

VLR 9/11/02  
NR 11/21/02

VLR Listed: 9/11/2002  
NRHP Listed: 11/21/2002

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name **Captain James Moore Homestead**

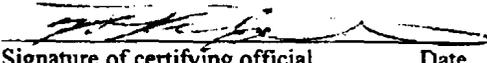
other names/site number **VDHR file number 092-5042; site number 44TZ131**

#### 2. Location

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town **Boissevain, vicinity** vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state **Virginia** code **VA** county **Tazewell** code **185** Zip **24606**

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

 \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official Date **11/9/02**  
**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 \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Keeper  
\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

**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	
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	buildings
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  2  </u>	sites
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	structures
<u>  </u>	<u>  1  </u>	objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  3  </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   

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

  N/A  

**6. Function or Use**

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

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling  
Agriculture/subsistence Agricultural Field, animal facility

<hr/>	<hr/>

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

Cat: Recreation and Culture Sub: Marker

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

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**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_

roof \_\_\_\_\_

walls \_\_\_\_\_

other   N/A  

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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)

Archaeology

Historic-Non-Aboriginal

**Period of Significance** 1772-1822

**Significant Dates** 1786

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation** Euro-American

**Architect/Builder** N/A

**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**

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

**Name of repository:** \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 4.7

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

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

1	_____	2	_____
3	_____	4	_____

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-4018

Captain James Moore Homestead – Archaeological Site  
Tazewell County, Virginia

     See continuation sheet.

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

See continuation sheet.

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

See continuation sheet.

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**II. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: Charles Grubbs Intern

Organization: Department of Historic Resources, Roanoke Regional Preservation Office      date June 17, 2002

street & number: 1030 Penmar Avenue, S.E.

telephone (540)857-7585

city or town Roanoke

state Va

zip code 24013

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

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

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

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

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**Property Owner**

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

name Historic Pocahontas, Inc.

street & number Box 391

telephone (276) 945-2167

city or town Pocahontas

state VA    zip code 24635

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Foreword**

This is essentially an abridged version of Stephen and Kim McBride's report, *A Preliminary Archaeological Investigation of the Captain James Moore Farmstead, 44TZ131, Tazewell County, Virginia, 2001*.

**Introduction**

Archaeological investigations of the Captain James Moore Homestead, 44TZ131, in Tazewell County, Virginia, were conducted on October 26, 27, and 28, 2000. This site is located in [REDACTED] about [REDACTED] of the Boissevain Elementary School. The Moore Family Association, working in cooperation with the Roanoke Regional Preservation Office of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Historic Pocahontas, Inc., and local citizens and school classes, sponsored the project. The purpose of the investigation was to identify the precise location of the Captain James Moore cabin and other potential structures or activity areas and to gather information to assess the site's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

An area near a 1928 commemorative monument had been identified in Moore family tradition as the site of the Captain James Moore family cabin. This area was thoroughly investigated, and eighteenth-century ceramics and wrought nails were found in this spot. Other nearby areas were also investigated but failed to produce materials from this time period. An eighteenth-century midden capped by a clay fill, with early-nineteenth-century artifacts overlying the fill, was identified in the central portion of this area. Below the fill are artifacts from the original Moore family occupation, from 1772 until the 1786 attack and burning of the cabin. Above the fill are remains from the 1798-1822 house of James Moore, Jr. (James the Captive, in Moore family parlance). No architectural features were found from either cabin or house. The site also contains a Late Woodland occupation defined by a midden, Clarksville triangular projectile points, Radford Ware ceramics, and two post molds. The recovery of Brewerton Side Notched projectile points probably reflects a Late Archaic use of the site area.

**Research Design and Methodology**

Archeological investigations were initiated with the establishment of a grid over the study area. The grid system structured systematic subsurface testing and evaluation of the study area and facilitated field documentation of the investigations. Shovel test probes were circular pits about 30 cm (1 ft) across which were excavated until the sterile yellowish brown, silty clay subsoil was reached. The upper plowzone was separated from any distinct occupational zones or middens (organic soil from human occupation and refuse disposal). All soil from these test probes was sifted through ¼-inch

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screens to aid in the recovery of artifacts. Recovered artifacts were then bagged by their grid location and stratigraphic zone. This method allowed systematic coverage of the entire study area relatively quickly and also identified differences in artifact density and soil stratigraphy across the site.

Besides the shovel test probes excavated near the monument on the grid, six additional probes were excavated downhill from the Captain James Moore gravesite. These probes were excavated and screened exactly like the other shovel probes, but they were not placed on the grid. Rather, they were measured in following their excavation.

Given the possible low density of artifacts anticipated on the Moore site because of its relatively short occupation, another exploratory method was utilized. At the Moore farmstead, metal detecting was conducted by intensively sweeping the core study area west, northwest, and southwest of the monument and by sweeping less intensively, or at a broader interval, in the area surrounding the core study area. Positive finds, or "hits," were then flagged and numbered for later mapping and collection. Metal detecting was conducted by the archaeological team and by the student volunteers.

Following the completion of systematic shovel probing and metal detecting, three larger test units were excavated. These were excavated to better understand the soil stratigraphy and artifact distribution and integrity on the site. These units consisted of one large (1 x 2 meters) test unit (Unit 1) and two smaller (.5 x .5 meter) test units (Units 2 and 3). The test units were excavated stratigraphically with each soil zone excavated and screened separately and with all soil screened through ¼-inch wire mesh screens and all artifacts bagged by their unit and soil strata of origin. These units produced a much greater quantity of artifacts than the shovel probes.

**Stratigraphy**

Variation from the normal soil profile, whether it be in color, texture, or the presence of additional strata, is one of the best indicators of human activity on a site. For instance, the disposal of refuse can turn a soil zone much darker due to organic decomposition, at which point it is often referred to as a cultural midden. Also, fill soils may be brought in to cover refuse middens or create a surface on which to build a structure. Evidence for both of these activities was observed at the Moore site.

The typical or normal soil profile at the Moore site consisted of a 10- to 30-cm-thick brown silty loam plowzone (Zone I) overlying a yellowish brown, silty clay subsoil (Zone II). The subsoil was naturally sterile of cultural activity, except when disturbed by digging. Variation in the depth of the plowzone was due primarily to slope erosion. The normal profile was present in most probes to the north, northwest, and southwest of the site datum (the northeast corner of the fence surrounding the monument).

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The shovel probes 20 to 30 meters west of the datum had much different soil profiles, indicative of intensive human activity. This area corresponds well with that indicated as the site of the Moore cabin by oral tradition, as recorded by Woodworth in 1943. In the area around N5W20 to S5W20 and including N0W17.5 to N0W27.5 and S10W30, this profile consisted of a 15- to 29-cm brown silty loam plowzone overlying a 5- to 20-cm mixed brown silt and yellow clay fill zone. The fill zone typically capped a 15- to 84-cm-thick dark brown to very dark brown silt loam buried topsoil, which was overlying the typical yellowish brown silty clay subsoil. The deepest buried topsoil zones were found at probes N0W20 and N0W25. This area was chosen to place the largest test unit, Unit 1.

The dark brown buried topsoil zone was also found at probes N0W16.2, S5W25, S5W30, N0W20, and N0W25, but in these probes there was no clay fill above it. The presence of this dark buried topsoil, whether covered by the clay fill or not, suggests that more intensive human occupation occurred at this area of the site. The yellow clay fill and the artifacts found above it indicate that at some point in the past the buried dark topsoil was purposefully capped and then the site was subsequently reoccupied.

Unit 1 was placed between N0W20 and N0W25 to investigate the extremely deep buried topsoil and higher artifact density found in the probes in this area. Excavation of this unit revealed that the deep buried topsoil was actually two separate dark soil zones, the first slightly lighter than the second. The profile of Unit 1 consisted of a brown silty loam plowzone (Zone I) 0 to 26 cm below surface, a yellow clay fill with some brown silt (Zone II) 26 to 30 cm below surface, a dark brown silty loam (Zone III) 30 to 50 cm below surface, a very dark brown silty loam (Zone IV) 50 to 84 cm below surface, and a yellowish brown to brown silty clay transitional to subsoil (not excavated) below 84 cm. Zone IV is the result of occupation by Native Americans, and Zones I, II, and III are from the historic period.

Unit 2 was placed northwest of Unit 1 in an isolated area of buried topsoil. Stratigraphy in Unit 2 consisted of a 4-cm-thick brown silty loam plowzone (Zone I), a 4-cm yellow clay fill (Zone II), a 22-cm dark brown silty loam buried topsoil (Zone III), and a yellowish brown silty clay subsoil. The buried topsoil was not as deep here as in Unit 1, and the very dark brown zone found in Unit 1, with its concentration of prehistoric artifacts, was not present here.

Unit 3, located south of Unit 1, also contained a simpler profile, consisting of a 20-cm-thick brown silty loam plowzone (Zone I) and a 10-cm-thick dark brown silty loam buried topsoil with some yellow clay inclusions (Zone II), followed by the sterile yellowish brown silty clay subsoil. No intense prehistoric zone or posts or other cultural features were present in this unit.

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**Historic Artifacts**

A total of 325 historic artifacts and over 700 prehistoric artifacts (mostly debitage) were recovered during the archaeological investigations of the Captain James Moore Homestead. The historic artifacts included food consumption and storage-related artifacts, architectural artifacts, clothing items, and some arms-related artifacts.

Foodways-related items recovered at the site included refined ceramics, coarser ceramics (redware and stoneware), bottle glass, and animal bone. Significantly, all of the refined ceramics from the monument area were creamware and pearlware. These were both lead-glazed English ceramics that date from the late eighteenth to the early nineteenth centuries. More specifically, creamware dates from 1762 to about 1820 and pearlware dates from 1780 to about 1840 (Noel-Hume 1970; South 1977). No later refined ceramics such as whiteware (post 1830) or ironstone (post 1840) were recovered from west of the monument. The chronological position of these refined ceramics closely fits the date range for Captain James Moore's and his son James (James the Captive) Moore's occupations of the site. Although most of the creamware and pearlware sherds were plain, some decorated ceramics were found. These included one creamware with colored clay slip decoration, one pearlware with colored clay slip decoration, five pearlware with hand-painted floral designs, and four pearlware with transfer printed designs.

The lead-glazed redware recovered from the site also fits this general date range, although it is harder to date. In most areas, however, redware was replaced by American-made stoneware by the middle of the nineteenth century (Greer 1981). Redware was a locally produced red to buff pasted earthenware that was made in forms such as crocks, jugs, pans, bowls, and occasionally plates and cups.

The three stoneware sherds recovered at the site were all tan pasted with a clear salt glaze. Two of the sherds were from the same provenience (S5W35) and fit together. The other sherd was from N0W20. This stoneware could have come from England or America, but most likely the former. If they are English, these vessels would date to the eighteenth century.

The bottle glass fragments (six clear and one brown) recovered west of the monument area are mostly, if not wholly, from the twentieth century. The brown glass is definitely a modern beer bottle fragment and the clear glass, while not diagnostic, was not a common color in the eighteenth century. This glass is likely associated with farming or recreational activities. The lack of earlier bottle glass on this site is not surprising, for too reasons: (1) bottle glass was not common on the frontier because of its fragility; and (2) before mass production, bottles were not nearly as common as later, and they were curated and reused much longer.

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Animal bone is the last main foodways-related item recovered on the site. A large quantity of bone was recovered in only one probe, NOW25 (Zone III). The plowzone (Zone I) from Unit 1 produced three animal bone fragments. Bone fragments were also recovered in the prehistoric midden (Zone IV). One tooth and one bone fragment were also found in Unit 3.

Architectural artifacts recovered at the Captain James Moore Homestead include nails, window glass, and daub. Both nails and window glass are chronologically diagnostic. Hand-wrought nails were most common before 1830, and early cut nails (hand-headed) occurred after 1815 and late cut nails (machine-headed) were most common from 1830 to 1890, after which wire nails became dominant. Window glass became thicker over time as technological changes allowed for larger panes. Mathematical formulas have been developed by archaeologists to model the changes in window glass thickness and to thus estimate the production date for window glass fragments.

Nails recovered from the central site area include nine wrought, two early cut, one late cut, three unidentified square (either wrought or cut), and five wire nails. These nails suggest activities from the late eighteenth century into the twentieth century. The wire nails are likely associated with fences, and the cut and wrought nails are probably from buildings. The single late-headed cut nail suggests that a building was standing on this property after 1830.

The recovered window glass fragments from the Moore site are all very thin. Twenty window glass fragments were found, 11 from Unit 1, Zone I (topsoil); 3 from Unit 2, Zone III (buried topsoil); and 6 from shovel probes. These fragments range in thickness from .79 cm to 1.48 cm and average 1.15 cm. The Moore average of 1.15 yields a date of 1809.6 following Moir (1987). Recent research by McBride and Sharp (1994) has found the Moir dates to be typically about one decade later than they should be, which would suggest a building date of more around 1799 (just a year off the 1798 date for James the Captive's house).

The discovery of 206 daub fragments on this site is quite interesting. Daub is basically sun-hardened or slightly baked clay. It is usually the remains of log house chinking or chinking in a stone or stick chimney. The daub fragments were recovered from many shovel probes and from all three units.

In terms of dating the complex stratigraphy at the Captain James Moore Homestead, the assemblage from Unit 1 is the best for examining this question. Interestingly, the plowzone (Zone 1) contained pearlware (1780-1840) and creamware (1762-1820) but no whiteware (post 1830). The Zone I plowzone did contain five wire fragments and one clear glass fragment, however, suggesting some later nondomestic activities. The buried topsoil Zone III of Unit 1 contained only creamware (1762-1820), a wrought nail, and a large assemblage of animal bone. This zone was probably sealed by 1820 if not much earlier, and it represents a time capsule of frontier period information.

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The items discussed above were all recovered from the shovel probes or larger test units. However, the metal detecting led to the discovery of several artifacts. These include two lead balls, one brass coin button, and one other brass button. The coin button is a flat round disk with a wire attachment loop. It dates from the eighteenth or early nineteenth century (South 1977). The other button is a two-piece button and not very diagnostic. Both lead balls have been fired. One is about .52 to .56 caliber, which was a common frontier or Native American caliber.

Overall, the historic artifacts from the Captain James Moore Homestead, although not present in abundance, are an exciting assemblage. The exclusive presence of early ceramics (creamware, pearlware, and redware), the presence of wrought nails, the lead shot, and the brass coin button in Zone III strongly support this as the site of the Moore farmstead cabin and indicate that it is an archaeological site with a high degree of integrity.

**Prehistoric Component**

Although the focus of this investigation was the Moore family occupation, an earlier occupation was discovered at the site. The prehistoric component is indicated both by lithic debitage (the debris from stone tool manufacturing) present in all levels and by prehistoric artifacts found in a dark midden in one area of the site under the plowzone. The prehistoric midden, identified by shovel tests and probes, was found 50 to 60 cm below surface and extended to 85 to 115 cm below surface. The midden area may be a remnant from a feature such as a large trash pit or house basin, but its provenience is not known at this point in time and is beyond the scope of this project.

Unit 1 provided a good sample of this midden and of almost all of the more diagnostic prehistoric artifacts of the project. This midden (Zone IV of this particular unit) consisted of a rich dark brown silty loam with many flakes, possibly pieces of fire-cracked rock, charcoal, fragments of animal bone (food refuse), and many other artifacts. As a lighter zone, transitional to subsoil, was reached below this midden (at 84 cm below surface), two round stains from posts, about 1.5 feet apart, were observed in the floor of the unit and partially in the wall.

Artifacts from Zone IV of Unit 1 were identified as follows: two pottery sherds with looped net surface treatment, two sherds with incised decoration over net-impressed surface treatment, one spalled sherd, one Clarksville Triangular projectile point (fractured), two triangular preforms, two Brewerton Side Notched projectile points, one untyped stemmed biface, and two biface fragments. One sherd with plain surface treatment was also recovered from the interface of this midden, Zone IV, and the overlying Zone IV early historic midden above it, but it likely originates in the Zone IV prehistoric midden. The only other diagnostic prehistoric artifact found on this site was a second Clarksville Triangular projectile point, from shovel test probe S10W15.

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The untyped stemmed point and the Brewerton Side Notched points date from the Late Archaic period (circa 3000-1700 B.C., Justice 1987), and the Clarksville Triangulars are from the Late Woodland period (circa A.D. 1000-1700). Tom Klatka's examination of the prehistoric sherds revealed that all of them show evidence of leached limestone temper characteristic of Radford Ware, which, like the Clarksville Triangulars, date from the Late Woodland period. This ware type was defined by Evans (1955, but see also Egloff 1992).

Thus, it appears that at least one prehistoric occupation, dating to the Late Woodland period, is represented at the site. The recovery of Late Archaic period artifacts may also reflect an early use of the site. The archaeological investigations at the Captain James Moore Homestead discovered and documented at least one intact prehistoric component of the site, and the available evidence suggests that this early component has the potential to contribute to the current understanding of local prehistory. However, a detailed examination of this prehistoric component was not within the scope of the project. While potentially significant, the prehistoric component is not being nominated as a contributing resource at this time since vertical boundaries and the context of surviving deposits in such boundaries have not yet been determined.

**Noncontributing Resources**

The Captain James Moore Homestead property contains three noncontributing historic resources, which postdate the 1772 to 1822 period of significance. The marker on the grave of Captain James Moore and his children is a noncontributing site, and the cemetery of James Moore the Captive and his family is a noncontributing site. The monument to Captain James Moore erected by the Moore family in 1928 is a noncontributing object.

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**Statement of Significance  
Summary**

The James Moore Homestead, archaeological site #44TZ131, located in Abbs Valley, Tazewell County, Virginia, is associated with the earliest Euro-American frontier settlement of the area begun around 1772 following the close of the French and Indian War. The Moore Homestead prospered during the era of the American Revolution, and James Moore fought as a militia captain at the Battle of Guilford Court House in 1781. The Moores sustained their homestead as a frontier outpost after the Revolutionary War until July 14, 1786, when Shawnee Indians allied with the British attacked and killed Captain James Moore and killed or captured the remainder of his family. Captain James Moore's son, James the Captive, returned to reestablish the family homestead in Abbs Valley in 1798 following the Battle of Fallen Timbers, which permanently opened the Appalachian Highlands for Euro-American settlement. James the Captive and other Moore family members lived at or near the original site until 1822. Artifacts recovered from intact material culture deposits at the site verify both the location and occupation of the Moore Family Homestead from around 1770 to 1822.

**Justification of Criterion A**

The Captain James Moore Homestead in Abbs Valley, Tazewell County, Virginia, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the earliest development of Euro-American settlement in the section of far southwest Virginia drained by the Bluestone River. The Moore family occupied their frontier outpost in Abbs Valley from the early 1770s, a period when Indians to the west allied with the French following the close of the French and Indian War, to the 1780s, a period when Indians west of the Appalachian Mountains allied with the British following the close of the American Revolutionary War. A raid of Shawnee Indians allied with British on July 14, 1786, killed Captain James Moore and killed or captured members of his family. Moore family occupation of the Abbs Valley Homestead resumed in 1798 when Captain Moore's son, James the Captive, returned to the site of his father's house, rebuilt near the original house, and lived there with his family until 1822, when they moved to a new house immediately to the west. The period of significance for the property spans the five decades of Moore family residence at the site from 1772 to 1822.

**Justification of Criterion D**

The Captain James Moore Homestead is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion D because of the recovery of intact material culture that dates to the period of significance. Further investigation of these intact cultural remains promises to provide additional information important to

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the understanding of Euro-American settlement of the Appalachian Highlands of southwestern Virginia. The well-preserved archaeological deposits of the Captain James Moore Homestead offer a great opportunity to investigate frontier settlement and adaptation in southwestern Virginia. Among the topics that this site is well suited to address are frontier consumption patterns, trade, diet, and farm activity patterns. Archaeological collections from sites like the Moore site provide the most direct data to investigate frontier access to East Coast and European consumables such as ceramics and glassware and to investigate frontier participation in popular consumption trends. Ceramics, glassware, clothing items, and personal artifacts such as jewelry also allow for examination of class differentiation on the supposedly more “egalitarian” frontier. Frontier diet and particularly the consumption of wild versus domestic animals is another question the Moore site is well suited to address. The sealed nature of the Moore site deposits also offers an unusual opportunity to investigate the above questions over time with the 1770s to 1780s Captain James Moore deposits and the 1790s to 1820s James the Captive deposits. These two periods are important since they represent different stages, early and late frontier periods, in the frontier settlement of southwest Virginia.

**Acknowledgements**

In addition to Stephen and Kim McBride, the principal investigators and authors of the archaeological report on the James Moore Homestead site, other individuals who should be acknowledged as contributors to this nomination include the Moore Family Association, which funded the archaeological investigations, the volunteers whose efforts made the excavations possible, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources staff, including Dr. John Kern, Mike Pulice, Tom Klatka, and Susan Zorn of the Roanoke Regional Preservation Office and Dr. Randolph Turner of the Portsmouth Regional Preservation Office.

**Historical Background**

The story of the 1786 attack by Black Wolf and other Shawnee on the James Moore family and farmstead is one of the most well known accounts in the history of Tazewell County, appearing in many local histories. A highway marker commemorates the attack, and a large monument, erected in 1928 at the site by Moore descendants, also draws attention to this event and place. A grave marker also marks the gravesite of Captain James Moore and three of the children. A brief summary of this history will be presented here, as drawn largely from the book *The Captives of Abbs Valley: A Legend of Frontier Life*, published in 1854 by the Rev. James Moore Brown, a grandson of Captain James Moore and son of Mary Moore Brown, who survived capture by the Shawnee. This work was republished

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and expanded in 1942 by Robert Bell Woodworth, and it is this edition (copyright 1943, recently reprinted by Mountain Press of Signal Mountain, Tennessee) that provides the background for our investigation. Other accounts of the attack were also reviewed (Howe 1852; Pendleton 1920; Rachal 1952; Summers 1903), but most seem to draw from the original Rev. James Moore Brown account. Brown gives much more detail on the attack, captivity, and the eventual escape of Mary Moore, James Moore, and Martha Evans than is needed for the purposes of this report.

██████████ in which this site is located, is within southwestern Virginia, one of the many long and narrow valleys that run ██████████ within the Bluestone River drainage. ██████████ is described by Howe (1852:487), in his history of Tazewell County, as about 10 miles long and 40 rods wide, and as being particularly fertile, with limestone-fed bluegrass to promote foraging of wild animals and successful livestock raising. It was supposedly this potential for livestock husbandry that enticed the Moore family to move from Rockbridge County, Virginia, to ██████████ 1772. Woodworth suggests that the accessibility of this valley to a well-used Shawnee trail from the Ohio villages, following the ██████████ and over to the Bluestone along present-day ██████████, added to the dangers for the early Euro-American inhabitants. He also noted a high density of Indian artifacts in the area, suggesting long-term intensive Indian settlement in the past.

The early Euro-American settlement of the ██████████ in the early 1770s occurred at a time of relative peace in the region, following the bitter struggles of the French and Indian War (1754-1765). The first permanent settler in the region may have been Thomas and Cecil Witten, on Walker's Creek in nearby Giles County in 1766 (Woodworth 1943). The first settler in ██████████ was Absolom Looney, for whom the valley is named, who had explored the valley before 1770 (Pendleton 1920:412) and according to Woodworth settled by 1771. According to Woodworth (1943:xi), Captain James Moore and his wife Martha Poage Moore and their family joined Looney by 1772. Pendleton (1920:412) puts their move in the fall of 1770. Both sources agree that Robert Poage, Martha's brother, and his family joined them, and that James Moore was related to Absolom Looney and had learned from him of the rich grazing land in the valley. Captain Moore subsequently distinguished himself in Revolutionary War service.

Hostilities resumed as Euro-American settlement increased and exploration into Kentucky escalated in the mid-1770s. In 1774, attacks resumed on the ██████████ (Woodworth 1943:xiii), and by 1777 things were tense all along the western frontier. For example, Thomas Ingles, a veteran of Indian conflict, moved to ██████████ in 1777 but felt uncomfortable living so close to the prominent Indian trail that ran through the valley. He and his family moved to the more protected area known as Burke's Garden. This location did not prove safe either, and his family was attacked in 1782 (Woodworth 1943:xiv). The Robert Poage family, the Moores' closest neighbors and Martha's brother, had experienced some close calls and sold out to the Moore family in 1774 and retreated east. This left the

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Moore's isolated in [REDACTED]. Despite the dangers, the Moore family prospered, building up a large herd of horses and cattle. An inventory of the estate of Captain James Moore taken after the attack lists 35 horses and 9 cattle (copy provided by Robert Moore). These horses were appealing to the Shawnee, and likely others were taken in the attack.

As hostilities were reported in the region, the Moore family is thought to have taken refuge during parts of the summers, the height of the Indian raids, in forts along the Bluestone. However, in September 1784 they were at home. The Shawnee chief Black Wolf and two young Shawnee (thought to be on a mission to steal horses) found Captain James Moore's 14-year-old son, also named James Moore, alone a short distance from the family cabin; they captured him and took him to the Ohio villages. In April 1785, they sold him to a French Canadian trader, Mr. Ariome, who adopted him into the Ariome family. News of James's safety did reach Captain Moore, but a trip to Canada through occupied territory was considered too dangerous. Meanwhile, Black Wolf and a much larger group of Shawnee, in some accounts as many as 47, returned on July 14, 1786 to the Moore Homestead. Two men who were working in a nearby wheat field in front of the house witnessed their descent from the ridge behind the house. These men escaped and helped gather a group of settlers for any possible rescue efforts.

The attack was a disastrous one for the Moore family. Except for son Joseph, who was away, the entire family was killed or captured. Captain James Moore was at the salt lick behind the house; he ran toward the house but could not get in because the door had already been bolted. He was shot as he crossed a fence surrounding the house; he ran about 40 more yards and died. Children Rebecca, Alexander, and William were out in the yard and were killed. John Simpson, who was upstairs ill in bed, was hit by a bullet during the attack and soon died. His body burned with the house. Mrs. (Martha) Moore, son John, daughters Mary and Jane, infant daughter Margaret, and Martha Evans, a young girl who had come to help with some spinning work, had all managed to get inside the house if they were not already in when the attack started. They tried to hold off the attack but could not, and all were captured and taken to Ohio. Oral tradition holds that Martha Evans hid for some time under floorboards of the house and then under a large tree or rock (or both; accounts vary) in the ravine near the house. But, thinking herself discovered, she gave herself up to a Shawnee who sat on the log above her hiding place, and she was taken with the other captives. A large rock in this ravine is today known as the Martha Evans rock.

Son John Moore and the infant Margaret Moore were killed along the trail to Ohio. Mary Moore and Martha Evans were taken to one village; Mrs. Moore and Jane Moore were taken to another, where they were tortured and burned at the stake. The accounts suggest that this was done at the instigation of visiting Cherokee angry over a recent battle loss. Mary Moore and Martha Evans were also vulnerable in this attack, but several Shawnee women hid them from the Cherokee. Their village was one of those burned by men led by Captain Benjamin Logan on October 5, 1786, and the girls were taken along

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when the Shawnee subsequently retreated to Detroit. They were sold to French and English families, Mary to a Mr. Stogwell, who treated her harshly, and Martha first to a Mr. Caldwell and then to the Dolson family, who apparently treated her much more kindly.

Martha and Mary were eventually reunited with Mary's brother James Moore, who tried unsuccessfully to secure Mary's release from her owner. Meanwhile, Martha Evans's brother Thomas Evans was trying to secure her release, but both communication and travel through enemy territory were very difficult. Thomas eventually reached Martha in August 1788, and they, along with Mary and James Moore, had returned to Rockbridge County by 1789. Mary Moore stayed in the Rockbridge area and married Rev. Samuel Brown. Their son James wrote his account of the attack and their captivity and escape in 1854. James Moore, Jr. (James the Captive), was said to have had some interest in returning to the Ariome household, where he had a romantic attachment to a daughter, but he did not, and he later married Barbara Taylor from Rockbridge County. In 1798 they resettled the Abbs Valley homestead, building a house near the original cabin that burned in 1786. In 1822 they built a new home across from this 1798 one. In 1872 their son William Taylor Moore tore at least most of the 1822 house down and built another home on the same site. This home was later occupied by William's son Oscar Bascom Moore.

None of these houses are standing, and the property is no longer under ownership of the Moore family. The fact that son James (James the Captive in family parlance) only briefly lived near the original Captain James Moore cabin is significant, adding to the potential archaeological clarity of the site. The account of the attack, presumably from firsthand information handed down by Martha Evans and Mary Moore Brown to Mary's son James Moore Brown (Brown 1854), was that the Shawnee took most of the material goods from the house, divided some up among themselves, and made a large pile of unwanted items in front of the house. These they burned, along with the house (and barns and other outbuildings). It is presumed that they took a number of horses, although local tradition is that they could not subdue James's famous horse Yorick, which they killed (Pendleton 1920, p 416 has a picture of Rose, the last known descendant of Yorick). A group of local men, who had been warned of the attack and who had been farming nearby and had witnessed the arrival of the Shawnee, later arrived at the cabin site and buried the bodies of Rebecca, Alexander, and William on the slope behind the house. After a failed pursuit of the Shawnee party and captives, they returned to the site and then found the body of Captain James Moore and buried it beside the children. A cluster of nine oak trees marks these graves. The original stones marking these graves were destroyed, but a newer monument has been erected.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The land that now encompasses the James Moore Homestead consists of 4.70 acres. The land is recorded on the [REDACTED]; the nominated parcel is recorded as [REDACTED]

**Boundary Justification**

[REDACTED]