

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: Macmurdo House
Other names/site number: Hodges House; DHR Nos. 166-0036, 166-0001-0063
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: 713 South Center Street
City or town: Ashland State: 23005 County: Hanover
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

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

	<u>12/30/20</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> 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>0</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 2 (Ashland Historic District)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD: Weatherboard; METAL: Tin; ASPHALT; BRICK

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 Macmurdo House at 713 South Center Street is a two-story, three-bay, frame, Greek Revival style home built in 1858 for the extended family of John R Macmurdo and his father C.W. Macmurdo in Ashland, Virginia. The town was developed by the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company in the 1850s, and C.W. Macmurdo was the treasurer of the company when the house was built. Originally built on the ten-acre "Lot #4" of the 1854 plat of the town, today the house occupies a lot that is a little over 2/3 of an acre and fronts 160 feet on South Center Street and the railroad tracks that run through the center of the town. Like many of the early homes in Ashland, the house is closer to the street and to the railroad tracks than homes built later in the century. Nevertheless, the front lawn has shade trees and shrubbery, and a spacious yard on the north side of the house is planted with shaded lawns and gardens. A concrete walk leads from the front porch to the South Center Street sidewalk on the west. A brick patio and walkway lead from the rear porch to the sidewalk along Macmurdo Street on the south. The house has passed through a number of owners, some of whom made unfortunate changes, but recent owners have restored the home to most of its original condition, including removal of asbestos siding, shoring up the foundation of the rear addition and porch, and restoring the center hall ceiling to plaster instead of acoustic tile. Current owners are sensitive to the historic character of the house, which retains a high degree of historic integrity for materials, design, workmanship, setting and location. Fortunately, none of the window sash were ever replaced.

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The entrance porch has the original molding and Greek key ornamentation. The front and back doors are original. Most of the mantels are the originals, as are the interior door and window surrounds and the front hall staircase.¹ The dwelling and a 1920s garage at the rear of the property are contributing resources in the Ashland Historic District (NRHP 1983; DHR No. 166-0001) while a small shed is non-contributing.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Macmurdo House is located in the heart of the Ashland Historic District, listed on the National Register in 1983 and updated in 2019. With its exceptional collection of ornamental, free-standing frame dwellings and a compact business core, all set among hundreds of trees, the Ashland Historic District is an engaging example of a turn-of-the-century railroad and streetcar suburb. Defining the district's spine are the tracks of the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad and the parallel Center Street, on either side of which is a full range of Victorian-era style buildings and later styles: Italianate, Eastlake, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival.² The Macmurdo House, one of the earliest dwellings in the district, sits on the northeast corner of Center Street and McMurdo Street, facing the railroad tracks that form the spine of the town. Although the lot has been reduced in size since its original construction, the house remains on a large, grassy parcel with mature trees and plantings. Situated among other residential dwellings that face the railroad tracks, this area of the district is south of the main commercial core of the town.

Dwelling: Exterior Description

The home at 713 South Center Street has a side gable roof with a projecting, molded box cornice. There is an original front porch, an early rear porch added before 1890, and a rear "ell" addition added between 1890 and 1913.³ (See Figures 1 & 2) The wood windows are six-over-six-pane sashes, double hung. The exterior walls are clad with wooden weatherboards. The house, addition, and rear porch roofs are asphalt shingled. The roof of the front porch is covered with flat metal worked into a trough at the sides; that on the back porch is standing-seam tin. Except for the ground-level furnace room, the house and addition rest on brick piers, later enclosed by a foundation of stretcher bond brick, which create a crawl space.⁴ The two original interior chimneys are brick with corbelled caps, as is the later addition's chimney.

The one-story, three-bay, central entrance porch is original to the house. The front entry has double-leaf, half-glazed wood doors with large glass panes over rectangular wooden panels. The doors are flanked by four-light sidelights over wood panels. The sidelights in turn are flanked by pilasters with an elongated Greek key motif and crowned by a massive wood entablature with a flat, molded projecting cornice. The flat porch roof is supported by square Tuscan columns with a three-part molding at the top.

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FIGURE #1, Circa 1890 photograph from glass negative,
Camera Looking Northeast, unknown photographer, collection of F.W. Tucker III

The one-story, four-bay, shed-roofed, rear porch may be original to the house as well. It appears in the below 1890 photograph (Figure 2), the earliest known photograph of the house. The porch measures 27 feet, 8 inches in width and 7 feet, 4 inches in depth. The flooring is wooden planks; the porch is enclosed with a screen. The wide, four-panel wood door with a four-light transom at the rear entry to the center hall opens onto this porch.

The two-story ell addition on the northwest rear of the house was added between 1890 and 1913. It is absent from the 1890 photograph in figures 1 and 2, but does appear on the 1913 Sanborn Insurance Company map of the house. (See figure 3) There is a ground-level entry on the south side of the addition, and exterior stairs above it lead to the second floor. On the main floor, this addition provides a small bathroom with sink, toilet, and bathtub, laundry, pantry, and ground-level furnace room with an auxiliary refrigerator and storage shelves. In the past, the second-floor space was rented out as an apartment and equipped with a kitchenette and bathroom. In its present configuration, it serves as a bathroom and dressing/storage room for the northeast (master) bedroom.

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FIGURE #2, Circa 1890 photograph from glass negative,
camera Looking North, outbuilding to the north of main house that no longer exists plus back porch, unknown
photographer, collection of F.W. Tucker III

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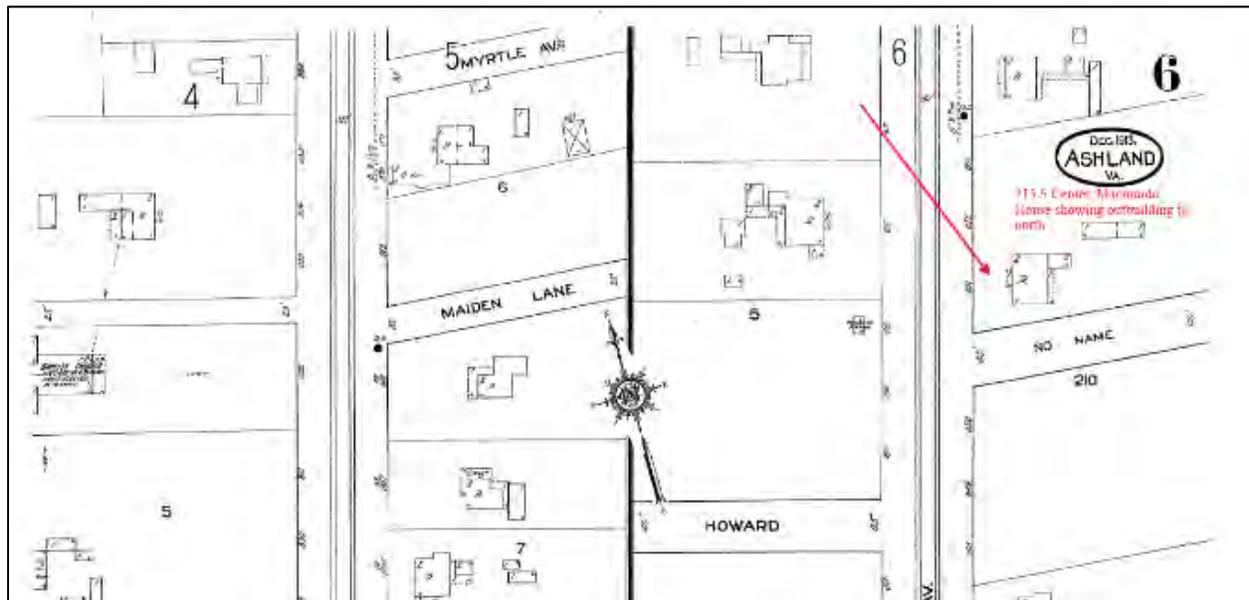


FIGURE #3, December 1913, Sanborn Insurance Company Maps of Ashland, Virginia, 1913, sheet six

Interior Description

The original house is a two-story, double-pile, center-passage plan (Figure 4). The first floor has a nine-foot-wide center hall with an open-string, single-run stair leading to the second floor along the north wall of the hall. The staircase has a beaded stringer, heavy turned newel post, turned balustrade, and oval handrail. The stair well is completely open on the second floor, with the balustrade and floor forming a curved balcony or gallery overlooking the first-floor hall. The wall under the stair is paneled with tall, vertical, rectangular, recessed wood panels. The historic interior woodwork is almost entirely intact, with window and door surrounds of curved two-and three-part moldings. The floors are the original heart pine on both the first and second stories, except that of the first-floor center hall, which was covered over with oak because, so tradition has it, blood stained the heart pine when the house served as a field hospital during the Civil War. The ceiling of the main floor hall is eight feet, five inches high, and each of the four first-floor rooms, two on either side of the hall, measures fifteen by fifteen feet.

There are two original, massive, internal, running bond, brick chimneys serving eight fireplaces, one in each room of the original building. The first-floor fireplaces are equipped with artificial propane logs; those on the second floor are sealed.⁵ The smaller central internal chimney in the rear addition of the house serves an oil-burning furnace added in the early to-mid-twentieth century. Most of the door and window hardware is original. Locks on the doors have been replaced, but hinges are original, and brackets at either side of the front and back doors originally held a "bar," the nineteenth-century predecessor of a deadbolt. There is an old electric socket or "call bell" located in the middle of the dining (northwest) room floor.

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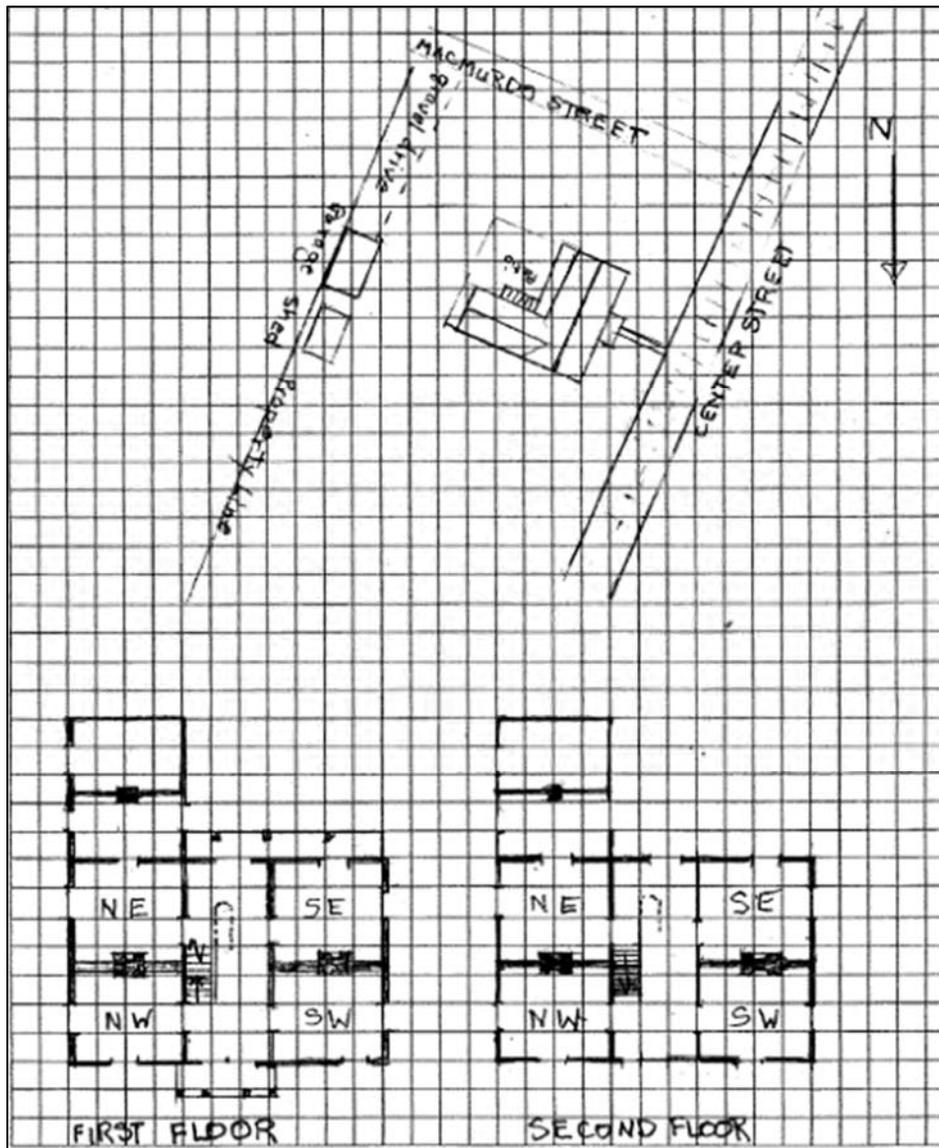


FIGURE #4,
1991, Sketch of the property and floorplan copied from Margaret Wuellner, edited by Rosanne Shalf⁶

The front parlor at the southwest corner of the house has an original central mantel on the east wall with a Greek key frieze. The mantel on the east wall in the dining room at the house's northwest corner was installed later, possibly in the late nineteenth century or early twentieth century. It features a bracketed mantelshelf and plain frieze supported by side pilasters, each with a recessed floral carving.

At least as early as the 1950s, the northeast rear parlor was converted to a kitchen. It presently has a refrigerator, sink, and dishwasher on the northeast outside wall, and in the middle of the room is a JennAir propane stove with cabinets on either side providing counter space and storage. Hung from the ceiling of the stove and on the north inside wall are a cupboard and open

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bookcases that hold the present owners' cookbooks and teapot collection. The alcove between the fireplace and the north outside wall contain cabinets that open on the back into matching cabinets in the dining room. To the left (or south) of the fireplace is a door that opens into the dining room. In the 1970s the plaster was removed from the chimney, exposing the brick, the firebox rebuilt and a simple wood mantel shelf installed.

The southeast rear parlor presently serves as a library with built-in bookcases over knee-high cabinets on the eastern outside wall and a floor-to-ceiling bookcase in the alcove to the right (or north) of the fireplace. In the alcove to the left (or south) is a pair of French doors, with access to the front parlor. The mantle was replaced in the early 2000s with one patterned after the original Greek key frieze in the front, or southwest, parlor.

The flooring of the second story is the original heart pine. The ceilings on this floor are roughly 7 feet, 1-to-2 1/2 inches high. Original doors into the four bedrooms are 3 feet, 2 1/2 inches wide but only 6 feet, 2 inches high, requiring a tall person to duck. The doors are mostly 4-panel, with two 6-panel doors in the master bedroom. Each room has two original full-size casement windows above those on the main floor, as well as one above the back door and one in a modern bathroom at the end of the upper hall at the front of the house. Mantels in three of the upstairs bedrooms are identical and appear to be original. The form is typical Greek Revival for non-public spaces and features simple pilasters supporting an architrave and frieze, topped by a simple mantel shelf. The one at the front southeast corner of the house was apparently re-worked with decorative touches. The current owners have added a one-foot deep floor-to-ceiling bookcase along the north wall of the upper hall between the two doorways and replaced the scuttle access to the attic with a pull-down stair.

Secondary Resources

Close to the eastern property line and 97 feet from the back of the dwelling is a frame, one-story single-car garage accessed by a gravel driveway from Macmurdo Street. The garage has weatherboard siding and a metal roof. It was probably built between 1921 and 1929, as it appears in the 1929 Sanborn Insurance Company map but not in the 1921 map. The garage is a contributing building.

Eight-and-a-half feet north of the garage is an eight-by-twelve-foot modern garden shed. The shed postdates the property's period of significance and is a non-contributing building.

Integrity Analysis

Much of the significance of the Macmurdo House is conveyed by its high degree of integrity. The house remains one of the best examples of Greek Revival architecture in the Town of Ashland and one of the least altered mid-nineteenth century dwellings. Therefore, the property's association with the early, founding years of Ashland and one of the first families to settle here

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because of the railroad remains evident. The mostly unaltered floorplan, the clearly identifiable Greek Revival design, along with the high-quality workmanship and the survival of the majority of its historic materials all contribute to its overall integrity. The residential setting, on a lot with mature trees, fronting the historic railroad line that is still present, all within the NRHP-listed Ashland Historic District, adds to its integrity of location and feeling.

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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

1858 - 1937

Significant Dates

1858

1862

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.)

The Macmurdo House is important within the Town of Ashland for its Greek Revival architecture. It remains one of the best examples of Greek Revival architecture in the Town of Ashland and one of the least altered mid-nineteenth century dwellings. It is eligible at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The period of significance begins with the dwelling's construction in 1858 and ends in 1937, thereby encompassing construction of the house's rear ell as well as the 1920s garage, completion of which brought the property to its current appearance, and concluding with the property's sale by the Macmurdo family. The original house, along with its late-nineteenth-century addition and the sensitive additions of modern mechanical systems, represent several generations of the family who built the house, were active in the development of the town, witnessed the Civil War at their doorstep and transitioned to the postwar Reconstruction Era and early twentieth century modernization. The significant date of 1858 marks the incorporation of the Town of Ashland. In 1862, Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and 20,000 troops bivouacked in and near Ashland just prior to the Seven Days' Battle; Jackson is thought to have stayed at the Macmurdo House.

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

CRITERION C: Architecture

Greek Revival Architecture in Ashland and the Importance of Pattern Books

One of the earliest homes to be built in the new village of Ashland, the Macmurdo House is the best-preserved surviving example of Greek Revival architecture and is one of the few left in Ashland and Hanover County that was not "updated" with Italianate details after the Civil War. There are at least eleven other documented homes in Ashland that were built before the Civil War. Unlike the Macmurdo House, most did not fully embrace the Greek Revival style, or if they did, they were significantly modified in the mid-to-late nineteenth century.

On Center Street there are eight documented antebellum homes including the Macmurdo House at 713 S Center. Most were originally simple vernacular farmhouses, and many were renovated just after the Civil War with Italianate details. None of them have the distinctive Greek Revival elements that are present in the Macmurdo House, such as the Greek key decorations and the finer window and door surrounds. The dwelling at 312 N Center Street, built by George Nolley possibly as early as 1854-1855, is a simple farmhouse that has not been modified. While the stucco house at 304 N Center Street was built in 1858 and retains some interior Greek Revival details, it was drastically renovated on the outside in the 1920s by its owner, Miss Mary Beirne, to the Colonial Revival style. The home at 706 S. Center has been renovated very carefully in the past year. It was probably originally a vernacular farmhouse that was remodeled in 1871 and again during the early 1920s. It does have interior antebellum craftsmanship that has been

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preserved, but nothing comparable to the Greek key decoration at the Macmurdo House. Additionally, the front door and porch were changed in a 1920s renovation, so it looks more like an 1870s home. Another house, at 600 S Center Street, was originally a simple farmhouse built before the Civil War with no pretense of Greek Revival style, and was enlarged in 1870 or 1880 with an Italianate addition. The porch, front door, and some interior woodwork were changed at that time. The dwelling at 604 S Center Street was also a simple farmhouse before the war. It has been carefully renovated recently as well, with additions to the rear, connecting the kitchen to the back of the house, but in the 1870s it had some Italianate decoration added to the interior and exterior. While the house at 702 S Center Street comes closest to the quality of the Macmurdo House, in the 1870s a mansard roof was added. A dwelling at 403 S Center was recently renovated, preserving the 1850s woodwork, windows, and the simple front stoop, but the original woodwork is not as fine as that of the Macmurdo house and it has no pretense to be Greek Revival except in general form. Finally, at 601 S Center Street is a simple antebellum farmhouse as well, and it has been well-renovated, but again, the original woodwork was not as fine as that at the Macmurdo House.

There are five antebellum homes on Virginia Street, none of which was more than a vernacular farmhouse. The home at 203 S Center Street has had some mid-20th century interior changes and the porch is not original. The antebellum home at 301 Virginia Street had an entire front added to it just after the Civil War, changing it to look like an Italianate style home. 303 Virginia Street still has its antebellum woodwork, but again, it was not originally a Greek Revival home. The antebellum house at 302 Virginia Street has vinyl siding and is an apartment house at present. The dwelling at 300 Virginia Street has Italianate details that were added after the Civil War and vinyl siding added in 2020. The windows were also replaced with modern double-pane windows in 2020.

Consequently, none of the other existing homes built in antebellum Ashland were so consciously built in the Greek Revival style, and most do not have the finer woodwork as seen in the Macmurdo House. In addition, most were modified with Italianate details after the Civil War while the Macmurdo House remains mostly original in style, even after modernization in the mid-20th century.

Mr. Wingfield, who has been identified as the assumed builder of the Macmurdo House, must have been familiar with Asher Benjamin's 1830 book, *"The Architect, or The Practical House Carpenter."* The front door surround, with the double doors, Greek key pilasters and sidelights, and simple entablature, could easily have been taken from Plate XXVIII and Plate XIV in that book.⁷ Wingfield built the sidelights with 4 panes of glass instead of the three that Benjamin shows, and the doors are half-glazed instead of solid wood. But otherwise the front door surround looks like the one Benjamin shows with double-leaf doors, sidelights over wooden panels, and an elongated Greek key design on the pilasters with a simple entablature of plain double bands. Benjamin gives instructions on size ratios and shows elevations and sections of each part, and refers to it as a "Venetian entrance."

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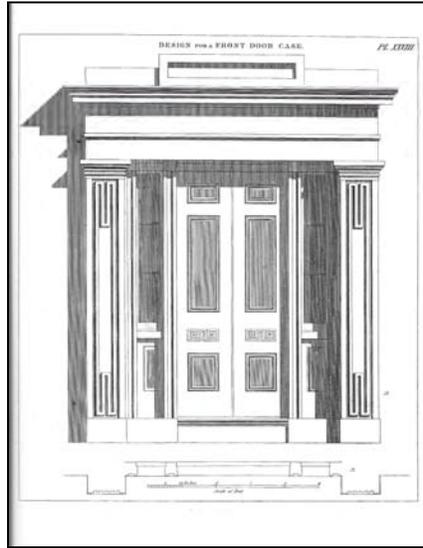


Plate XXVIII, *The Practical House Carpenter*
Asher Benjamin, 1830

Likewise, the Greek key design over the mantle in the living room is very similar to Benjamin's Plate LI with pilasters from Plate L in the same book.⁸

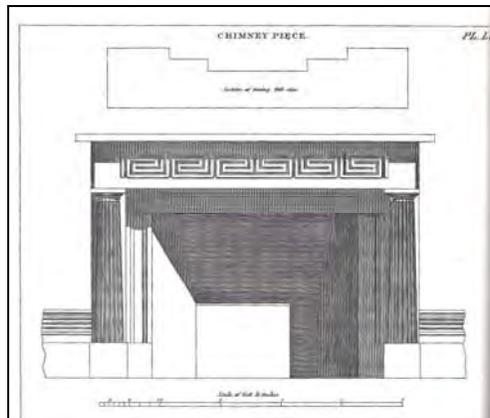


Plate LI, *The Practical House Carpenter*
Asher Benjamin, 1830

The Macmurdo House's baseboard moldings and door and window moldings are much simpler than those most in Benjamin's book. The base moldings are two-part and flat. The windows and door surrounds downstairs have plain flat corner blocks. However, Benjamin does illustrate the plain corner blocks in Plate XXVII of *The Practical House Carpenter*. Those upstairs have a three-part molding, also illustrated in Plate XXVII.

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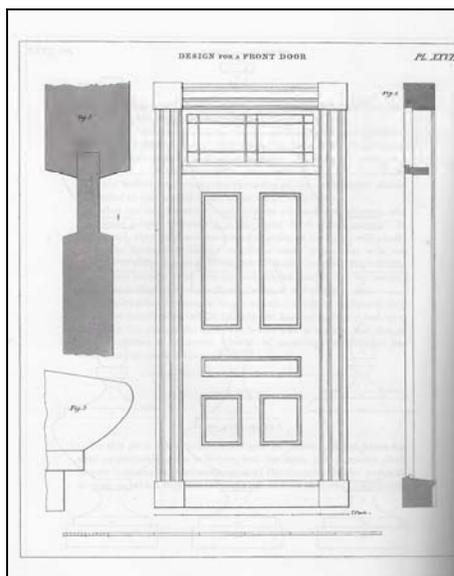


Plate XXVII, *The Practical House Carpenter*
Asher Benjamin, 1830

The use of pattern books by wealthy property owners and their builders was quite popular in the first half of the nineteenth century. Architects such as Asher Benjamin, through their pattern books, provided detailed drawings and extensive notes and recommendations on incorporating classically derived stylistic elements into new construction. Builders could pick and choose those elements that appealed to their client. The elongated Greek key seen at the Macmurdo House on the front door piece and the parlor mantel seemed to be particularly popular and use of it is seen in numerous buildings throughout central Virginia. Likely, whomever built the Macmurdo House had a copy of the pattern book, or perhaps, Macmurdo himself did as well. The attention to detail and stylish ornamentation is indicative of the wealth and status demonstration that pervades all periods of high-style domestic architecture.

The two-story rear ell was added between 1890 and 1913. It represents the additional space needed for modernizing an older house with new amenities. This addition provided for a furnace room for the first mechanized heating system, along with a new bathroom, pantry and storage space, plus an additional bedroom on the second floor. If a family could afford to build an addition, as opposed to trying to retrofit historic spaces for modern use, a rear ell addition such as this one was common practice. Likewise, as the ownership of automobiles became affordable to most families, the addition of a detached garage for the protective cover of this family investment became commonplace. For the Macmurdo family, this was during the 1920s. Both the rear addition and the garage represent the progression of family growth and the embracing of modern conveniences while still residing in the historic family home place.

Background History

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The Macmurdo family had an impact on the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac (RF&P) Company, Rail Transportation, and the development of Ashland from 1858, when their house was built, to 1907 when the family created one of the first housing developments in the town, to 1937 when the last family member sold the antebellum home place outside of the family. Through all that time, the Macmurdos had front row seats to the history of the railroad industry in the U.S. and also to the Civil War as it took place across the railroad tracks from their new home. The Richmond Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad Company was one of the earliest in Virginia, having been chartered in 1834. The RF&P built the first 20 miles of its track north from Richmond to a place in Hanover County that later became known as the Railroad Company Resort, Slash Cottage and, in 1858, the Town of Ashland. Until then, there was very little development in the central part of Hanover County because the waterways were not as navigable as those in the eastern and western parts of the county. Ashland was the first and remains as the only incorporated town in the Richmond metropolitan area that today encompasses the City of Richmond and the counties of Hanover, New Kent, Henrico, Chesterfield, Goochland, and Powhatan. The Macmurdo family was intimately involved in Richmond and Ashland business circles and in early-nineteenth-century railroad history, as C.W. Macmurdo was the treasurer and secretary of the RF&P Railroad Company from 1840 to 1862 during the company's formative years. His son, John R. Macmurdo, was general freight agent from 1860 to 1864.

In the end, the RF&P Railroad became an important part of the stretch of rail between Maine and Florida and an important segment of the "Great Mail." But in the beginning in the 1830s, there was no reason for passengers to ride the train to an isolated section of Hanover County. In order to give passengers a reason to ride the train and provide operating cash for the fledgling company, Edwin Robinson, the company's president from 1847 to 1860, persuaded the directors to create a mineral water resort. The development was called Slash Cottage, harkening to Henry Clay who billed himself as the "Millboy of the Slashes" in rural Hanover County where he was born. There were 17 buildings, including a hotel, ballroom, bowling alleys, baths, and cottages. Slash Cottage attracted military demonstrations, a popular social event at the time, culminating in regimental balls. There were hot-air balloon demonstrations and cotillions held at the resort. When the company started selling building lots, it was very popular for Richmonders to build summer homes and fulltime residences in the town. Each family who built in the town received a free or discounted pass on the Ashland Accommodation train.

In fact, Slash Cottage became such a lucrative success for the RF&P in the 1840s and 1850s that the company's president began dreaming of a racecourse at the location, leading to the famous overreach of Edwin Robinson. As treasurer, C.W. Macmurdo kept a worried watch over the imaginative president, whose enthusiasm led him to use company money to develop a horse-racing establishment at Ashland even after the board of directors had declined his request to do so. When a nationwide panic nearly destroyed the finances of the RF&P in the late 1850s, the scheme was uncovered and Robinson had to resign in disgrace and sell everything he owned in June of 1860.⁹ (See Figure #13, Additional Documentation)

In 1860, on the eve of the Civil War, both C.W. Macmurdo and his son, John R. Macmurdo are residents in the house. The slave schedule of 1860 lists C.W. as the owner of ten enslaved

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workers. At this time, their names remain unknown, but they are identified as follows, in the order listed in the schedule: Black female (age 30), Black male (age 55), Mulatto female (age 45), Mulatto female (age 20), Black female (age 18), Black male (age 20), Black female (age 15), Black female (age 11), Black female (age 1), Mulatto female (age 8 months). The 1890 photograph of the house (Figure 1), shows a substantial two-story, center-chimney building immediately behind the house. Its form indicates it to be contemporary with the construction of the house. It was likely the dwelling place for the enslaved servants and probably housed other domestic functions such as the kitchen and laundry. It is possible this building was moved and rotated when the new side street, now Macmurdo Street, cut through the property. A long rectangular building appears on the Sanborn Insurance maps for 1913, 1921 and 1928; however, it is perpendicular to the rear of the house.

With the 1861 secession of Virginia from the Union, the town and the RF&P were saved when the nascent Confederate government rented the Ashland Race Course property to train the Confederate cavalry for war. Later in the war, it became a place for soldiers to camp on their way to and from battles and for refugees from Northern Virginia to find respite and a place to wait out the war.

During the Civil War, residents of the Macmurdo House saw soldiers trained across the tracks on the former Ashland Race Course, cared for the injured when the war began, and hosted officers and a general. Major Thomas Rowland, wrote "I spent the evening yesterday at Col. Macmurdo's. His daughters sang 'What are the wild waves saying?' and 'Juanita' both as duets. We had a serenade afterwards from the Lunenburg Cavalry who called upon each of the officers in succession for a speech. We all had to come out and do the best we could."¹⁰

When war came, Ashland saw several skirmishes and an outright Battle of Ashland in June of 1864, all reported in the Richmond newspapers and soldier memoirs.¹¹ The Macmurdo House was not the only home where injured soldiers were cared for, but oral history states that the bloodstains on the front hall floor of the home required that they be covered with a new floor after the war.

Another Macmurdo family story passed from generation to generation involves an exhausted General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, who, on the eve of the Seven Days Battle, is said to have spent the night at the invitation of Col. C.W. Macmurdo. Jackson's 20,000 soldiers stayed at the Ashland Race Course and to the west near Independence Church. The plan was for Jackson and his soldiers to stay farther east, closer to the expected surprise attack after passing through Ashland to replenish provisions. The provisions were late in arriving and, for this reason, the group remained in Ashland, hoping to make an early enough start in the morning to make up lost time. However, for several reasons Jackson was late to the battle, which meant a confusing start to the surprise attack and resulting in a battle of seven hard-fought days.

Some have questioned the veracity of the story that Jackson stayed at the Macmurdo House, but Civil War historian Robert Krick finds that it is plausible that the story that Jackson stayed overnight at the Macmurdo home. Wrote Krick,

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Stonewall Jackson's command numbered approximately 20,000 men, more than half of them veterans of the recently concluded Shenandoah Valley Campaign. They aimed for the headwaters of Beaver Dam Creek and eventually Cold Harbor, as part of an elaborate plan to maneuver the U.S. Army away from Richmond. Jackson's columns tramped through western Hanover County on the 25th and pulled into Ashland that night, some of them as late as 10:00 p.m. according to their diaries. Because their stay proved to be short—not even a full night, really—and because most of the men had no idea where they were, physical details are sparse. We do know from accounts written at the time that some of the force camped for the brief night around Independence Church and Hughes' Tavern, west of the village, while others identified the Ashland Race Course as their bivouac, closer to the main part of the little town. No Confederates are known to have advanced beyond Ashland (to the east) that night.

Local tradition states that Jackson established his headquarters at the Macmurdo House on South Center Street. As far as I know, the earliest written statement to that effect is in a special historical number of the *Hanover Herald-Progress* in 1926. James I. Robertson, in his *Stonewall Jackson: The Man, the Soldier, the Legend*, muddied the waters by writing that Jackson's headquarters for the night occupied "a farmhouse between Ashland and the Virginia Central Railroad." Unfortunately, the footnotes do not support that sentence in any way, leaving careful readers to wonder about the origins (and accuracy) of the remark. A spot between Ashland and the Virginia Central Railroad would have been well in advance of Jackson's command, and in territory made perilous by the presence of Union cavalrymen that night. So in addition to not being buttressed by any source, that location seems unlikely for practical purposes, too.

His chief of staff, Rev. Robert L. Dabney, testified that Jackson conducted army business at his headquarters, and prayed during the night, and did not sleep at all. It is possible he only spent 4 to 6 hours there, given the army's late arrival and early departure. The famous anecdote from that same night, in which generals Ewell and Whiting visited Jackson at his headquarters, contains no clues as to the location of the meeting. But it does say that Jackson established his headquarters inside a house, as opposed to using a tent or the shelter of some convenient tree. Even that tale is not an ironclad fact. None of the three principals wrote about it. Instead, Rev. Dabney told the story postwar, having heard it, he said, from General Ewell.

All available sources from Jackson's command state plainly that the army advanced no farther than Ashland on the night of the 25th. That much is not in doubt. No document has surfaced yet that proves Jackson's personal whereabouts on that historic night. It is important, though, that the Macmurdo House easily passes the plausibility test. In that light, and especially given the fact that there are no other real candidates, it is reasonable to conclude with caution that Jackson

Macmurdo House

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likely worked and prayed at the Macmurdo House during the darkest overnight hours of June 25-26.¹²

After the Civil War, in 1907, the Macmurdo family developed most of the Lot #4 and part of an adjacent lot #3 into a housing development called Macmurdo Place. It was during this period that they also expanded their home with the construction of the two-story rear ell. The 1910 census indicates two domestic workers resided on the property, Sophie Booker, aged 59, listed as a black woman, single, role of cook and Lillie Pleasants, aged 19, listed as a black woman, single, role of nurse. They may have stayed in the additional bedroom space of the addition, or in the rectangular secondary building that shows on the Sanborn map of 1913. This secondary building may be the two-story building shown in the 1890 photo (Figure 1), possibly relocated when Macmurdo Street was constructed.

It was controversial when they provided a right-of-way for a rival rail company to build another set of tracks parallel to the RF&P tracks from Richmond to Ashland. This second railroad was called the Richmond and Chesapeake Bay Railroad Company and it was developed by the Jay Gould family of financiers. It became known as the Ashland Electric Car Line or the Ashland Trolley and operated between 1908 to 1938. It is now a walking trail that still leads from Ashland to Richmond with only a few places inaccessible along its stretch. The Macmurdos retained ownership of their antebellum homeplace until 1937, and over the span of their ownership they enlarged the original dwelling with a rear addition, introduced the first modern mechanical systems, and built a garage, all while maintaining the house's fine Greek Revival architecture, thus preserving it for future owners.

Macmurdo House
Name of Property

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8. Major Bibliographical References

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

HISTORY OF ASHLAND AND THE RF&P Railroad

Mordecai, John B., *A Brief History of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad* (Richmond, Va.: Childress Printing Co., 1972)

Shalf, Rosanne Groat, *Ashland, Ashland: the story of a turn-of-the-century railroad town.* Brunswick Publishing Corporation, Lawrenceville, Virginia, 1994.

ARCHITECTURAL SOURCES

Benjamin, Asher, *The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter*, (1830)(Dover Edition), plates # XXVIII and XXVII, based on two editions from 1844 and 1850, Republished by Dover Publications in 1988, Mineola, NY.

PRIMARY SOURCES

Hanover County Deed Books and Land Tax Books, Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Hanover Court House, Virginia.

“Letters of Major Thomas Rowland, C.S.A. from the Camps at Ashland and Richmond, Virginia, 1861,” *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1st ser., vol. 24 (January 1916): p. 150.

Sanborn Insurance Company Maps, Ashland, Hanover County, Virginia, 11 Broadway, New York, New York, 1913, 1921, 1929.

“The Late President of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company,” *Richmond Dispatch*, (Richmond, Virginia), Friday, June 22, 1860, P.2

U.S. Census, 1860, Hanover County, St. Paul's Parish District, Town of Ashland, p. 4.

GENERAL JACKSON SOURCES

“Stonewall Jackson Spends Night at M’Murdo House,” *Herald-Progress, Historic Hanover County*,” Special Edition, Supplement to 11 August 1938 issue, p. 18.

“Summary of our knowledge about Stonewall Jackson at Ashland, night of June 25-26, 1862,” manuscript by R.F.L. Krick, historian at Richmond NBP, for the park files.

Dabney, R.L., *Life and Campaigns of Lieut.-Gen. Thomas J. Jackson*, *(New-York: Blelock & Co., 19 Beekman Street. Richmond, Va., and Philadelphia, PA., National Publishing Company. 1866, pp 439-441, <https://books.googleusercontent.com/books/>

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PREVIOUS STUDIES OF THE MACMURDO HOUSE

Macmurdo House (HODGES HOUSE) VDHR 166-36, Interior Architectural Description by Margarita J. Wuellner, Land and Community Associates, 10/28/1991.

Survey of Historic Resources, Hanover County, VA, Phases I and II, March 1992 by Land and Community Associates, Charlottesville, VA, Ashley M Neville, Principal Investigator.

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: Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR No. 166-0036/ 166-0001-0036

9. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .66 acre

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: 37.753760 Longitude: -77.482520

2. Latitude: Longitude:

Macmurdo House
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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 boundary begins “at the northeast intersection of MacMurdo Avenue and Center (formerly Railroad) Streets and running thence eastwardly along the north line of MacMurdo Avenue 185.7' thence north 13 degrees 11' east 160', thence westwardly along a line nearly parallel with said north line of MacMurdo Avenue 170.8' to said Center Street, thence southwardly along east line of Center Street (said Railroad Street) 161.91' to point of beginning.” The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Sketch Map and Tax Parcel Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic boundary is based on the legal description in Deed Book 534, p.585, which also has a plat. In the most recent Deed Book 3126, page 778, the description refers to that deed, plat and description. (See Figures #5-6, Additional Documentation). The property’s historic setting and all known associated historic resources are included within the boundary.

10. Form Prepared By

name/title: Rosanne Groat Shalf

organization: Ashland Museum

street & number: 305 College Avenue

city or town: Ashland state: VA zip code: 23005

e-mail: jrshalf@gmail.com

telephone: 804-399-1849

date: September 6, 2020

Macmurdo House
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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. See Figure #4, Additional Documentation
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map. See Figure #3, Additional Documentation
- **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

Name of Property: Macmurdo House

Town of Ashland

County: Hanover

State: VA

Photographer: Roseanne Shalf and Elizabeth Harrison

Photo #1 of 16

View: Streetscape from Macmurdo and S Center Streets

Camera Orientation: Looking northeast

Date: February 28, 2020

Photographer: Rosanne Shalf

Photo #2 of 16

View: Front (west) façade

Camera Orientation: Looking east

Date: February 28, 2020

Photographer: Rosanne Shalf

Macmurdo House

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Photo #3 of 16

View: Front porch detail, west facade

Camera Orientation: Looking east

Date: February 28, 2020

Photographer: Rosanne Shalf

Photo #4 of 16

View: Northeast façade

Camera Orientation: Looking southwest

Date: February 28, 2020

Photographer: Rosanne Shalf

Photo #5 of 16

View: Rear, east facing, with porch and addition

Camera Orientation: Looking west

Date: February 28, 2020

Photographer: Rosanne Shalf

Photo #6 of 16

View: Two frame outbuildings, garage and shed, rear east property line

Camera Orientation: Looking northeast from Macmurdo Street

Date: Feb 19, 2020

Photographer: Rosanne Shalf

Photo #7 of 16

View: Center Hall & stairway with rear door at east rear entrance.

Camera Orientation: Looking east

Date: February 28, 2020

Photographer: Rosanne Shalf

Photo #8 of 16

View: Center hall

Camera Orientation: Looking E

Date: September 14 2017

Photographer: Rosanne Shalf

Photo #9 of 16

View: Front door, west wall

Camera Orientation: Looking west

Date: March 6, 2020

Photographer: Elizabeth Harrison

Photo #10 of 16

Macmurdo House

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View: Living room (SW room, first floor)
Camera Orientation: Looking northeast
Date: February 28, 2020
Photographer: Rosanne Shalf

Photo #11 of 16

View: Library (SE room, first floor). West wall with fireplace
Camera Orientation: Looking west.
Date: March 6, 2020
Photographer: Rosanne Shalf

Photo #12 of 16

View: Dining room (NW room, first floor)
Camera Orientation: Looking east
Date: February 28, 2020
Photographer: Rosanne Shalf

Photo #13 of 16

View: Kitchen (NE room, first floor). Door leads to dining room
Camera Orientation: Looking west.
Date: March 6, 2020
Photographer: Elizabeth Harrison

Photo #14 of 16

View: Second floor gallery
Camera Orientation: Looking northwest
Date: July 24, 2020
Photographer: Elizabeth Harrison

Photo #15 of 16

View: SE Bedroom, second floor
Camera Orientation: Looking northwest toward hall door
Date: September 4, 2020
Photographer: Elizabeth Harrison

Photo #16 of 16

View: NE bedroom (pink), east wall with fireplace
Camera Orientation: Looking southwest
Date: March 10, 2020
Photographer: Elizabeth Harrison

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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.

ENDNOTES

¹ See photograph 166-0036_Macmurdo_House_2018_Living_room_fireplace_surround_original_SWroom, 166-0036_Macmurdo_House_2018_Entrance_door_surround_facing_west, 166-0036_Macmurdo_House_2018_Entrance_Hall_Staircase_looking_east

² Virginia Landmarks Register, Online Edition, Ashland Historic District.

<https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/166-0001/>.

³ See photographs 166-0036_Macmurdo_House_2018_exterior_front_elevation_Westfacing_before_1900, 166-0036_Macmurdo_House_2018_before_1900_rear_porch_and_accessory-building_looking-north, and 1913 Sanborn Insurance Map Page 6.

⁴ See photograph 166-0036_MacMurdo_House_1991_exterior_rear_foundation_detail.

⁵ See photographs 166-0036_Macmurdo_House_2018_Chimney1 and 166-0036_Macmurdo_House_2018_Chimney 2.

⁶ Macmurdo House (HODGES HOUSE) VDHR 166-36, Interior Architectural Description by Margarita J. Wuellner, Land and Community Associates, 10/28/1991.

⁷ Benjamin, Asher, The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter (1830)(Dover Edition), plates # XXVIII and XXVII, based on two editions from 1844 and 1850, Republished by Dover Publications in 1988, Mineola, NY.

⁸ Benjamin, Asher, The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter (1830)(Dover Edition), plates # LI and L, based on two editions from 1844 and 1850, Republished by Dover Publications in 1988, Mineola, NY.

⁹“The Late President of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company,” Richmond Dispatch, (Richmond, Virginia), Friday, June 22, 1860, P.2

¹⁰ “Letters of Major Thomas Rowland, C.S.A. from the Camps at Ashland and Richmond, Virginia, 1861,” *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1st ser., vol. 24 (January 1916); pp.145-153, p.150.

¹¹ Brooke, St. George Tucker, *Memoirs*, Virginia Historical Society, Mss2 B7906a1, p. 16; *Richmond Dispatch*, June 2, 1864.

¹² “Summary of our knowledge about Stonewall Jackson at Ashland, night of June 25-26, 1862,” manuscript by R.F.L. Krick, historian at Richmond NBP, for the park files.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Macmurdo House
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N/A
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Section number Additional Documentation Page 1

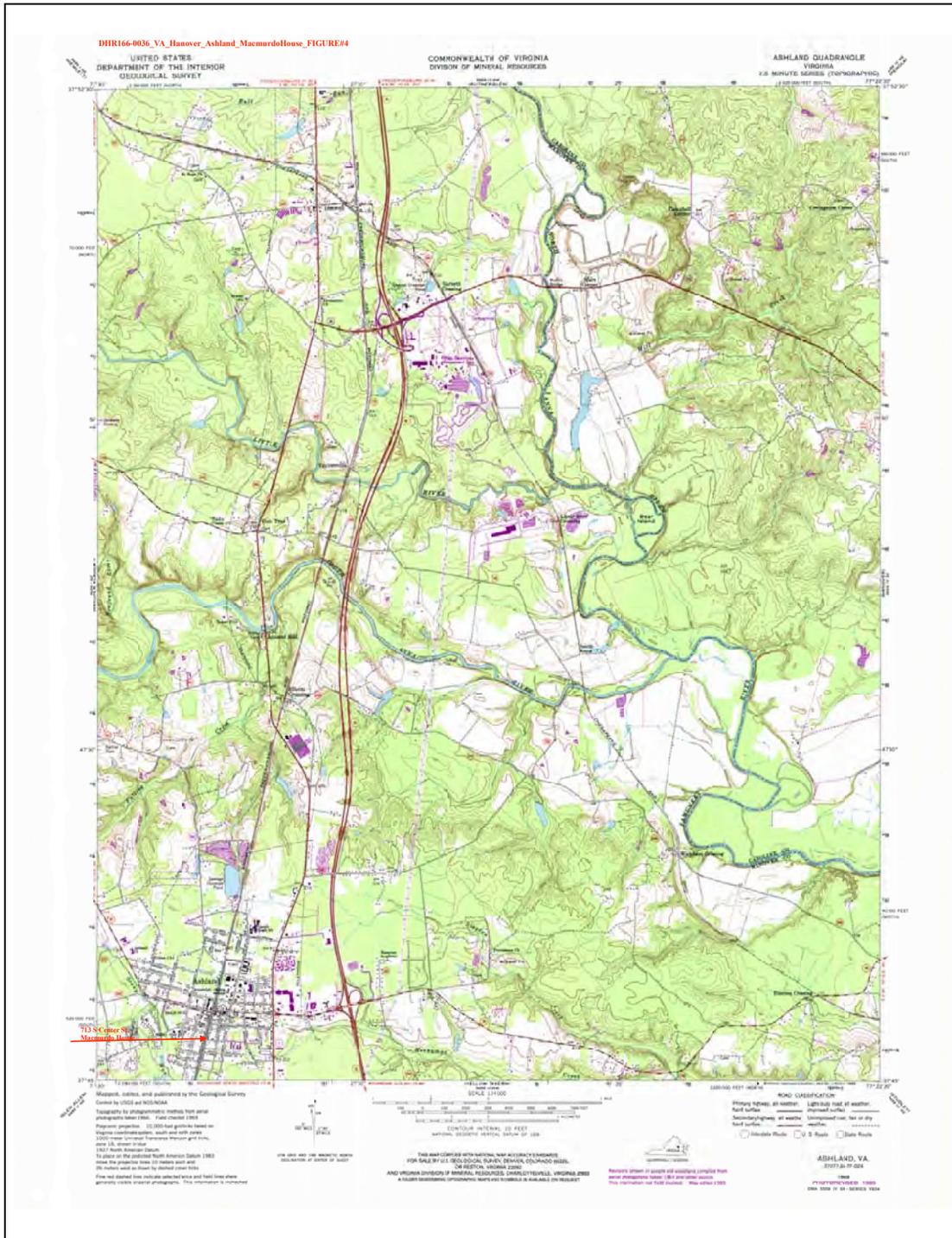


FIGURE 5
DATE: 1985

SOURCE/TITLE: USGS TOPO MAP, ASHLAND QUADRANGLE, VIRGINIA 7.5 MINUTE SERIES

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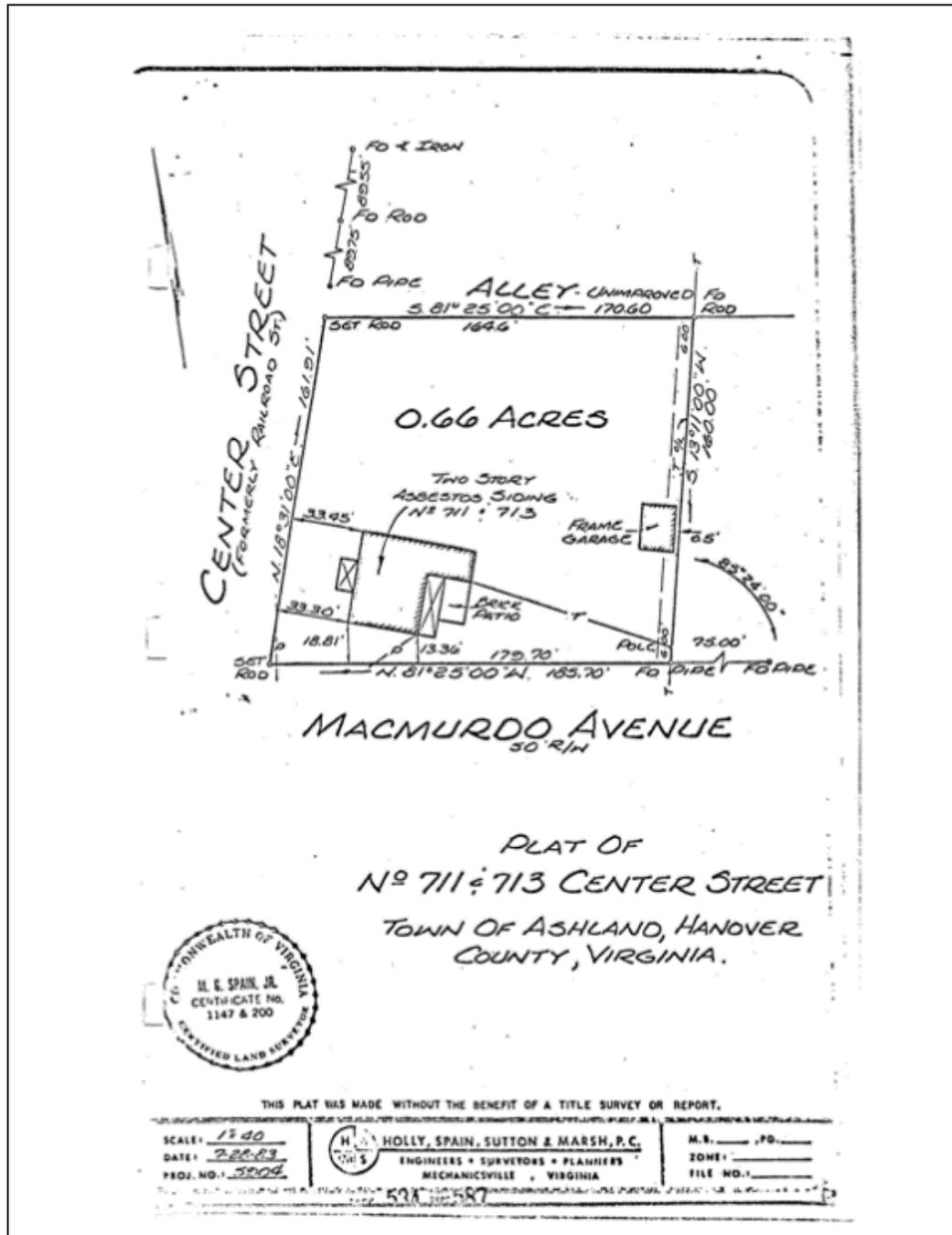


FIGURE 6

DATE: 28 JULY 1983

SOURCE/TITLE: Hanover County Land Records, Plat from Deed Book 534, at page 537, referred to in later Deed page 3125, page 778.

United States Department of the Interior
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DHR166-0036_VA_Hanover_Ashland_MacmurdoHouse_FIGURE#6

Schedule "A"

[From Deed Book 3126 at page 778]

ALL that certain lot, piece or parcel of land, with the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereto belonging, lying and being in the Town of Ashland, County of Hanover, Virginia, as shown on a Plat of Survey entitled "Plat of No. 711 & 713 Center Street, Town of Ashland, Hanover County, Virginia", made by Holly, Spain Sutton & March, P.C., dated July 28, 1983, recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court, Hanover County, Virginia, in Deed Book 534, page 587, to which plat reference is hereby made for a more particular description of the property hereby conveyed.

BEING the same real estate conveyed to Richard B. Ferguson by deed from Donald R. Makosky and Vivian P. Makosky, Trustees under the Donald R. Makosky and Vivian P. Makosky Revocable Declarations of Trust Dated January 22, 2001, dated June 14, 2006, recorded June 19, 2006, in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court, Hanover County, Virginia, in Deed Book 2724, page 170.



20151001000130740 3 / 3
 Bk: 3126 Pg: 780
 Hanover Co VA
 10/01/2015 11:32:10 AM
 DEED
 20151001000130740
 HANOVER CO CLERK'S OFFICE
 10/01/2015 11:32:10 AM
 SEC 58.1-802 GRANTOR'S
 TAX PD. \$440.00
 FRANK D. HARGROVE, JR, CLERK
 BY: KJACOBS

3

FIGURE #6

DATE: 1 October 2015

SOURCE/TITLE: Hanover County Land Records, Deed Book 3126, pages 778-780

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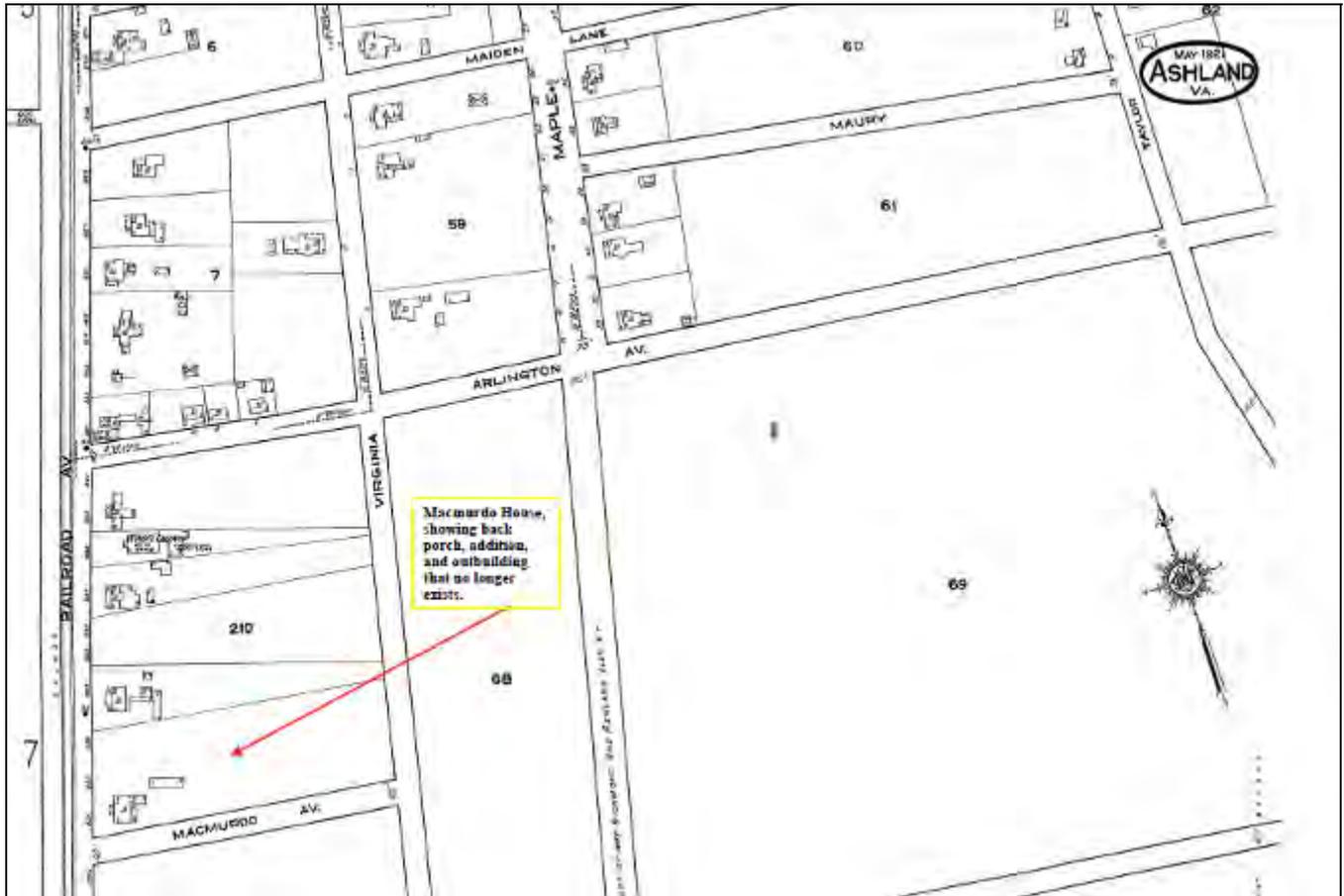


FIGURE #8

DATE: May 1921

SOURCE/TITLE: Sanborn Insurance Company Maps of Ashland, Virginia, 1921, sheet 8

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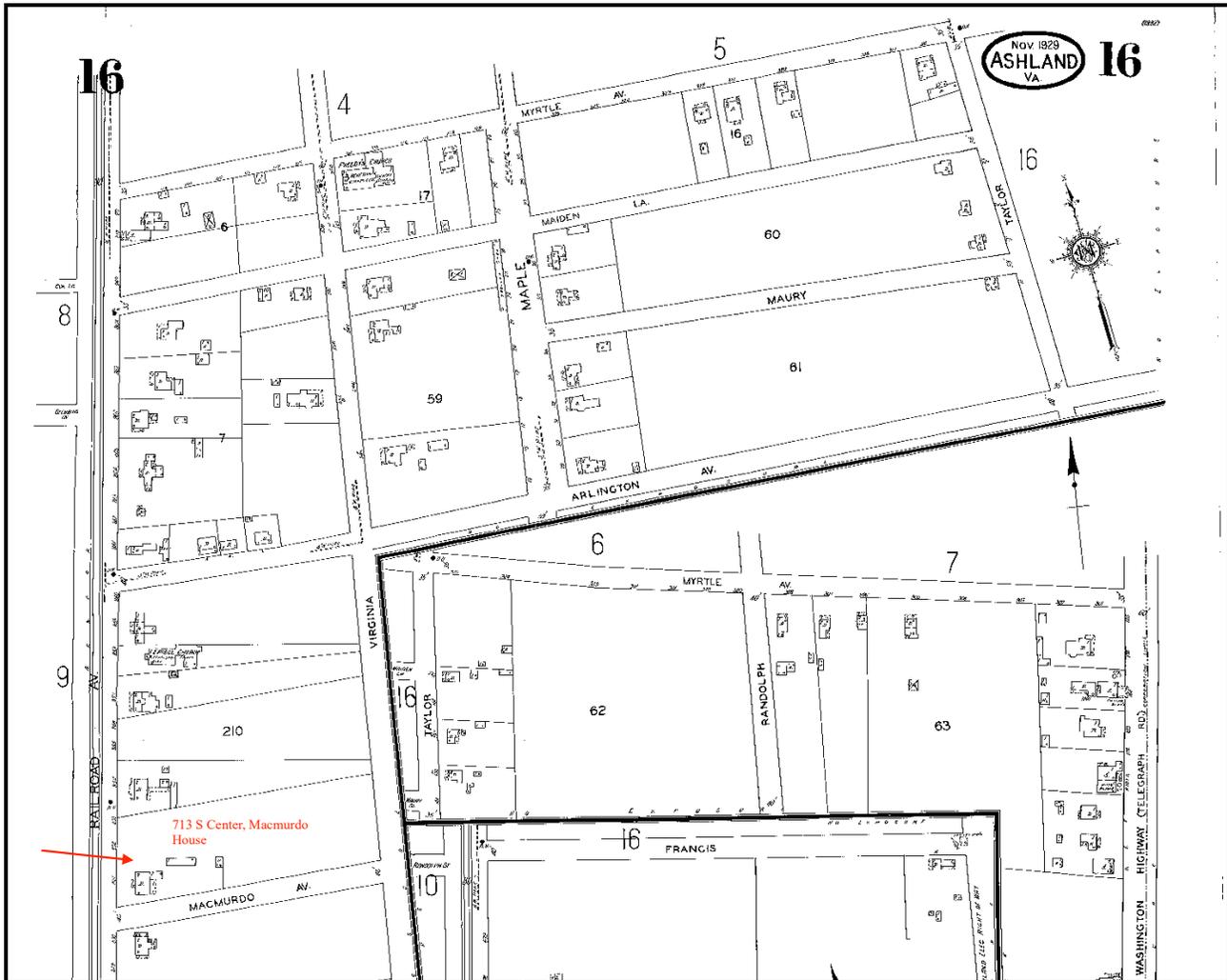


FIGURE #9

DATE: November 1929

SOURCE/TITLE: Sanborn Insurance Company Maps of Ashland, Virginia, 1929, sheet 16

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DHR166-0036_VA_Hanover_Ashland_MacmurdoHouse_FIGURE#10

Summary of our knowledge about Stonewall Jackson at Ashland, night of June 25-26, 1862, as of June 2019. Prepared by R.E.L. Krick, historian at Richmond NBP, for the park files, and coincidentally for Rosanne Shalf, the Ashland history oracle.

Stonewall Jackson’s command numbered approximately 20,000 men, more than half of them veterans of the recently concluded Shendandoah Valley Campaign. They aimed for the headwaters of Beaver Dam Creek and eventually Cold Harbor, as part of an elaborate plan to maneuver the U.S. Army away from Richmond. Jackson’s columns tramped through western Hanover County on the 25th and pulled into Ashland that night, some of them as late as 10:00 p.m. according to their diaries. Because their stay proved to be short—not even a full night, really—and because most of the men had no idea where they were, physical details are sparse. We do know from accounts written at the time that some of the force camped for the brief night around Independence Church and Hughes’ Tavern, west of the village, while others identified the Ashland Race Course as their bivouac, closer to the main part of the little town. No Confederates are known to have advanced beyond Ashland (to the east) that night.

Local tradition states that Jackson established his headquarters at the Macmurdo House on South Center Street. As far as I know, the earliest written statement to that effect is in a special historical number of the *Hanover Herald-Progress* in 1926. James I. Robertson in his *Stonewall Jackson: The Man, the Soldier, the Legend*, muddied the waters by writing that Jackson’s headquarters for the night occupied “a farmhouse between Ashland and the Virginia Central Railroad.” Unfortunately, the footnotes do not support that sentence in any way, leaving careful readers to wonder about the origins (and accuracy) of the remark. A spot between Ashland and the Virginia Central Railroad would have been well in advance of Jackson’s command, and in territory made perilous by the presence of Union cavalrymen that night. So in addition to not being buttressed by any source, that location seems unlikely for practical purposes, too.

His chief of staff, Rev. Robert L. Dabney, testified that Jackson conducted army business at his headquarters, and prayed during the night, and did not sleep at all. It is possible he only spent 4 to 6 hours there, given the army’s late arrival and early departure. The famous anecdote from that same night, in which generals Ewell and Whiting visited Jackson at his headquarters, contains no clues as to the location of the meeting. But it does say that Jackson established his headquarters inside a house, as opposed to using a tent or the shelter of some convenient tree. Even that tale is not an ironclad fact. None of the three principals wrote about it. Instead, Rev. Dabney told the story postwar, having heard it, he said, from General Ewell.

All available sources from Jackson’s command state plainly that the army advanced no farther than Ashland on the night of the 25th. That much is not in doubt. No document has surfaced yet that proves Jackson’s personal whereabouts on that historic night. It is important, though, that the Macmurdo House easily passes the plausibility test. In that light, and especially given the fact that there are no other real candidates, it is reasonable to conclude with caution that Jackson likely worked and prayed at the Macmurdo House during the darkest overnight hours of June 25-26.

FIGURE #10

DATE: June 2019

SOURCE/TITLE: "Summary of our knowledge about Stonewall Jackson at Ashland, night of June 25-26, 1862," by R.F.L. Krick.

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HIS ARMY AT ASHLAND. 439

he had a powerful reserve entrenched. Major-General A. P. Hill was to cross the Chickahominy, to the north side, at the meadow bridges, above Mechanicsville, and associating to himself Branch's brigade, which was to advance so soon as the march of General Jackson opened a way for it, was to sweep down against the enemy's right. As soon as the Mechanicsville bridge should be uncovered, Longstreet and D. H. Hill were to cross, the latter to proceed to the support of Jackson, and the former to that of A. P. Hill. The four commands were directed to sweep down the north side of the Chickahominy, toward the York River Railroad; Jackson on the left and in advance, Longstreet nearest the river and in the rear. Huger and Magruder were to hold their positions south of the Chickahominy, against any assault of the enemy, to observe him closely, and to follow him should he retreat. General Stuart, with his cavalry, was thrown out on Jackson's left, to guard his flank, and give notice of the enemy's movements.

The evening of June 25th found the army of General Jackson a few miles short of their appointed goal—at Ashland—instead of the line of the Central Railroad. The difficulties of handling so large a force with inexperienced subordinates, concurred with the loss of the bridges on his direct line of march, (lately burned by order of the Federalists,) to delay him thus much. No commander ever sympathized more fully with the spirit of Napoleon's answer, when he replied to one of his marshals, in view of a similar combination of his armies for a great battle: "Ask me for anything but time." Jackson's ardent soul, on fire with the grandeur of the operations before him, and with delight in their boldness and wisdom, and chafing at the delays of blundering and incompetent agents, forbade rest or sleep for him on this important night. He deliberately devoted the whole of it to the review of his preparations, and to prayer. Rations were to be

FIGURE #11a

DATE: Published 1866, New York, NY, Richmond, VA, and Philadelphia, PA
 SOURCE/TITLE: Dabney, R.L., "Life and Campaigns of Lieut.-Gen. Thomas J. Jackson," PP 439-44.

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LIFE OF LIEUT.-GENERAL JACKSON.

distributed and prepared by the men for three days. The leaders of the different divisions, encamped around Ashland, were to be instructed in their routes, so that the several commands might take their places in the column without confusion or delay. After all his staff were dismissed for a short repose, he still paced his chamber in anxious thought, or devoted to wrestling with God the intervals between the visits of his officers. In the small hours of the night, two of the commanders of divisions came to suggest that he should move the army by two columns, on parallel roads, instead of by one. He listened respectfully, but requested that they would await his decision until morning. When they left him, the one said to the other: "Do you know why General Jackson would not decide upon our suggestion at once? It was because he has to pray over it, before he makes up his mind." A moment after, the second returned to Jackson's quarters to fetch his sword, which he had forgotten; and, as he entered, found him upon his knees! praying, doubtless, for Omniscient guidance in all his responsible duties, for his men, and for his country.

Notwithstanding his efforts, the army did not move until after sunrise; when, all being ready, it advanced in gallant array toward the southeast, crossed the Central Railroad, and, meeting here and there the vigilant cavalry of General Stuart, which came in from the left at the cross-roads, approached the Pole-Green church, a century before sanctified by the eloquence of the Rev. Samuel Davies, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Jackson was now abreast of the enemy's right flank at Mechanicsville, and but a few miles north of it. Between him and the church was the Tottopottamoy, a little stream which still bears its Indian title. The pickets of McClellan occupied the opposite bank, and had destroyed the light wooden bridge, and obstructed the road beyond with prostrate trees. The Texan brigade of Hood, which

FIGURE #11b

DATE: Published 1866, New York, NY, Richmond, VA, and Philadelphia, PA
SOURCE/TITLE: Dabney, R.L., "Life and Campaigns of Lieut.-Gen. Thomas J. Jackson," PP 439-44.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Macmurdo House
Name of Property
Hanover County, VA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 9

<p>law.</p> <p>Author of our present decimal money system.</p> <p>The first American prison reformer.</p> <p>The first to suggest the Panama canal.</p> <p>Invented the letter copying press.</p> <p>Suggested certain improvements in the mold board plow and from which the shears prow was evolved.</p> <p>Started the fashion of wearing trousers instead of knee breeches.</p> <p>Conducted the purchase from France of the Mississippi Valley, since known as the Louisiana Purchase and the most gigantic real estate deal of all times.</p> <p>The first to advocate courtesy as a national blessing and efficiency measure.</p> <p>Founded the University of Virginia.</p> <p>Selected design for the National capital at Washington.</p> <p>Financed the exploration and original settlement of the far west including the Lewis and Clark expedition, and that of Lieut. Pike from which Pike's Peak is named.</p> <p>The first man to plant rice in America.</p> <p>Founder American glass industry.</p> <p>As an architect he designed his own residence Monticello; that of the Harrisons on the lower James river in Virginia.</p> <p>Invented the wheelbarrow, the whirling office chair, and the camp stool.</p> <p>The first farmer in America to use the threshing machine.</p> <p>The first to use the chicken incubator.</p> <p>The first prominent American to submit to vaccination.</p> <p>Founder of our system of fast mails by continuing the mails at night on horseback after the end of the day's stage journey, thereby increasing the speed of the mails from 50 to 100 miles per day.</p> <p>The first farmer in America to rotate crops.</p> <p>Founder of the United States secret service.</p> <p>Established the first mint in the</p>	<p>general stores (more than forty,) that carry complete and up-to-date stocks. In addition, there are four trading centers in the county where you can buy all the luxuries you need only occasionally. There are furniture stores, drug stores, ladies' specialty stores, men's furnishing stores, implement stores, seed stores, feed stores, garages, etc. When you patronize your local merchant you save time, often pay less money, and get the same class of merchandise. Rent, taxes and other expenses are less than in cities, and the country merchants buy their stocks from the same wholesalers and jobbers as do the city merchants.</p> <p>STONEWALL JACKSON SPENDS NIGHT AT M'MURDO HOUSE</p> <p>The home of L. T. W. Marye, corner Railroad avenue and MacMurdo street, Ashland, was the headquarters of Gen. Stonewall Jackson on the night of June 26, 1862. The house at that time was owned and occupied by Mr. Waldrop MacMurdo and family, one of his daughters being Mrs. R. M. Stebbins, of Ashland.</p> <p>On the announcement that Gen. Jackson was approaching the town, Mr. MacMurdo sought out the great soldier and offered him his home during his stay in the town, which the Confederate chieftain graciously accepted.</p> <p>Gen. Jackson arrived in Ashland just before the supper hour and remained in the MacMurdo house with his staff until 2 a. m., without attempting to rest or sleep. He was constantly receiving messages through his couriers until the hour of his departure for Richmond to engage in battle in defense of that city.</p> <p>HANOVER COUNTY PHYSICIANS</p> <p>There are eleven practicing physicians in Hanover County.</p> <p>Mink raising as a side line to farming is proving a successful venture to a farmer near Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. This season he had 39 offspring from nine lit-</p>	<p>The exact spot on which this memorial will be erected has not been definitely determined, but it will unquestionably be placed at Clay's Spring, the birthplace of Henry Clay, or near the site of the house in which he was born and spent the early part of his life.</p> <p>PROGRESSIVE IN PEACE AS IN TIME OF WAR</p> <p>During the Civil war, Hanover county was "the track of the armies," on account of its nearness to Richmond, the capital of the state, and the objective of the Federal forces.</p> <p>Stonewall Jackson, Stuart, McClellan, Sheridan, Grant and Genl. Robert E. Lee all took part in the campaigns that made of Hanover county a battleground.</p> <p>In peace, as in war, Hanover county has been aggressive in promoting its advancement. The first county council of churches in the United States was established in Hanover, and the first county Bankers Association in the state was organized in this county.</p> <p>COMPOSE PRESIDENTIAL CABINET</p> <p>Present members of the Presidential Cabinet are: Secretary of State, Frank B. Kellogg, Minnesota; Secretary of the Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, of Pennsylvania; Secretary of War, Dwight F. Davis, of Missouri; Attorney General, Jno. G. Sargent, of Vermont; Postmaster General, Harry S. New, of Indiana; Secretary of the Navy, Curtis D. Wilbur, of California; Secretary of the Interior, Dr. Hubert Work, of Colorado; Secretary of Agriculture, Wm. M. Jardine, of Kansas; Secretary of Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover, of California; Secretary of Labor, James J. Davis, of Pennsylvania.</p> <p>The United States Treasury estimates that more than \$400,000,000 is hoarded in stockings, old sugar bowls, teapots, and old-fashioned cupboards, or otherwise kept out of</p>	<p>MILK BUSINESS</p> <p>Believing getting credit for their claimer the price of the appointment investigation, Dollin. The 1,200 dealer profit of \$6,000,000 a milk trade than any business.</p> <p>ADVANTAGES</p> <p>Because tide-water Virginia, Hanover advantages agricultural besides being county, it is a success of producing electricity the county.</p> <p>Whatever room for improvement is convinced.</p> <p>MA</p> <p>Machump from the Irish young wife</p> <p>Capt. John December 1 Hanover County line of New</p> <p>John Henry, was a Hanover County</p> <p>There are Hawaiian Islands species of trees</p> <p>Gen. Grant at Hanover met and talked with</p> <p>Capt. John</p>
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FIGURE #12

DATE: Published 11 AUGUST 1938

SOURCE/TITLE: "Stonewall Jackson Spends Night at M'Murdo House," Herald-Progress Newspaper, "Historic Hanover County," Special Edition, Herald Progress Newspaper, Supplement to 11 August 1938 issue, p. 18.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Macmurdo House
Name of Property
Hanover County, VA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 10

The Late President of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company.

This city was startled with surprise on Tuesday, by the rumor that Mr. EDWIN ROBINSON, President of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company, was delinquent to that company to a very large amount. It was variously stated at from \$112,000 to \$170,000. The rumors were so various, and the statements touching the manner of the appropriation of the company's money, by the President, so unauthoritative, that we deemed it prudent to defer a notice of the matter until the Directors, then industriously engaged in the investigation of the amount and nature of Mr. ROBINSON'S delinquency, should conclude their examination. This has been done; but the Directors, for reasons satisfactory to themselves, we learn, decline making public their proceedings at this time. We have, nevertheless, obtained reliable information with regard to the surprising and painful development, and publish it in our local column. The early rumors, we are sorry to say, are borne out in their most extravagant character.

Mr. ROBINSON was brought up a business man under the best tutors of the day in commerce, and is a gentleman of valuable business and administrative talents. He has managed the affairs of the Fredericksburg Road with ability. He was, however, a man of enterprise, and delighted in planning and executing schemes for improvement and profit, and his plans were generally marked by forecast and sagacity; but, as with all that class of energetic minds which the world calls "visionary," but without which there would be no great achievements in the way of improvement in the world, he sometimes overshoot the mark, and exceeded, at the same time, the bounds of prudence and reasonable results, by his sanguine calculations. A scheme which deeply interested him for a few years past, was the establishment of the well-known town of Ashland, on the railroad, sixteen miles from Richmond. This he planned with great taste and pushed forward with surprising energy. Soon after building the hotel and arranging its beautiful grounds, he projected the Ashland race course, which was designed and established upon an expansive scale, and is one of the most admirable race tracks, as well as most extensive in its accommodations, in the Union. It involved a heavy outlay of money.

These projects, which were the pets of Mr. R., which he expected to make highly beneficial to himself and advantageous to the Railroad Company, had not yielded the income he calculated upon, and he was unable to effect a sale of either for reasonable prices. Thus disappointed, he endeavored to meet his accumulating liabilities by using the credit of the company. The manner and the extent to which he did this will be found in the more detailed account of his transactions. This mode of conducting his schemes, of course, had to come to an end. It did come to the end, after, however, involving a much larger amount than could have been anticipated.

That Mr. ROBINSON in what he has done

amount than could have been anticipated.

That Mr. ROBINSON, in what he has done, had any criminal intention, we suppose no man in the city believes. He had full faith in his scheme, and believed it would yield large revenues to the company, as well as become profitable to himself. This mode of reasoning is of that kind which often inveigles the best intentioned men into the appropriation to their own use of the monies of others. The first step in the career of the defaulter is taken with the belief that a little help in that irregular way will be sufficient to give relief, and that before it can be discovered it can be wiped out, as with a sponge, by the restitution which anticipated good fortune will enable him to make. "It is the first step which costs" and leads him into that labyrinth out of which there is no delivery. That anticipated good fortune which is to make all safe and straight seldom or never comes to him, and exposure and ruin is the end of the fearful path upon which he enters.

Nor did Mr. ROBINSON undertake his extensive schemes from avaricious motives. He is one of the most liberal and generous men we ever knew. He was kind and generous to a fault, and had no such feeling as avarice in his heart. Like all men of enterprising dispositions, he was vain of his plans and proud of their success. He had the disposition to enjoy much more the eclat of his undertakings than any profit in money they could have conferred upon him. So far as he is concerned, he is sadly disappointed, and woeful is the denouement of his measures. The railroad company, however, has derived very considerable advantages from them, as an investigation of the local fares and the receipts for special trains will, we are sure, make manifest.

In addition to what indemnity it has in this way, Mr. ROBINSON has transferred to the company all of his available effects, consisting of his Ashland and other property. By judicious management, the extension of the residents' ticket for a liberal term, &c., the Ashland property may be enhanced in value, and help much to reduce the amount of the defalcation.

The fate of EDWIN ROBINSON has excited universal sympathy. No more noble-hearted gentleman ever fell in the snare of temptation. The grief of friends is the more intense that no effort of theirs can retrieve him from the circumstances that surround him.

FIGURE #13
DATE 22 JUNE 1860, Richmond Dispatch, Richmond, VA
SOURCE/TITLE: "The Late President of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company," 22 June 1860, Richmond Dispatch, p2.



LOCATION MAP

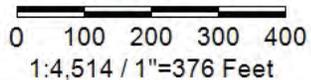
Macmurdo House
Town of Ashland
Hanover County, VA
DHR No. 166-0036

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Latitude: 37.753760
Longitude: -77.482520



Feet



Title:

Date: 10/27/2020

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.



SKETCH MAP/ AERIAL VIEW

Macmurdo House

Town of Ashland

Hanover County, VA

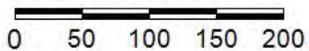
DHR No. 166-0036

List of Resources

- 1. Macmurdo House (contributing)
- 2. Garage (contributing)
- 3. Shed (non-contributing)



Feet



1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet



Title:

Date: 10/27/2020

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

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PHOTO KEY (exterior)
Macmurdo House
Town of Ashland
Hanover County, VA
DHR No. 166-0036

1 ↗ Photo Locations

Historic Boundary

S Center St

S Center St

2 →

4 ↘

3 →

← 5

6 ↗

1 ↗

Sources: VDHR 2020, VGIN 2020, ESRI 2020
Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years and the representation depicted is based on the field observation date and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general illustration purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses.



DHR
Department of Historic Resources

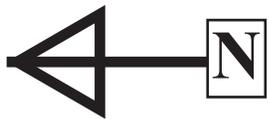
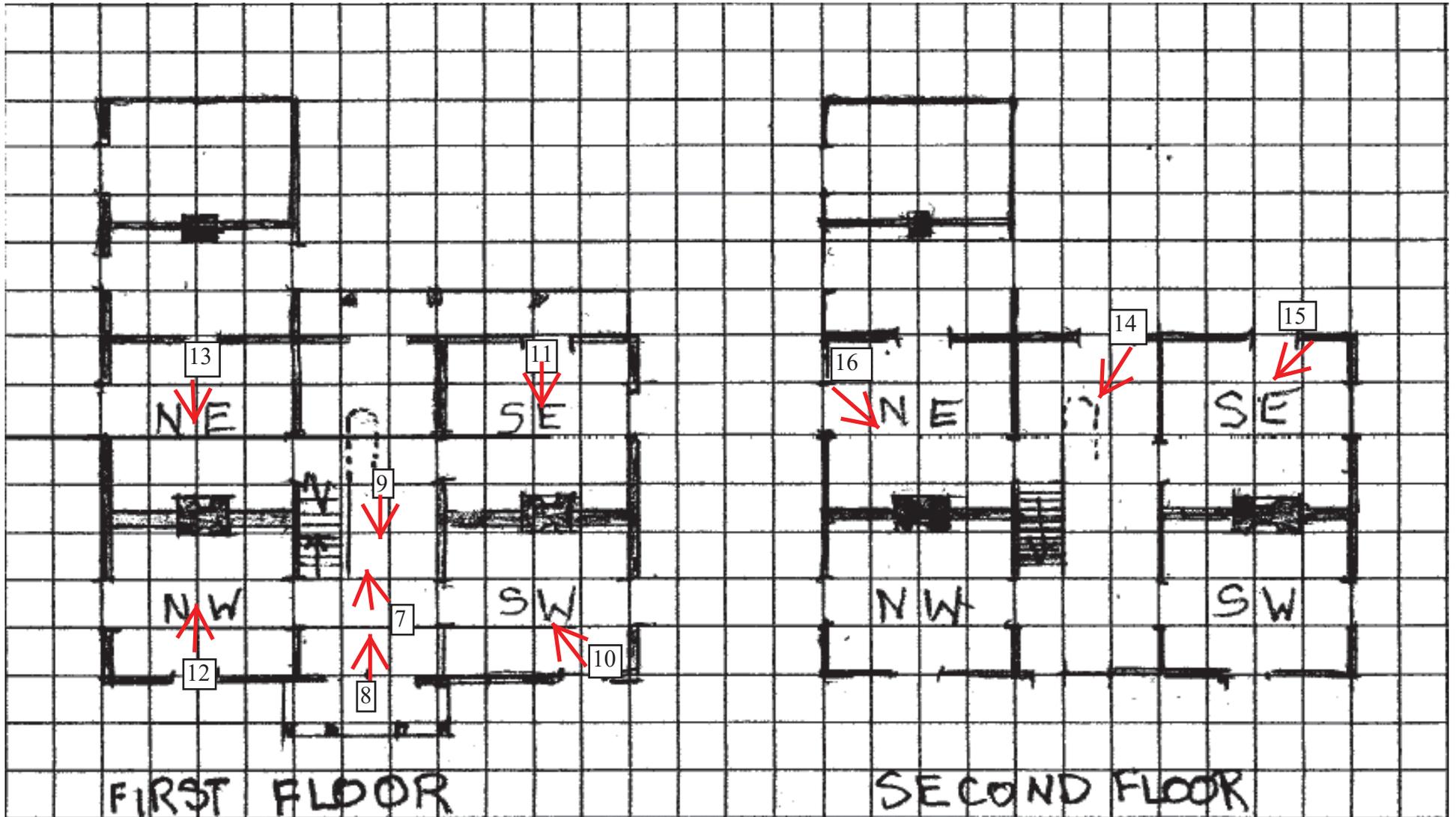


PHOTO KEY (interior)
 Macmurdo House
 Town of Ashland
 Hanover County, VA
 DHR No. 166-0036

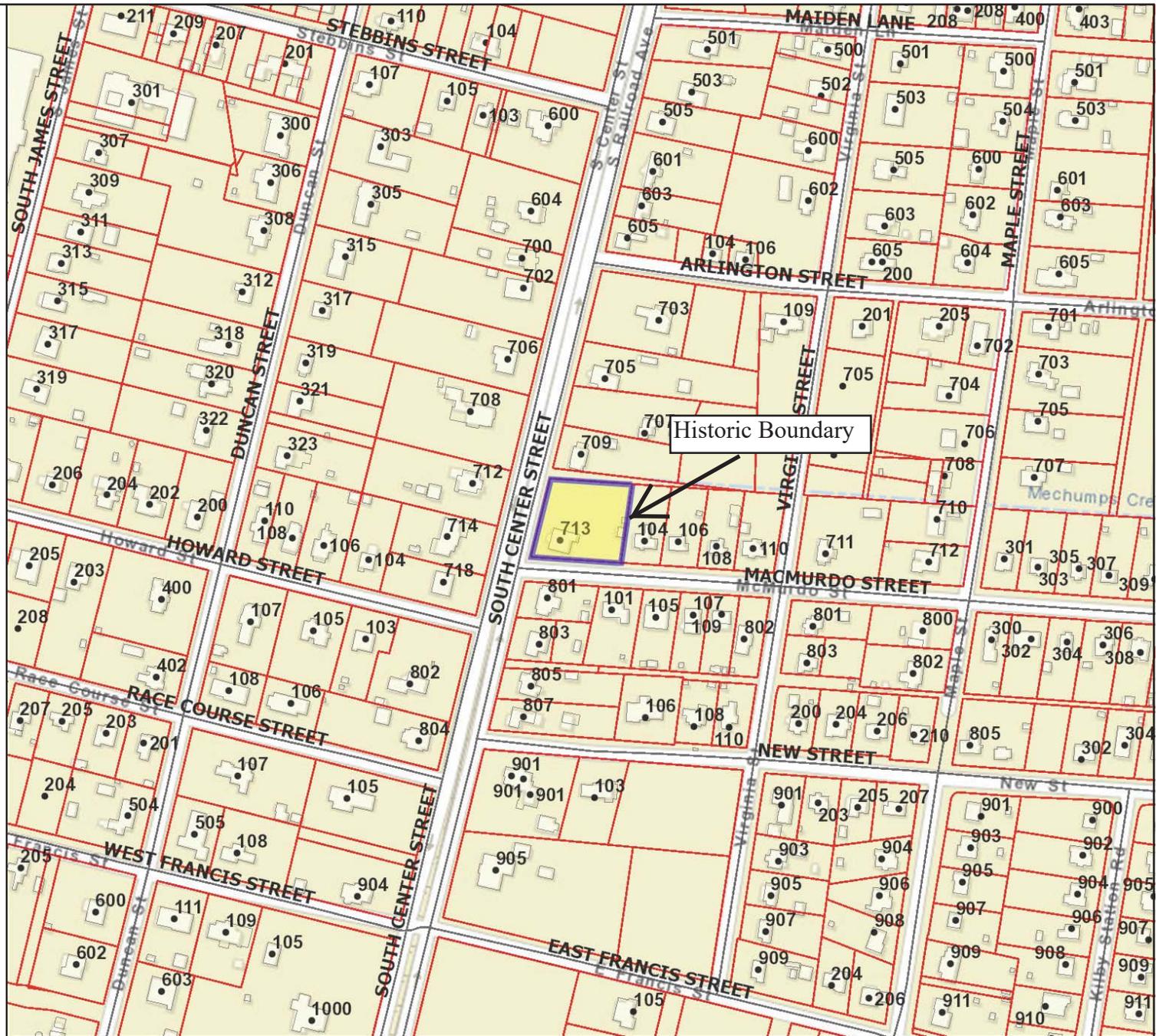
County Of Hanover, Virginia

Legend

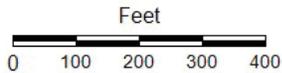
- Ashland Town Boundary
- Tax Parcels
- Building Addresses
- Streets
- Interstate
- Major Collector
- Secondary Collector
- County Roads
- Buildings
- County Boundary

TAX PARCEL MAP

Macmurdo House
Town of Ashland
Hanover County, VA
DHR No. 166-0036



Map printed from Hanover
<https://parcelmap.hanovercounty.gov/>



GPIN #: 7779-79-1601

Date: 10/19/2020