

VLR-1/18/72 NRHP-5/19/72

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: SCOTT	
FOR MPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
KILGORE FORT HOUSE

AND/OR HISTORIC:
KILGORE FORT HOUSE

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
S E side of Rt. 71. .8 mi. S of intersection with Rt.670

CITY OR TOWN:
Nickelsville vicinity (William C. Wampler, Ninth District Congressman)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Scott CODE: 169

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Rhea Broadwater

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Nickelsville STATE: VIRGINIA CODE: 51

15. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS ETC:
Scott County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Gate City STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Kilgore Fort House is a two-story timber structure with gable roof and rests on a limestone foundation. On the northeast gable end is a massive stone chimney laid in lime mortar with two insets or splays that narrow the stone pile in its rise to the stack. The building's construction is in the simplest form, being of hewn rectangular timbers, V-notched at the corners. Originally, structural and defensive strength was enhanced by a heavy interior timber partition notched into the walls exposing the ends to the exterior, thus forming two rooms on both floors. This partition has been removed by sawing the wooden members off at the interior wall surface. The first, second and attic floor joists are also set into the structural timbers. The second floor openings are apparently their original small size, indicating the defensive nature of the building; the first floor windows existing on the north and west have been enlarged. The doorways and all window openings are finished by simple framing boards. The roof presently has rough shingle shakes but is deteriorating. Interior flooring is missing for the most part on the first floor, but most of the boarding remains intact on the second and attic stories. A steep ladder stair (closed stringers with treaders) remains, linking the first and second floors, and a ladder leads to the attic level.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Frontier Forts were built to guard mountain gateways, river valleys, and other strategic points, and also as places of refuge for neighboring frontiersmen and their families during times of danger. Subsequent to Braddock's defeat, Colonel George Washington organized the defense of Virginia's frontier around a system of such forts stretching the length of the Valley from the Potomac to North Carolina. While the major danger of French and Indian invasion passed with the Treaty of Paris (1763) and the removal of French influence from North America, Indian depredations remained a reality on the frontier.

The settlement of extreme Southwest Virginia during the last-third of the eighteenth century followed very closely the standard for frontier development. The Indians remained an active threat to settlers in this region during and immediately following the American War for Independence. The Old Kilgore Fort House was the last of a chain of frontier forts extending at one time from Castlewood to Cumberland Gap. Built at the end of the first, more dangerous, generation of settlement on this new Virginia frontier, the Kilgore Fort House represents a transitional type of structure.

By circa 1785-90, strongly-built and fortified houses were taking the place of the earlier blockhouse and stockaded forts. Robert Kilgore's Fort House represents this stage in frontier social and architectural development. Both the lower and upper stories were separated into two rooms by log partitions built as strongly as the outer walls themselves, suggesting a defensive strategy with the potential for several last stands. Although threatened on several occasions, the Kilgore House survived the last Indian uprising.

Robert Kilgore lived in the old house until his death in 1854 at the age of eighty-eight. He was a prominent primitive Baptist minister as well as a farmer. He was pastor of Nickelsville Baptist Church for more than forty years; and his namesake of a later generation left Southwest Virginia to become an Evangelist of national repute. The Manuscript census returns for 1850 indicate that Kilgore Fort House was a fairly prosperous farm in the ante-bellum period. While a younger Robert Kilgore and his family were operating the farm, the elder Robert lived on in retirement at the house he had built.

Kilgore Fort House is in advanced structural deterioration due primarily to the breakdown of the mortar in the stone chimney causing it to lean downhill and consequently push the upper portion of the building in that direction. A majority of the timbers, however, are in good condition. The building is presently the object of an active local movement to restore

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(Number all entries)

8. it as the focal point for a public wayside park. The efforts and preliminary plans by the Tennessee Valley Authority, Lenowisco Planning District Commission, Scott County Planning Commission, and the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission assure that the Kilgore Fort House will be properly restored and that the recreational and parking areas will not infringe on the historic aspects of the building. Its picturesque site on a gentle slope beside Copper Creek lends to the fort house an isolated frontier quality that will be respected by these plans.

The Kilgore Fort House is perhaps the oldest building in the county and even in its present condition, a significant landmark. Indeed, its importance is national in scope, being one of the few extant structures in southwestern Virginia that represents the early westward movement into Kentucky, Tennessee and beyond.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Robert M. Addington, HISTORY OF SCOTT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, 1932.
 Howard A. MacCord, "Forts in Colonial Virginia," VIRGINIA CAVALCADE, XX
 (Autumn 1970): 5-11.
 Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Free Inhabitants and
 Agriculture.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36°	44'	05"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		82°	26'	03"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 3/4 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: January, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: James W. Moody, Jr.
 Title: Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date

JAN 18 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES
 TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
 MAPS AND SURVEYS DIVISION

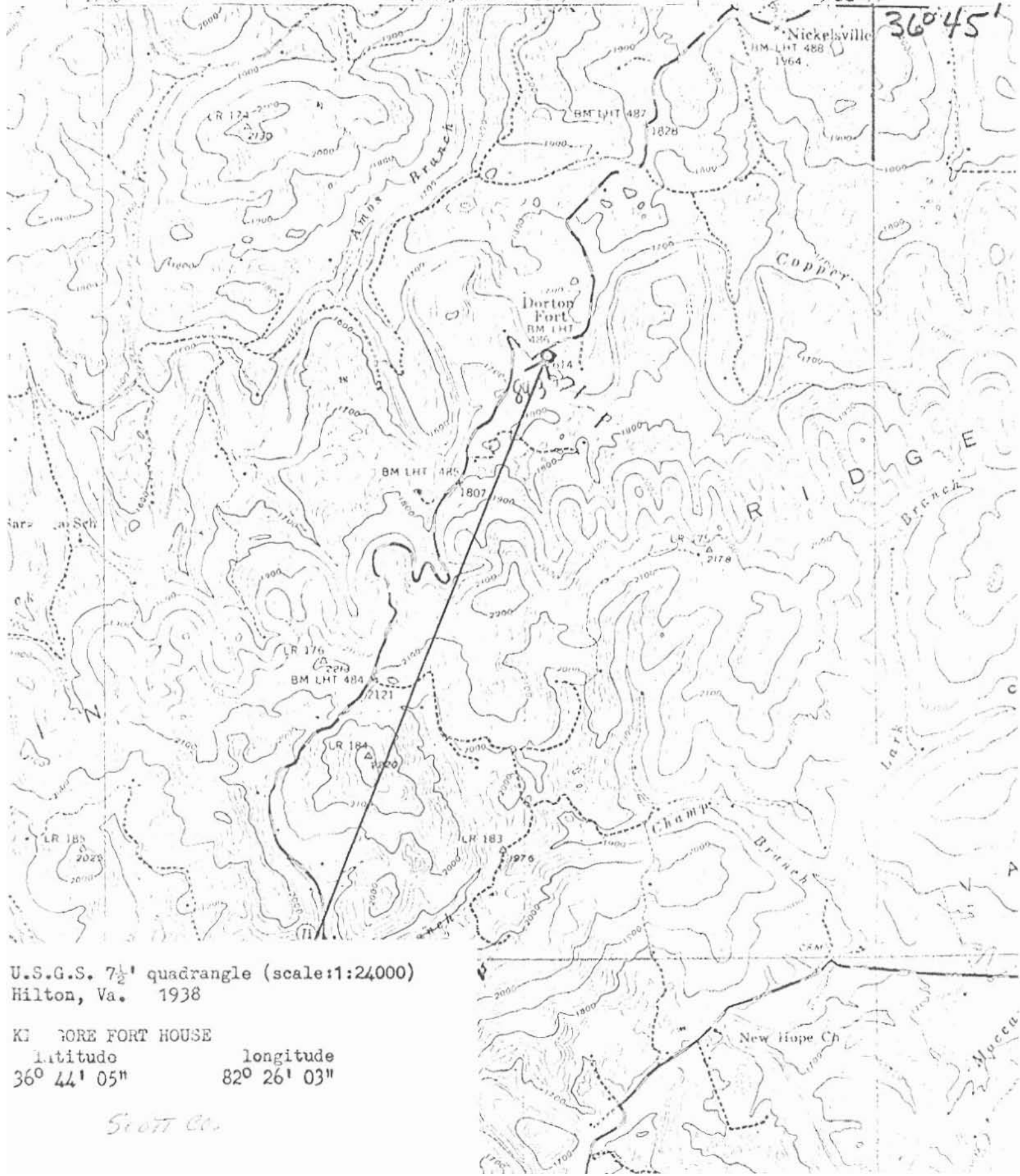
(Dungannon 196 SW)

HANSONVILLE
 DICKENSONVILLE

22 MI
 14 MI

82°

36° 45'



Nickelsville
 BM LHT 488
 1964

Dorton Fort
 BM LHT 425

BM LHT 425
 1807

LR 176
 BM LHT 484
 2121

LR 184
 2020

LR 183
 1976

New Hope Ch

U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Hilton, Va. 1938

KI MORE FORT HOUSE
 latitude 36° 44' 05"
 longitude 82° 26' 03"

SCOTT CO.