VLR Listed: 12/5/2001
NRHP Listed: 3/13/2002

RECEIVED 2280
FEB - 1 2002
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

(Rev. 10-90)
NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

184

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 Mountain Hall

other names/site number DHR No. 067-0031

2. Location

street & number 181 Mountain Hall Drive 135 not for publication ____

city or town Crewe vicinity ____

state Virginia code VA county Nottoway code 23226

Zip

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official Date 1/18/02

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

_✓_ entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain): ____

Patrick Andrus
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action 3/13/2002

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

_x_ private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

_x_ building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
__2__	__0__	buildings
__1__	__0__	sites
__0__	__0__	structures
__0__	__0__	objects
__3__	__0__	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register __0__

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: ____DOMESTIC_____ Sub: __single dwellings_____
_____FUNERARY_____ _____cemetery_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: ____DOMESTIC_____ Sub: ___single dwellings_____
_____FUNERARY_____ _____cemetery_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

_____EARLY REPUBLIC_____
_____Early Classical Revival_____
_____

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation ____brick_____
roof _____asbestos shingles____
walls _____brick, wood frame_____
other _____

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

____ 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.

Summary Description

Mountain Hall in Nottoway County, Virginia, is a unique late 18th-century house with a combination of architectural elements unknown in any other house in Virginia. Its walls are brick in the first story. In the second story they are frame except where flush exposed chimney faces rise to the modillion cornice. The square building has a massive pyramidal roof supported on an impressive king-post in the center of the attic. Its side-hall plan has unusual variations on the second floor. The handsome front door features a fanlight in an open pediment resting on fluted pilasters. It is taken directly from *The Young Carpenter's Assistant* by Owen Biddle.

Description

Mountain Hall, set in the rolling hills of western Nottoway County, has views across the countryside in all directions. It is reached by a winding drive shaded by trees. It is unlike any other house in Virginia. It is a two-story dwelling with a pyramidal roof. It has a side-hall plan with the hall on the east side and the front door at the north end of the hall. The first story of the building is of brick laid in Flemish bond. The second floor is of frame with original beaded weatherboards and molded window sills intact. On the east and west sides the second-floor siding is interrupted by the continuation of the brick in panels to the modillion cornice that surrounds the eaves of the house. The panels over the first–floor windows on the east side correspond with fireplaces inside small rooms on the second floor over the hall. Those on the west wall correspond to the fireplaces in the two full-sized second-floor rooms off the upstairs hall. At first observation this appears to be some type of major alteration or expansion, but there appears to be no basis on closer inspection. On the roof about a foot above the lower edge rise four tall narrow chimneys. These serve the fireplaces located behind the exterior brick panels.

The front (north) elevation has three bays. The upper windows feature six-over-nine sash and molded sills, as do all other second-floor windows. On the first floor the windows in the center and western bays are nine-over-nine, as they are in the remaining first-floor windows throughout the house. In the eastern bay is the front door, clearly designated by its handsome frontispiece. This is a beautifully executed aedicule featuring fluted Tuscan pilasters supporting an open pediment containing a semi-circular fanlight with radiating muntins in a spider's web pattern. The double doors are original, but the upper two panels in each leaf have been replaced with glass. The design was carefully copied from plates 15 and 17 of *The Young Carpenter's Assistant* by Owen Biddle, published 1805 and later. The door is sheltered by a 20th –century porch with an arched open pediment roof supported by small Tuscan columns. This replaces the original porch known from photographs that had a triangular pedimented roof supported on small posts that do not appear to be replacements (it probably had small columns originally).

The east side of the house has had the most changes. In a photograph taken in the 1930s showing the new porch over the front door, the end of a one-story porch on the east side is visible. It appears new and may have been built at the same time as the present front porch. On the east side today is a tall narrow two-story, one-bay porch with attenuated Tuscan columns framing the center door to the hall and a door with balcony above it. The one-story porch seen in the 1930s

photo may have run behind the central one in a manner common to many colonial revival mansions of the 1930s. In any case, it is on this façade that the brick panels on the second floor (over the first-floor windows) appear most odd. We may never know why the backs of the chimneys were exposed on the wall plane rather than covered over with siding, as is almost always the practice with flush chimneys.

The rear (south) façade is a three-bay repeat of the front of the house. There is no porch over the door to the hall today, but old photographs show a late 19th-century one story-frame wing with a primitive stone and brick end chimney. In the oldest photographs of the house, some sort of small shed-roofed protuberance can be seen on the east side of this wing, probably a porch. This wing has not survived, but part of a brick wing that projected from the rear of the west side of the house is incorporated in a one-story 20th-century addition that runs the length of that side. The old part was in Flemish bond, had jack arches like the main block, and was topped by the same block modillion cornice as the main roof. It, too, can be seen indistinctly in old photographs. The new wing is flat roofed and has simple unadorned openings.

What cannot be ascertained from old photographs is the material of the great pyramidal roof. The best guess is some type of rolled metal with flat joints. There are faintly discernable long horizontal lines on the roof and an occasional vertical one. What is very clear in the earliest pictures is the finial in the form of a round (possibly vertically attenuated) ball resting on a concave turned neck over a vertical rectangular base (possibly with sloping sides).

On the first floor, Mountain Hall has a long side hall with rooms of equal size off the west side. All three original rooms have a simple pedestal wainscot with a plastered dado. A molded wooden cornice tops the walls. Doors and windows are framed with double architraves.
The hall has two notable features the front (north) door and the stair. The exterior of the door has been described above; inside it is framed with fluted pilasters, which support a robust semi-circular arch. Viewed from the interior, the spider-web tracery of the fanlight is particularly impressive. At the other end of the hall, in the southeast corner, is the stair that rises from the end wall with initial winders to one straight flight. It has a closed stringer, molded handrail, thin attenuated turned balusters.

The side rooms beyond the hall have woodwork identical to the hall. The north room is the dining room and the south one a library. The mantles here are simple, but elegant, ones in the Adam style. They feature square openings with brick jack arches, framed by a simple backband. Fluted pilasters that support a simple architrave that breaks out over the pilasters flank the opening. Above is a wide frieze with a sunburst in a central panel and in the panels over each pilaster. The molded shelf breaks out over the frieze panels.

Behind these rooms on the west side of the building is a one-story range of three small rooms constructed in the middle of the20th-century. The kitchen is immediately behind the dining room. Off the library are a bathroom and a utility room. Though some exterior brickwork survives from an earlier wing, no interior material seems to have survived.

On the second floor an unusual floor plan is found. This is the result of the steep ascent of the stair from the first floor and the location of the enclosed stair to the attic immediately over the lower stair. Instead of having the space divided into hall and the usual hall room beyond the stairwell, here one alights in a small hall. It serves in sequence the rooms over the library and dining room, opens into a small office in the northeast corner, is lit by the window over the balcony on the east side of the house, and opens into a narrow room in the southeast corner. All four rooms have fireplaces. The ones over the major downstairs rooms have Adam mantels similar to those below. Both have sunbursts, but the upstairs ones have paneled pilasters and dentils under the shelves. Doors, windows and wainscot are similar to those below. In the two small corner rooms the mantels are simpler vernacular Federal ones.

From the southeast bedroom an enclosed stair leads to the attic. It rises from initial winders to one straight flight. The attic under the pyramidal roof is dominated by a massive central king post with diagonal struts both up to the rafters and down to the floor. This type of roof framing is a rare survival in this part of Virginia.

No original outbuildings survive. The entrance road seems to follow an old, probably original, course. It is well worn between high banks, lined with trees of varying ages and still possesses the character of the road shown in old photographs of the place.

About 150 feet southwest of the house is an L-shaped frame tenant house, a contributing

building. Built in the late 19th or early 20th century, it rests on brick piers and has a simple box cornice below a low gable roof, windows with 6-over-6 sash.

Some 300 feet west of the house are two small cemeteries and one additional grave. The Jones cemetery, with flat and upright stones, is surrounded by a stone wall. The Jeffress cemetery has the remnants of a metal fence and the lone grave has a small stone.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
____Architecture_____

Period of Significance __ca. 1797--1951_____

Significant Dates _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
_____Dr. James Jones_____

Cultural Affiliation _____N/A_____

Architect/Builder _____Unknown_____

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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

Primary Location of Additional Data
_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ____24.5_____

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1			2		
3			4		

_X__ See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Summary Statement of Significance

Mountain Hall in Nottoway, County, Virginia, is historically significant as the principal residence of physician and statesman Dr. James Jones (1772-1848), one of the leading Southside Virginians of his generation. Jones lived at Mountain Hall while practicing medicine and serving in the Virginia House of Delegates, the Virginia Executive or Privy Council, the Virginia Militia as a Surgeon General during the War of 1812 and the U.S. Congress for two terms during the administration of James Monroe. Built circa 1797, soon after Jones' marriage to Catherine Harris of Surrey County, Mountain Hall features a combination of architectural elements that is unknown in any other house in Virginia. Square in form with a pyramidal roof and pairs of side chimneys, the dwelling is constructed of brick on the first level and wood siding on the second. Notable detailing includes a molded cornice with modillions, a Colonial Revival entry porch and a two-story, one-bay side portico with a pedimented-gable roof with modillions and smooth Doric columns. The fanlight in the front door is taken directly from *The Young Carpenter's Assistant* by Owen Biddle. The name "Mountain Hall" may refer to the dwelling's interior double-pile plan with an unusually spacious side-passage hall. It may also signify the dwelling's prominent site in the rolling countryside of western Nottoway County, with panoramic views of the piedmont in all directions. It is one of the few examples of the Georgian Style in the county.

Mountain Hall is nominated under Criterion B because it is principal resource reflecting the life of Dr. James Jones, an important political, religious, and cultural figure in Southside Virginia in the early Republican era. It is also nominated under Criterion C for its somewhat eccentric combination of architectural features.

Historical Background

Born on the eve of the American War for Independence, James Jones was the son of Major Richard Jones and Mary Robertson of Amelia County -- one of the County's most prosperous planters. Jones himself was one of the best educated Virginians of his day. Tutored in the Dinwiddie County home of the Episcopal clergyman Devereux Jarrett and a 1791 graduate of Hampden-Sidney College, Jones studied medicine under Dr. Francis Mettauer and Dr. Benjamin Rush at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia before completing his professional training at the Medical School of the University of Edinburgh with honors in 1796. He returned to live in Amelia County (now Nottoway) where he practiced medicine and took up farming. Upon his marriage to Catherine Harris of Surrey County in 1797, he established his residence at Mountain Hall near present day Nottoway Court House in 1800 and prepared for a career in politics. He was among a company of distinguished gentlemen who served as founding trustees of Jefferson College in Amelia County in 1800. (Watson, pp. 23-25, 48, 166-167)

In 1804, Jones won election as a Jeffersonian Republican to the Virginia House of Delegates. He served in the House of Delegates continuously until his election by the General Assembly to the Privy Council of State in 1809. While in Richmond during this period he patronized the French portraitist Jules Fevret de Saint-Memin as did many other notables. He served in the Executive Council until 1818 when he resigned his seat to return to Mountain Hall. Jones was called back to public service during the War of 1812 as Surgeon General of the Virginia Militia, general hospital director and superintendent of medical stores and rations. He stood among the defenders of Richmond in the aftermath of the British invasion of September 1814 and the burning of Washington City. Following the war, he resumed his private medical practice, then served briefly in the House of Delegates again in 1818, where he supported the efforts of his friend Thomas Jefferson for founding of the University of Virginia along with his own project to establish Jefferson College in Amelia. (Watson, pp. 25, 29, 61)

Jones ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1817 but two years later challenged and defeated U.S. Representative John Pegram, a critic of Andrew Jackson's execution of two British nationals in the Seminole War, for the incumbent's seat. He supported the Missouri Compromise but was not distinguished as an orator in House debates. Jones stood for re-election without opposition in 1821 but then retired to Mountain Hall from Congress in 1823. His county returned him to the House of Delegates for two terms from 1827 to 1829 but Jones served no more in the state or

federal legislature after his defeat as a friend of constitutional reform in the election for delegates to the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1829-30. First as a Jeffersonian Republican, then as a Jacksonian Democrat, Jones served as a presidential elector in 1824, 1828, 1832, 1836, and 1840. He ran as a supporter of William Crawford in 1824, Andrew Jackson in 1828 and 1832, and Martin Van Buren in 1836 and 1840. (Congressional Biographical Directory, pp. 1278-1279; Watson, pp. 25-26, 32-33)

Notwithstanding his attraction to the deist influences of the French Revolution while in Edinburgh and his later association with William Branch Giles in the notorious "Tom Paine Infidel Club" at Painesville in Amelia in the late 1790s, Jones came to recant his youthful heresies after the untimely death of two daughters, his only children --- Mary Frances Jones, at age one in 1799 and Maria Ann Jones, 10 years old in 1810. (Watson, pp. 24-25)

Following his service in Congress, Jones became an elder and pillar of the Presbyterian Church in Nottoway, which he helped found in 1825, and was the largest subscriber to a fund to build a brick church for the domination. (Watson, pp 49-53) Jones' educational, religious and military background conformed to the general pattern of Virginians who served in the U.S. Congress in the Jeffersonian period, although Jones was a Presbyterian, not an Episcopalian, and he was the only doctor-Congressman of his era to study in Virginia before leaving the state for medical school. (Jordan, pp. 42, 48). Like many of his generation, Jones supported the colonization of Liberia as an asylum for free blacks in the belief that African colonization offered the best hope for the gradual extinction of slavery . (Watson, pp. 25-26)

Jones died at Mountain Hall on April 25, 1848. His obituary in the Richmond Enquirer remembered him as "Firm and unbending in his principles, he was yet kind and sincerely charitable in spirit. His manners were grave and dignified, yet polished and polite. His conversations, flowing from a mind stored with information far beyond the attainment of most men, were eminently rich and instructive; --- and overall, Christianity threw its softening, hallowing, influence...." (Watson, p 29)

Jones was buried in the stone-walled family graveyard on the estate. His marker was thus inscribed by his wife:

Sacred to the Memory of
James Jones, M.D.
Graduate of the University of Edinburgh
Born 11th. Dec.1772
Died 25th. April 1848
A man
Whose character none can contemplate with out admiration
or admire without profit. A statesman
Honored for his talents, eruditions and patriotism.
A Christian
Deeply imbued with the spirit of the gospel in the closing scene of life. He exhibited the humble tranquil submission which religion inspires.
His devoted wife erects this frail memorial of his virtue.

Other marked graves in the cemetery memorialize the Jones' two young daughters and Catherine Jones, who died in 1860. A second small cemetery about 20 feet away contains four members of the Jeffress family. Between the two is the single grave of Robert McConnell, who died in 1992.

Major Bibliographical References

Biddle, Owen, The Young Carpenter's Assistant, Philadelphia: Johnson and Warner, 1805.

Birch, Valerie N., Alison S. Blanton, & Mary A. Zirkle, Historic Architectural Surey of Nottoway County, Virginia, Roanoke, privately printed for Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the County of Nottoway, Va., 1996.

Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774—1996, Washington: CQ Staff Directories, Incorporated, 1996.

Jordan, Daniel P., Political Leadership in Jefferson's Virgina, Charlottesville: University Press Of Virginia, 1983.

Norfleet, Filmore, Saint-Memin in Virginia: Portraits and Biographies, Richmond: The Dietz Press, 1942.

Humell, Ray O., & Katherine M. Smith, Portraits and Statuary of Virginians. Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1977.

Watson, Walter A., Notes on Southside Virginia, Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1925.

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

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Roy Holte

Organization: Owner date Sept.3, 2001

street & number: 181 Mountain Hall Road telephone (804)-645-7280

city or town Crewe state VA zip code 7280

Additional material supplied by Robert Carter &J. G. Zehmer, Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
name Roy and Christine Holte

street & number 181 Mountain Hall Drive telephone (804)-645-7280

city or town Crewe state VA zip code 23930

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.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Geographical Data

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	758030	4122130
2	17	758290	4121720
3	17	758160	4121600
4	17	758040	4121590
5	17	757980	4121750
6	17	757820	4121800

Verbal Boundary Description

Starting at a property stake on State Route 630 approximately 1,900 feet west of its intersection with Namozine Road (SR 615); continuing along SR630 (past the entrance drive to Mt. Hall) for about 1100 feet to a fence line; thence following the fence line for a total of about 1800 feet to the intersection with another fence line; thence continuing west along that fence line about 400 feet to an intersection another fence line and thence following it for 400 feet east to an intersection with a hedge; thence continuing 600 feet along the hedge line to a driveway and a point immediately east of the driveway at a fence line; and thence continuing north along the fence and driveway about 1800 feet to the beginning point.

Boundary Justification

The area included in the described property includes all of the contributing resources and sufficient land to preserve the historic setting of those resources

The following information is common to all photos.

Property: Mountain Hall
Location: Nottoway County, Virginia
Date: June, 2001
Photographer: J. G. Zehmer
Negative number: 19637
VDHR property number 0067-0031

1 of 8. North (entrance) façade

2 of 8. West façade with later porch.

3 of 8. Main door on north façade.

4 of 8. Mantel and doors in library

5 of 8. 2nd Floor mantel.

6 of 8. King post in attic

7 of 8. Jones family cemetery

8 of 8. Tenant house

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 02000184 Date Listed: 3/13/2002

Property Name: Mountain Hall County: Nottoway State: VA

_____
Multiple Name

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

Patrick Andrus 3/13/2002
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

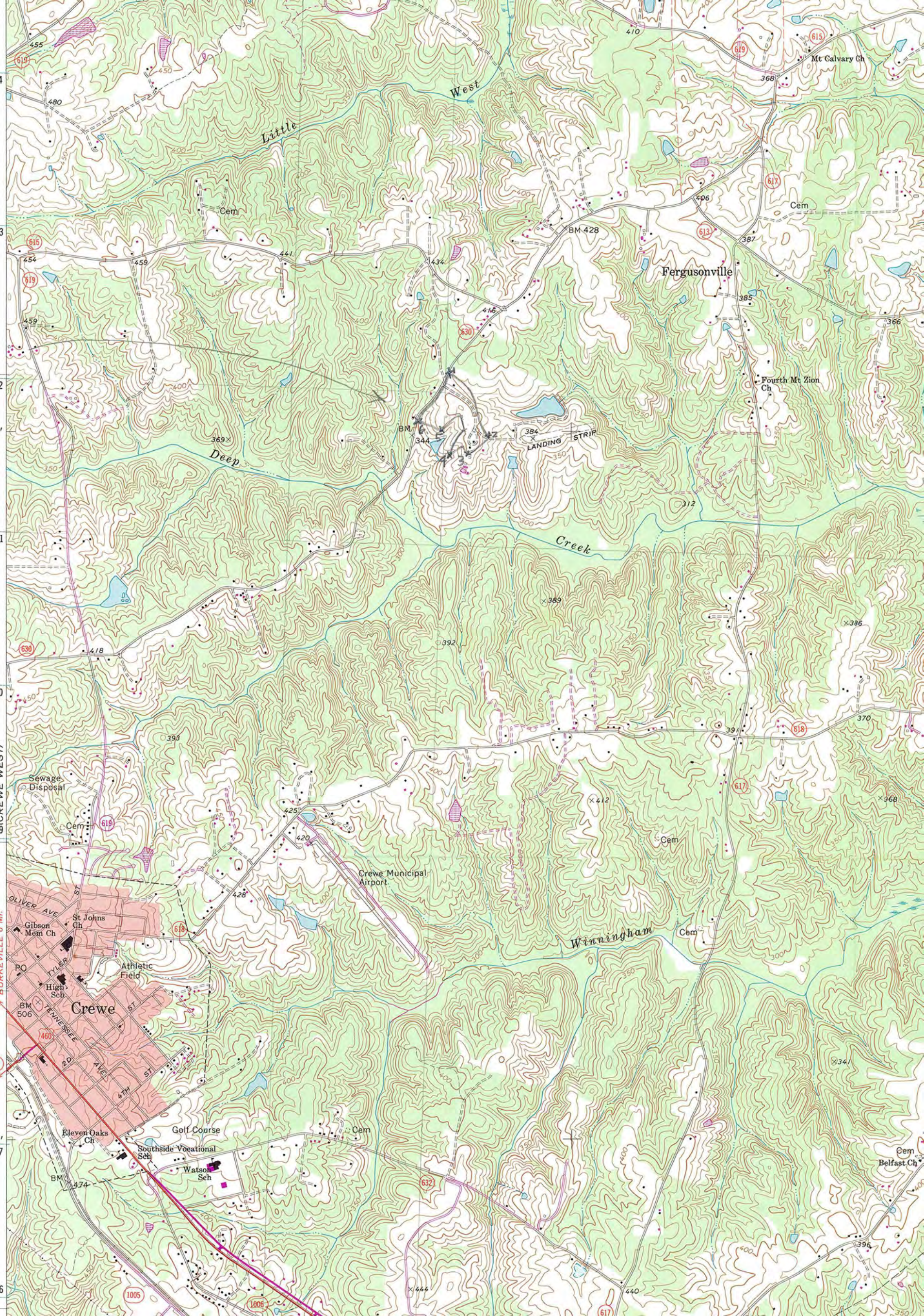
==========

Amended Items in Nomination: The property is nominated for Criterion B and C, but only Architecture is listed in the form as an area of significance. Medicine and Politics are added as areas of significance to reflect the historic importance of Dr. James Jones (1772-1848).

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

Mountain Hall
Nottoway Co., VA

UTMS
Zone 17
Easting Northing 12'30"

1. 758030 4122130
2. 758290 4121720
3. 758160 4121600
4. 758040 4121590
5. 757980 4121750
6. 757820 4121800