

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: James Farm
 Other names/site number: Possums Rest, The William Russell House; DHR#053-0739
 Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 15021 Mountain Road
 City or town: Purcellville State: VA County: Loudoun
 Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: X

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
 I hereby certify that this 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 at the following
 level(s) of significance:

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

_____ Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	_____ Date
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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title :	_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Outbuildings

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Animal Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Outbuildings

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Storage

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE; WOOD; METAL; CONCRETE

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

The James Farm is situated on 100 acres of rolling farmland northwest of Purcellville, Virginia, in Loudoun County. The primary resource is a stone dwelling constructed in 1786, likely by William Russell, who was a tenant farmer on the property before buying the farm outright in 1796. Russell's initials and the date "May 1786" are inscribed on a cornerstone on the dwelling's southeastern (façade) elevation. Constructed of locally sourced, irregularly coursed and uncut fieldstones, the dwelling was originally a two-story, two-bay, single-pile house with a side-gable roof. An early-19th-century, two-bay, single-pile, two-story addition transformed it to a hall-and-parlor plan. Another lateral addition, built in the early- to mid-19th century, was constructed on the main block's east side and is one-and-one-half stories and one room deep. A small early to mid-20th-century cinderblock addition is on the northern (rear) elevation. This dwelling represents the tangible narrative of an evolving 18th-century Virginia farmhouse with a significant architectural footprint. The windows have historic-age wood sash and the entries have paneled wood doors with original hardware. The hall-and-parlor main block features vernacular derivations of the classical inspirations characteristic of the Federal and Greek Revival styles, notably in symmetry of massing and use of stone lintels over windows and doors. These influences are evident on the interior as well with molding, door and window surrounds, chair rails and baseboards, as well as one pedimented doorway and several simply detailed, paneled fireplace surrounds. The windows have late-19th-century two-over-two wood sash and the doors are an eclectic assortment of vertical plank, short, wide, paneled doors with lights, and taller,

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narrower, four-panel doors. The dwelling's overall rambling, homespun appearance is integral to its architectural character, the significance of which lies in its encapsulation of vernacular materials, design, and construction methods, as well as retention of original millwork and hardware. Multiple associated outbuildings on the property contribute to the property's integrity and convey the narrative of the farm's agricultural and domestic evolution. Located near the stone dwelling are a stone springhouse, stone bank barn, carriage shed, corncrib, and shed/agricultural outbuilding. Located on the same parcel, close to its southeastern boundary, is a second domestic complex consisting of a circa 1920 Colonial Revival dwelling, garage, and equipment shed. Close to a farm pond and near the property's eastern boundary are a hay barn and silo. All of the secondary resources also are contributing and were constructed within property's period of significance of 1786-1920. There are no non-contributing resources on the property.

Narrative Description

Location and Setting

The James Farm is situated on a 100-acre tract just west of the town of Hillsboro and northwest of Purcellville in Loudoun County, Virginia. The land incorporates a majority of the historic boundaries of the acreage historically associated with the farm, part of which was divided between owners in 2005 and 2010 from the initial 212.3340 acres recorded in the "Boundary Survey of Land of E. Elizabeth James Reynolds, Oscar Caldwell James, Lelia Louise James."¹ The original acreage, under the ownership of William Russell totaled 305-acres, which Russell purchased on May 10, 1796. Likely, Russell was already living on the property as a tenant farmer, as the stone house had already been constructed by this point (Figure 1).² It was common during this period in western Loudoun County for tenant farmers to rent land, improve it, and save up to eventually purchase it outright from their land steward. The James Farm is situated at the base of the Short Hill Mountain, with the current property boundary running along the Old Route 690 (Mountain Road). The original historic boundary reached beyond the other side of Mountain Road. The farm lies within close proximity to the old Vestal's Gap and Key's Gap roads, which were heavily traversed wagon roads used to transport goods to the nearby railroads. These historic roads are still visible today. The James Farm is accessed by a winding gravel road which leads first to the circa 1920 Colonial Revival dwelling on the property then proceeds on to the stone dwelling and its associated outbuildings. On either side is gently rolling farmland, surrounding by wooded forest, allowing the James Farm to retain its original historic landscape.

¹ Loudoun County Deed Book 873, Page 372, Loudoun County Courthouse, Leesburg, VA.

² Loudoun County Deed Book X, Page 56.

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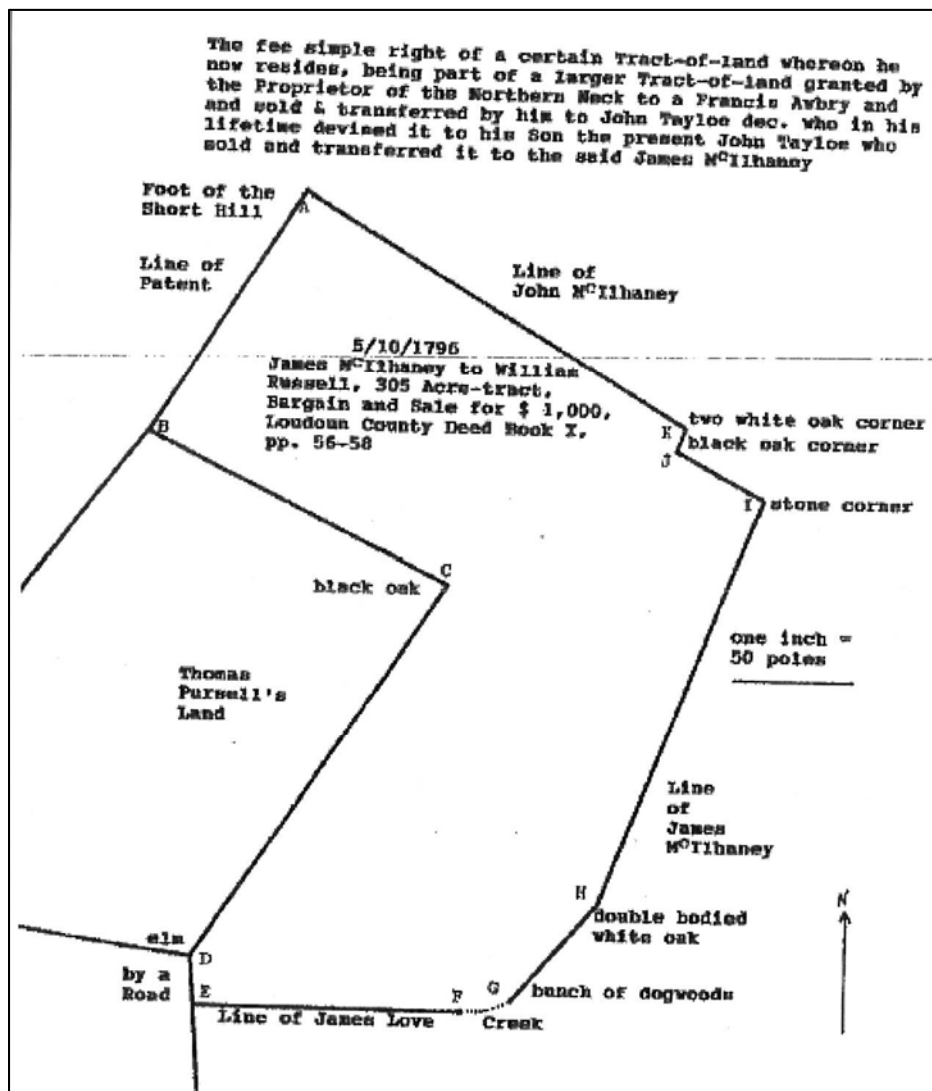


Figure 1: The land purchased by William Russell on May 10, 1796, is similar in shape to Lot No. 20 seen here. (Plat: *John Tayloe's Kittocktin Land from Francis Awbrey's Patent(s) ca. 1731*, p. 27, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, Virginia.

Inventory

The James Farm includes 11 contributing resources, as listed below and as keyed by number to the attached Sketch Maps. All of the contributing resources retain a high percentage of historic fabric and most have few non-historic alterations or additions. The circa 1920 Colonial Revival dwelling has been remodeled and has a newer rear addition, but the form and massing of its main block, architectural embellishments, and historic character remain apparent.

1. Stone House, Primary Dwelling, ca. 1786, Contributing Building
2. Stone Springhouse, ca. 1871 / Late 19th century, Contributing Structure

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3. Stone Bank Barn, 1792/ 1870 / Late 19th century, Contributing Building
4. Carriage Shed, Ca. 1900, Contributing Building
5. Corncrib, Early to Mid-19th century, Contributing Structure
6. Shed/Agricultural Outbuilding, Late 19th century, Contributing Building
7. Colonial Revival Dwelling, Ca. 1920 Contributing Building
8. Garage, Late 19th to Early 20th century, Contributing Building
9. Equipment Shed, Early to Mid-20th century, Contributing Building
10. Hay Barn, Ca. 1910, Contributing Building
11. Silo, Ca. 1910, Contributing Structure

Architectural Descriptions

1. Stone House, Primary Dwelling, ca. 1786, Contributing Building

Exterior:

Constructed ca. 1786, the primary dwelling began as a two-story, two-bay, side-gable, fieldstone hall-plan dwelling. Resting on a stone foundation, the walls are constructed of irregularly coursed and uncut fieldstones which results in uneven thickness of the mortar joints. A date stone, engraved with “May [illegible] W.R. 1786,” presumably standing for William Russell, the builder and first resident of the house, is located at the southeast corner of the façade. The main entry, located on the original 1786 section of the house, has a four-panel wood door surmounted by a cut-stone lintel and fronted with a set of fieldstone steps. To the left (south) of the entry is a single window, also accented with a stone lintel, and two windows are symmetrically placed above these on the second story. East of the entry, a seam in the wall indicates the dwelling’s first expansion, an early-to-mid 19th-century, two-bay lateral addition that turned the dwelling into a four-bay, hall-parlor plan. The symmetrical addition has two windows on each story. The roof is covered in standing-seam metal and features slightly overhanging eaves on the north and south elevations and two interior end stone chimneys. The windows on both the original two-bay section and the addition are two-over-two double hung wooden sash replacements, probably dating to the late-19th or early-20th century.

Spanning the main block’s northeastern gable end wall is an early-to-mid-19th-century, one-and-one-half story addition with standing-seam-metal roofing and a large, square, stone, interior end chimney. This addition’s asymmetrical two-bay façade has an entry fronted with stone steps, similar to the entry in the original block in the southern bay; the entry has a flush panel wood door with an upper insert composed of six lights as well as the frame of an old screen door. A narrow cut-stone lintel accents the entry. Set at higher height than the door, the window has a six-over-six wood sash, plain wood surround, and narrow stone lintel.

The main block’s side (southwestern and northeastern) elevations and the one-and-one-half-story addition’s side (northeastern) elevation each feature two small, single, square attic windows. Only one window, on the southwestern side, retains a historic-age, wood, four-light sash. The other windows have been boarded up with plywood until replacement sash can be fabricated.

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On the northwestern (rear) elevation is a one-story, shed-roofed porch with simple square posts and a wood floor. The porch spans the length of the dwelling's main block and is attached to the west wall of an early-20th-century, cinderblock, shed-roofed, one-story addition.

The dwelling's rear elevation has two bays on the main block. Each bay has a centered entry on the first story and a single window on the second story. The short, wide west entry has a three-panel wood door with two fixed lights in its upper one-third panels while the additional entry is taller and narrower, with a four-panel door.

The porch was likely constructed at the same time as the cinderblock addition, and rests on a combination of stone piers and cinder-block infill. There is a single set of large, flat stones laid out on the ground that act as steps up to the porch.

Sections of the cinderblock addition's foundation are covered with parged concrete, while vertical boards cover the topmost part of the east wall. The windows on the cinder block addition are single and paired, wood-framed, nine-light casement sash units. On the addition's northwestern wall is an entry with a single concrete step leading up to it, due to the sloping grade of the terrain. The entry has a simple four-panel wood door.

Interior:

The main block of the original 1786 section features a single-pile hall, which was common for rural, 18th-century domestic dwellings. As originally constructed, the James Farm dwelling featured a hall plan: a one-room dwelling with a loft above. It evolved throughout the 19th century, with the first lateral addition converting it to a hall-parlor plan and a second lateral addition, also single-pile, consisting of a kitchen with loft above. All three of these sections feature identical wooden flooring and molding throughout the rooms. The walls are covered in plaster and feature simple yet sophisticated molding and millwork that is found throughout the first and second floors of the house.

A large, full paneled chimneypiece with a simply molded mantel is located in the center of the main block's western wall. This suggests that the mantel was updated in the mid-to-late 19th century, as it does not match common designs and trends of the late-18th century. On either side of the fireplace are two built-in cabinet and storage spaces. The cabinet to the right, situated between the fireplace and an enclosed winder staircase, is accessed by opening a vertical-board door. The cabinet on the left is divided into two levels; the upper has wooden shelves, closed in by a wooden door with nine lights, while the lower portion is without shelving and is enclosed by a small, paneled wooden door. The enclosed staircase has a simple vertical plank door with original HL hinges. The presence of these original late-18th- to early-19th-century finishes, which are all still in excellent condition, adds to the dwelling's integrity and architectural importance. Original door hardware is found throughout the 18th- and 19th-century sections, including the original late-18th-century strap and HL-hinges situated on cabinets and doors, as shown below.

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Figure 2: HL-Hinge, 1786 Block Cabinet

The original wooden support beams line the ceiling of the 18th- and 19th-century sections, which are covered in flat, wooden, horizontally laid boards of varying widths and of tongue-in-groove construction. These comprise the flooring of the second-floor rooms. The vertically laid floorboards of the first level are similarly constructed, tongue-and-groove pine boards of fairly consistent width.

The adjoining parlor, constructed in the early 19th century, and the original hall are separated by a single partition wall. The parlor features a brick fireplace with a wooden mantel, as well as multi-paneled, wooden over-mantel and sideboards. There is a built-in storage space to the left of the fireplace. Another enclosed corner staircase is located to the far left of the fireplace, while a set of wooden steps to the right leads down to the kitchen in the one-and-one-half-story addition.

The single, open room contains multiple built-in cabinets and storage spaces indicative of its historic use as a kitchen. As in the other rooms, an enclosed winder staircase in the northwestern corner leads to the upper loft. To the left of the staircase is an enclosed entrance and stairs that leads down to the basement/cellar level. This section of the house received an early-20th-century update to accommodate an indoor kitchen space. There is a fireplace centered on the eastern wall. The firebox has been filled with concrete block and a plywood board, and is highlighted with a single over-mantel board and two paneled side-boards. Vent holes are present at two locations, one directly above the mantel, and another near the ceiling. As in the other two sections, the ceiling in the kitchen space is constructed of horizontal wooden boards that form the floorboards of the second floor, and is supported by wooden beams.

The original 19th-century stone exterior is still visible inside the cinder block addition. The addition is accessed from the kitchen by a single vertical-plank door with wood surround.

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The second floor of the stone dwelling has four interconnected rooms located above the 1786 and earlier 19th-century sections. All rooms are rectangular and are separated by thin, wooden partitions. The doors are all constructed of vertical plank boards and feature original hardware. The room located in the southwestern section is accessed from the staircase in the main 1786 block and leads into the southwestern and northeastern rooms. This room also contains an enclosed winder staircase that leads to the attic. The southwestern room contains the interior stone chimney, which is plastered over, and a fireplace with brick infill covered in plywood, and a simple, carved wooden mantel and decorative trim elements. There is a floor-to-ceiling, built-in cabinet to the right of the fireplace. The northeastern room has a staircase and wooden railing on the far eastern wall that descends to the first floor, as well as a door on its western wall that leads into the northwestern room. Each of the second floor rooms feature windows with moldings and trim identical to those found on the first floor, as well as similar plain baseboards. The ceilings of the second-floor rooms are wooden plank boards with wooden support beams stretching vertically across in all rooms.

The attic features wooden beams connected at the roof pitch to form the two side-gables. The beams are pegged with mortise-and-tenon joinery and feature “carpenter’s marks” in Roman numerals at their highest points. (Figure 3). The original interior stone chimneys are present and exposed on the western and eastern walls of the attic, with the eastern chimney being plastered over.



Figure 3: Attic Carpenter's Marks

The basement/cellar of the house is accessible only from within the one-and-one-half-story addition through a doorway on the western facing wall. Wooden steps lead down to a dirt floor and a door opening into the basement level. The basement consists of two sections, within which the stone foundation walls are visible. On the northern wall, there is a small, rectangular opening

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with a wooden surround that looks into a dirt-floored crawlspace beneath the rear porch. Throughout the basement, there are stone support pillars as well as supports with wooden lintels for the stone chimneys. The ceiling features roughly hewn log support beams installed vertically and resting on an inset built into the thick stone foundation. Above these are horizontally laid square wooden beams that support the wide-planked, tongue-and-groove floorboards of the first floor.

Secondary Resource Descriptions

2. Stone Springhouse, ca. 1871 / Late 19th century, Contributing Structure

The 1871 stone springhouse is constructed of irregularly coursed fieldstone, identical to that used for the 1786 stone dwelling. The springhouse features a date stone that reads, "S.C. 1871," presumably for Samuel Clendening, a former owner of the property. The building features a front-gable, standing-seam metal roof. On the western gable end wall, there is an entry with a vertical board door, a stone lintel, and stone sill, with a set of stone steps leading up to it. On the southern (side) elevation, a set of stone cellar steps leads down to an entry with a vertical-board door. At the same level, a small window with two wood shutters is to the right (east) of the entry. up window opening. Immediately to the right of the window, a projecting stone bay with an opening at the bottom presumably provided a ventilation function. The structure's interior is partitioned into two rooms with a wooden wall that contains a doorway. Original woodwork and hardware can also be found on the exterior and interior. There is speculation that the springhouse was also used as a smokehouse, but there is no clear evidence to confirm this use. There are meat hooks and small vents that could indicate a section of the building was used to store meats, rather than being used as a smokehouse.

3. Stone Bank Barn, 1792/ 1870 / Late 19th century, Contributing Building

The three-and-a-half story stone bank barn is constructed of irregularly coursed fieldstones, similar to that of the 1786 stone dwelling and the 1871 springhouse. Changes were made to the barn in 1870, including an addition built of similar materials, with the first-story walls constructed of stone and the upper levels clad with vertical board siding. The roof is covered with standing-seam metal and has slightly overhanging eaves and exposed purlin ends. The ruins of a concrete silo can be found just outside of the barn. The barn bears three separate date stones inscribed with "WR 1792," "S.C. Sept. 1 1870," and "1870 S.C.," indicating that either the original 18th-century barn was added onto by Samuel Clendening in 1870, or that an original 1792 barn, constructed by William Russell, once stood elsewhere on the property and had since been dismantled, allowing for the stones to be repurposed into the current barn, for which Clendening displayed the original date stone. The interior of the barn's original section is in good condition and features hand-hewn beams and original 19th-century hardware. There is also a stone retaining wall that runs along the slope of the bank in front of the barn. Some of the wall has collapsed. A number of relics and artifacts found in and around the barn site are now stored in the barn. There was likely an 18th-century barn that once stood east of the current barn.

4. Carriage Shed, Ca. 1900, Contributing Building

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This building is situated east of the stone bank barn and was likely utilized as a carriage shed at one point, but could have been used for other agricultural purposes over the years. The exact date of construction is unknown, but it likely dates to the early 20th century. This frame building is clad with vertical wooden boards and rests on stone and concrete piers. The front-gable roof is covered with standing seam metal. A shed-roof addition of identical construction spans the main block's northern wall. There are wooden support beams lining the interior. It appears that there was once an attic space in the upper level of the main section, but that has since collapsed and been removed. This building features 18th-century hardware, including the strap hinges on the doorway, but the remaining building materials appear to be from a much later date. Likely the building was constructed in the late-19th century and some materials from earlier buildings were re-used.

5. Cornerrib, Early to Mid-19th century, Contributing Structure

This structure was likely used as an agricultural outbuilding, such as a granary, dairy, cornerrib, or storage for the orchard that was once on the property. It rests on a stone foundation and is built into a banked site south of the 1796 stone dwelling. The walls are clad with vertical board siding and the steeply pitched shed roof is covered with standing-seam metal. There are no windows or doors present and the structure has partially collapsed.

6. Shed/Agricultural Outbuilding, Late 19th century, Contributing Building

This building is located north of the 1786 stone dwelling and was likely used as an agricultural outbuilding such as a granary or for other crop storage, or as a small barn or shed. This three-bay building rests on a stone foundation and the walls have vertical wooden board siding. The side-gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal. On the western elevation, there are two doorways, only one of which is still intact, while a window opening, lacking a sash, is between the south door and corner of the elevation. The gable end walls show evidence of windows that were boarded up at an unknown time.

7. Colonial Revival Dwelling, Ca. 1920 Contributing Building

This two-story, five-bay Colonial Revival dwelling was constructed circa 1920. Resting on a stone foundation and clad in white stucco, this building features a gable roof covered in standing seam metal with slightly overhanging eaves, a boxed cornice, which is interrupted by a center front projecting gable with a three-part Palladian-style window. The windows have two-over-two replacement vinyl sash and louvered, vinyl shutters on the second level. The entry features decorative half-paneled sidelights, a fanlight, and pilasters. The south façade has a full-width porch with deeply overhanging eaves, a standing-seam metal roof, Corinthian columns, a wooden floor and railing, and a central, pedimented front gable. There is a secondary entrance on the side of the building that features a similarly constructed portico. A large two-story addition on the rear elevation of the original dwelling has recently been completed, but is compatible in design, scale, and materials.

8. Garage, Late 19th to Early 20th century, Contributing Building

This is a single-story, single-bay building that was likely initially used as a storage shed for farm equipment. Located a short distance northwest of the ca. 1920 Colonial Revival dwelling, the

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garage has a stone foundation and is clad with vertical boards. The side-gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal and features overhanging eaves and exposed purlin ends. There is a single window with a six-light, vinyl replacement sash roughly centered on the east and west elevation. Two doorways are located on the northern gable wall. A shed-roof addition of unknown date spans the garage's south gable end. This addition features a stone foundation and walls built of concrete block and partial wooden siding. There is an exterior, end concrete block chimney flue and double sliding doors on the façade. The end features paired, two-over-two, double-hung, sash replacement windows.

9. Equipment Shed, Early to Mid-20th century, Contributing Building

This single-story, two-bay shed has no discernable foundation and is currently used to store farm equipment. The walls are clad with galvanized metal siding over vertical wooden boards. The building has a shed roof covered with sheet metal and exposed purlin ends. Vertical boards and wooden support beams line the interior. On the west elevation, there are two, large sliding doors for the entryways. Each door is clad in the same type of metal siding as the walls. This building stands northwest of the ca. 1920 Colonial Revival dwelling.

10. Hay Barn, Ca. 1910, Contributing Building

This single-story, rectangular building is located east of the farm pond and northeast of the circa 1920 Colonial Revival dwelling, near the eastern side of the property. This building was likely used as a barn or shed for hay or other crop storage.

11. Silo, Ca. 1910, Contributing Structure

This circular structure stands a short distance northeast of the circa 1910 hay barn. It is of cinder block construction.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
Ca. 1786 –1920

Significant Dates
Ca. 1786
Ca. 1835

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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

Located west of the town of Hillsboro and northwest of Purcellville in Loudoun County, Virginia, on the northwest side of Route 690, the James Farm is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The primary dwelling is a significant example of vernacular construction materials and methods as applied across more than a century. The original ca. 1786, two-story, single-pile hall dwelling was expanded circa 1835 to a hall-parlor plan with a one-and-one-half-story lateral addition, and an early 20th century kitchen addition. The dwelling's detailing displays vernacular derivations of the Federal and Greek Revival styles that were nationally popular during the 19th century. Its original details exhibit how the house evolved as a vernacular adaptation of several styles. The presence of multiple intact and contributing agricultural dependencies and a second dwelling displays the vernacular evolution of a working farm in Loudoun County from the late 18th to the early 20th century. The period of significance begins in 1786 with the initial construction of the hall-plan house and continues until 1920, encompassing the stone dwelling's two early to mid-19th-century additions and early 20th century rear kitchen addition, construction of the various domestic and agricultural outbuildings, and construction of the ca. 1920 Colonial Revival farmhouse.

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

Architectural Analysis

The James Farm, historically known as "Possums Rest" or the "William Russell House," is a remarkably well-preserved example of an evolved late-18th-century stone vernacular farmhouse, built with elements of the Federal and Georgian styles. The primary dwelling is constructed utilizing locally available building materials, namely uncut, irregularly coursed fieldstones. Construction of stone dwellings was common in this region of Loudoun County and due to the quality of local craftsmanship, many of these stone buildings remain standing today. In comparison to other similarly constructed buildings in the area, the James Farm's stone house stands apart because of its largely intact original interior detailing and unaltered exterior, which features rusticated yet decorative stone quoins, a common attribute adorning high-style Georgian architecture in more urban and populated areas. Asymmetrical derivations of the Greek Revival style can also be seen in the house's interior details, such as its pedimented door surround in the main hall. Features such as this were likely added as updates to the interior when the two early to mid-19th-century additions were added and coincide with popular national trends in architecture plan books. Most original pieces of hardware and millwork are still in place and in excellent condition throughout the interior, including beaded ceiling joists, hand-forged iron strap and HL hinges, corbeled shelves, and molded door and window trim. The James Farm features simple and modest detailing typical of late-18th Virginia farmhouses, as well as early to mid-19th-century, high-style architectural trends. In comparison, the early-to-mid 19th century Brown-Koerner House, (NRHP 2016; DHR#053-0342) in nearby Purcellville, also constructed of stone and also built as a vernacular adaptation of the Federal style, begins to reflect a fashion more

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congruent with classically-inspired architectural styles of upper-class, urban areas with its more formalized, symmetrical design.

The construction techniques utilized to build the main stone house reveal the significant level of craftsmanship necessary to ensure its survival. Sawn wooden framing and thick, stone walls are congruent with local building trends. Like many similar properties in the area, including the Brown-Koerner House, and dwellings within the nearby Goose Creek Rural Historic District (NRHP 1982; DHR#053-0002) and in the village of Hillsboro, the James Farm is largely constructed using local fieldstones and also utilizes a two-room, open floor plan, rather than the more formal center-hall plans found in the farmhouses and plantations of Tidewater Virginia. The design of these houses is typically symmetrical, however the James Farm does not follow any sort of symmetrical design on either the interior or exterior, allowing for a charming vernacular character with high integrity of design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

Historical Background

The topography of western Loudoun County, particularly in Purcellville and Hillsboro, has remained largely bucolic and pastoral, featuring rolling farmland, rivers, and waterways nestled within the Loudoun Valley and surrounded by picturesque mountains. The James Farm sits on a tract of prime agricultural land that was initially a parcel within the Northern Neck Proprietary, a tract totaling 5,282,000 acres in the Virginia colony and given to seven loyal supporters by King Charles II in 1649.³ Much of this land was owned by Thomas, Lord Culpeper, whose daughter married Thomas, Lord Fairfax, who then became the main proprietor of the lands situated between the Rappahannock and Potomac rivers. The tract of land on which the James Farm is now situated was part of a nearly 4,000-acre tract which was granted by the King to another supporter, Francis Aubrey (Awbrey), a native of Westmoreland County, Virginia, born in 1690.⁴

Prior to Aubrey's death, the tract of land was conveyed to the Honorable John Tayloe, in whose family the land remained for nearly three generations. In *Colo. John Tayloe's Kittockton Land, 1757-1758*, a plat divides the land into thirty-two individual lots, some of which had improvements by this period.⁵ Loudoun County Deed Book H, pages 154-156, shows that a William Russell leased two of those thirty-two lots (highlighted in Figure 4 in red and blue as lots "20" and "11").⁶ John Tayloe, Esq. remained the owner of the Kittocktin Land until he sold and transferred it to James McIlhaney, the land steward, in 1773.⁷

³ Gentry, Daphne S., comp. *Virginia Land Office Inventory*. 3rd ed., revised and enlarged by John S. Salmon. Richmond, Va.: Archives and Records Division, Virginia State Library, 1981.

⁴ *John Tayloe's Kittocktin Land from Francis Awbrey's Patent(s) ca. 1731*, p. 5, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, Va.

⁵ Loudoun County Deed Book A, p. 232, as reproduced in *John Tayloe's Kittocktin Land from Francis Awbrey's Patent(s) ca. 1731*, p. 22; Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

⁶ Loudoun County Deed Book H, p. 154-156.

⁷ *John Tayloe's Kittocktin Land from Francis Awbrey's Patent(s) ca. 1731*, p. 5, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, Va.

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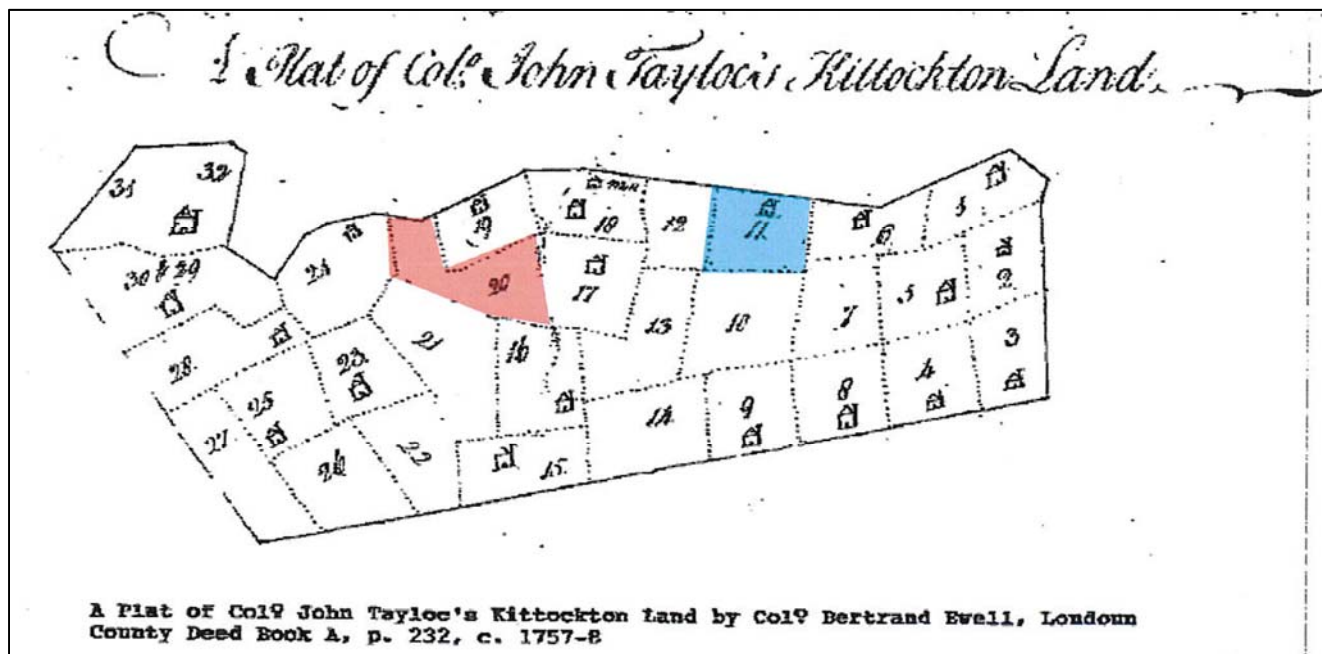


Figure 4: Lot No. 11 highlighted with blue. Lot No. 20 highlighted with red. Shared from "History of 15021 Mountain Road, Plat: photocopies, p. 22," by an unknown author.

Between 1795-1799, McIlhaney liquidated a majority of his real estate, through which transactions were made with a number of local residents, most of whom were already tenants living and working on improved parcels. One of these transactions was made with William Russell, who purchased a 305-acre tract on May 10, 1796, which is known today as the James Farm.⁸

In 18th-century Loudoun County, it was common for tenant farmers to live and work on property they were leasing from land stewards, to improve upon their farms, and to save money to eventually purchase the property outright. A decade before purchasing the 305-acre tract, Russell had already constructed the stone house in 1786.⁹ A stone barn was initially constructed in 1792, as well as other common outbuildings that no longer stand today.

⁸ Loudoun County Deed Book X, p. 56.

⁹ Figure 3, photo by author.

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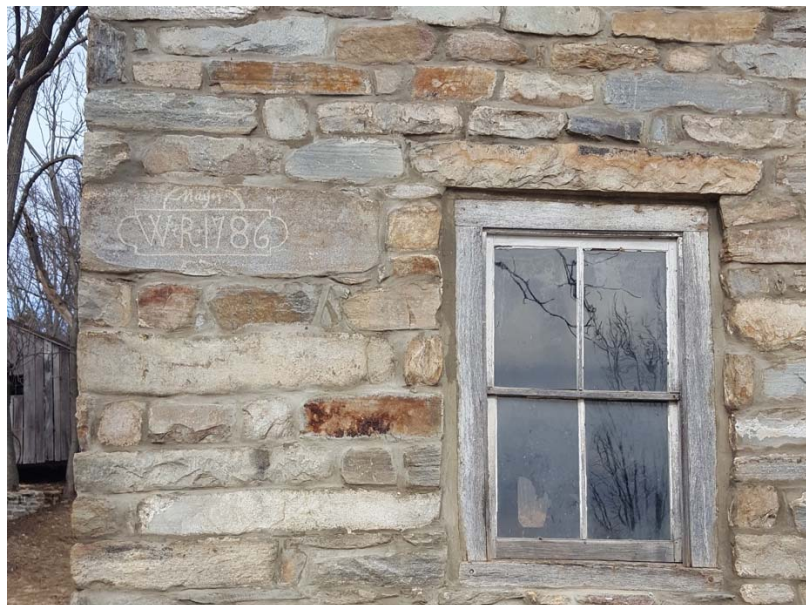


Figure 5: Date stone on façade of stone house, inscribed, “May 17 W.R. 1786.” Photo by author.

There is little known today about the life of William Russell. Small details come to light through various official records, largely deed books, hinting that he was indeed a tenant farmer with the means to purchase his own property, which he had steadily improved upon and farmed for decades. Other details emerge in census records, which give an even more interesting account of what life was like on this property. The 1810 census for Loudoun County records that William Russell was 65 years old at the time, residing in a household that contained six other males, all between the ages of 5-26, four females between the ages of 5-16, and his second wife, Edith. An interesting detail is that the 1810 census also records that there were six enslaved people living on the property as well.¹⁰ Unfortunately, no further information is available as to who these enslaved African Americans were, nor do any slave dwellings currently exist on the property. However, there is potential for significant archaeological finds on the property’s undisturbed acreage that may assist in developing a more thorough narrative of the lives of the enslaved persons living on the James Farm prior to the Civil War (1861-1865).

After Russell’s death in 1813, the farm was left to his wife, Edith (née Smith), and their nine children, as well as to six (of eight) children from his first marriage to his late wife, Ruth (née Russell).¹¹ The property remained under ownership of the Russell family, largely influenced by William’s daughter, Ruth, and her husband, William Clendening, until the property was granted to their son, Samuel Clendening, Jr., in 1856. This deed is the first to refer to the farm by a name, calling it the “Russell Farm,” which included “120 acres, 1 rood, and 20 poles.”¹² An 1852-1853 Yardley Taylor Map shows Samuel Clendening’s name (circled) situated near the James Farm property, located adjacent to the Short Hill Mountain and the Town of Hillsboro[ugh] (Figure 6).

¹⁰ 1810-1840 Loudoun County Virginia Federal Population Census Index, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

¹¹ “William Russell, 1745-1813, family genealogy,” Larry L. Russell, 2002, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

¹² Loudoun County Deed Book 5, p. 428, Loudoun County Courthouse Archives, Leesburg, VA.

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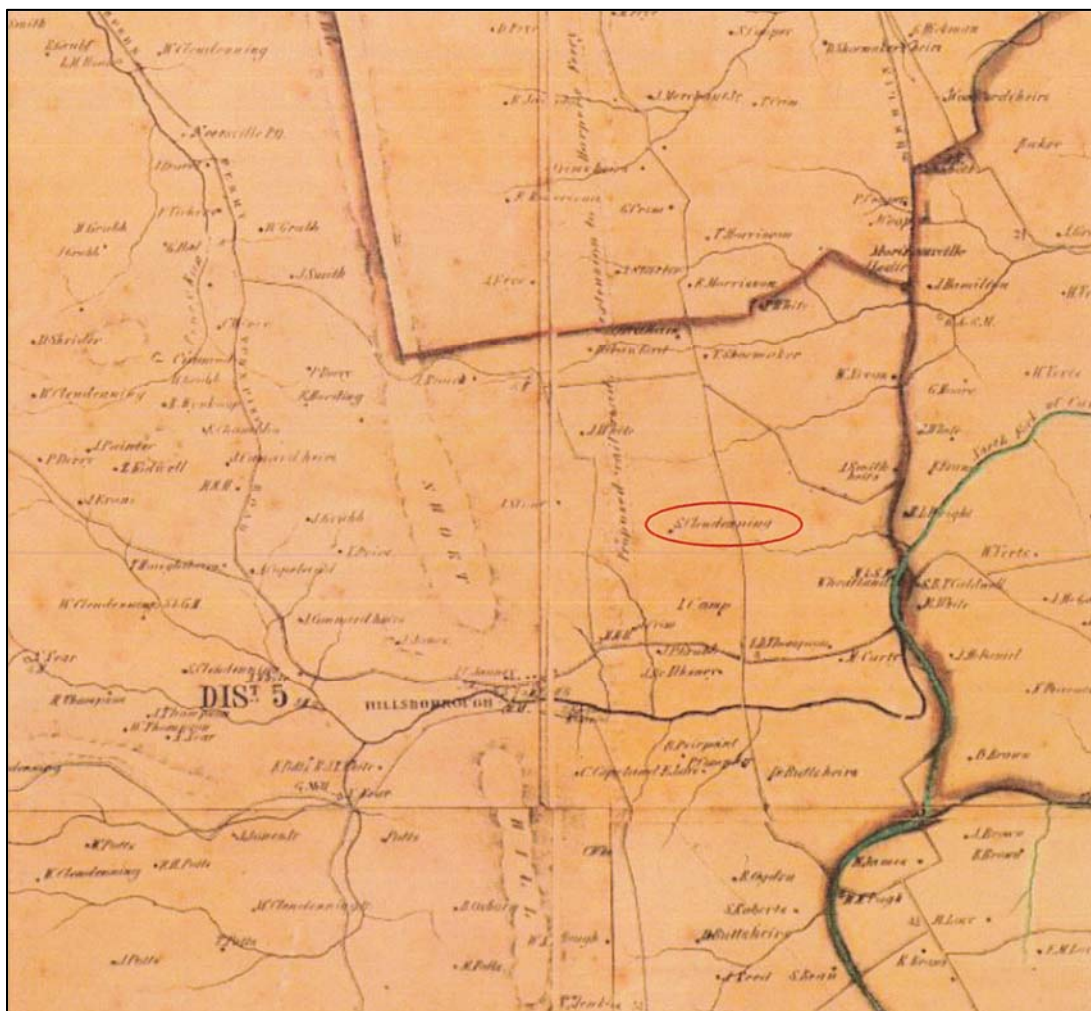


Figure 6: Taylor, Yardley. "Map of Loudoun County, Virginia, from Actual Surveys." [1852-53]. Published 1854. Found in "History of 15021 Mountain Road," by an unknown author, <http://www.loudounhistory.org/history/yardley-taylor-1853-map.htm>.

The "1860 Virginia Slave Schedule" notes that Samuel Clendening owned four enslaved African Americans, a "48-year-old black female, a 16-year-old black male, an 8-year-old black female, and a 5-year-old black female, living in 1 slave house."¹³ Where this dwelling would have been located on the property remains unknown. With primary source documentation noting the presence of enslaved individuals on the property, the narrative of this seemingly yeoman farm becomes much more complex. However, the lack of any further primary source evidence makes it difficult to tell that story properly. It is possible that future archaeological survey could reveal more of the information needed to piece together the full narrative of domestic and agricultural life for both whites and enslaved African Americans living on the James Farm from the late-18th century through the end of slavery.

¹³ 1860 Loudoun County, Virginia Slave Schedule, p. 53, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

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The survival and prosperity of this farm spans over two centuries, displaying the evolution of agricultural practices and architectural styles in Loudoun County. While no agricultural records pertaining to the James Farm have appeared in regards to its 18th-century history when William Russell was the farm's proprietor, the "United States, Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880" do highlight the agricultural pursuits of Samuel Clendening. In 1850, Clendening had at least 95 acres under cultivation, with the property value of the farm, including livestock and machinery, totaled at \$6,000. Under his ownership were six horses, five milk cows, nine "other cattle," and ten hogs. At the time, he was planting wheat and Indian corn.¹⁴ It has been maintained that there was also an orchard present on the property that was cultivated for decades. With the James Farm's close proximity to multiple highly-traversed wagon roads, the landholding was strategically positioned to allow for easy access to railroads to allow for more productive commerce and trade. Old Vestal's Gap Road (later Key's Gap Road) for which its route is largely marked by modern Route 9 (Charles Town Pike), and the "old mountain road" (Snicker's Gap Road) which today is approximated by Route 7 (Leesburg Pike), are intersected at the property boundaries for the James Farm.

Samuel Clendening, Jr., died in 1887. The James Farm remained in the Clendening family until the death of his son, also named Samuel Clendening, in 1931. At this time, the farm was deeded to the third Samuel Clendening's daughter, Nellie, and her husband, Levi Clifton James. Levi and Nellie James then deeded the property to their children in 1958. The farm remained with members of the James family until 2005.

Since before the stone dwelling was constructed in 1786, the land that makes up the James Farm has been used for agricultural purposes. While many of the original 18th-century outbuildings are no longer standing, the presence of multiple contributing 19th- and early-20th-century agricultural outbuildings contributes to the overall integrity of the James Farm by representing the historic uses and architectural importance of the property. It is evident that some 19th-century outbuildings were constructed using salvaged and repurposed materials, likely from earlier outbuildings. The stone barn that stands today bears three separate date stones inscribed with "WR 1792," "S.C. Sept. 1 1870," and "1870 S.C.," while the stone springhouse bears a date stone with a construction date of 1871. With the presence of the secondary Colonial Revival dwelling on the property, which was likely constructed ca. 1920 by members of the Clendening family, it can be inferred that the James Farm had recovered from the ravages of the Civil War across Loudoun Valley and Northern Virginia. Consequently, the ensemble of outbuildings and the secondary dwelling demonstrate the evolution of agricultural practices in Loudoun County throughout the property's period of significance.

¹⁴ *United States, Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880*. Microfilm, accessed Handley S.C

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

1810-1840 Loudoun County Virginia Federal Population Census Index, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

1860 Loudoun County, Virginia Slave Schedule, p. 53, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

Gentry, Daphne S., comp. Virginia Land Office Inventory. 3rd ed., revised and enlarged by John S. Salmon. Richmond, Va.: Archives and Records Division, Virginia State Library, 1981.

Hutchinson, Louisa Skinner. *Apprentices, Poor Children, and Bastards, Loudoun County, VA, 1757-1850*, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

John Tayloe's Kittocktin Land from Francis Awbrey's Patent(s) ca. 1731, p. 5, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, Va.

Loudoun County Deed Book A, p. 232, map as reproduced in John Tayloe's Kittocktin Land from Francis Awbrey's Patent(s) ca. 1731, p. 22; Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

Loudoun County Deed Book H, p. 154-156.

Loudoun County Deed Book X, p. 56.

Loudoun County Deed Book 5, p. 428, Loudoun County Courthouse Archives, Leesburg, VA.

United States, Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880. Microfilm, accessed Handley Library, Stewart Bell, Jr. Archives Room, Winchester.

"William Russell, 1745-1813, family genealogy," Larry L. Russell, 2002, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

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

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designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR No. 053-0739

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 100 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

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

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 39.207820 | Longitude: -77.717810 |
| 2. Latitude: 39.203320 | Longitude: -77.708350 |
| 3. Latitude: 39.201400 | Longitude: -77.713800 |
| 4. Latitude: 39.204020 | Longitude: -77.721360 |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

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2. Zone: Easting: Northing:
3. Zone: Easting: Northing:
4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

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

The true and correct historic boundaries are shown on the attached Tax Parcel Map for parcel #482476100000. The property boundary is as shown on Tax Parcel Map /25/////////91/ and as recorded in Plat Number 2013-0021 by Loudoun County, Virginia.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary corresponds to the present property lines of the nominated property, which includes the 100 acres currently and historically associated with the James Farm, as well as the primary stone dwelling and all associated domestic and agricultural buildings. The current boundary encompasses the property's historic setting and all currently known historic resources.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Casey DeHaven
organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources
street & number: 5357 Main Street
city or town: Stephens City state: VA zip code: 22655
e-mail: casey.dehaven@dhr.virginia.gov
telephone: (540) 877-4800
date: September 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: James Farm (Possums Rest)

City or Vicinity: Purcellville

County: Loudoun County State: Virginia

Photographer: Casey DeHaven

Date Photographed: January/April 2018

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

1 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0001

View: Stone House, south elevation, facing north

2 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0002

View: Stone House, southeastern oblique

3 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0003

View: Stone House, eastern elevation, facing west

4 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0004

View: Stone House, northeastern oblique

5 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0005

View: Stone House, northern elevation, facing south

6 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0006

View: Stone House, northwestern oblique

7 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0007

View: Stone House, western elevation

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8 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0008

View: Stone House, date stone on southern elevation

9 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0009

View: Stone House, detail of doorway on northern elevation

10 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0010

View: Stone House, first floor, western room, facing south

11 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0011

View: Stone House, first floor, western room, facing north

12 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0012

View: Stone House, first floor, detail of doorway with original molding

13 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0013

View: Stone House, first floor, detail of molding and trim

14 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0014

View: Stone House, first floor, western room, facing south

15 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0015

View: Stone House, first floor, kitchen space, facing east

16 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0016

View: Stone House, first floor, kitchen space, facing north

17 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0017

View: Stone House, first floor, kitchen space, facing west

18 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0018

View: Stone House, basement level

19 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0019

View: Stone House, basement level, detail of stone pillars

20 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0020

View: Stone House, detail of original HL-hinge

21 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0021

View: Stone House, detail of hardware (doorknob)

22 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0022

View: Stone House, second floor, northwestern room

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- 23 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0023
View: Stone House, second floor, northeastern room
- 24 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0024
View: Stone House, second floor, southwestern room
- 25 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0025
View: Stone House, second floor, southeastern room
- 26 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0026
View: Stone House, wooden staircase
- 27 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0027
View: Stone House, attic
- 28 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0028
View: Stone House, attic, detail of carpenter's marks on beams
- 29 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0029
View: Stone House, first floor, detail of doorway from cinder block addition to kitchen
- 30 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0030
View: Stone Springhouse, southern elevation
- 31 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0031
View: Stone Springhouse, western elevation
- 32 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0032
View: Stone Springhouse, date stone
- 33 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0033
View: Stone Springhouse, interior
- 34 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0034
View: Corncrib, facing east
- 35 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0035
View: Shed/Agricultural Outbuilding, facing northeast
- 36 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0036
View: Carriage shed, facing northeast
- 37 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0037

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View: Stone Bank Barn, northeastern oblique

38 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0038

View: Stone Bank Barn, southern elevation

39 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0039

View: Stone Bank Barn, eastern elevation

40 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0040

View: Stone Bank Barn, first date stone, eastern elevation

41 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0041

View: Stone Bank Barn, second date stone, eastern elevation

42 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0042

View: Stone Bank Barn, interior

43 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0043

View: Stone Bank Barn, hardware detail

44 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0044

View: Colonial Revival Dwelling, western elevation

45 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0045

View: Garage, southwestern oblique

46 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0046

View: Equipment Shed, western elevation

47 of 47. VA_LoudounCounty_JamesFarm_0047

View: Viewshed of James Farm from 1870 stone barn, facing southeast

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.