

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

VR 9/18/08  
NRHP draft

**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 Seven Springs Farm

other names/site number 071-5255

**2. Location**

street & number 224 Meadow View Court not for publication NA

city or town Danville vicinity X

state Virginia code VA county Pittsylvania code 143 zip code 24541

**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        nationally        statewide x locally. (        See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



10/1/2008

Signature of certifying official

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

Signature of commenting official/Title

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): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**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

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing
2	2 buildings
2	0 sites
1	0 structures
1	0 objects
6	2 Total

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** NA**Name of related multiple property listing** (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) NA**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
Domestic	Single Dwelling
Domestic	Single Dwelling
Funerary	Cemetery
Waterworks	Stone Aquafer
Energy Facility	Carbide Lighting System
Domestic	Smoke House

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
Work in Progress	

**7. Description****Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Other

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**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone and Mortar  
 roof Seamed Tin  
 walls Logs  
 other Stone and Mortar Chimneys

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

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

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

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

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**Period of Significance** ca.1830-1845**Significant Dates** ca.1830**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A**Cultural Affiliation** N/A**Architect/Builder** unknown**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

— recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
— recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Seven Springs Farm

Pittsylvania County, Virginia

**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

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 27.775 acres

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

Zone Easting Northing <u>1 17 631638 4053510</u>	Zone Easting Northing <u>2 17 631910 4053700</u>	Zone Easting Northing <u>3 17 632120 4053300</u>	Zone Easting Northing <u>4 17 631750 4053130</u>
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— See continuation sheet.

**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.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Janet Marie Gaddy / Owner

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 7/7/08

street & number 308 Southland Drive telephone 434 4897888

city or town Danville state VA zip code 24541

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

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**Property Owner**

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

name Janet Marie Gaddy

street & number 308 Southland Drive telephone 434 4897888

city or town Danville state VA zip code 24541

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Seven Springs Farm  
Pittsylvania County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 1**

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**Summary Description**

Seven Springs Farm Cabin is located on Meadow View Court in the Bachelors Hall community of Pittsylvania County. The earliest found information shows that the land was purchased by Joseph Whitehead (Volume 105 pg. 82) at auction on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1895. The original farm consisted of approximately 110 acres, presently the property is 27.77 acres. This acreage includes two log cabins, a log smoke house, a stone aquifer, a carbide lighting system, a cemetery and two non-contributing storage facilities. The cemetery is east of the entrance road to the cabin. The main log cabin sits with the newer building constructed in front of and to the south of the original settlement cabin. The original two story settlement cabin measures (16' X 14') and is constructed using round logs that are v-notched with extended crowns. To the south of this cabin there is the primary historical resource, a two story log cabin (31' X 15') constructed with hand hewn logs, square-notched with a one story addition (13' X 16') with exterior pine slab siding. The settlement cabin, was built circa 1830's with the larger cabin dating in the 1840's. The stone constructed aquifer is 115 yards north of the two cabins. In numbering the photographs and corresponding map, I have labeled the primary resource as number 1. The secondary resources are numbered also to show the physical location of the structures and burial site in relationship to the cabin. All of the resources are located at the end of the 120 yard large rock lined drive of Meadow View Court with the exception of the burial site.

**Detailed Description**

At the end of the 120 yard stone-lined drive of Meadow View Court stands the main contributing resource of interest, a two-story log cabin constructed with hand hewn logs and square-notched corners is the first visible structure at the end of the drive. The condition of the home is fair with minimal log and mortar decay. The foundation of the cabin is rock and mortar. There are also two rock and mortar chimneys located on the east and west sides of the home. Both exteriors of these chimneys are in good condition. A seamed tin covered porch with concrete padding was added in 1970. Square notching is quite rarely seen on historic hewn-log structures in the region. The condition of the home is fair with minimal log and mortar decay. The foundation of the cabin is stone and mortar. There are also two stone-and-mortar chimneys located on the east and west sides of the home. Both exteriors of these chimneys are in good condition. A seamed tin covered porch with concrete deck was added in 1970.

On the original structure of the log home, there are a total of four exterior windows. Two windows are on the south (front) side of the cabin. One window is on the bottom floor with the second window directly above on the second story. There is also a small window facing east on the second story. The fourth window is on the north side of the cabin or the original back wall.

The interior plan of the original cabin consists of a large parlor room on the west side of the cabin with a hall passage and a partially open stairwell separating two smaller rooms. Both the parlor and the small front room each have a fireplace. The fireplace in the small front room has a small stone and mortar opening. The fireplace in the larger parlor room is presently covered with a wood facing. It is possible that the original design was also stone and mortar.

Both external chimneys that serve these fireplaces are large and well constructed with stone and mortar. There is also a fireplace with a wooden mantle structure located in one of the two upper level rooms.

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**Seven Springs Farm  
Pittsylvania County, Virginia**

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The front entrance door is centered on the facade. At the end of the hall, opposite the entrance door is a door leading to the addition. This appears to be the original rear exit. The age of the addition is not known, but much of the construction resembles that of the original cabin. There is also an exterior door in the small east facing front room.

The walls in the hall and one wall in the large parlor room are constructed of 6 1/4" hand hewn boards. Presently they are painted with a wall paper type material over the boards in the large parlor room. The exterior facing walls of two rooms on the east side of the stairwell and the two rooms on the second level have logs in common with the exterior of the cabin. The remainder of the first level cabin walls including the addition and are tongue and groove pine.

Ceilings on the original first level are 3 1/2" tongue and groove pine with 4 1/4" x 1 1/4" beams which run the length of the original cabin. The ceiling on the upper level above the large parlor room has 6" ceiling boards, the remaining second level room and the one-story addition have both been covered with sheet rock. The floors throughout the original cabin are 4" pine with machine-cut nails.

A 13" x 16" addition was added to the back of the original cabin. Three of the exterior walls are rough pine slab siding, the fourth east facing wall is log and mortar similar to the original cabin. There are two windows, one on the east wall the other on the west facing wall. There is also an outside exit door. On the west facing wall there has been a recently added cinder block chimney to serve a small woodstove.

Located behind the main resource cabin is the original two story first generation settlement cabin which measures 16' X 14' and is constructed using round logs that are v-notched with extended dovetail crowns. There is evidence of the original stone and daubing between the logs, with restoration of chinking being completed over the recent years. There are two exterior stone and mortar chimneys on the west and east ends of the settlement cabin which now has a seamed metal roof. The east chimney has significant deterioration with the upper portion of the stones fallen. While some of the logs appear to be in fair condition, there has been some rotting that led to covering portions of the cabin with metal siding for temporary environmental protection. There are two exterior windows one the west side of the cabin, the other on the east adjacent to the chimney. The exterior walls of the cabin are common with the interior walls. Steps leading to the second story of the cabin were built within the past ten years.

Situated next to the settlement cabin is a carbide lighting system that was installed around 1928 and was the only such system in this area. Inside the unit here is an engraved plaque stating, Carbide Pit Generator by JRColt Company 30 E 4252 St, New York, NY (In correspondence refer to MODEL "S".) The system apparently operated lights in both buildings from 1928 until the arrival of rural electricity about 1945.

Carbide granulars, or stones about the size of or smaller than gravel was put in the top of the generator. Water was put in the bottom. When needed, a certain amount of the carbide was dropped into the water in the bottom, to cause a gas to form, which ran through the pipes to the various rooms. The carbide lamps had wicks that were lit each night. This system was reported to be used by occupants of the cabin as recently as 1974.

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**Seven Springs Farm  
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Adjacent to the main resource cabin there is a small smoke house that was moved 5 years ago from another part of the farm to replace a similar structure with extensive deterioration. There is also a shed and storage barn that do not contribute to the cabin resource. Approximately 100 yards behind the two cabins there is a stone aquifer structure built over a spring into the side of a hill. It is possible that there is a relationship between this structure and other stone structures built by highly trained slaves from this area. Samuel Pannil, owner of the Greenhill Plantation in Pittsylvania County conducted training sessions in which slaves were trained in various construction skills. One of the main areas of training focused on stone masonry.

**Inventory**

Main Cabin, circa 1840	Contributing
Settlement Cabin, circa 1830	Contributing
Smokehouse, secondary building	Contributing
Gammon/Scearce Cemetery	Contributing
Waterworks/Stone Aquafier	Contributing
Energy Facility/Carbide Lighting System	Contributing
Barn/outbuilding	Non- Contributing
Shed/outbuilding	Non- Contributing

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**Seven Springs Farm  
Pittsylvania County, Virginia**

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**Summary Statement of Significance**

Seven Springs Farm, in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, is characterized by its 27 unspoiled acres and intact rural charm, yet is most notable for its well-preserved early-19<sup>th</sup>-century log structures that have survived amidst mounting development pressure, because of continuous family occupation and careful maintenance. They are representative of the types of domestic buildings that once were many in the region, but have quickly disappeared from the Southside Virginia landscape in recent decades. As a collection, they meet National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture because they are highly representative examples of formerly prevalent building types and methods of construction. The period of significance begins at the time the earliest building on the site was constructed, circa 1830, and ends when the latest building was constructed, circa 1845.

**Historical Background**

The earliest recorded information shows that the land was purchased by Benjamin Whitfield Davis (1856-1926) on May 29, 1907, executor of the estate of George Craighead Cabell. The Cabell family was among the earliest seated in the colony of Virginia. George was born in Danville on January 25<sup>th</sup> 1837. He studied law at University of Virginia and started a practice as an attorney for the Commonwealth in Danville. At the age of 24, George joined the Confederate States army and served until the close of the war at which time he had achieved the rank of Colonel. Following the war he represented the 5<sup>th</sup> district in Congress for 12 years.

The original farm consisted of 140 acres, presently the property is 27.77 acres. Upon his death in 1926, Davis willed the land to his daughter, Nannie Davis Kirks (1883-1952) and her husband John Williams Saunders Kirks Sr. (1885-1964). According to family accounts, Nannie and John Kirks lived in the cabin before her father's death.

Nannie was 43 years old at the time of her father's death. Nannie and John had 8 children. One of their children, Andrew Kirks Sr, (1917- 2005) was born in the cabin lived in the Seven Springs Cabin with his family for 3 or 4 months after his marriage at the age of 15. His wife, Doris Sweat was 13. They then moved to the nearby Noah Gammon House.

Andrew Kirks Sr. and Doris Sweat Kirks had one child Andrew Kirks Jr. (1937- ) He lived in the main cabin until he was married at age 19 and then lived in the settlement cabin behind the main cabin with his wife. After his wife died in 1952, John Kirks conveyed the property to Mr. Lee V. Hudson and his wife by deed on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1952. He was from New Jersey.

On May 20<sup>th</sup> 1957 the property was conveyed to John West Wilson. Mr. Wilson was an African American man from the New York area. He was killed in an automobile accident on Vandola Road in Pittsylvania County.

On May 30th, 1960, Dr. Clifford Garland Gaddy bought the property as a potential home site. The farm was used to raise tobacco, corn and wheat until the 1980's. In 1988, Gaddy used a portion of the farm to create the Westridge Farms Subdivision. He and his wife Inez Chapman Gaddy built a home in the sub-division in 1989 and lived there

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Inez deeded 27.77 acres of the original Seven Springs Farms to their daughter Janet Marie Gaddy. This property contains the historic cabins.

**Deed Research**

History of the Seven Springs Farm Property Based on deed research conducted at the Pittsylvania County Courthouse in Chatham, August, 2008 by Janet Gaddy:

1788 (April 21)

From Peter Wilson to John Gammon Sr.

Price – 40 Pounds Currents Money of Virginia

1789 (June 15) Volume 8 Page 409

From John Gammon Sr. to William Gammon Sr.

Gift

1828 (April 21) Volume 30 Page 66

From William Gammon Sr. to Levi Gammon

Gift

1855 (February 17) Volume 55 Page 393

From Levi Gammon to John B. Gammon

Price - \$400.00

1898 (April 28) Volume 108 Page 55

From John B. Gammon to Joseph Whitehead

1898 Volume 108 Page 505-506

From Joseph Whithead to George C Cabell

110 Acres more or less

At Auction \$460.00

1906 Deed Book 125 Pages 213-215(Includes Map)

From George C. Cabell (Died June 1906) to Whitfield Davis

108 Acres

At Auction \$825.00

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**Seven Springs Farm  
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**Section 9, 10 Page 6**

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**Bibliographical References**

Brock, A. Robert, Lewis V. Virgil. *Virginia and Virginians, Richmond: H. H. Harpesty* 1888.

Brown, Alexander. *The Cabells and their Kin: A Memorial Volume of History, Biography, and Genealogy*. Richmond, Va.: Garrett and Massie, Inc., 1939

Clement, Maude C. The History of Pittsylvania County, Virginia. J. P. Bell Company, Lynchburg, Va. 1929.

Clement, Maud Carter. *The Turn of the Wheel*, Danville, Virginia: J. T. Townes Company, 1956.

Early, Ruth Hairston. *Campbell Chronicles and Family Sketches*, Lynchburg, Virginia: J. P. Bell Company, 1927.

Fennell, C. Christopher. Log House Architecture in the Eighteenth-Century Virginia Piedmont, 2003.

Gaddy, G. Clifford. Interview with Bennie Field Davis (family historian), Danville, VA, 2005, 2008.

Gaddy, G. Clifford. Interview with Andrew Kirks Senior (family historian), Danville, VA, 2006.

Glassie, Henry. *Folk Housing in Middle Virginia: A Structural Analysis of Historic Artifacts*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1975.

Glassie, Henry. The Types of Southern Mountain Cabin. In *The Study of American Folklore*, edited by Jan H. Brunvand, pp. 391-420. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1978.

**Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the nominated area correspond to Pittsylvania County Tax Map parcel 1388-24-3757, Tract 3A. The parcel and its boundaries are depicted on the accompanying survey map dated 6-19-2008.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the nominated area correspond to the modern tax parcel on which the house and associated historic resources stand and that which is currently under the same ownership.

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Pittsylvania County, Virginia**

**Section Photographic Data Page 7**

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**Photographs**

Seven Springs Farm, Pittsylvania County Virginia

All Photographs taken July, 2008

Janet Marie Gaddy – photographer

Location of digital images: VDHR, Richmond.

1. Cabin Exterior, Smoke House, & Settlement Cabin/ Facing North
2. Main Cabin Front Exterior/Facing North
3. Main Cabin Exterior/ Facing Northwest
4. Main Cabin Exterior/Facing Southwest
5. Main Cabin Exterior Corner/Facing Northwest
6. Main Cabin Interior, First Floor
7. Main Cabin Interior, Second Floor
8. Settlement Cabin Exterior/Northwest
9. Smoke House/Northeast
10. Burial Site/Northwest

