrow, three-panel, wood doors on the north wall of the rear addition were originally installed beneath the transom window, but were removed, saved, and reinstalled following the expansion. The doors are framed by a fluted surround with bulls-eye corner blocks and secured with an interior bar and box lock. The rear-entry addition may also date to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, but has been reconfigured over time. A short extension was added to accommodate a short hallway and set of steps that provide interior access to an east-adjointing kitchen space. Other changes include the conversion of a closet into a small half-bath and the replacement of portions of the pine wood flooring.

A door on the east side of the entry hall, just north of the staircase, leads to steps down into a dining room located on the first floor of the one-and-a-half-story, east-side wing. The space features plain chair rails with a flat cap, simply molded door surrounds, an unfinished, narrow-plank pine floor, and exposed ceiling joists. The latter are square, saw-cut, pine timbers that, according to the present owner, were harvested from the property. Lines of small holes along the underside of each timber indicate where a plaster-and-lath ceiling had once been secured. The room's fireplace is centered on the east wall. As was the case in the other described rooms, it has a brick hearth, a replacement firebox, and a Federal-style wood mantel that has been stripped of its paint finish. The mantel incorporates modest classical details like two fluted pilasters supporting a molded top shelf. A large, four-paneled, wood entry door centered on the south wall is secured with a cast-iron rim lock.

As previously discussed, this section of the house very likely either began as, or incorporates portions of, the property's original, possibly 1760s log dwelling. During a recent renovation of this space (involving the removal of deteriorating plaster-and-lath), the owner noted large pine framing timbers in the ceiling and walls. In addition, the existing flooring is believed to have been laid over an earlier, wide-plank, pine floor secured with wood pegs that also likely dates to the possibly 1760s log dwelling (Dove 1975; Hill 2015). When the west-adjointing, two-story addition was constructed in the late-18<sup>th</sup>/early-19<sup>th</sup> century, this space was updated with Federal-style features (e.g., chair rails, fireplace mantel). A narrow staircase that once ran along the west wall (which led to a loft space above the log dwelling's main living space) was also removed around this time.

### ***First Floor Level, Additions***

A doorway centered on the north wall of the east-side addition's dining room leads to a kitchen and breakfast nook at the rear side of the house. A second doorway located in the northeast corner of the dining room opens into a large living room housed in the bottom floor of the east-adjointing, two-story addition erected in the late-19<sup>th</sup> century. A staircase along the west wall of this space provides access to the bedroom directly above and the bedroom space in the upper half-story of the main block's east-end section. A doorway in the northwest corner of the living room leads back to the kitchen, while another in the north wall opens into a one-story rear addition containing a half-bath, laundry room, and the formerly detached, 19<sup>th</sup>-century kitchen (which has been adapted for use as an office). A third door in the northeast corner of the living

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room leads to a hyphen, which connects to the 1980s screened porch addition at the east end of the dwelling.

### ***Second Floor Level***

The wood staircase in the entry hall of the main block's two-story section ascends to a landing at its midpoint where a door on the right opens into a bedroom space in the upper half-story of the east-adjointing wing. The walls in this room, which slant inward, following the converging slopes of the side-gable roof above, are finished with sheetrock and the flooring is narrow-plank pine. The space is largely void of any decorative elements.

Beyond the landing, the stairs continue up to a short hallway that extends along the rear (north) side of the two-story section's upper floor. A six-panel wood door on the left opens into a small bedroom. The space features chair rails similar to those in the first-floor dining room (plain with flat cap) and beaded baseboards. A six-panel wood door in the southeast corner of the room leads to a set of steps that access an attic space above.

A white, two-panel, wood door on the right side of the hall leads to a small, mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century, bathroom addition.

At the west end of the hall, another six-panel wood door opens into a second, larger bedroom featuring wood floors, simply molded chair rails, and beaded baseboards. A fireplace centered on the west wall has a brick hearth and a modestly designed, Federal-style wood mantel very similar to the one described in the first-floor dining room (i.e., fluted pilasters supporting a simple molded shelf at top). Like those in the first-floor rooms, the original firebox has been replaced with one of modern brick. A wood door in the northwest corner leads to a small attic space above the one-story, west-end section of the block.

### ***Second Floor Level, Additions***

A first-floor staircase along the west wall of the late-19<sup>th</sup>-century, two-story addition at the east end of the main block ascends to a small landing. A six-panel wood door on the west side leads to the previously described bedroom space in the upper half-story of the block's eastern wing. Another six-panel wood door on the east side of the landing opens into a small bedroom space. This space, which was reportedly used as a schoolroom by the Hill family in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (Hill 2016), has pine flooring and simple molded window surrounds.

### ***Attic Level***

The main house has two attic spaces. A six-panel wood door in the southeast corner of the bedroom in the main two-story section accesses a short flight of steps that lead to the attic above. The space is unfinished and primarily used for storage. Portions of the roof framing are visible in the ceiling, including sawn-cut framing members; several of the latter appear slightly charred. There is also a second, smaller, attic space above the main block's west-end section accessed

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through a two-panel wood door in the northwest corner of the second floor's west-end bedroom. It is also unfinished and used for storage. The brick chimney at the west end of the block's two-story section is exposed at the east end of the space.

## Secondary Resources

### *Main Built Complex*

The farm's built complex also includes an assortment of secondary resources of varying age, form, and function. Clustered in proximity to the main house are four, 19<sup>th</sup>-century, frame dependencies (a smokehouse, corncrib/granary, tack house, and formerly detached kitchen), a concrete wash house, and an early-20<sup>th</sup>-century frame garage/shed. All are contributing. The corncrib/granary, tack house, and smokehouse exhibit signs of ongoing deterioration, but retain structural integrity.

The 19<sup>th</sup>-century, one-story, frame smokehouse is situated just northeast of the main house next to the picket fence that borders the rear yard. A brick foundation supports the weatherboard-sided frame and a side-gable roof sheathed in standing seam metal. The square plan is oriented with its primary elevation facing south. Entry is made through a vertical plank, wood door centered on the south façade.

The 19<sup>th</sup>-century, frame corncrib/granary stands a short distance east of the main house along the north side of the driveway. The rectangular plan is oriented roughly east-west with the primary elevation facing south. The wood frame is clad in weatherboard siding and the front gable roof is sheathed in corrugated metal. The entrance is located near the east end of the south elevation. On the interior, large, pine-timber joists are visible in the ceiling, supporting a partial loft space above.

The 19<sup>th</sup>-century, frame tack house is situated northeast of the primary dwelling just beyond the white picket fence that borders the rear yard. The building, clad in weatherboard siding, is supported by stone piers and topped by a front-gable roof sheathed in corrugated metal. The entrance is centered on the primary (south) elevation.

A formerly-detached, 19<sup>th</sup>-century, frame kitchen located near the northeast corner of the primary dwelling was incorporated into the house's footprint in the 20<sup>th</sup> century via a one-story, connector addition. The former outbuilding's weatherboard-sided frame is supported by a brick foundation and topped by a front-gable roof sheathed in standing-seam metal. A narrow, exterior-end, brick chimney appends the north elevation. The building exhibited no obvious signs of deterioration and remains in good overall condition.

The small, square, concrete wash house is located directly north of, and near the center of the primary dwelling's rear elevation. A square, concrete slab with a well pump at its center lies between the dwelling and the wash house. An open, wood-framed doorway centered on the south façade provides interior access. A shed-roof extension clad in standing-seam metal and

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supported by square, wood posts covers the entrance. Encroaching vegetation was recently removed from the building, revealing a faint inscription on the rear (north) wall of the wash house, a portion of which reads: "Put up in the year 1909 and presented to Mrs. Rowland Flint Hill in the same year by her kind and sincere husband."

An early-20<sup>th</sup>-century, one-story, three-bay, frame garage/shed stands along the south side of the driveway some distance southeast of the main house. The building's rectangular plan is situated with its primary elevation facing west. Weatherboard siding covers the frame and the shed roof is sheathed in corrugated metal. Two paired sets of angled, narrow-plank, wood doors, occupying the north- and south-end bays, provide interior access. There is also a single, six-over-six, double-hung sash window centered on the primary elevation's middle bay.

### ***Larger Agricultural Complex***

The remaining built resources are all part of the tract's larger agricultural complex. Among these are a 1920s secondary dwelling, a late-20<sup>th</sup>-century, wood-frame hay barn/shelter, a late-20<sup>th</sup>-century shed, a late-20<sup>th</sup>-century horse stable, a 1950s metal barn and grain bin, a late-20<sup>th</sup>-century gambrel-roofed shed, and a 1950s artificial pond.

The contributing secondary dwelling is a one-story, three-bay, single-pile building with a brick foundation, weatherboard-sided wood frame, and a side-gable roof sheathed in standing-seam metal. It is situated along the south side of the property's driveway near the east side of the tract with its rectangular plan oriented east-west and primary elevation facing north. The main entry porch, located at the west end of the primary façade, has a wood floor and a shed roof extension clad in standing-seam metal that is supported by two square, wood columns. Fenestration includes a single six-over-six (6/6), double-hung, wood-frame sash window on the primary (north) elevation and a pair of six-over-six (6/6) sash windows on the east and west elevations. A later one-story, two-bay, concrete-block building with a side-gable roof sheathed in standing-seam metal was erected at the rear (south) side of the dwelling and connected to the same by a narrow concrete-block hyphen. This resource exhibits some degree of deterioration (damaged and warped siding), but otherwise remains in stable condition. According to oral history, the dwelling was used to house laborers employed on the property during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (Hill 2015).

A 1950s barn, circular grain bin, and artificial pond, as well as a late-20<sup>th</sup>-century gambrel-roofed shed, are located roughly in the center of Belle Plaine's acreage. The front-gable barn is clad with metal siding and is devoid of fenestration but for a sliding door at the north gable end. The roof also is clad with metal. Alongside the barn is a gambrel-roofed shed with metal siding. A circular metal grain bin with a conical metal roof stands next to the shed. These resources were constructed during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century as the property's agricultural operations continued. Clustered a short distance northwest of the main house and along the north side of the driveway are a late-20<sup>th</sup>-century, wood-frame hay barn/shelter, a late-20<sup>th</sup>-century shed, and a late-20<sup>th</sup>-century horse stable, all of which are associated with horses now being kept at the property.

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### ***Additional Resources***

In addition to the property's built resources, the Belle Plaine tract also contains two previously unrecorded cemeteries (both contributing sites) and a possible Civil War-era troop encampment site and earthwork.

According to oral history, one of the cemeteries, located in a wooded area roughly 300 feet northwest of the main house, is associated with the Welch family, who owned and occupied the tract from 1811 to 1881 (Hill 2015). The site is marked by a cluster of between 20 and 25 small unscribed gravestones distributed over an area roughly 30 feet in diameter. Several of the stones have been dislodged.

The other cemetery, situated in a copse of trees in an open field approximately 0.4 mile southeast of the main house, is believed to be associated with the property's former African American inhabitants (Hill 2015). The site includes between 20 and 30 small, unscribed gravestones similar to those noted at the Welch family cemetery, distributed over an area roughly 100 by 100 feet in dimension.

A possible Civil War-era Confederate troop encampment site is situated on a section of high ground in and along a tree-lined ridge roughly 0.2 mile southeast of the main house (Hill 2015, 2016). Though archival research produced no definitive documentation or confirmation of a Confederate encampment, the current owner reported that Civil War-era artifacts have been recovered over time in the identified area (e.g., uniform buttons, bullets, and cannon shot). There is also a possible extant earthwork in the vicinity, marked by a depression approximately 25 by 35 feet in dimension, situated on a ridge overlooking Great Run in the wooded area along the east side of the tract. While offering a potential basis for the camp's existence, additional investigation is needed to document and evaluate the site.

### **Inventory**

The following inventory lists all of the contributing and non-contributing resources associated with Belle Plaine. The location of each resource is shown on the attached Sketch Map – Overview and the Sketch Map/Photo Key: Main Built Complex. Non-contributing resources postdate Belle Plaine's period of significance.

Main House, possibly 1760s, Late 18<sup>th</sup> / Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Contributing Building  
Smokehouse, Early/Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, Contributing Building  
Corncrib/Granary, Early/Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, Contributing Structure  
Tack House, Early/Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, Contributing Building  
Formerly Detached Kitchen, Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, Contributing Building  
Wash House, 1909, Contributing Building  
Garage/Shed, Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Contributing Building  
Secondary Dwelling, 1920s, Contributing Building  
Hay Barn/Shelter, Late-20<sup>th</sup> Century, Non-Contributing Building

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Shed, Late-20th Century, Non-Contributing Building  
Horse Stable, Late-20<sup>th</sup> Century, Non-Contributing Building  
Metal Barn, 1950s, Contributing Building  
Grain Bin, 1950s, Contributing Structure  
Artificial Pond, 1950s, Contributing Structure  
Gambrel-roofed Shed, Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Non-Contributing Building  
African-American Cemetery, 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Contributing Site  
Welch Family Cemetery, 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Contributing Site  
Civil War Encampment, 1863–1864  
Possible Civil War-era Earthwork

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- 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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

ETHNIC HERITAGE: African American

ARCHITECTURE

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

**Period of Significance**

1760s – 1966

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

**Significant Dates**

1811

1902

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

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

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Belle Plaine's rural landscape and built complex, which includes a late-18<sup>th</sup>/early-19<sup>th</sup>-century vernacular, Federal-style main house and an assortment of 19<sup>th</sup>-century and modern outbuildings, embody and reflect Madison County's larger cultural and agricultural development over the last 250 years. The period of significance spans from the 1760s through 1966, encompassing the property's evolution from a late-18<sup>th</sup>-century farmstead to a large-scale farming enterprise in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries to a smaller farming operation during the mid-to-late 20<sup>th</sup> century focused on cattle farming. Belle Plaine is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent and illustrative example of a vernacular application of the formal Federal style to residential architecture in the rural setting of Madison County during the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It also incorporated one of only a few known examples of log-frame residential construction in the county. The property is also locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture as it is historically associated with the development of Madison County's agricultural economy during the late-18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Over time the Belle Plaine property evolved from its late-18<sup>th</sup>-century farmstead roots into a substantial farming operation; particularly during the ownership tenure of Nathaniel J. Welch in the early- and mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (1811–1882) and Rowland and Etha Hill from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to 1927. Finally, Belle Plaine is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage: African American. Like other areas of Virginia, prior to Emancipation and the cessation of the Civil War, enslaved African Americans played a key role in driving Madison County's agricultural economy. This is particularly true in the case of the Belle Plaine property where slave labor was employed steadily and in increasing numbers from the late-18<sup>th</sup> century through the Civil War.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

***The Evolution of a Rural Agricultural Complex***

Belle Plaine's period of significance, which begins in the 1760s and ends in 1966 encompasses the property's full life-cycle as a full-time, large-scale farming operation. It also frames the property's three general phases of development and the landscape's ongoing evolution in response to changes in the agricultural economy, technology and the larger socio-political landscape. The evolution of Belle Plaine as an agricultural complex can be generally divided into three phases. The first, which begins with the construction of the property's one-room log dwelling possibly in the 1760s is set within the narrative of Madison County's initial settlement. The second phase begins in 1811 with the tract's acquisition by Nathaniel J. Welch who, over the next half-century, would place Belle Plaine at the center of a large-scale, slave-supported, agricultural enterprise. The last phase begins after the Civil War and encompasses a period of great change, during which the area's farmers gradually adapted to a post-slavery reality and technological advances.

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The present-day Belle Plaine farm was originally part of a 400-acre tract purchased in 1777 by Nicholas Porter (Culpeper County Deed Book [CCDB] H:612). According to the recorded deed, the property was conveyed with “appurtenances,” suggesting that improvements of some type may have existed at the time. In a 1975 publication entitled *Madison County Homes; A Collection of Pre-Civil War Homes and Family Heritages*, author Vee Dove (1975:319), notes that the Belle Plaine main house had begun as a “one-room log cabin with a lean-to in the back” erected possibly as early as the 1760s. Dove also mentions an original stone chimney that was later replaced. Certain architectural clues observed beneath the current dwelling’s central, two-story, Federal-style section, including log framing with mortise-and-tenon joinery in the basement and remnants of stone masonry noted in the firebox there, offer tentative confirmation of these assertions.

The historical record offers very limited information concerning Nicholas Porter and his time on the property. A dwelling of some kind obviously existed during his ownership tenure (1777–1788), but while likely, it is unclear if it was the log house referenced by Dove (1975). Personal property tax lists recorded in 1783 show that the contents of his valued estate at the time included four horses and eight head of cattle. Porter also held six enslaved African Americans in bondage. The tax lists offer no details regarding possible extant buildings or other improvements on the 400-acre tract (Binns Genealogy 2007; Green 1900:50).

In 1788, Porter sold the property and apparently migrated to Georgia, where he died shortly after in 1793 (Davidson 1933:276–277). The tract’s new owner, Hugh Walker, Sr., was a former merchant, ship owner, and tavern proprietor from Williamsburg, Virginia. He and his wife, Catherine, lived on the property with their children (Catherine, Susan, and Hugh Walker, Jr.) and, according to 1791 census records, at least seven African American enslaved people (Binns Genealogy 2012; Dove 1975:318; Frye 1966). Land records from this period also confirm that, during his tenure, Walker issued several deeds of trust on the property to secure loans totaling more than \$5,000 (Madison County Deed Book [MCDB] 1:36, 3:35). Though it is unclear how this money was expended, it is possible that some portion may have been used to improve and expand the family dwelling (MCDB 3:35).

The property was sold again in 1811 to Nathaniel J. Welch (MCDB 5:184), a prominent resident and landowner in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Madison County. Welch and his family operated a saw/grist mill on the tract (located on Great Run, northwest of the current house) and ran a fairly substantial and, at times, profitable farming operation. The main house’s character-defining Federal style features, notably the chair rails, 6-inch base boards with a single bead at top, six-panel wood doors with molded door surrounds, and elaborately carved, wood mantels, all date to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century during the period of Walker’s and/or Welch’s ownership. Although it is not certain when these finishes were installed, or by whom, their presence is indicative of Belle Plaine’s profitable operation, which continued at least until the Civil War.

The 1850 U.S. Agricultural Census shows Welch in possession of 687 acres of land, over 480 of which had been improved in some fashion. He maintained a variety of livestock, including 32 head of cattle (seven milk cows, six working oxen, and 19 “other cattle”), 11 horses, 62 sheep,

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and 92 pigs, and cultivated a fairly diverse set of crops, such as wheat (1,000 bushels), Indian corn (1,750 bushels), Irish potatoes (100 bushels), sweet potatoes (70 bushels), and hay (25 tons) (Ancestry.com 2010). Such diversity was not unusual in Madison County at the time. Variations in the area's soil, topography, and weather patterns precluded the development of a large monocrop plantation model more typically employed by farmers in the southern states. Instead, Madison land owners relied on diversity—a diversity of crops and the activities they pursued (e.g., cultivation, animal husbandry, logging, and grist/saw milling)—to sustain themselves and the County's agricultural economy (Yowell 1926:168).

These same conditions also limited the relative size of Madison's farming tracts during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, with most totaling less than 500 acres (Yowell 1926:168). In 1851, in fact, the average farm size was 305 acres (Woodward, Jr. 1990:15). By comparison, the 687 acres attributed to Welch in the 1850 census constituted a fairly substantial estate with the 250-acre Belle Plaine tract at its center. Madison County's smaller average tract size also meant that land owners held relatively small numbers of enslaved African Americans to work their properties. Most owned five or six enslaved people, and very few owned more than 12 or 15 in Madison County (Yowell 1926:168). While slavery did not manifest in Madison County on a scale experienced by other Virginia counties or in the Southern states, by 1860, African Americans nevertheless constituted nearly 50.0% (4,397) of the county's total population. The cumulative results of their enslaved labor had a significant impact on the region's economic and cultural development (Annual Report of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Volumes 1800-1826; cf. Yowell 1995:12).

At Belle Plaine, slave labor played a key role in Nathaniel Welch's agricultural activities. As noted, Welch acquired the property in 1811. Nine years later, in 1820, the U.S. Census lists 16 African Americans persons among his holdings, including 9 who were specifically engaged in agriculture. Two decades later, in 1840, the total number had increased to 57, with 20 laborers now committed to agricultural activities (1840 U.S. Census). If the jump in number is any indication, it would appear that Welch was actively, and apparently successfully, expanding his enterprise, and enslaved African Americans were playing a pivotal role. He owned several tracts at this time, so it is not clear how many African Americans worked at Belle Plaine. By 1860, two years before Welch's death, operations had apparently slowed or contracted. U.S. census data recorded that year a total of 25 enslaved people associated with Welch's holdings, and they ranged in age from nine to 71 years old (Ancestry.com 2009). Little remains on the current landscape to tell us where or how they might have lived on the tract, save for a small collection of unmarked gravestones set in a field near the southeast corner of the present-day property. Oral history associates this little cemetery with some of Belle Plaine's former African American inhabitants.

### **The Civil War**

Madison County was not substantially impacted by the Civil War, at least in comparison with other areas of Virginia. Aside from a few minor skirmishes, encounters were limited primarily to troop movements as elements on both sides traveled between various areas of engagement. The

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map depicted in *Figure 1* below shows the movements of various Confederate Army divisions just prior to the Battle of Cedar Run on August 9, 1863, which took place a couple of miles north of Belle Plaine. As shown, one such division marched right by the property along present-day Route 15 (James Madison Highway).



Figure 1: Map Showing Route of General Jackson's Army to the Battle of Cedar Run (Hotchkiss 1863).

In addition to troop movements, the Madison County area was also the site of several periodic troop encampments, particularly at various points along the Rapidan River. According to the Belle Plaine property's current owner, one such encampment, occupied by Confederate troops, was established on the tract during the latter part of the Civil War. Though no documentation or confirmation has yet been found in the official record, the recovery of Civil War-era artifacts and the presence of a possible earthwork in an area of high ground near the eastern part of the tract suggest the possibility.

In 1885, Welch's "Belle Plaine" estate, as it was described in a chancery suit filed at the time, was sold to Fannie P. Hill and her husband, Edwin F. Hill (MCDB 29:267). The property continued to be farmed for the remainder of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although little information about the Hills has been discovered to date. Following Fannie's death and the settlement of her estate in 1902, her nephew, Rowland Flint Hill, acquired the property and relocated with his wife, Etha, and their family to the new house from his family's ancestral home, Indian Trace, located nearby

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to the south (Hill 2008:4). Rowland and Etha Hill had a large family (10 children), which may account for some of the small additions and expansions made to the property's main house during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. According to the 1910 U.S. Census, Rowland (identified as a "Farmer") was still farming the tract (described as a "General Farm") and apparently using paid laborers as none of the six Hill children listed in the household was described as a "farmer" or "farm laborer." The 1925 photograph of Rowland shown below (**Figure 2**) indicates that corn was among the crops being cultivated. Two years after the photo was taken, in 1927, Rowland F. Hill passed away. His death marked a turning point in Belle Plaine's evolution as a large-scale agricultural enterprise. Sometime later, the family farm passed to Rowland's daughter, Frances Powell Hill, who was living in Washington, D.C., at the time and working as a realtor (the first woman in the District to receive a broker's license). She retained ownership of the property, using it primarily as a summer house (Neal 2008:4). Though agricultural activities continued, they grew increasingly more limited in scale. Cattle raising became the principal activity, as evidenced by the 1950s barn, grain bin, and artificial pond on the property. When Frances Hill died in 1972, the tract was conveyed to its present owner, her nephew, William C. Hill. He continues the family tradition, focusing primarily on cattle raising.

Though the Belle Plaine main house has been expanded over time, its late-18<sup>th</sup>/early-19<sup>th</sup>-century, Federal-style core remains largely intact and in good overall condition. It retains much of its exterior fabric and interior, character-defining details, and remains an excellent and illustrative example of the vernacular adaptation of the Federal style to residential architecture in the rural setting of Madison County during late 1700s and early 1800s. It also incorporates one of a small number of known surviving examples of log-frame residential construction from the county's 18<sup>th</sup>-century past.

### **Archaeological Potential**

In addition to its architectural significance, the Belle Plaine tract also contains two unrecorded cemeteries, including one of the county's few known African American slave cemeteries (VCRIS 2015). Enslaved African Americans played a pivotal role in the development of Belle Plaine as an agricultural enterprise, particularly during Nathaniel Welch's ownership tenure (1811 through 1862). Both this cemetery and the Welch family cemetery have potential to provide additional information about the property's historic inhabitants.

Pending further research and analysis, the Belle Plaine property may also be locally significant under Criterion D for its potential ties to the Civil War, specifically related to the property's possible use as a Confederate troop encampment during the final two years of the war. This general area, particularly along the Rapidan River, saw recurring periods of troop movement and long-term encampment by elements of both armies. Archival research produced no clear documentation or confirmation in the official record of such an encampment having been established on the property, however, recurring discoveries of Civil War-era artifacts from a particular area of the grounds as reported by the present owner (Hill 2016) and the presence of a possible Civil War-era earthwork on a ridge near the eastern boundary of the tract suggest this possibility. An accurate assessment of the viability, as well as the nature and degree of

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significance of this potential association, will require more thorough onsite archaeological testing and archival investigation.

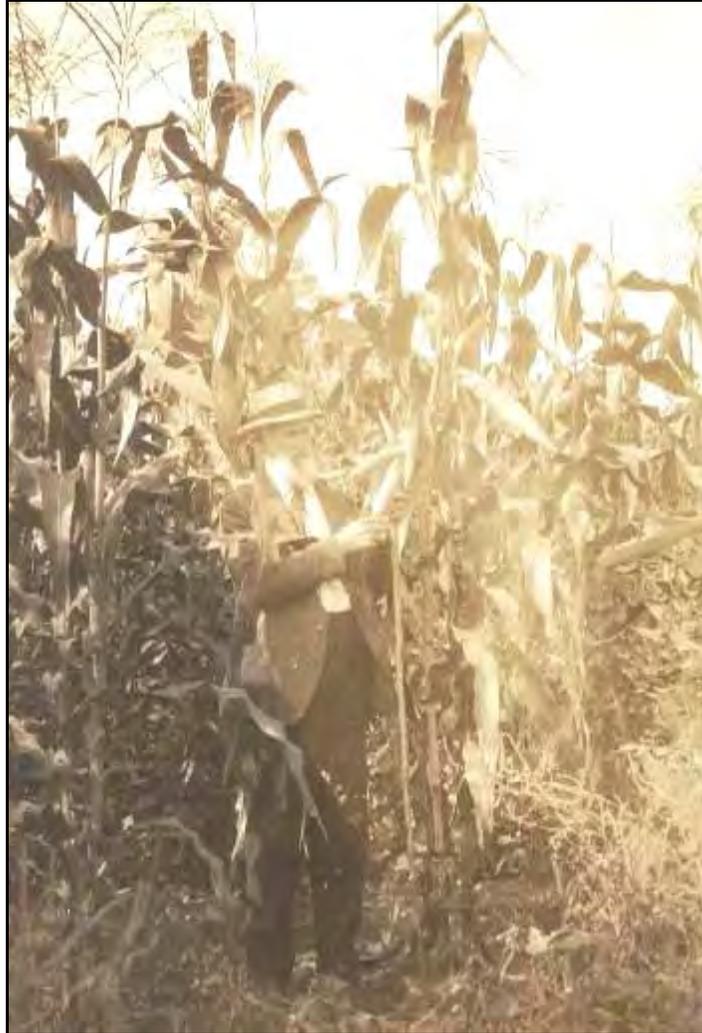


Figure 2:1925 Photo of Roland F. Hill, Sr., Standing in a Corn Field at Belle Plaine (Image Courtesy of William Hill).



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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR No. 056-5043

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 215.838

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.316888 | Longitude: -77.872277 |
| 2. Latitude: 38.319944 | Longitude: -77.882222 |
| 3. Latitude: 38.312638 | Longitude: -77.887416 |
| 4. Latitude: 38.310111 | Longitude: -77.886277 |
| 5. Latitude: 38.314527 | Longitude: -77.871111 |
| 6. Latitude: 38.316944 | Longitude: -77.872083 |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries selected for the Belle Plaine property encompass the combined acreage delineated and recorded in Madison County, Virginia, as tax parcels 59-62 (3.5 acres) and 60-2 (212.338 acres). Both parcels belong to the current Belle Plaine owner and their combined acreage (215.838 acres) includes a majority of the land historically and currently associated with the Belle Plaine property. The true and correct historic boundaries are shown on the attached Location Map and Sketch Map/Photo Key – Overview.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic boundaries, encompassing the two adjoining parcels 59-62 and 60-2, and their combined 215.838 acres, constitute the majority of the 250.0-plus acres historically

Belle Plaine  
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associated with the property known as Belle Plaine. The delineated area encompasses the Federal-style main house built by Hugh Walker, Sr., in the late-18<sup>th</sup> century and the original, 1760s log dwelling owned by Nicholas Porter (1777–1788), which was incorporated into the present house's construction. The bounded tract also contains the four contributing, 19<sup>th</sup>-century, frame dependencies (the former detached kitchen, tack house, corn crib, and smokehouse), the approximated location of a Civil War-era Confederate encampment, and the two 19<sup>th</sup>-century cemeteries associated with the Welch family and the property's African-American inhabitants, respectively. In addition, the drawn boundaries include the fields and wooded areas historically associated with Belle Plaine and the property's historic setting.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sean Maroney, Senior Historian  
organization: Dovetail Cultural Resource Group  
street & number: 300 Central Road, Suite 200  
city or town: Fredericksburg state: VA zip code: 22401  
e-mail: smaroney@dovetailcrg.com  
telephone: (540) 899-9170  
date: March 9, 2016

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

**Name of Property:** Belle Plaine

**City or Vicinity:** Locust Dale

**County:** Madison County

**State:** VA

**Photographer:** Sean Maroney and Danae Peckler

Belle Plaine  
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**Date(s) Photographed:** April 20, 2015, June 18, 2015, February 19, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0001 View: Primary Elevation of Belle Plaine Main House, Looking North (June 2015).

Photo 2 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0002 View: Northwest Oblique View of Belle Plaine Main House and Rear Yard, Looking East/Southeast (June 2015).

Photo 3 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0003 View: Northwest Oblique View of Belle Plaine Main House, Looking Southeast (June 2015).

Photo 4 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0004 View: Northeast Oblique View of Belle Plaine Main House, Looking Southwest (June 2015).

Photo 5 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0005 View: Southeast Oblique View of Main House, Looking Northwest (April 2015).

Photo 6 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0006 View: Detail of Front Porch, Looking Northwest (June 2015).

Photo 7 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0007 View: Full Basement, Looking Northwest (June 2015).

Photo 8 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0008 View: Detail of Fireplace in West Wall of Basement Under Two-Story Section, Looking West/Northwest (June 2015).

Photo 9 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0009 View: Detail of Log Framing Along East Wall of Two-story Section's Basement Ceiling, Looking East (Feb. 2016).

Photo 10 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0010 View: First-Floor Side Entry Hall, Looking North (June 2015).

Photo 11 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0011 View: Detail of Staircase in the First-Floor Central Hall, Looking Northeast (Feb. 2016).

Photo 12 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0012 View: First-Floor Parlor Room in Two-Story Section of Belle Plaine Main House, Looking West (June 2015).

Photo 13 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0013 View: Detail of Fireplace in First-Floor Parlor, Looking West (June 2015).

Photo 14 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0014 View: First Floor Bedroom in Main Block's West-end Section, Looking Northeast (June 2015).

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Photo 15 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0015 View: First Floor Dining Room in One-and-a-Half-Story, East-Side Section, Looking East (June 2015).

Photo 16 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0016 View: Front Door Along South Wall of Dining Room, Looking Southeast (June 2015).

Photo 17 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0017 View: Bedroom in Upper Half-Story of Main Block's East-End Section, Looking West (June 2015).

Photo 18 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0018 View: East-End Bedroom in Second Floor of Two-Story Section, Looking Southeast (June 2015).

Photo 19 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0019 View: West-End Bedroom on Second Floor of Two-Story Section, Looking West/Southwest (June 2015).

Photo 20 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0020 View: Attic Space Above Main Block's Two-Story Section, Looking West (June 2015).

Photo 21 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0021 View: Second Floor Bedroom Above Two-story, East-end Addition, Looking East (June 2015).

Photo 22 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0022 View: First Floor Family Room in Late 1800s Two-Story, East-End Addition, Looking Northwest (June 2015).

Photo 23 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0023 View: Southeast Oblique View of Nineteenth-Century Smokehouse, Looking Northwest (June 2015).

Photo 24 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0024 View: Northeast Oblique View of Former Detached Frame Kitchen, Looking Southwest (April 2015).

Photo 25 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0025 View: Southwest Oblique View of Corn Crib/Granary, Looking Southeast (June 2015).

Photo 26 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0026 View: Northeast Oblique View of Nineteenth Century Tack Room, Looking Southwest (June 2015).

Photo 27 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0028 View: Concrete Wash House, Looking Northeast (June 2015).

Photo 28 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0027 View: Wood-frame Garage/Shed, Looking East (June 2015).

Photo 29 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0029 View: Primary (North) Elevation of Secondary Dwelling, Looking Northeast (Feb. 2016).

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Photo 30 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0030 View: 1950s Hay Barn, Corn Crib, and Shed South of Main House, Looking South/Southeast (Feb. 2016).

Photo 31 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0031 View: Overview of African American Cemetery, Looking Southwest (June 2015).

Photo 32 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0032 View: Detail of Grave Marker in Welch Family Cemetery, Looking Northeast (June 2015).

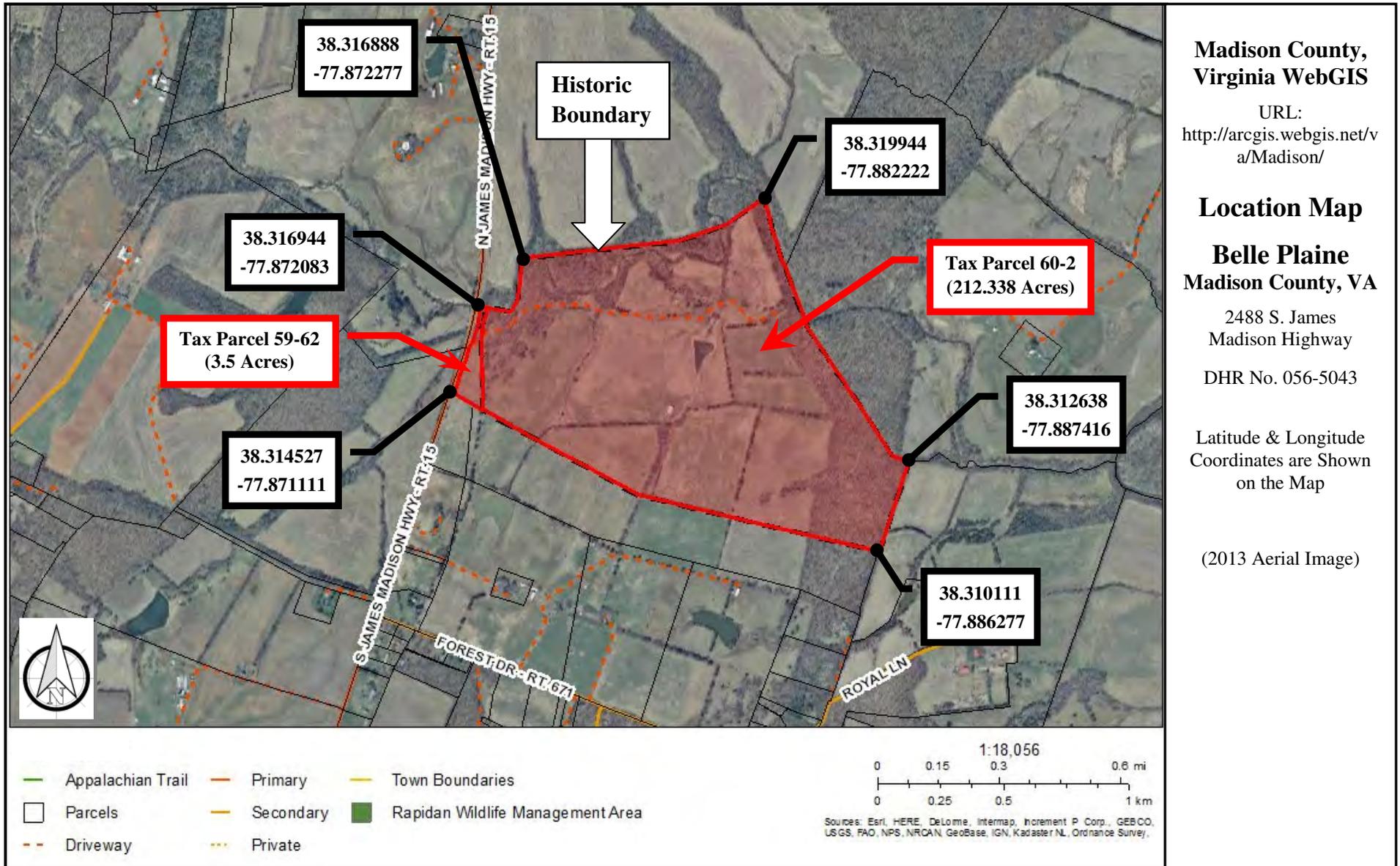
Photo 33 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0033 View: View Along Belle Plaine Private Driveway, Looking Northeast (June 2015).

Photo 34 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0034 View: Landscape Southeast of Main House, Looking Southeast (June 2015). NOTE: Possible Civil War Confederate troop encampment on the high ground visible in background (Hill 2016).

Photo 35 of 35: VA\_MadisonCounty\_BellePlaine\_0035 View: Possible Civil War Earthwork on Ridge Near East Side of Property, Looking Northeast (Feb. 2016).

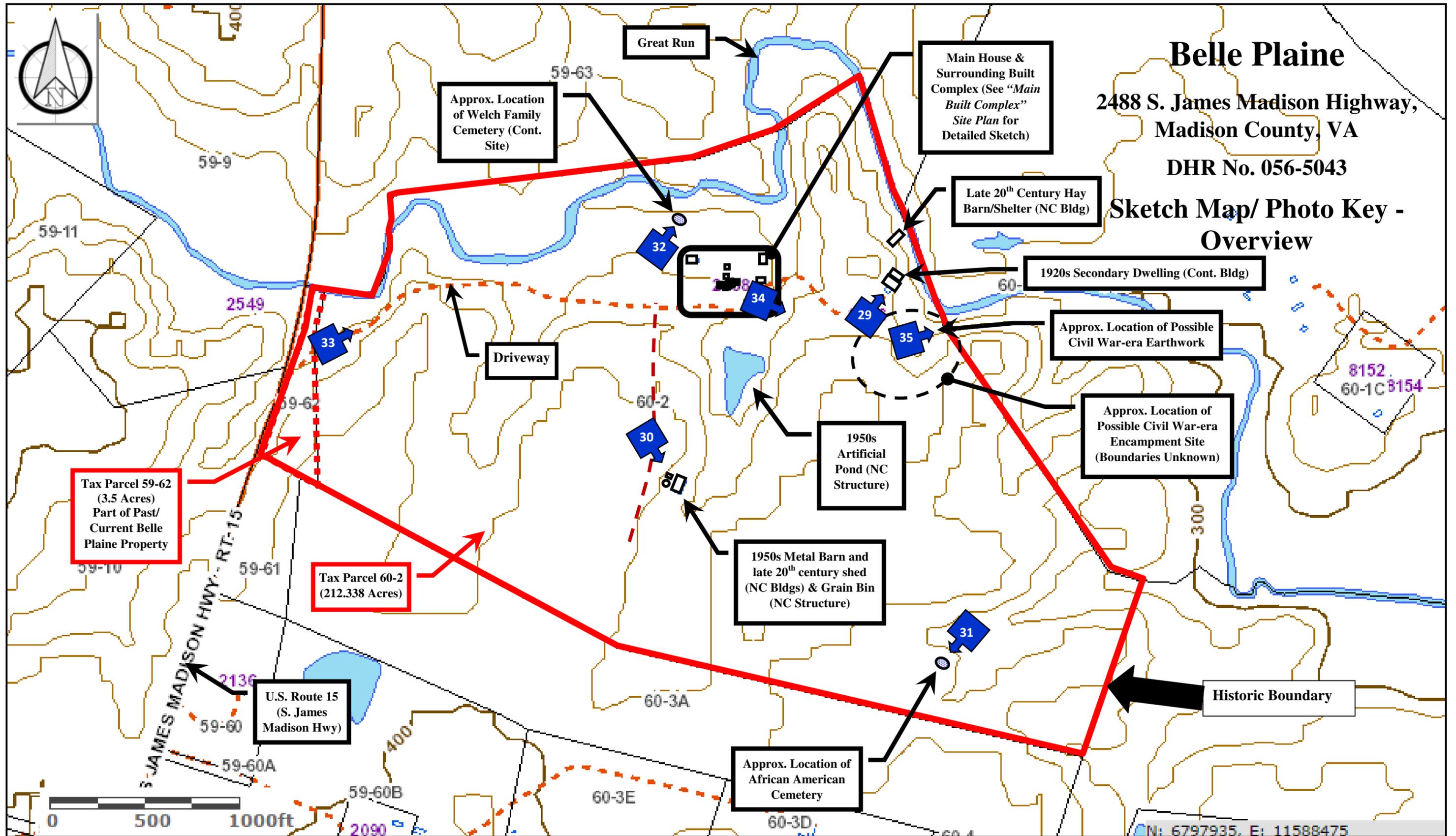
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



**NOTE:** The area delineated in the map above encompasses two adjoining parcels, including the main Belle Plaine tract (Tax Parcel 60-2; 212.338 Acres) and a smaller west-adjoint tract (Tax Parcel 59-62; 3.5 acres). Both laid within the property's historic boundaries and both presently belong to the same owner (William C. Hill).





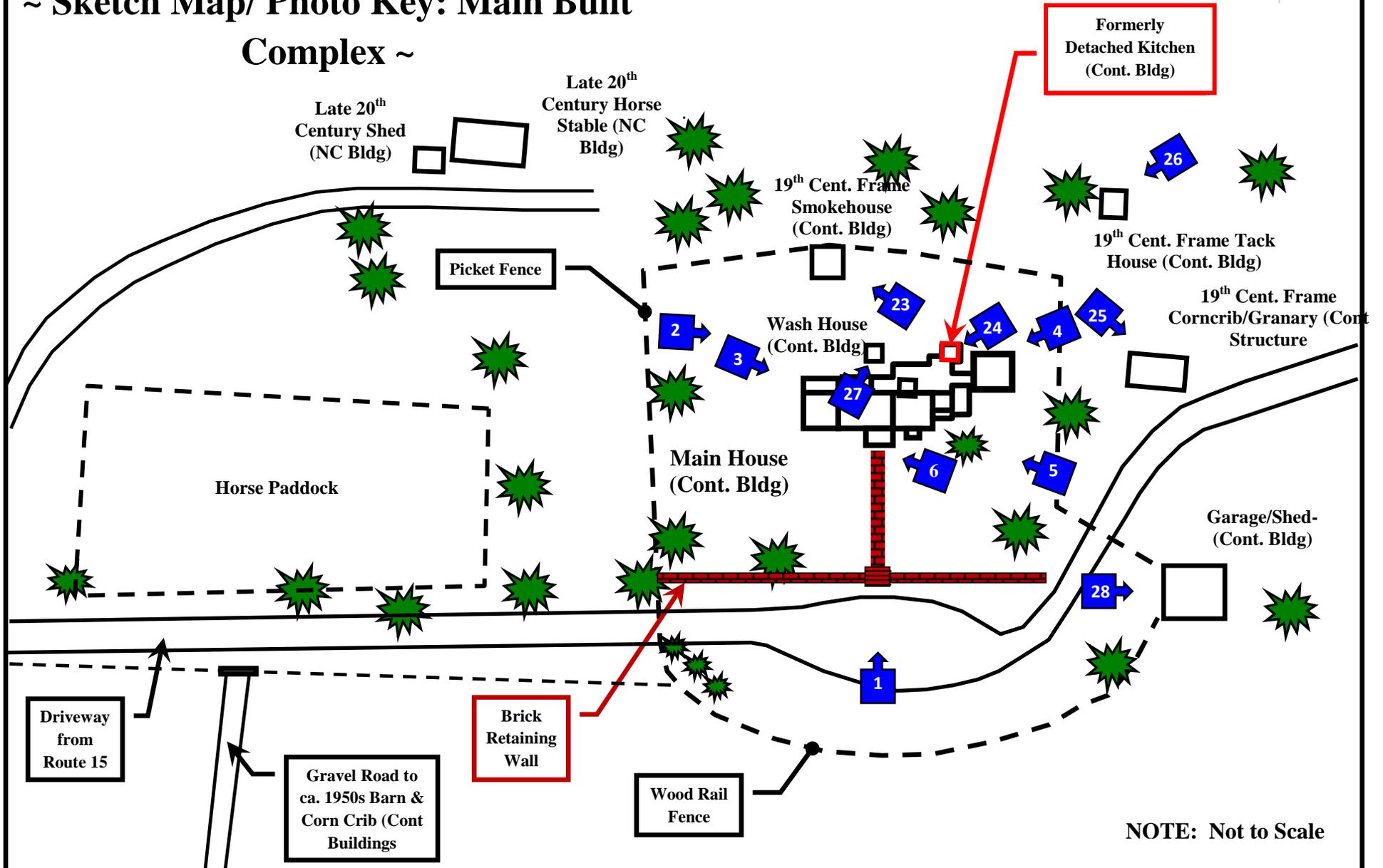
Tax Map of the Belle Plaine Property (Tax Map #60-2) Showing Locations of Key Built Elements and Features (Madison County Online GIS Website 2015). **NOTE:** Boundaries of Belle Plaine tract (Tax Map #60-2) outlined in solid black line. The area delineated by the dotted line along James Madison Highway (Rt. 15) is a separate tax parcel (59-62), but belongs to the current owner of the Belle Plaine tract, and was part of the latter property's historic boundaries.

# Belle Plaine

(2488 S. James Madison Highway, Madison County, VA)

DHR No. 056-5043

## ~ Sketch Map/ Photo Key: Main Built Complex ~



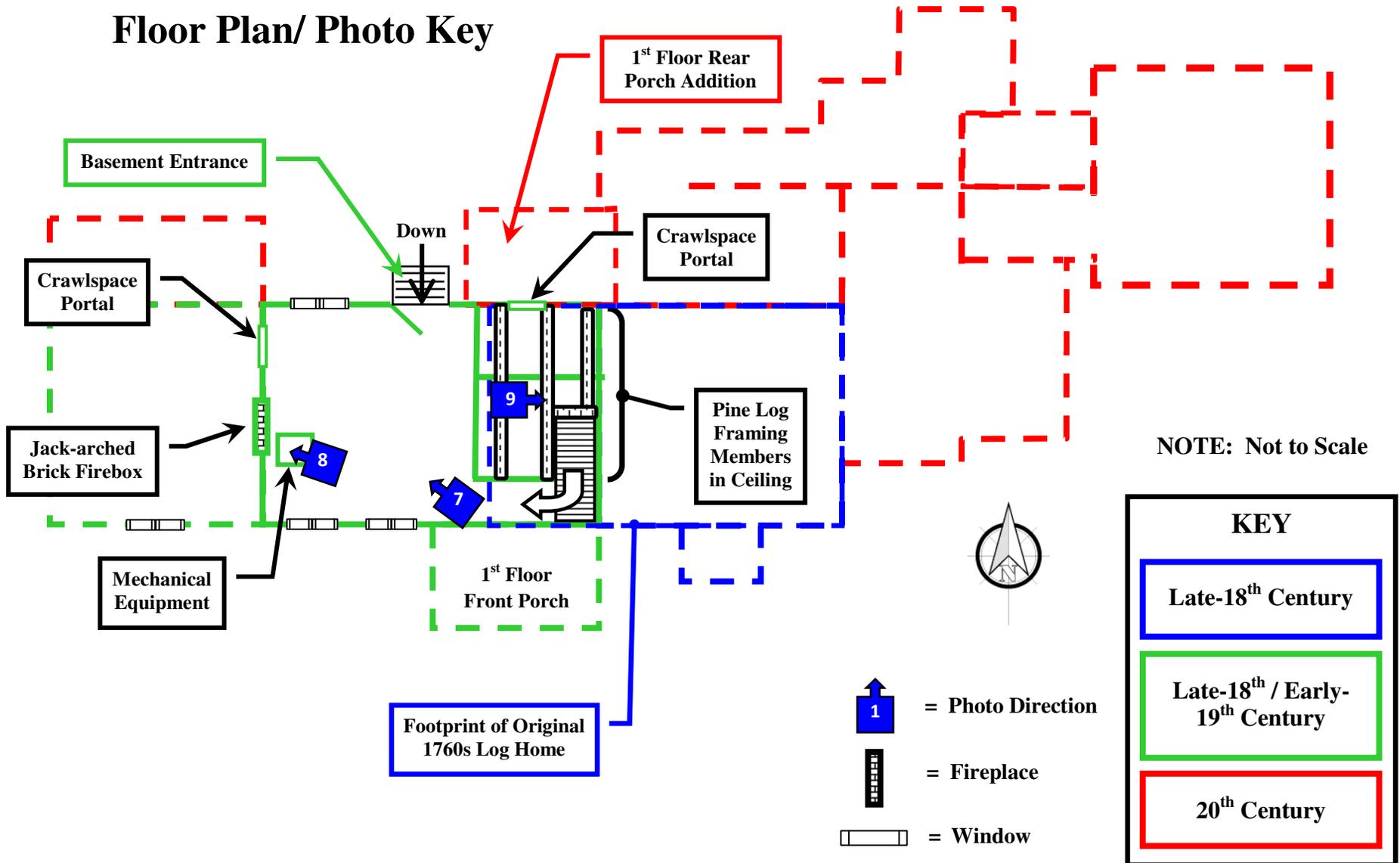
# Belle Plaine

(2488 S. James Madison Highway, Madison County, VA)

DHR No. 056-5043

## Basement Level Interior Plan

### Floor Plan/ Photo Key



NOTE: Not to Scale

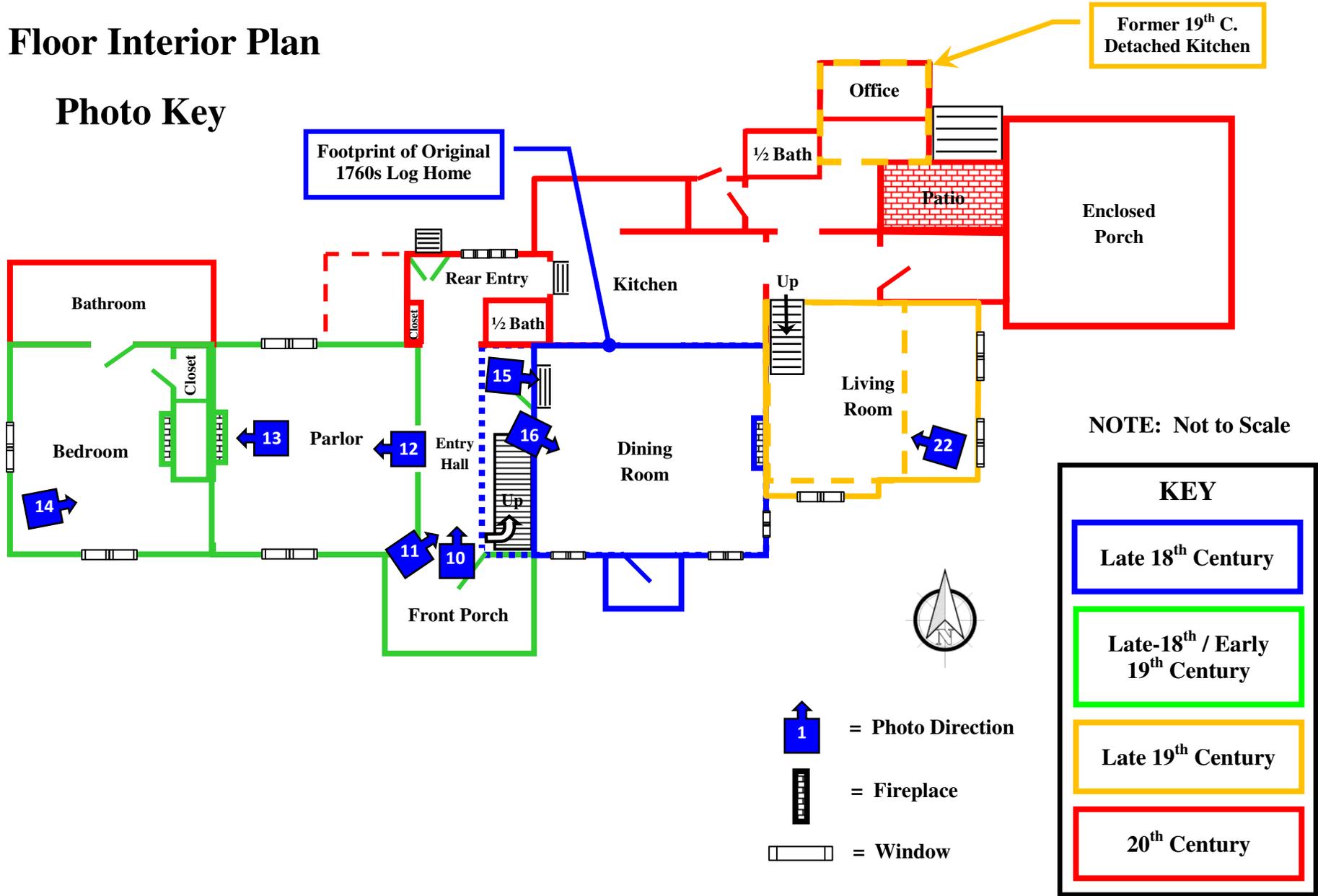
# Belle Plaine

(2488 S. James Madison Highway,  
Madison County, VA)

DHR No. 056-5043

## 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Interior Plan

### Photo Key



NOTE: Not to Scale

### KEY

- Late 18<sup>th</sup> Century
- Late-18<sup>th</sup> / Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- 20<sup>th</sup> Century

- 1 = Photo Direction
- [Fireplace symbol] = Fireplace
- [Window symbol] = Window

# Belle Plaine

(2488 S. James Madison Highway, Madison County, VA)

DHR No. 056-5043

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Interior Plan

### Photo Key

