

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: Dewberry Hill

Other names/site number: DHR ID# 041-5064

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: 2181 Wilkins Road

City or town: Alton State: Virginia County: Halifax

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: X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 X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B X C D

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

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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	
1 _____	2 _____	buildings
0 _____	0 _____	sites
0 _____	1 _____	structures
0 _____	0 _____	objects
1 _____	3 _____	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

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD, BRICK, STONE, METAL

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

Dewberry Hill, located at 2181 Wilkins Road in southwest Halifax County, Virginia, has a characteristic Halifax County evolution: an original one-story-with-garret frame house dating to the eighteenth or early nineteenth century which was made into the rear section of a two-story frame house in the second half of the 1860s. The front section is Italianate and Greek Revival in style, with a metal-sheathed shallow-pitched hip roof, plain weatherboard siding, brick end chimneys, and a mostly reconstructed two-tier front porch. The rear wing has a metal-sheathed side-gable roof and end chimneys with modern stone facing. Inside, the front section has a center passage plan with refinished wood floors and plaster-finish walls and ceilings, Greek Revival mantels (an Italianate mantel is not original to the house), and a stair with a scrolled newel attributable to the Thomas Day workshop. The rear wing has a winder stair constructed with wrought nails. The house stands at the crest of a ridge at about 530 feet above sea level between Lawsons Creek to the east and Powells Creek to the west (both creeks are tributaries of the Dan River). The nominated parcel of 3.67 acres lies on the east side of Wilkins Road (State Route 699), a historic ridge road that connects to US Highway 58 about 1.5 miles to the north. Also located on the property are two non-contributing buildings and one non-contributing structure, all of which postdate the period of significance.

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Narrative Description

Inventory

1. Dewberry Hill. Late 18th/early 19th century; late 1860s; ca. 1970; early 2010s. Contributing building.
2. Workshop. 2010s. Non-contributing building.
3. Furnace house. Ca. 1970. Non-contributing building.
4. Car shelter. 2017. Non-contributing structure.

House: Exterior

The dwelling's front section has an Italianate cornice ornamented with sawn brackets with acorn pendants. Between the brackets, on both the frieze and soffit, are recessed rectangular panels. The paneling wraps around to the rear elevation but the brackets are only on the front and end elevations. The cornice wraps around the top of the front porch where it has smaller sawn brackets with leaf-like incised ornament. The porch under the cornice and the shallow-pitched hipped porch roof was inserted in a 2013-14 rehabilitation (see architectural discussion in section 8 for discussion of the evolution of the porch). The current porch has square columns with channeled shafts, sawn brackets, and railings with square balusters and sawn accent panels.

The porch shelters a first-story entry with a gridded transom and sidelights. The outer surround has jambs and a lintel with narrow panels with faceted surfaces. The tops of the jambs flare to suggest small supports for the lintel. The embrasure of the outer surround and the jambs of the inner surround around the door are also decorated with faceted panels. The inner surround has pilasters with molded bases and heavy sawn brackets that support the projecting molded lintel. The double-leaf doors behind the modern double-leaf wood-framed storm doors have two panels per leaf creating a four-panel pattern, with the corners of the panels projecting inward so that each panel has a cruciform appearance. The second-story entry is a simplified version of the one below, with faceted panels on the faces of the jambs and lintel and gridded sidelights but no transom, no paneling on the embrasure, and no brackets at the tops of the vertical elements on the outer and inner surrounds. The single-leaf wood panel door has a wood-framed single-leaf storm door.

Faceted panels also ornament the lintels and jambs of the eight-over-eight wood-sash windows of the front and rear elevations of the front section of the house (four windows on each elevation). Narrow faceted strips ornament the corner boards. The window lintels have crown moldings and the windows are fitted with modern louvered mahogany shutters (which replaced ca. 1970s paneled shutters which in turn superseded historic-period louvered wood shutters). The shallow brick chimneys project through the cornice and narrow above the roofline where they appear to have been rebuilt. The south chimney is laid in 1:4 and 1:5 common bond and the north chimney is stretcher bond. A one-story shed-roofed porch, modeled on a similar historic porch,

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was added to the south end in the 2010s rehabilitation. It has latticed supports and screening. Under the front section of the house is a parged coursed rubble foundation with a crawlspace. The house was resided with cypress weatherboards in the 2010s rehabilitation. Photographs indicate the replacement weatherboards match the originals in appearance.

The rear section has a low shed wing that extends partway across the rear (east) elevation. Chimneys rise on the two gable ends, both with an irregular stone facing added over brick in the ca. 1970 renovation. The north chimney, which may have been entirely rebuilt, has single shoulders. The south chimney is double -shouldered, the form it has in a ca. 1950 photograph. A modern porch with lattice supports wraps around the bottom part of the south chimney at the location of a historic-period porch. A deck occupies the angle formed by the shed wing, accessed through modern French doors below a long transom (the current doors replace earlier French doors added ca. 1970). The rear section's stone and brick foundation is faced with stones thought to have been taken from the chimney of an adjacent detached kitchen (now gone). Original, un-faced sections of brick foundation (possibly stretcher-bond) extend under the wall of the dwelling covered by the shed wing, visible through a crawlspace hatch. Two small rectangular windows flank the chimney in each gable and there is a six-over-six window under the south porch. The one-story hyphen that connects the front and rear sections of the house has a hewn sill on the south side and may have been extended on the north side. The rear section also retains some hewn sills, although other sections of hewn sill were removed in the 2010s rehabilitation and stored in the furnace house.

House: Interior

The front entry enters into the center passage, illuminated by stained glass sidelight and transom panes. The panes are colored yellow, red, green, and blue, and they frame and divide clear panes at the centers of the transom and each sidelight. A few panes differ from the others in hue and texture, suggesting they are replacements. The entryway has a surround with stepped moldings, a common trim treatment throughout the house. All door and window trim is currently painted although a pre-rehabilitation photo shows dark grained woodwork somewhere in the house.

The passage is dominated by a two-run stair with a dramatic scrolled newel at its foot. The newel has counter-directional secondary scrolls that branch from the main scroll and a third small scroll which sprouts from the foot of the main scroll. The newel stands on a molded base and has dark mottled varnish. (The newel's association with the Thomas Day workshop is discussed in section 8.) The stair has rectangular balusters; a molded handrail with an awkward connection to the scrolled newel; relatively simple scrolled tread brackets with a broken cyma recta profile; and square-section upper newels with molded bases and bowed shafts.

The room on the left (north) side of the center passage has an Italianate-influenced mantel with heavy molded pilasters and a frieze with slightly projecting panels in the form of an arch with a center disk. (The mantel originally belonged to a house in North Carolina.) The fireplace is flanked by modern book shelves with Greek Revival-inspired trim, segmental arches with keyblocks, and cabinet doors with cruciform panels in imitation of the front entry door panels.

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The room has paneled wainscoting made from wood from another house installed in the 2010s rehabilitation (other rooms have similar wainscoting). The room on the right side of the passage has a Greek Revival mantel of post and lintel form with tapered molded pilasters and a peaked backboard with a circular cutout at the peak. Beside the fireplace is a modern built-in armoire. The doors to this room and the other are two-panel, and there is also a two-panel door to the closet under the stairs. Written in pencil on the unpainted wood inside the closet door are inscriptions that read “Commenced using Sugar & Coffee from Richmond on the 22d February [?] 1868,” “Sugar 250 lbs from Richmond –Feby 69,” “Anderson commenced with us 17th Feby 1866,” and so forth. Anderson may have been a servant or tutor. There is also an inscription dated 1867 and one dated 1942. Nineteenth-century inscriptions recording food usage are also found in the under-stair closet in Riverside, a dwelling located several miles north of Dewberry Hill. The upstairs has a simple Greek Revival mantel in one of the two bedrooms.

Evidence suggests the rear section was once divided into two or more rooms and may originally have had a hall-parlor plan. In the 2010s rehabilitation a wall was removed (in its place is a wide arched opening) and the interior was made into one long room with the kitchen at the south end and a sitting area at the north end. In the kitchen is a mantel of simple Greek Revival form with paneled pilasters. The sitting area, which is spanned by beaded joists, has a Greek Revival mantel from another house flanked by modern book shelves with segmental arches with keyblocks and cabinet doors with cruciform panels. The current fireplace replaces a ca. 1970 stone fireplace with a raised stone hearth.

Near the center of the room rises a two-run winder stair with a closed stringer on the upper run. At the foot of the stair is a ca. 1900 turned newel. The turned balusters may be contemporaneous with the bottom newel. The slender square-section newels at the turning and the top of the stair are early or original (the turning newel is actually a post that attaches to the ceiling). Sawmarks and nails visible inside the closet under the stair reveal the bottom run to be a mid- to late nineteenth-century replacement, with cut-nailed circular-sawn lumber for risers and treads, and the upper run to be original, with wrought-nailed pit-sawn and/or up-and-down mill-sawn lumber. Behind the closed stringer panel of the upper run, visible by looking up from inside the under-stair closet, are the ends of wrought-nailed horizontal boards. These appear to be remnants of a partition, perhaps the wall of a closet larger than the one currently under the stair. Also visible in the under-stair closet is a diagonal corner brace in the wall stub between the stair and the kitchen, suggesting the stub is a remnant of a formerly exterior gable-end wall.

The garret is divided into two rooms by a partition with what may be twentieth-century v-joint boards but an older door frame. The floor boards are cut-nailed and there is a simple mantel around the small rebuilt fireplace at the south end. The knee walls are constructed of what appear to be sections of reused pit-sawn and/or up-and-down mill-sawn studs. The rafters appear to be similar wood.

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Other Resources

Behind and southeast of the house is a story-and-a-half **workshop** (inventory no. 2) of frame construction with a metal-sheathed front-gable roof and cementitious weatherboard siding. A large segmental-arched opening on the north or front elevation contains double-leaf wood and glass panel doors flanked by fixed panels, under an archway ornamented with a keyblock. The doors open onto a deck with a railing with square newels and balusters. Other exterior features include a pier foundation, triangular Craftsman-style brackets in the gables, a side entry, and four-over-four and six-over-six windows. The interior, which includes an exercise room on the second level, is finished with reclaimed wood.

Behind and northeast of the house is a one-story **furnace house** (3) of frame construction with T1-11-type wood siding, a metal-sheathed asymmetrical gabled roof, and small four-pane windows. The building formerly contained a wood-burning furnace used to heat the main house. It now serves for storage. To the north of the furnace house is a small solar array. The **car shelter** (4), which stands to the south and a little in front of the house, is an open-sided structure with a gable roof and heavy square wood supports. A one-story agricultural-type building stands just outside the nominated area on an adjacent parcel (when built ca. 1970 it was associated with the house) and in the woods to the east, also outside the nominated parcel, is a one-story tenant house with vertical board siding, a metal-sheathed gable roof, a weatherboard-sided shed wing, and an interior brick flue. The tenant house was once associated with the main house.

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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. 1775-1871

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Day, Thomas, workshop (attributed)

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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.)

Dewberry Hill, located in Halifax County, Virginia, began as a one-story-with-garret house built in the eighteenth or early nineteenth century. In the late 1860s Dr. Thomas Herndon Miles and his wife, Lucie L. Palmer Miles, added a two-story Italianate house to the front of the original dwelling as part of their development of the property into a prosperous tobacco farm. Dr. Miles, who studied at New York University in the 1840s, was a respiratory specialist who advertised in regional newspapers and who saw patients in an office in his front yard. The Miles's builder is unknown, although local African American carpenter Leander Cunningham may have been involved, and an elaborately scrolled stair newel was likely acquired from the workshop of African American cabinetmaker and finish carpenter Thomas Day in nearby Milton, North Carolina. Later owners included Dr. William M. Palmer and the Wilson, Dewberry, and Adams families. Dewberry Hill is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the Architecture area of significance for its original fabric, which includes a wrought-nailed winder stair; its sophisticated Italianate detail; and its connection to the significant Thomas Day workshop. The period of significance extends from ca. 1775, a date that acknowledges the possible late eighteenth-century construction of the original section of the house, to 1871, the date of an increase in the value of buildings on the property that likely indicates the completion of the Italianate section. Dewberry Hill is eligible at the local level of significance.

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

Historic Context

In 1856 Richard Carter Sr. and his wife, Margaret Carter, sold to Thomas H. Miles a 174.3-acre tract "known as the lands of Harrison Stanfield Dec[eased]." On the acreage stood buildings valued at \$1,000, one of which would have been the story-and-a-half house that forms the rear section of Dewberry Hill. The Harrison Stanfield referenced in the deed sold forty-three acres to Carter in 1826; that deed described the land as "part of the Tract of land formerly owned by John Poyner decd." A James Poyner of Dinwiddie County settled on a nearby branch of Lawsons Creek in 1779, and in later years there may have been two John Poyners in the area, one of whom purchased land from Harrison Stanfield in 1818 (the other was deceased before 1811). There were also two or three Harrison Stanfields in the region during the early nineteenth century. The Harrison Stanfield associated with the property may be the one who married Lucinda Townes in 1819. John Poyner and Harrison and Lucinda Townes may therefore have been former residents of the original Dewberry Hill house, which architectural evidence indicates was in existence by the date of the 1826 Stanfield-Carter deed.¹

Dr. Thomas Herndon Miles (ca. 1826-1871), the purchaser of the property in 1856, married Lucie (or Lucy) L. Palmer (b. ca. 1844) in 1863. Dr. Miles was an 1849 alumnus of the New

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York University Medical College in New York City. A description of Miles's medical practice in Halifax County appears in an 1869 notice in the *Hillsborough* [N.C.] *Recorder*: "TO THOSE SUFFERING with PULMONARY DISEASES, Dr. Thos. H. Miles continues to treat Thoracic diseases by Topical Medication or Catheterism of the air passages, conjoined with appropriate general remedies, as practiced by the late Prof. Green of New York." Professor Green was Horace Green (1802-1866), President of the Faculty of the New York University Medical College and Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine, under whom Miles presumably studied. A modern biographer has called Green "the father of American laryngology and tracheo-bronchology." Green pioneered the use of "therapeutic caustic agents" such as silver nitrate in the treatment of airway infections, a procedure similar to that described in Miles's advertisement.²

In the 1869 notice Miles included a testimonial from a patient, Rufus G. Evans of Caswell County, who wrote that he had suffered from chronic bronchitis with lung hemorrhaging and enlarged tonsils but "finally concluded to try Dr. Miles' treatment of cauterizing the air passages by injection." Evans added, "I remained under his treatment for six weeks; rejoice to say that I believe my lungs are entirely relieved." The treatment regime may be detailed in the doctor's bill of R. H. Carter, for whom there are multiple entries for "visit and medicine" spaced several days apart. Carter was charged three dollars for each session, which may have been for house calls to a patient in his household other than himself. Carter patronized Dr. Miles before, in 1863, when he purchased a "box [of] pills for [a] negro woman."³

The 1870s chancery case that contains information on Miles's medical practice also details his farming operation. Miles grew tobacco which he marketed through Richmond commission merchant N. M. Wilson in 1868. He amended his lands with fertilizer purchased from the Southern Fertilizer Company and there are indications he farmed with the aid of several sharecroppers. One sharecropper was Mark A. Wilson who stated that "he and Dr. Miles worked a farm together and were to divide all the crops" in 1867. Wilson "lived with Dr. Miles during the year 1867" and David V. Satterfield lived with Miles in 1868 and 1869 ("lived with" probably means lived in a separate dwelling on the place). Miles made a substantial investment in the infrastructure needed to farm tobacco on a large scale in 1867, paying for 1,100 fence rails and 1,100 tobacco sticks. Mark Wilson built a rail fence for Miles during this period. The tobacco sticks were used for hanging tobacco in a curing barn or barns.⁴

Most evidence points to the construction of the front part of Dewberry Hill during the late 1860s, perhaps as early as 1865 and/or 1866. The \$1,000 in improvements shown in 1856 and 1857 tax records unaccountably vanish in 1859 and no value of buildings is indicated through the year 1870. Since the original dwelling survived the period the zero valuation may reflect poor record keeping (county tax records are spotty for the 1860s) or the buildings may have been antiquated and considered of insufficient value to be taxed. In 1871 buildings valued at \$1,200 appear on Miles's 280-acre tract located at Mt. Carmel and Lawsons Creek, the current location descriptors, and this is interpreted to reflect the existence of the front section of the house. The dates on the under-stair closet door, which range from 1866 to 1869, suggest the house is in fact earlier than 1871, unless the door was formerly in another context, which seems unlikely given

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its two-panel form in keeping with Greek Revival finishes in the house, or some other reason is responsible for the discrepancy. Construction in 1865 and/or 1866 does not necessarily contradict the 1871 tax record date; lags in the tax records are known or suspected for other houses in the region. The marriage of Thomas and Lucie Miles in 1863 would be a precipitating factor in the construction of a house, delayed a few years by the Civil War. That the house may have been built in 1865 and/or 1866 is notable in itself because it suggests the Mileses were not adversely affected by the war, at least not in a financial sense; either that or they were willing to borrow in anticipation of tobacco profits in the post-war economy. The chancery case evidence of robust tobacco cultivation and construction activity in the late 1860s indicates they were not hesitant to invest in the property during the period.⁵

Lucie Miles was Thomas's second wife; his first wife was Elizabeth (Bettie) A. Miles, originally Elizabeth Turbeville, who died between 1860 and 1863 and who left him several children. The oldest of Thomas and Bettie's children may have been Pattie Miles (1851-97) who married Samuel S. Brandon and moved to Brandon's nearby farm, Brandon-on-the-Dan, which features an 1850s house with woodwork from the Thomas Day workshop. Others were Aldeen (or Aldine), Walter, Mary, Hattie, Viola, and Thomas. In 1865, as the oldest children reached school age, Miles advertised for a teacher, apparently splitting the expense of the advertisement with a neighboring planter. Earlier, in 1860, two music teachers, Eugene and Wilton (?) Wilson, lived in Miles's household. The 1870 census listed Miles as the owner of \$3,000 in real estate and \$10,000 in personal estate. The latter figure is large for the era (prior to 1865 it might have reflected slave ownership) and cannot be accounted for by Miles's stock of medicines and his medical library, which were valued at \$10 and \$15 respectively in the October 1871 inventory of his estate.⁶

Upon the settlement of the Miles estate, Lucie Miles received an eighty-acre tract known as the "Dwelling House tract" as her dower interest. She gave an acre of land for the establishment of Olive Branch Methodist Church, built in 1878 within sight of Dewberry Hill to the north. In the early 1880s she married Otto Salzman (ca. 1842-1908), a Swiss-born jeweler. In 1871 Salzman advertised "repairing of fine watches, and clocks and jewelry, a specialty" at his Milton "Headquarters." The Salzmanns lived in South Boston during the 1880s and in 1884 they sold Dewberry Hill to William M. Palmer (b. ca. 1840). Palmer, like Miles a physician, was married to Mary D. (Mollie) Palmer (b. ca. 1850). In 1889 the Palmers sold the "Miles place" to James Barnett Wilson and Edward Jackson Wilson. The deed mentioned Warren's Shop and Blackwell's Schoolhouse in the vicinity. In 1924 Pattie L. Wilson, the sister of Edward J. Wilson who was then deceased, sold the property to James E. Dewberry, who may have been Pattie's nephew. Dewberry Hill is named for James Dewberry.⁷

In 1935 Keister W. Adams (d. 1954) purchased the property. Keister and his wife, Charles Hope Nicholas Adams (d. 1963), farmed the property with the help of their four sons, Charles, Keister, Tuck, and William, and tenants who lived on the place. In 1970 a tenant family with eleven people lived in the tenant house that stands just east of the current property. Keister Adams was a chiropractor who saw patients in the nineteenth-century doctor's office that stood in the front yard. Family members remember that an x-ray machine stood in the building, which faced the

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road. Keister and Hope later moved into South Boston. Photos of the property around 1950 show various resources in the backyard including the detached kitchen that stood at the location of the current workshop; it was a one-story-with-garret frame building with a gable roof, weatherboard siding, and a stone end chimney with a brick upper portion. A well stood beyond, toward the field that forms the east end of the nominated area, and in the field stood a one-story-with-garret dwelling with white-painted weatherboard siding and a gable roof. The dwelling's apparent location and flue configuration suggest it is not the same dwelling that survives outside the east boundary of the nominated area. The property passed out of the Adams family and was owned for a time by the Wilkins family. The Wilkins family planted the small apple orchard that stands to the north of the house and remodeled the house ca. 1970, altering the front porch and stone-veneering the rear section chimneys. In 2013 the farm was purchased by Keister and Hope's granddaughter, Sallie Wade Adams, and her husband, Thomas G. Kaiser. A rehabilitation was undertaken by contractor Jim Ray and finish carpenter Barry Thompson and Adams and Kaiser moved in in 2014. Ray notes that the main stair was disassembled, reassembled, and tightened up but all its historic features were retained. The mantel in the north first-floor room came from a house about three or four miles north of Roxboro, North Carolina, on Highway 49, and the mantel in the sitting room part of the rear section may have come from the same house. All other mantels were present before the rehabilitation.⁸

Architectural Discussion

Enough of the original part of Dewberry Hill survives to make a few statements about the original character of the house. The wrought nails used in the construction of the upper part of the winder stair date the house to the eighteenth century or the first decade or two of the nineteenth century. The presence of a corner brace in the wall stub next to the stair suggests the wall may have been exterior at one time, which in turn suggests the house was enlarged prior to the 1860s work. Contractor Jim Ray, who worked on the house in the 2010s, believes the north end was added. As a story-and-a-half dwelling with end chimneys and a side-gable form, the original Dewberry Hill was typical of its place and time.⁹

The Italianate front section, begun as early as 1865, is representative of the region's larger and more finely appointed farmhouses of the early postbellum period. The Italianate style was introduced to the county at the very end of the antebellum period, as attested by Glenwood, a ca. 1861 house a few miles northeast of Dewberry Hill which features a cornice with sawn brackets with acorn pendants. Dewberry Hill's double-tier front porch was Italianate in inspiration, with bracketed cornices on the upper tier (which survives) and lower tier (which does not), but the porch also displayed the lavish sawn ornament typical of the late nineteenth century and rarely seen before the Civil War.¹⁰

A photograph from the late nineteenth century (perhaps ca. 1890) shows the porch and house with a polychrome paint scheme of at least two tones and possibly more. The chamfers of the porch posts, the balustrade railings, and possibly the moldings that trimmed the porch cornice brackets and the sections of frieze between the brackets were painted a darker tone that made the elements stand out. The same approach was used for the faceted panels above the entries and

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windows and on the vertical members of the entries and the house's corner boards. The main cornice panels were also painted a darker shade, although possibly lighter than the shade used for the window panels below. There is a hint in the photo of the stained glass panes that ornament the first-story entry sidelights and transom. The original porch was altered by the removal of the second tier and the addition of monumental square columns to create a Mt. Vernon-like effect (work that may have occurred around 1970), but a section of the original balustrade was reused in a shallow "Juliette" balcony constructed for the second-story entry. The balcony and other twentieth-century elements were replaced by the current porch in the early 2010s but the original upper-tier cornice and roof were retained.

The scrolled newel inside the front entry appears to be the work of the Thomas Day cabinetmaking shop in Milton, North Carolina. The newel is nearly identical to newels in four North Carolina houses identified as the work of Day: the Powell House, the Glass-Dameron House, the Bass House, and the Holderness House. The differences between the Dewberry Hill newel and these published examples are subtle, although potentially significant. The published examples have two small scrolls at the base instead of one, their scrolls curl away from the main scroll instead of toward it, and the scrolls that branch from the mid-point of the main scroll curl in opposite directions.¹¹

The Dewberry Hill newel differs from the above examples in other subtle ways. The newel has a discrete base which is deeper and wider in cross section than the scroll and is separated from it by a heavy molding, whereas in the above examples and most if not all other newels attributed to the Day workshop the base is implied rather than stated, of the same thickness and visually unified with the scroll rather than divided from it. A nearly identical molded base treatment, plus reversed scroll curls, are present in the newel at Lynwood, a Turbeville area house traditionally dated to ca. 1854. The Halifax County architectural history attributes Lynwood to carpenters James and Abner Richardson, although it attributes the interior woodwork to the Day workshop. At Dewberry Hill the molded base treatment is used for the three upper newels and for the door jambs of the first-story front entry (the second-story entry has simple blocks). In published examples of Day houses that show upper newels, which have the same slightly bulbous slender forms as the Dewberry Hill newels, the published newels tie into the stair frame without bases. In his preference for discrete bases over continuous forms, Dewberry Hill's finish carpenter diverged from the normative Day workshop aesthetic, as did the finish carpenter involved at Lynnwood.¹²

Before discussing the meaning of these deviations, another factor needs to be considered, and that is the evidence that Dewberry Hill was built at least a half decade after the ca. 1861 death of Thomas Day. Day's workshop continued in operation under the direction of his son, Thomas Day Jr., although its capabilities were greatly reduced. The continued existence of the Day workshop suggests two possibilities. The first is that Thomas Day Jr. or one of his workmen—if he was able to retain workmen—produced the primary newel and other decorative elements used in the house at the time of its construction in the late 1860s. The second possibility is the primary newel was an architectural remainder purchased from the Day workshop for use at Dewberry Hill years after it was made. The two possibilities are not mutually exclusive—Thomas Day Jr.

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or an associate may have used a leftover newel at Dewberry Hill—although the same scenario would apply to any finish carpenter, affiliated with the workshop or not.¹³

The subtle differences between the Dewberry Hill stair detail and similar elements attributed to the Day workshop suggest intriguing possibilities. Were the counter-directional curls on the primary newel a signature of the craftsman, meant to distinguish his work from standard Day workshop scrolled newels? Was the newel a stock element modified by the addition of a pronounced base in order to integrate it into the finish carpenter's aesthetic, which favored well-defined bases? If Thomas Day Jr. was the finish carpenter, were well-defined bases a way to distinguish his work from his father's, or an aesthetic outgrowth that reflected the changing tastes of the postbellum period? The similarities of the stair to work attributed to the Day workshop may indicate it is the work of an adherent of a hypothetical "School of Day." At least one unaffiliated regional cabinetmaker is known to have copied the workshop's furniture during the 1850s and 1860s, and the many workmen and apprentices employed by Thomas Day Sr. who then moved on might be expected to have propagated the Day aesthetic. The original porch also offers the potential for comparison to Day workshop work. The ca. 1860 Garland-Buford House in Caswell County has an elaborate and idiosyncratic sawnwork porch "strongly attributed" to Day, but the Dewberry Hill porch, though it relied on decorative millwork for its visual impact, was a relatively normative if early expression of the technomorphic aesthetic seen in postbellum farmhouse porches throughout the region. In other words, it did not have the characteristics that would identify it as the work of the Day workshop or the hypothetical School of Day.¹⁴

In the legal aftermath of Thomas H. Miles's death, a carpenter named Leander Cunningham submitted a claim for payment for work he had done for Miles. An account in the chancery papers reads, "1871 March: In [account?] with Lea Cunningham making 1 12 light window sash and cutting & caseing up window, also balance due on Porch one dollar making the amt 6.50 . . . Leander Cunningham did the work on window above mentioned." Leander Cunningham (b. ca. 1820) lived at the time in the Turbeville vicinity a few miles north of Dewberry Hill. He appears in the 1870 and 1880 censuses as an African American carpenter who owned (in 1870) \$50 in real estate, although tax records indicate his small landholding was more valuable than indicated in the census. An 1867 deed referred to him as "Leander Cunningham more properly Leander Starke" and an 1869 deed referred to him as "Leander Stark," but later records generally give his name as "Leander Cunningham" (his first name was often shortened to Lea). In 1869 J. W. Turbeville gave him two acres "for & in consideration of the building of one Tobacco Barn." In 1883 Cunningham was "elected by qualified voters of the Mt. Carmel District" to serve as the district's overseer of the poor. Serving with him was James A. Dyson, the principal of an African American public school with a Brooklyn, Virginia, address (Brooklyn lies across the Dan River from the Turbeville area). When Cunningham gave bond to serve as overseer, he signed the papers with his mark, indicating he was illiterate. In 1888 he was a trustee of a church in the Winns Creek vicinity a few miles west of Dewberry Hill.¹⁵

The 1871 account noted that Cunningham was to be paid for the balance due on a porch. This suggests he had built the porch in its entirety and had already been paid for the rest of the work, which would explain why there was no additional information in the chancery papers. The

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building to which the porch belonged is not specified. The Dewberry Hill house is an obvious candidate, but the doctor's office that once stood in the yard may have been built at the same time and other buildings such as tenant houses and the detached kitchen are possibilities as well. If the building Cunningham worked on was the main house, then the question is which part. The chancery papers describe a twelve-light (six-over-six) window; the main section of Dewberry Hill has sixteen-light (eight-over-eight) windows. The older rear section would likely have had six-over-six windows but if so they were removed in subsequent renovations. The vagueness of the chancery account and the possibility of other buildings Cunningham may have worked on makes it uncertain that he was responsible for surviving fabric at Dewberry Hill, though it is clear that he contributed to the property's architectural evolution in some fashion.

Endnotes

¹ Lewis, "Research Material;" Pezzoni, "Cedar Grove;" Halifax County Deed Book 34, p. 191; Deed Book 56, p. 249; and Chancery Case 1819-024. A number of individuals assisted with the preparation of the report, foremost among them Dewberry Hill's owners and the sponsors of the nomination, Sallie Wade Adams and her husband, Tom Kaiser. Historian Lawrence Martin checked deed references for the project. Assistance was also provided by Donna Strange, Joseph Graves, Barry Thompson, Jim Ray, Cary Perkins with the Halifax Public Library, the staffs of the Halifax County Courthouse and the South Boston County Halifax Museum, and Michael Pulice and Lena Sweeten McDonald at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. The architectural discussion benefits from the input of architectural historians Catherine Bishir, Ruth Little, Michael Pulice, Heather Wagner Slane, and Michael Southern.

² Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina, Marriage Bonds, 1778-1868*, 69; Maxwell, *General Alumni Catalogue of New York University, 1916*, 221; Halifax County Chancery Case 1877-030, page 299; *Hillsborough Recorder*, September 8, 1969; Zeitels, "Horace Green." Miles ran an advertisement in the November 29, 1860, issue of the *Wilmington [N.C.] Journal* with the heading "Incipient Consumption Can Be Cured." He purchased a six-month run of a "Notice to the Afflicted" in the *Milton Chronicle* in 1869 (Halifax County Chancery Case 1877-030, p. 221).

³ Halifax County Chancery Case 1877-030, pp. 237, 280 and 299.

⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 90, 94, 104, 230, 253, 282

⁵ Halifax County tax records.

⁶ Lawrence Martin and Joseph Graves personal communication; Pezzoni, "Brandon-on-the-Dan;" Halifax County Chancery Case 1877-030, pp. 3, 289; Will Book 30, p. 399; tax records; US census.

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⁷ Halifax County Deed Book 72, p. 475; Deed Book 80, p. 378; 134, p. 600; Halifax County Historical Society Architectural Committee, *Architectural History of Halifax County*, 342; *Halifax Record*, December 6, 1871, and April 14, 1882.

⁸ Sallie Wade Adams, Jim Ray, and Barry Thompson personal communication; Halifax County Deed Book 151, p. 321; *South Boston News & Record*, June 16, 2014.

⁹ Jim Ray personal communication.

¹⁰ Pezzoni, "Glenwood." The Dewberry Hill and Glenwood brackets are different enough that they do not appear to have been produced by the same carpenter or manufacturer.

¹¹ Endnote 11: Marshall and Leimenstoll, *Thomas Day*, 141, 146, plate 14.

¹² Endnote 12: Ibid., 149, 167; Halifax County Historical Society Architectural Committee, *Architectural History of Halifax County*, 166-167.

Note: endnote 13 should now read: Marshall and Leimenstoll, *Thomas Day*, 189-190; Pezzoni, "Thomas Day Attribution."

¹³ Ibid., 189-190; Pezzoni, "Thomas Day Attribution."

¹⁴ Marshall and Leimenstoll, *Thomas Day*, 61, 179-181. The awkward integration of the primary newel with the rest of the stair might suggest the newel was added to the house at some point after original construction, but its molded base, which echoes the molded bases of the upper newels which are clearly integral with the stair, indicates that it is original to the stair. The newel currently has a different finish than the handrail but photos taken during rehabilitation show that the handrail was formerly closer to the newel in color.

¹⁵ Halifax County Chancery Case 1877-030, pp. 211-212; Chancery Case 1867-081; Deed Book 61, p. 164; Deed Book 62, p. 341; Deed Book 71, p. 185; tax records; US census; *Virginia School Report*, 1882, 17.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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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 # _____
 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, Virginia

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR ID# 041-5064

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.67

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

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(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 36.596630 | Longitude: -79.047600 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

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

The historic boundaries of the nominated property are coterminous with the parcel lines for Tax Parcel 26365 as recorded by Halifax County, Virginia. The true and correct historic boundaries are shown on the attached Tax Parcel Map

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the nominated area correspond to the modern tax parcel on which the nominated historic resource stands, and were drawn to encompass the property's historic setting as well as all known historic resources.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: J. Daniel Pezzoni
organization: Landmark Preservation Associates
street & number: 6 Houston St.
city or town: Lexington state: Virginia zip code: 24450
e-mail: gilespezzoni@rockbridge.net
telephone: (540) 464-5315
date: May 13, 2017

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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.)

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

Information common to all photos:

Name of Property: Dewberry Hill
City or Vicinity: Alton vicinity
County: Halifax
State: Virginia
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni

Specific information:

Photo 1 of 15
VA_HalifaxCounty_DewberryHill_0001
Date Photographed: April 2017
West (front) elevation, view facing northeast.

Photo 2 of 15
VA_HalifaxCounty_DewberryHill_0002

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Date Photographed: October 2016
South and east elevations, view facing northwest.

Photo 3 of 15
VA_HalifaxCounty_DewberryHill_0003
Date Photographed: April 2017
East and north elevations, view facing southwest.

Photo 4 of 15
VA_HalifaxCounty_DewberryHill_0004
Date Photographed: April 2017
Southwest corner, view facing north.

Photo 5 of 15
VA_HalifaxCounty_DewberryHill_0005
Date Photographed: October 2016
First-story front elevation, view facing northeast.

Photo 6 of 15
VA_HalifaxCounty_DewberryHill_0006
Date Photographed: October 2016
First-floor front entry.

Photo 7 of 15
VA_HalifaxCounty_DewberryHill_0007
Date Photographed: October 2016
Newel at foot of center-passage stair.

Photo 8 of 15
VA_HalifaxCounty_DewberryHill_0008
Date Photographed: April 2017
First-floor front north room.

Photo 9 of 15
VA_HalifaxCounty_DewberryHill_0009
Date Photographed: October 2016
Center-passage stair landing.

Photo 10 of 15
VA_HalifaxCounty_DewberryHill_0010
Date Photographed: October 2016
Second-floor south room mantel.

Photo 11 of 15

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VA_HalifaxCounty_DewberryHill_0011
Date Photographed: October 2016
Rear section stair.

Photo 12 of 15
VA_HalifaxCounty_DewberryHill_0012
Date Photographed: October 2016
Rear section ceiling joists.

Photo 13 of 15
VA_HalifaxCounty_DewberryHill_0013
Date Photographed: April 2017
Workshop (left) and car shelter (right), view looking east.

Photo 14 of 15
VA_HalifaxCounty_DewberryHill_0014
Date Photographed: April 2017
Furnace house with solar array beyond, view looking northeast.

Photo 15 of 15
VA_HalifaxCounty_DewberryHill_0015
Date Photographed: April 2017
Property viewed from north along Wilkins Road, view facing south.

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.

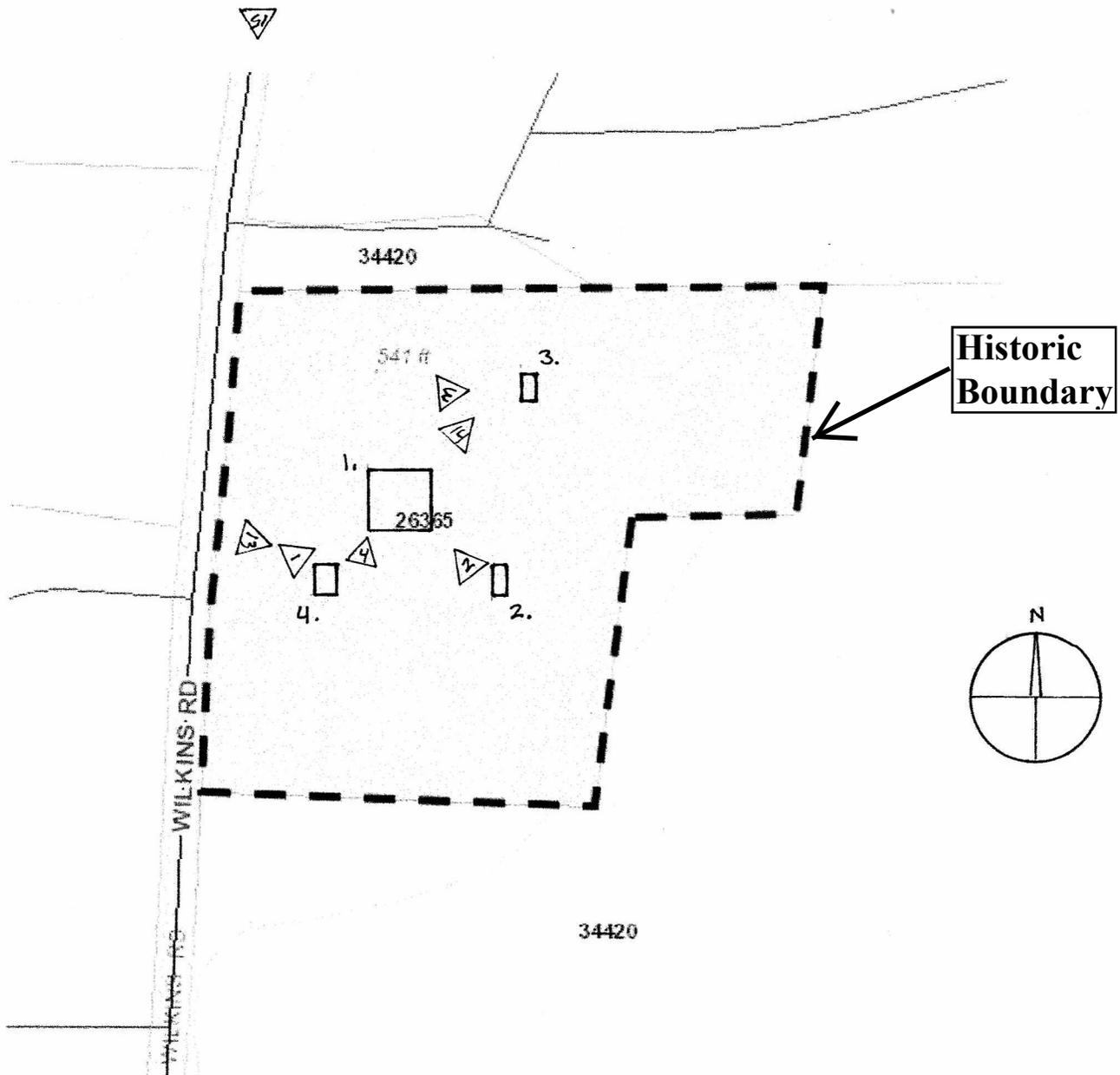
Sketch Map/ Photo Key

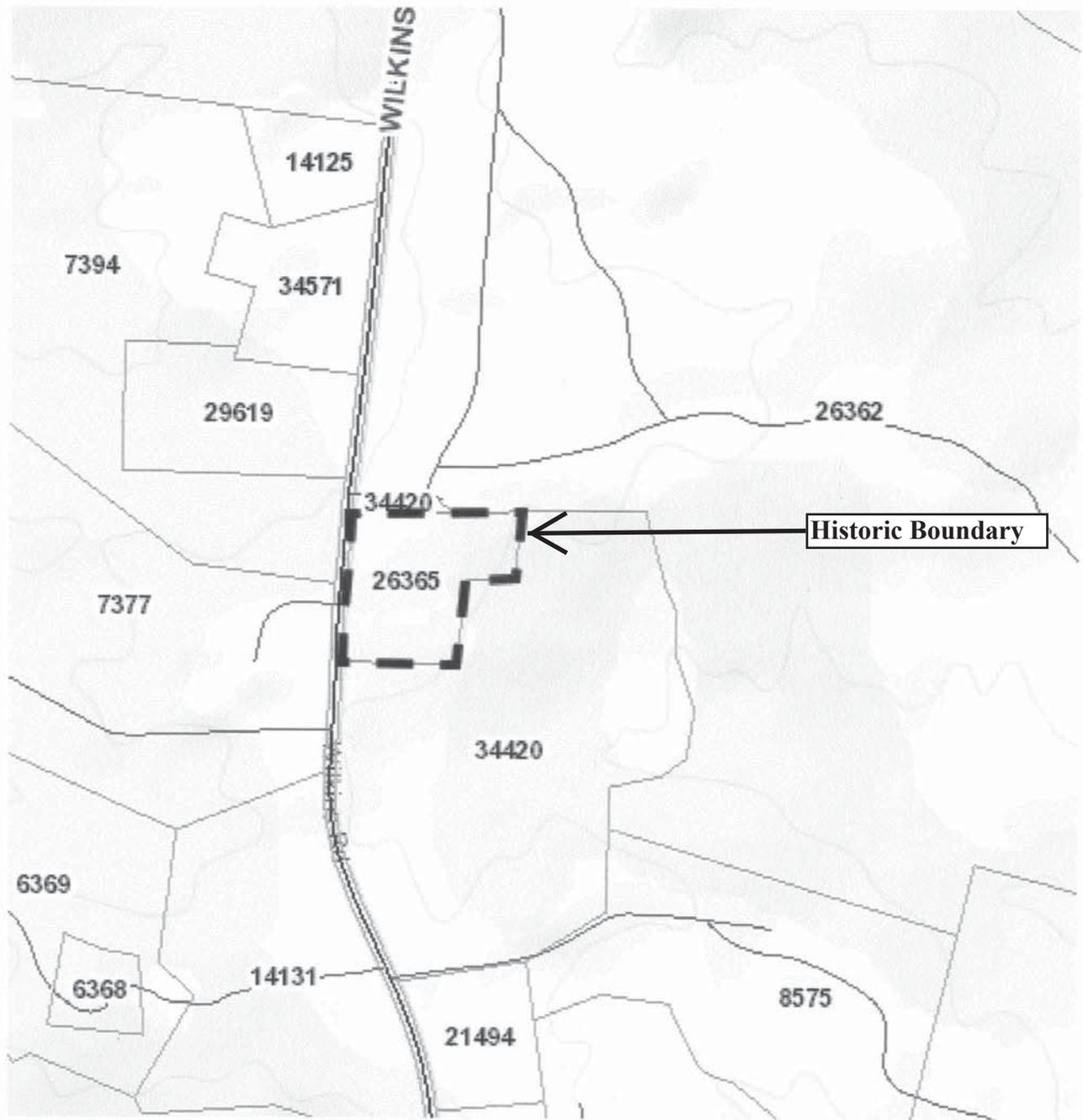
Dewberry Hill

Halifax County, Virginia. Number and direction of view of nomination photos indicated by triangular markers. Map not to scale. Size and location of resources approximate.

Inventory

1. Dewberry Hill. Contributing building.
2. Workshop. Non-contributing building.
3. Furnace house. Non-contributing building.
4. Car shelter. Non-contributing structure.





TAX PARCEL MAP
Dewberry Hill
Halifax County, Virginia
DHR No. 041-5064