

# 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: Taylor-Kinnear FarmOther names/site number: Springdale; DHR ID# 081-0324

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: 1364 Forest Grove RoadCity or town: LexingtonState: VACounty: RockbridgeNot For Publication: ☐ N/AVicinity: ☒ 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

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 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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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

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**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.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

The Taylor-Kinnear Farm, located at 1364 Forest Grove Road in central Rockbridge County, Virginia, includes three resources: the Taylor-Kinnear House (ca. 1820 and later) and two early twentieth-century frame farm buildings, a granary and a barn. The two-story brick house has a metal-sheathed side-gable roof, a stone foundation, a wraparound one-story porch, and road-facing and rear additions of frame and boxed (minimally framed) construction dating from the late nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. The interior of the brick section retains most of its original mantels, including a tripartite Federal mantel; a front door constructed with panels on the exterior and diagonal beaded battens on the interior; and a major partition with later pocket doors. The house was altered at the end of the nineteenth century with the creation of a center stair passage and a new entry facing the road and the addition of a two-story frame side wing. Nineteenth-century decorative painting survives in the under-stair closet and vestiges of similar painting survive in the main parlor. Rear additions include a postbellum boxed addition, originally one story high but raised to two stories in the early twentieth century. The granary has a front-gable roof, a mix of historic and modern wood siding, a slatted corner crib, and vestiges of former grain bins. The barn, which is accessed at the upper level by a stone and earth ramp, has a side-gable roof, weatherboard siding, and a structure consisting of four bents with a central driveway or threshing bay. The approximately 3.5-acre nominated parcel lies on the east side of Forest Grove Road (SR 703) surrounded by farmland currently planted in corn. Woodlots lie in

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view of the house, which is surrounded on two sides by swales containing wet-weather watercourses, upper tributaries of Marl Creek and the South, Maury, and James Rivers. The ridge of Timber Ridge lies just to the west, and the area of the county where the property is located is called Timber Ridge. To the south and east are views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The property is located at approximately 1,420 feet above sea level.

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## Narrative Description

### *Inventory*

1. Taylor-Kinnear House. Ca. 1820; late 19<sup>th</sup> c.; early/mid-20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
2. Granary. Early 20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.
3. Barn. Early 20<sup>th</sup> c. Contributing building.

### *Taylor-Kinnear House: Exterior*

The **Taylor-Kinnear House** (inventory no. 1) is constructed of brick laid in two bonds. The approximately north-facing front elevation and east gable end are laid in 1:5 common bond, whereas the west gable end is laid in Flemish bond. Visible sections of the rear elevation, which is mostly covered by additions, are Flemish bond but with what appear to be occasional groups of three headers inserted in place of header/stretcher pairs (overpainting complicates this identification). The brick is painted white except for the east gable end which is unpainted on the exterior and where it is revealed inside the additions. The exterior section of the east gable end has multiple putlog holes and traces of a tan wash over earlier penciling. (Tan paint, perhaps a related treatment, appears where later white paint has worn away from the bricks near the road-facing entry.) At the top of this unpainted brick wall is the best location on the exterior to observe aspects of the original box cornice treatment, a hollow cornice built from boards rather than a solid molded element. The box cornice has lost some detail but retains a bed molding. Also visible on this wall are the weathered end of a log plate set into the brickwork and a small pattern board with a decorative profile, perhaps the lower tip of a larger pattern board that has since been removed.

The brickwork is most visible in its early condition where it has been encapsulated in the upstairs of the boxed addition. Boxed construction is a form of frame construction that minimizes the use of secondary members like studs and relies instead on primary framing members and planking to provide structure (see the architectural discussion on section 8 for additional discussion). In this space survive well-preserved penciling from before the boxed addition was added in the postbellum period and better-preserved tan wash from the late nineteenth century. A section of encapsulated exterior wall in a rear addition attic suggests the white paint color dates to the early twentieth century (it also appears in a 1936 photo). In the same attic is a well-preserved section of box cornice with bed molding, molding on the fascia, the end of a rake board cut out to match the abutting fascia molding (the rake boards are missing from exterior sections of gable), and pale green or olive trim color.

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The original brick section foundation is constructed of coursed limestone and sandstone blocks. The section has interior gable-end brick chimneys, one on each end. The west gable end formerly had two chimneys, indicating front and back rooms inside, but the south or back chimney was mostly removed when the road-facing entry was created in the late nineteenth century or ca. 1900. The chimneys are brick above stone bases in the cellar. The exterior chimney on the road-facing addition gable end is brick with stepped shoulders above a limestone base. The fourth chimney, at the east end of the boxed addition, is stone on the first story and brick above. The stone portion has sloped shoulders and a mix of sandstone and limestone stones, some of the latter highly patterned suggesting they were selected for their visual interest. The brick portion, which is a flue only without a firebox, is constructed of brownish-red brick to about two-thirds of its height and red brick above, reflecting the wing's being raised from one to two stories.

The one-story wraparound porch has square wood columns that stand on a concrete slab supported by a concrete-block foundation. The treatment of the block changes on the west road-facing side, suggesting the foundation and perhaps the porch was constructed in two phases. Two porches rather than one continuous wraparound porch are shown in a ca. 1950 photo though a photo taken in 1936 shows an earlier wraparound porch like the present porch. At its east end the porch foundation incorporates a poured concrete footer from an earlier version of the porch. The footer is inscribed with the initials II[?]LK, the K no doubt standing for Kinnear. There are concrete steps on the porch's two sides in line with the house's two front entries. The shed roof has no ceiling so that its roof construction is visible from below.

The porch shelters an asymmetrical three-bay façade on the north side, the original ca. 1820 house front. The windows have six-over-nine wooden sashes (all the house's windows are wood sash), heavy bullnosed wood sills, and louvered shutters. The six-panel door has raised panels above and below, middle panels replaced with glass, and a modern storm door. The three openings have gauged jack arches, the one over the door projecting slightly due to a structural issue. The west gable end, the other section of the façade sheltered by the porch, has a six-over-six window and the road-facing entry, which has narrow sidelights, a narrow transom, and a multi-pane storm door. The entryway's door has five panels, a horizontal one at the top over four vertical panels. The second-story windows of the brick section are six-over-six on the north elevation and two-over-two on the west gable end and there are pairs of small rectangular (almost square) vents in the gables.

The various frame and boxed additions have aluminum siding and a mix of window types, primarily two-over-two but also six-over-six and Craftsman three-over-one. The boxed addition and two-story road-facing wing have stone foundations whereas the foundation under the shed-roofed kitchen on the south side is cinder block with metal-framed basement windows. The second-story gable end of the boxed addition is screened, reflecting the use of the space inside as a sleeping porch. A 1936 photo shows the boxed addition at full two-story height with weatherboard siding. In the open crawlspace under the addition at the back south corner is a pulley and drive apparatus of unknown function. Near it is an enclosed crawlspace that affords a view of the foundation and lower structure and planks of the south side of the boxed addition. The ends of the log floor joists under the wing, flattened on top and bottom, are visible.

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*Taylor-Kinnear House: Interior: First Floor*

Common interior treatments include plaster and lath or plaster on brick walls, painted or wallpapered; Celotex and batten ceilings; and wood floor boards, some covered with linoleum mats. Fireplace hearths are brick or, less often, concrete, and fireplace openings are covered. Door and window trim is molded, baseboards are generally beaded, and many of the principal rooms have chair rails. Doors are generally panel construction or batten.

The principal parlor occupies the east end of the first story of the brick section. It is separated from the room at the west end by a partition that consists of the original or early vertical beaded board partition to which a layer was added to create pockets for pocket doors on rollers. The pocket doors are paneled and have metal pulls with oval finger indentations and sunburst designs above and below the indentations. The edges of the beaded boards are visible inside and above the pockets; on the boards are green and blue paint, evidence of a decorative scheme that appears throughout the first floor. The mantel is Federal in style, with a tripartite frieze ornamented with three triglyph-like tablets with grooved faces and heavy caps and bases (more about this mantel and its stylistic affinities appears in section 8). The center tablet is widest, and the three visually support a heavy molded shelf. Below the frieze are simple paneled pilasters which are pushed to the outer edges of the overall mantel composition rather than centered under the end tablets.

To the left of the mantel, just above the chair rail, are vestiges of a former decorative paint scheme consisting of areas of blue paint separated by vertical strips of green and red paint. The colors have a mottled appearance and appear to have been applied with a sponge or stamp. The treatment continued to the side of the chimney breast. To the right of the mantel is a base cabinet which encapsulates two or three layers of late nineteenth and/or early twentieth century wallpaper and an earlier layer of dusky pink paint. The front entry, paneled on the exterior, is constructed of diagonal beaded boards on the interior. The boards are studded with lines of small nail heads that form a six-panel arrangement evoking the true panels on the exterior. The nail heads are obscured by thick layers of paint but they may be rose-headed. The door is hung on long strap hinges with lobate tips. The hinges, which are at the top and bottom of the door, rest on leather washers on the pintles. At the back of the room is a partition with a five-panel door similar to the road-facing entry door, suggesting the door and the partition were added in the late nineteenth century or ca. 1900. It is currently unknown whether the principal parlor formerly extended from front to back, or whether there was an earlier partition dividing it into a large front room and smaller back room. The back hallway formed by the partition has twentieth-century closets and cabinets constructed of wood.

At the end of the pocket door partition next to the front entry is an exposed vertical board, and at its base is a notch that received the rounded end of the tread of the lowest step of a stairway that formerly rose along the partition. A seam in the floorboards of the room above provides additional evidence of this former stair, presumably the house's original stair. The space on the right-hand side of the partition originally had two rooms but at the end of the nineteenth century the front room was enlarged and the back room was converted to an entry/stair hall for the road-

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facing entry. The front right room has a mantel with a simple molded architrave form. A six-panel door with graining and a pottery knob opens from the room to the entry/stair hall.

The stair is Victorian in character, with a square newel at its base, turned balusters, a spandrel of beaded vertical matchboard, and grained and varnished finishes. The newel has a globe finial, moldings, faceted chamfering, and shallow bas-relief floral ornaments. The front door has dark graining and the panels under the sidelights are painted slate gray. A six-panel door opens from the hall into the first-floor room of the road-facing addition, which has a simple mantel with jambs ornamented with recessed reeded strips. Similar reeding decorates the room's door and window surrounds. Floor-to-ceiling bookshelves on a wall of the room are secured to the wall by hooks and eyelets.

The closet under the stair, now accessed through a modern closet in the back hall, contains a section of decoratively painted vertical beaded board partition. The painting was apparently done with two small stamps carved with different abstract designs. The stamping is similar to sponge painting, though the stamp material had more rigidity than a sponge because the two designs were repeated with stencil-like regularity. Each stamp design is associated with a different color: one blue, used for panels, the other green, used for borders. The borders are vertical, dividing the panels, except for a border that runs horizontally along the top of a former baseboard. A chair rail has also been removed from the partition, leaving behind a strip of unfinished partition wood. There is evidence that the chair rail was painted green, perhaps to coordinate with the stamped green borders. The blue and green stamping creates a sort of spotted cloud effect on a white base coat.

The stamp painting coordinated with the decorative painting of which traces are seen in the main parlor, though it appears to have been more simply and inexpensively done, presumably because the space was considered a lesser back room. The painting precedes the installation of the stair in the late nineteenth century/ca. 1900 period, though by how much is uncertain. Extending from the painted partition perpendicularly is a section of wall with plaster and lath over what may be boards. Just visible where the plaster has chipped away at an edge and behind the lath is more decorative painting similar to the traces seen in the main parlor but with two different mottled color combinations, green and tan and glue and red, both over white. Over the plaster is wallpaper with a pattern of clouds and light blue sky with gold stars sprinkled over the clouds. In front of this is shelving constructed of reused wood.

The first floor of the boxed addition, a step down from the brick section floor level, contains an inner dining room and an outer kitchen. The dining room is plainly finished, with a large linoleum floor mat patterned on a floral carpet. Projecting slightly into the kitchen are the stone jambs of a fireplace connected to the stone and brick chimney. The fireplace opening was reduced by the addition of brick jambs and the opening eventually closed. Over the fireplace (the mantel shelf is missing) is a crudely parged patch of stonework with a sloped top corresponding to the sloped shoulders outside. One of the doors into the kitchen is constructed of tongue-and-groove flooring and has a window in its upper half. It opens into a storage space with a batten door hung on reused HL hinges (perhaps from the house, perhaps from anywhere). The formerly



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exterior south wall of the boxed addition, now enclosed by the space that includes the back stair, preserves the most visible section of the wing's original vertical plank siding, with the planks overlapped like board-and-batten siding and painted with at least two treatments, whitewash and the tan wash. A triangular shelf bracket is nailed to the planks (the section was probably the wall of a former porch where kitchen work occurred) and the bottoms of the planks are deteriorated, suggesting a period when the porch had collapsed or been removed and the house was poorly maintained.

*Taylor-Kinnear House: Interior: Second Floor*

The second floor of the original section of the house has the same two-room division as the first floor and similar basic finishes. The room corresponding to the room over the main parlor has a architrave-type mantel with a tall frieze. The mantel is smaller than the chimney breast to which it is attached. Also in the room are built-in shelves and cabinets, a stack-panel door with an upper glass section, and a batten door to the stair hall with a pottery knob and boldly patterned but darkened and indistinct graining.

The second room, the one with the floor seam for the former stair to the space below, has a chimney breast but no evidence of a fireplace or mantel (it may have served a stove instead). Built out from the chimney breast is the enclosure for the attic stair with an under-stair closet accessed through a batten hatch. The brick wall surface inside the closet is unplastered, suggesting the attic access enclosure has always occupied the location, although the enclosure and stair may have been reconfigured at some point. The closet does however have a chair rail and beaded baseboard, both unpainted, suggesting the enclosure was created after the room it is in was partly finished during the construction of the house. The chair rail preserves two neatly sawn dovetail mortises for a section of chair rail, removed or never installed, that wrapped around the chimney breast. The chair rail in the finished part of the room has the same double-dovetail joint, painted over but visible. The partition creating the enclosure is partly constructed with reused beaded vertical boards with cream-colored (or stained white) paint.

The second-floor stair hall contains the top part of the stair, with the same turned balusters as below but simplified square newels with nipple-like tops. The stairwell has a trap door that can be lifted and lowered with the aid of weights in the attic connected to the door by a rope. The attic access has a batten door with bold graining similar to that on the aforementioned door, though more visible, featuring chains of knots that run vertically on the beaded battens and horizontally on the cross battens. The same style of graining appears on other doors opening into the upper stair hall and their trim, including the door and reeded trim of the doorway into the second-floor room of the road-facing addition, suggesting it was done at the same time or shortly after the road-facing addition was built in the 1890s or circa 1900. The second-floor room in the road-facing addition has a simple mantel with recessed reeded strips in the jamb, same as the treatment in the room below. The finished second-floor spaces in the rear additions contain a bathroom and a kitchen.

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The second floor of the boxed addition, reached by a back stair, has the sleeping porch at the chimney end and a larger enclosed work and/or storage room at the end abutting the house. In the sleeping porch is visible the painted upper two feet or so of the box frame, with mortise and tenon and pegged hewn members. Diagonal underlayment boards are visible behind the light framing above the box frame plates. Other features of the room include carpeting, a built-in bed frame, a beaded matchboard wall on the stair side, and a slatted panel between the screened openings. Between the sleeping porch and the other room is a modern frame partition.

The work and/or storage room has many features related to the evolution of the house, among them the aforementioned well-preserved section of original cornice, associated with it the weathered end of a heavy log plate built into the brick. The upper part of the gable end of the brick house was encapsulated when the boxed addition was added in the postbellum period. The ghost of the originally one-story wing's gable roof is visible on the brick as a faint dark line. Above the line are traces of the tan wash (probably a formulation of ochre and whitewash); below the line the brickwork is free of the wash and the penciling is distinct. A few round-headed roofing nails survive along the former roofline, suggestive of a reroofing about 1900 or in the early twentieth century shortly before the wing was raised to two stories. The hewn plates and circular-sawn major uprights of the box frame are visible but not painted over as in the sleeping porch. Attached to the outside of the frame are the vertical planks that give the frame rigidity and provide enclosure and a nailing surface for siding. The planks are machine vertical-sawn. One wall of the space is a partition mixing old and new materials.

*Taylor-Kinnear House: Interior: Attic and Cellar*

The attic is reached by steep tread-and-riser steps inside the enclosure accessed from the second-floor stair hall. Rough stucco on the brick wall to the left of the steps is inscribed with sets of initials. In the bottom part of the stucco are looping initials with calligraphic flourishes that appear to read WPTEE and ST. The initials appear to have been scribed into the plaster when it was wet, possibly when the house was built and first finished. In the upper part is the first name Polly followed by a last name which may be Gibson, also done in calligraphic writing and scribed into the plaster when wet. Other, later and smaller initials, cut into the hard stucco, read JAK 19[?], A[?]K 1911, and J[or I].W.K.

At the west end of the attic are two angled brick chimney flues that combine to make a single flue at the top of the gable. The left flue relates to the chimney that was removed when the road-facing entry was made. At the east end is a single chimney flue. The roof is supported by common rafters with collar beams every other rafter pair. The rafters are lapped and pegged at the top. Some of the rafters have perfectly vertical but somewhat irregularly spaced saw marks that may indicate they were machine sawn. The rafters and collars are joined by wrought-nailed lap joints. Some of the rafter/collar sets have small, carefully chiseled Roman numeral building marks that rise in approximate order from the east end to the west end of the attic. On the collars the marks are generally close to the rafter joint but on the rafters they are sometimes high above the joint. A squarish hole in the roof boards opens into the attic over the road-facing addition

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where circular-sawn rafters and ceiling joists are visible. The rafters in this attic abut a ridge board.

The cellar under the brick section is accessed through the cellar under the road-facing addition, though a wide doorway with a beaded surround and iron pintles but no door. Carefully carved at the center of the lintel are the initials JHT. Over the door are visible the lower edges of a brick segmental arch with brick fill between the arch and the lintel. A similar arch appears over a vertical barred vent just to the right. The three stone chimney bases project into the space, the one under the removed chimney with a stub of the upper brickwork. The floor is dirt; whether there is pavement under the dirt is unknown. The ceiling joists are a mix of hewn and pit-sawn with a hewn beam that appears to coincide with the principal partition above. The ends of the beams are amply shimmed with a mix of thin wooden material including a roof shingle with a beveled or crudely rounded end. Stored in the cellar under the road-facing addition are two heavy circular-sawn planks. One has a charred edge suggesting it may have served as a mantel shelf, perhaps over the fireplace in the boxed addition.

#### *Other Resources*

The **Granary** (no. 2) stands a short distance south of the house with its gable end facing the road. It is a two-level building of mortise and tenon pegged frame construction, both heavy and light members circular-sawn. The studs and other light members have wire-nailed joints. The roof is metal, the road-facing front has modern board-and-batten siding, and the other gable end has the original weatherboard siding. The roof reaches down to engage drive-throughs on both sides, with pole supports indicating construction (or more likely, reconstruction) in the mid-twentieth century. The north drive-through is enclosed whereas the south side is open. On the front is a large x-braced sliding door on an overhead track and, in the gable above, a replacement window. On the other end are two batten door leaves on an overhead track attached to the rollers by u-shaped plates. Next to the door are upper and lower hatches for loading corn into the corncrib that runs along one side of the interior, and a gable window with mostly missing wooden sashes (possibly formerly six-over-six).

The tall wall of the corncrib inside the north drive-through is sheathed with whitewashed vertical slats and was accessed through stacks of hinged hatches. Mounted on the wall is a steel medicine cabinet missing its front door. The wall under the south drive-through has no siding, probably the facilitate ventilation for the grain bins on the other side. There is evidence for a long window or hatch opening on this side. The building has a mix of wood post and stacked stone footers.

The interior is divided longitudinally into three sections: the corncrib, a central aisle and work area, and the grain bins or garner. The corncrib is slatted on the inside as well as the outside, with additional access hatches. An overhead opening is spanned by a row of sticks and sapling sections of unknown function. At the east end of the central aisle, mounted on the ceiling, is a cast iron pulley/drive assembly that was probably powered by a belt connected to a motor outside and probably ran some item of machinery, perhaps a corn sheller, inside the granary. Also in the aisle ceiling is an opening to a loft and two scoop-like metal chutes, perhaps for

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pouring corn or grain stored in the loft into receptacles below. The aisle is separated from the bin area by a row of posts supporting a plate on which are painted numbers 1 through 6 to identify the six grain bins. The bins were formed by boards set into slots on the shafts of the posts and corresponding slots on the outside wall. The boards have been removed and the bin area is used for storage.

The **Barn** (no. 3) is built into a slight bank to raise the stone and earth ramp used to access the upper level. The side-gable roof is sheathed with metal and the weatherboard siding is attached with wire nails, the type of nail used throughout the building. The upper level, which contained the hay mow and is taller than the lower level, which contained animal stalls, overhangs on all four sides, cantilevered on extensions of log floor joists. The joists are hewn flat on the top and bottom surfaces but left rounded, usually with the bark still on, on the sides. On the bank side is a half wall of stone and poured concrete construction that serves as a retaining wall against the bank and ramp. No dates or initials were observed in the concrete. Sections of a low poured concrete foundation are visible on other elevations.

The lower level has multiple entryways. At the ends of the side elevations are wide openings, formerly closed with doors hung on a metal rail (the rail survives), that provided access to a cattle run that extended from end to end. On the non-ramp side of the lower level are four doorways to horse or mule stalls on the interior. The doorways have Dutch doors of batten construction, z-braced on the backs and hung on manufactured strap hinges. Next to one of the Dutch doors is an unusual flip-down full-height batten door, hinged at the bottom and secured by an iron cross bar. Squarish window openings appear on the ramp side where there are also faded traces of red paint. The upper level has rectangular louvered vents on its south gable end. Only one such vent survives on the north gable end, which is missing a substantial portion of its siding. Also on the south end are trapezoidal sections of siding that cover joist extensions, a feature missing on the north end. There is a tall doorway on the non-ramp side and an equally tall but wider doorway at the ramp which extends from bent to bent on the interior.

The upper level is virtually uninterrupted on the interior except for the posts and diagonal down braces of the bents and two triangular hay drop hoods on each side of the central driveway. The drops are constructed with slatted boards, one higher than the other. The bents are constructed of mortise and tenon and pegged circular-sawn members with trusswork at the top. Ladder rungs are nailed to a post of each of the four bents. A wooden rail hangs under the ridge with the cast iron hay carrier parked at the north end. The rope that operated the carrier is still attached, carefully coiled and stowed at its other end where it is suspended from a purlin by a hook. The lower level is divided in three longitudinally with the cattle run, a center feed aisle, and the stall area side by side. The feed alley is slightly raised with a limestone foundation under the sills. The stall divisions have been removed, as have any partitions that may have enclosed the feed aisle. Wood stairs that may once have connected the upper and lower levels lie on their side.

There are few above-ground traces of other buildings in the nominated area. To the south of the house, in a swale, is a spring adjoined by a section of poured concrete foundation. A 1936 photo shows a long side-gabled one-story building in the vicinity of the spring, perhaps a building that

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combined a springhouse function and some other function. The same photo also shows a decorative iron fence with cruciform crestings on the west side of the lawn but apparently not as far as the current road.

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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

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**Period of Significance**

Ca. 1820-ca. 1920

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**Significant Dates**

N/A

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**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

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**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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**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 Taylor-Kinnear Farm in Rockbridge County, Virginia, centers on the Taylor-Kinnear House, a two-story brick house detailed in the Federal style and expanded several times in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The house was built for David Taylor Sr. about 1820 and was acquired in 1849 by John A. Kinnear, whose descendants owned the property until recently. The house has many original and later architectural features of note including Federal-influenced mantels of tripartite and architrave form, extensive graining, and unusual stamped decorative painting. An addition to the house in the late nineteenth and/or early twentieth century reoriented the house to the road, giving it two fronts, and added a stair with decorative carved and turned work. In addition to the house are a timber-framed barn and a large granary building dating to the early twentieth century. The Taylor-Kinnear Farm is eligible for the state and national registers under Criterion C in the Architecture area of significance for the quality and diversity of its architectural resources, which embody distinctive characteristics of types, periods, and methods of construction. The period of significance extends from ca. 1820, the likely period of construction for the house, to ca. 1920, a date that encompasses the last major changes to the house in the late nineteenth and/or early twentieth century. The Taylor-Kinnear Farm is eligible at the local level of significance.

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

#### *Historical Background*

The Timber Ridge area was located in Augusta County in the mid-eighteenth century, in an area known as the Borden Land Grant.<sup>1</sup> According to a 1936 report, David Vance is the first owner on record for the land in the year 1780. The property shared borders with farms owned by Andrew Kanner (Kinnear) and James Lyle. Vance sold the land to David Taylor on May 5, 1800, exchanging 240 acres of land for 180 Virginia pounds. At the time the acreage was described as “being the tract of land whereon the sd David Vance now liveth.”<sup>2</sup> According to a biographical note on his grandson David Taylor Gibson, David Taylor’s wife was Anne or Anna Taylor.<sup>3</sup>

The 1822 Rockbridge County land books note that David Taylor (identified as Sr.) owned a 240-acre tract at Timber Ridge adjoining Andrew Kinnear and Henry Mackey. The value of buildings on the tract was given as \$950, a value that remained consistent through at least 1830, by which date the tract was described as belonging to David Taylor (Sr.)’s heirs. The total value of the tract, including land and buildings, was given as \$2,520. In the 1814 land books, the total value

<sup>1</sup> Hildebrand, “Historical Map of Rockbridge County.” Jim O. Phelps, Joanna Mitchell, Lisa McCown, Colonel Keith Gibson, Levi and Amanda Barraclough, and Zach Filis assisted with the research for the report and we are grateful for their efforts.

<sup>2</sup> Rockbridge County Deed Book D, p. 294.

<sup>3</sup> Rockbridge County Deed Book II, p. 44; “David Taylor Gibson.”



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of the 240 acres was given as \$140.50.<sup>4</sup> Even accounting for factors like inflation, the increase in value between 1814 and 1822 was substantial enough to suggest the construction of the original brick section of the Taylor-Kinnear House during the period. A ca. 1820 date of construction is consistent with the original Federal detail of the house.

David Taylor Sr.'s will, dated January 28, 1809, bequeathed to his son, David Taylor Jr., "the plantation whereon I now reside (which I purchased from David Vance)," and to his son James a plantation which he purchased from John Findley. David Taylor Sr. wrote, "I direct that my sons James and David shall build for her [his wife's] accommodation a comfortable dwelling house on either of the aforesaid plantations that she may prefer, if I should not hereafter erect a building of that description."<sup>5</sup> The 1809 will seems to envision the construction of a house like the brick house. Taylor's will also mentioned various slaves, including siblings Moses, Amos, Ann, and Phebe, as well as "my stills and vessels." Taylor added a codicil on April 23, 1811.<sup>6</sup> The will was probated January 3, 1825. An "Inventory or Appraise [appraisal] of the personal property of David Taylor Deceased," dated March 8, 1825, listed eleven slaves as well as furniture, livestock, and distillery equipment including two worms and seventeen still tubs.<sup>7</sup>

The Taylor family had close connections with their neighbors the Gibsons. One indication of this is what appears to be the name Gibson written into the stucco in the attic stairway while the stucco was still wet. The name is preceded by the given name Polly. This Polly Gibson may have belonged to the Timber Ridge-area family that included David Taylor Gibson (b. 1837), an 1857 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, whose mother was Grace (Taylor) Gibson and whose grandparents were David and Anna Taylor. A Mary "Polly" Gibson Crist (1797-1881) is buried in the Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church cemetery a few miles from the Taylor-Kinnear Farm. She married David Crist in 1823 and would have been known as Polly Gibson before that date. The Polly (Gibson) signature may therefore be additional evidence that the house was built around 1820 (before 1824).<sup>8</sup>

The "very unpretentious farm house was originally called 'Springdale,'" according to a history of the Kinnear family by historian and family descendant Duncan Lyle Kinnear.<sup>9</sup> In 1849, David Taylor Jr. sold the farm to John A. Kinnear.<sup>10</sup> On September 28, 1849, "David Taylor by Alexander H. Taylor his attorney in fact, Anne Taylor, John Gibson and Grace his wife" and Alexander H. Taylor and Sara E. Taylor his wife confirmed a May 29, 1848, sale of an estimated 271 acres to John A. Kinnear. The largest portion, an estimated 240 acres, was described as having been "conveyed to David Taylor now deceased the father of the said David Taylor by

<sup>4</sup> Rockbridge County Land Book, 1822.

<sup>5</sup> Rockbridge County Will Book 5, p. 445.

<sup>6</sup> Rockbridge County Will Book 5, p. 445.

<sup>7</sup> Rockbridge County Will Book 6, p. 299.

<sup>8</sup> Findagrave.

<sup>9</sup> Kinnear, "Descendants," i.

<sup>10</sup> McClung. "Home of John A. Kinnear," 3.

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David Vance and wife” in 1800. The deed was subject to the dower rights of David Taylor’s widow, Anne Taylor.<sup>11</sup>

The Kinnear family has a long association with Rockbridge County and the Timber Ridge area. Andrew W. Kinnear and his wife, Susannah Kinnear, are the first Kinnears on record to have lived in the area that would become Rockbridge County. Andrew is recorded as owning land in the area in 1773.<sup>12</sup> He served in the Revolutionary War as part of the Augusta Militia under the command of Captain Samuel McCutchan, along with John and Michael Kinnear. It is accepted that the three Kinnear men are related, but their exact relations are uncertain. Andrew Kinnear and his descendants are the only ones that remained in the area after the Revolutionary War. Andrew and Susannah bought land between Raphine and Steeles Tavern, however in 1784, they sold or traded their land and moved to a farm on Timber Ridge. That original homestead is not the house at 1364 Forest Grove, but it did remain in Kinnear family possession for 120 years. In 1808, Andrew W. Kinnear deeded a portion of the land to his youngest son Andrew Kinnear Jr. in an attempt to convince his son to remain in the area rather than move to Ohio. Andrew Jr. was dissuaded from leaving and took care of his father until his death in 1812. His son John A. Kinnear bought a property near the farm he grew up on.<sup>13</sup>

The 1850 census listed John A. Kinnear, age 30, and Joseph P. Kinnear, age 28, living alone together in the same household. They were described as farmers. Joseph was listed as owning \$9,000 in real estate and John \$1,800. The next residence in the census enumeration was that of farmer John Gibson. Living in Gibson’s household were Ann Taylor, age 67, and Joseph H. Taylor, age 28, additional evidence of the link between the Taylor and Gibson families.<sup>14</sup> In 1851, John A. Kinnear married Elizabeth Campbell Lyle, who was the daughter of Samuel Woods Lyle. Before the Civil War, John A. Kinnear was a merchant and a farmer. During the war John’s younger brother, Joseph Patterson Kinnear enlisted and served in Company H, 14th Virginia Cavalry, but he passed away in Brownsburg from typhoid fever in September of 1861.<sup>15</sup>

The Taylor-Kinnear Farm is labeled “John Kinnear’s Dairy” on the 1883 John Carmichael map of Rockbridge County. The property may be the only one on the map identified as a dairy.<sup>16</sup> Kinnear helped to establish the first public schools in the area during his service as Justice of the Court and School Trustee for South River District. He was an active member of the Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, serving as both treasurer and deacon. He also organized the Timber Ridge Agricultural Society in order to improve agricultural efforts within his own community.<sup>17</sup>

The property was known as “Rose Lawn” by the time John A. Kinnear established himself. We know this because John’s son Samuel Ashby Kinnear declared “Rose Lawn, Timber Ridge, VA”

<sup>11</sup> Rockbridge County Deed Book II, p. 44.

<sup>12</sup> Hildebrand, “92,100 Acre Grant for Benjamin Borden.”

<sup>13</sup> Kinnear, “Descendants,” iv and 1.

<sup>14</sup> US census; Hildebrand, “Historical Map of Rockbridge County.”

<sup>15</sup> Kinnear, “Descendants,” 2.

<sup>16</sup> Carmichael, “County of Rockbridge.”

<sup>17</sup> Kinnear, “Descendants,” 4.

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as his home residence when he matriculated into the Virginia Military Institute in 1878.<sup>18</sup> Samuel was dropped from the VMI roles in 1880 for his participation in the “Barracks Mutiny” in February of that year when a large group of students were refused extra time to study.<sup>19</sup> He was invited to return; however, he declined and instead entered and graduated from the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (Virginia Tech) with honors, including a medal for “excelling in military training.” Samuel died very young in 1887. According to Duncan Lyle Kinnear, during a Sunday school lesson “in answer to the question, ‘What is man’s chief end?’ Sam facetiously answered that personally his chief end was to get his hogs back in the pen from which they escaped.” He managed to round up the hogs but contracted pneumonia shortly after and passed away. The “incident made a tremendous impression on his family and so disturbed his father,” that John A. Kinnear did not allow his younger sons, including John Joseph Lyle Kinnear, to pursue a higher education. Although, he did allow his daughters to do so.<sup>20</sup> He may have blamed Samuel’s time spent at college for his lackadaisical attitude, and felt as though his son’s sudden and tragic death was a divine punishment.

Following John A. Kinnear’s death in 1892 the property passed to his heirs. By this time two of his daughters were married. Margaret L. was married to Thomas A. Sterrett, and Lauretta E. was married to R. L. Patterson. John Joseph Lyle, Susan W. and William A. were heirs as well. On October 5, 1892, Susan, William, the Sterretts, and the Pattersons all deeded their portion of the inheritance to the youngest son, John Joseph Lyle or J. J. L. Kinnear.<sup>21</sup> J. J. L. Kinnear continued farming operations, raising hogs, cattle and sheep. Beef, pork, wool, and lambs are mentioned in the will of Kinnear’s wife, Rachel “Rachie” Lackey Kinnear.<sup>22</sup> J. J. L. and Rachel also made money from selling parcels of land. There are also multiple deeds of sale dating from 1899 to 1928 to various persons. This included a southwest portion that consisted of 31.25 acres to William Archibald Kinnear, J. J. L.’s older brother, who worked in the area as a real estate agent.<sup>23</sup> It is believed that the money was used to pay for college educations for J. J. L.’s and Rachel’s children. It is very possible that a college education was important to J.L.L. since he was forbidden from pursuing one himself, and as all of their children obtained a degree from college.

J. J. L. and Rachel’s son John Alexander Kinnear grew up on the farm and attended Washington and Lee University before and after World War I. He volunteered for an ambulance unit to assist with the war effort to remove the wounded from the front lines in France and Belgium. He received the Croix de Guerre for “conspicuous gallantry in action.” John Alexander was injured in a gas attack during the war but was able to finish his education at Washington and Lee University. He went to Arizona to seek treatment for health complications from the gas injury but died in 1926.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> “Samuel Ashby Kinnear.”

<sup>19</sup> Gibson conversation with Ansted.

<sup>20</sup> Kinnear, “Descendants,” 6.

<sup>21</sup> Rockbridge County Deed Book 78, p. 423.

<sup>22</sup> Rockbridge County Will Book 61, p. 358.

<sup>23</sup> Rockbridge County Deed Book 90, p. 158.

<sup>24</sup> Kinnear, “Descendants,” 7.

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J. J. L. and Rachel's daughter, Isabell Wilson Kinnear Griffin, attended Longwood College and became a reporter in Washington D.C. with her husband, Bulkley S. Griffin. Together the Griffins started a newspaper, the Griffin-Larrabee News Bureau. Isabell was also in charge of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt's White House Press Conference Association in 1944. A son, Duncan Lyle Kinnear, attended and later taught at Virginia Tech. He wrote several books including *The First Hundred Years, A History of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University* (1972).<sup>25</sup>

Upon J. J. L. Kinnear's death in 1931, much of the property and the house passed to his wife, Rachel. His son Horace Lackey Kinnear also inherited land and he worked the land while his mother and his sisters, Mary Brayce Kinnear and Frances Armstrong Kinnear, lived in the farmhouse on the property. In 1948, with the passing of Rachel Kinnear, her interest in the property and its other assets passed to her younger children, Mary Brayce Kinnear, Frances Armstrong Kinnear, Duncan Lyle Kinnear, and Horace Lackey Kinnear. Her portion of the land specifically was divided among the three older siblings, Mary, Frances, and Duncan. Mary B. inherited 45%, and Frances A. inherited 35%, which included the farmhouse and land west of Route 703. Duncan L. inherited 25%, specifically the portion east of Route 703.<sup>26</sup> Horace lived in the farmhouse and worked the land while his siblings retained their interest and holdings but lived and worked elsewhere. At one point there was a trapdoor installed, separating the first from the second story, splitting the single-family home into two separate apartments. Outdoor porches were walled in to create kitchen areas upstairs as well as downstairs.

Horace Lackey Kinnear and his wife, Frances Hammer Davis "Bud" Kinnear, farmed the land on Timber Ridge. In 1955 no one had tended to the roses growing around the "Rose Lawn" house for a summer. As a result the roses grew wild and the house became affectionately known as "the Briar Patch," a name that remained in use until recently. Horace retired from farming well within forty years of inheriting the property.<sup>27</sup> According to his obituary in the *Lexington News-Gazette*, Horace L. Kinnear retired from farming to work for the Reeves Brothers Buena Vista Plant until 1974. Both Horace and Frances "Bud" were active participants in their community. Horace was a member of the Mountain View Ruritan Club and Bud was active in the establishment of the Rockbridge-Botetourt Regional Library (the current Rockbridge Regional Library). Bud was also a librarian for Southern Seminary Junior College in Buena Vista and the Washington and Lee Law Library in Lexington before she retired in 1974. The Kinnears were also dedicated members of the Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church. Horace served as an elder there while Frances was Circle Chair and President of Women of the Church. Horace also was a member of the Rockbridge County School Board and served on the board of the BARC Electric Cooperative, bringing electricity to Rockbridge County. While installing electricity to the Taylor-Kinnear Farm, Horace opted to have the lines run behind the farmhouse instead of in front of it to retain

<sup>25</sup> Kinnear, "Descendants," 7.

<sup>26</sup> Rockbridge County Will Book 61, p. 358.

<sup>27</sup> Kinnear, "Descendants," 10.

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the curb appeal of his home. Together, Horace and Bud helped establish the Blue Ridge Recreation Area in Fairfield.<sup>28</sup>

When Horace's sisters Frances A. and Mary B. passed away, the property was deeded for \$10.00 and left to Horace and Bud's daughters, Sarah Mackey Kinnear and Jean Lackey Kinnear.<sup>29</sup> Horace and Frances "Bud" also granted them parcels of land over time.<sup>30</sup> Sarah and Jean grew up on the farm, and together they established a Virginia Outdoors Foundation conservation easement to preserve the farm and its woodlands. They co-owned the farm with their uncle, Duncan Lyle Kinnear, and his wife, Florence A. Kinnear.<sup>31</sup> Upon Duncan Lyle Kinnear's death in 2001, his share in the property pass to the surviving Kinnear sisters, Sarah M. and Jean L. through a deed of gift for \$10.00 with the understanding that they would pay a sum of \$1250 to his two nephews from his wife's side of the family. The sisters retained the whole property until their deaths, but they did not reside upon it.<sup>32</sup> The land and the barn were used for cattle and harvesting hay by the Williams family. The house was managed by realtor Pat Aldridge, and she made the renovations to the second story in 2001. She reportedly had the shag carpet removed, the walls of the second story painted white, and new linoleum installed. Photographer, James O. Phelps rented the property from her for fifteen years.<sup>33</sup>

The current owners of the property are Brett Allen Barraclough and Donna Lee Barraclough. They have contracted with Daniel McClung, who is growing corn on the farm to ensure that the land remains active and productive as intended. The Barraclough family has a record of restoring and renovating historic properties, including a 1901 Victorian house located at 306 Jackson Avenue in the historic residential area of Lexington. They are not currently seeking a tax credit from the state. They are making efforts to put the house on the National Register of Historical Places because they feel that the property and the story of the residents is significant and warrants such a status. They have a great respect for the long legacy of service left by the Kinnear family and they hope to continue that legacy as they work to preserve and revitalize the property. They are in the early stages of rehabilitation, and have taken into account advice from the VOF and architectural historians as they make their plans for the future of the property. They have been working closely with Michael C. Brown who is on the historical review board because of his skill in planning restorations. Their goals include restoring and highlighting the historically unique aspects of the farmhouse and its surrounding structures, including the painted brick

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<sup>28</sup> Obituary of Horace Lackey Kinnear, *News-Gazette*, February 13, 1991; obituary for Frances Davis "Bud" Kinnear, FindaGrave.com, July 2016

<sup>29</sup> Personal will of Mary Brayce Kinnear, August 20, 1970; personal will of Frances Armstrong Kinnear, April 19, 1969. The wills, which are handwritten, do not appear to have been recorded by the county.

<sup>30</sup> Rockbridge County Deed Book 376, p. 527; Rockbridge County Deed Book 383, p.164; Rockbridge County Deed Book 445, p. 392.

<sup>31</sup> Obituary of Jean Lackey Kinnear, FindaGrave.com, September 2016; obituary of Sarah Mackey Kinnear, *Washington Post*, June 15 2015.

<sup>32</sup> Rockbridge County Will Book 403, p. 89.

<sup>33</sup> Ansted conversation with James O. Phelps, September 2020.

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preserved within the gabled storage area and the two front doors on the outward facing parts of the original brick farmhouse.<sup>34</sup>

### *Criterion C Architecture Statement of Significance*

The Taylor-Kinnear Farm has many notable architectural features dating to the period of significance. As built, the ca. 1820 Taylor-Kinnear House had a three-room plan, with a main parlor which survives in reduced form as the room with the tripartite mantel, and two rooms opposite it on the other side of a more or less central partition, each served by a fireplace. The stair was entered through the partition from the main parlor at the front entry, and rose through the frontmost of the two rooms on the other side of the partition. There is some evidence to suggest that the main parlor had a partitioned-off space at its rear, but if so it was apparently a small room, smaller than the rearmost of the two rooms on the other side of the main partition. The house's brick construction was standard for the larger houses of its time and place. Brick construction was introduced in the Rockbridge area in the late eighteenth century, as demonstrated by such extant houses as the Alexander-Withrow House (1780s), Marlbrook (1790s), and Thorn Hill (ca. 1793), and was normative for the area's larger residences by 1820.<sup>35</sup>

This original plan was modified in the late nineteenth and/or early twentieth century. The rearmost of the two rooms was eliminated and a narrower entry/stair passage created in its place, part of the reorientation of the house to the road, or rather the creation of a road-facing front in addition to the original front, which faces ninety degrees relative to the road. In combination with the reorientation was the addition of the road-facing two-story frame wing, the elimination of the rearmost of the two chimneys (its base in the foundation and angled flue in the attic are the principal evidence of its former existence), and the creation of the entry with sidelights and transom. The current porch configuration appears to date to this period as well, with a porch created on or extended to the road-facing front. Twentieth-century photos show the existence of a one-story wraparound porch in the 1930s and two separate porches ca. 1950 before the creation of the current wraparound porch, which incorporates elements of the earlier porches.

The house would have had a porch to serve its original entry, which is elevated, and the survival of remnants of an early decorative cornice on this elevation suggests that original porch was not two stories high. The original porch may have extended across the elevation, though painting of the brick has covered evidence of such a configuration, if it existed. The evidence suggests the gable ends were originally devoid of wings. This is most apparent on the second floor of the post-bellum boxed addition where the brickwork of the gable end is encapsulated. Evidence for the former roof of the abutting wing is preserved but there do not appear to be traces of an earlier wing or addition. If the house had other wings or additions during the nineteenth century they were presumably on the rear, though the survival of a basement entry and vent on that elevation suggests any rear wing or addition may have been partial, or it may have been open underneath, which might suggest a back porch.

<sup>34</sup> Ansted Conversation with Brett and Donna Barraclough, September 2020.

<sup>35</sup> Pezzoni, *Architecture of Historic Rockbridge*, 8-9, 24-25.

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Something is known about the house's nineteenth-century exterior finishes. The encapsulated gable end preserves brick with what appears to be a single generation of penciling. The brick has randomly placed glazed headers and stretchers with full or partial glazing. Whether a red wash originally evened out this variation is unclear, though the elevation received a light brown wash after the construction of the postbellum boxed **addition**, which is evident on the encapsulated and exterior portions of the elevation. Nineteenth-century brown washes, or brown-painted brickwork, appears to be rare in the county, where most evidence points to the use of red iron oxide washes. A period description of a presumably similar treatment appeared in an October 2, 1865 *New York Herald* article on Washington and Lee University (then Washington College) in Lexington, which reported that the main buildings on campus, collectively known as the Colonnade, were "a light brown color, with massive white pillars . . . All the buildings have been freshly painted outside and inside."<sup>36</sup>

Exterior painted finishes from the early twentieth century and perhaps earlier are encapsulated in an attic of the rear additions, visible from the second floor of the boxed **addition**, where a well-preserved section of **box** cornice is preserved. The board capping the end of the cornice and the bottom end of a rake board preserve traces of green paint and possibly earlier white paint (it is possible the capping board is an early twentieth-century replacement though the rake board is likely original). The molding at the top of the cornice, also presumably original, may preserve the same colors as well as possibly gray. The soffit, bed molding, and the narrow, beaded fascia board to which the bed molding is affixed are painted a light green or yellow-green color which appears to date to the early twentieth century because of its good state of preservation; it was relatively fresh when encapsulated. Under this is white-painted brickwork. Dark green paint from the twentieth century survives on shutters, the frames of the road-facing gable vents, thresholds, and the exposed roof structure of the porch.

The mantel in the main parlor is best described as Federal, due to its tripartite form, though its robustness suggests late Georgian influence. The other mantels have simple architrave forms that also suggest late Georgian influence, though not out of keeping for early Federal interiors in the area. The character of the mantels is somewhat similar to the Georgian-influenced Federal detail in the National Register-listed Willson House in Rockbridge County, which dates to 1812.<sup>37</sup> The Willson House also has batten doors on strap hinges; it and the Taylor-Kinnear farmhouse lie toward the end of the period when such doors were common in main interior spaces of refined houses, and the construction of the Taylor-Kinnear front entry door, with diagonal battens on the interior and panels on the exterior, indicates the transition. The former partition stair, which was presumably enclosed, is another holdover, a feature dating to a period when many builders of refined houses in the area were opting for open center-passage stairs. Such a stair was of course created by the Kinnears in the road-facing entry/stair passage. The detail on that stair and the detail on the mantels and trim of the associated road-facing addition, features which use machine-manufactured reeded strips in their decoration, are some of the details that date the

<sup>36</sup> *New York Herald*, October 2, 1865.

<sup>37</sup> Pezzoni, "Willson House," 4.

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addition and the reorientation to the very late nineteenth century or very early twentieth century. Perhaps the last major alteration to the main spaces of the house was the insertion of the pocket doors. The sunburst motif in the door pulls stylistically post-dates the kind of intricate ornamentation popular in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and suggests manufacture in the first quarter of the twentieth century when classicizing detail was more popular.<sup>38</sup>

The apparent early twentieth-century date of the pocket doors is a clue to the date of the coordinated decorative painting scheme found in the house, since the scheme was apparently the last decorative layer to be applied to the beaded board partition that forms the backing of the door pockets. Paint analysis would better characterize the paint sequence in the house, but for now it appears possible the decorative painting dates to the late nineteenth century during the Kinnear family ownership. As noted in section 7, the painting appears to have been done with stamps. Winston-Salem-based architectural historian and decorative painting expert Laura A. W. Phillips agrees that it may have been done with stamps, and notes that she has not seen the technique elsewhere, suggesting it is rare.<sup>39</sup> Research undertaken for *The Architecture of Historic Rockbridge* (2015) did not uncover other examples of the technique in the county, though review of existing survey forms was not exhaustive (neither is existing survey exhaustive).<sup>40</sup> On the under-stair painting, Phillips suggests “the painter wasn’t terribly accomplished yet in using the technique, because there seems to be a lot of (probably) unintentional variation in his execution.”<sup>41</sup> This could be due partly to the painting’s out-of-the-way location in a secondary space, where the intent may have been quick low-cost coverage of wall surface, but it raises the possibility the painting was done by a non-professional copying the presumably more professional work in the main parlor (not enough of that painting is currently visible to assess its quality or regularity). Perhaps a member of the Kinnear family, male or female, did the painting under the stair, modeling it on the painting in the main parlor.

Somewhat similar in basic form, though apparently earlier, is the decorative painting at Lauderdale, a ca. 1821 Federal-style house in Botetourt County, which adjoins Rockbridge County. The Lauderdale scheme (of which only traces survive) appears to have emulated French drapery wallpapers popular in the early nineteenth century, which in turn evoked actual draped fabric wall finishes. The Lauderdale painting, which was stenciled, featured fabric panels in brown, cream, and pink with geometric and floral borders.<sup>42</sup> The Taylor-Kinnear scheme does not appear to emulate fabric but its panel and border design suggest it is modeled on or meant to evoke, even if loosely, panel-printed wallpaper. The Taylor-Kinnear House also contains actual wallpaper, most of it apparently dating to the early and mid-twentieth century and sedate in color and pattern. An exception is the wallpaper depicting clouds, sky, and stars in the under-stair closet.

<sup>38</sup> A photo of pulls with a very similar form and sunburst ornamentation existed online in September 2020 but was not accompanied with contextual or date information.

<sup>39</sup> Phillips personal communication with Pezzoni.

<sup>40</sup> Pezzoni, *Architecture of Historic Rockbridge*.

<sup>41</sup> Phillips personal communication with Pezzoni.

<sup>42</sup> Pezzoni, “Lauderdale,” 6, 14-15.



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No discussion of the house's finishes would be complete without mention of the graffiti in the attic and basement. The calligraphic attic graffiti is hard to interpret but the presence of Ts in two of the initials suggest the name Taylor. The JHT carved on the basement entry lintel probably also refers to a member of the Taylor family. The cut or chiseled initials ending in K were made by members of the Kinnear family, who owned the house for much of the twentieth century (one or two 1900s date, including 1911, appear with the initials). The JAK may be John Alexander Kinnear (1898-1926). The name Polly, followed by what appears to be the last name Gibson, written into the attic stairwell stucco while it was still wet, has already been discussed.

The rear additions to the house are typical in form and development, with evidence of accretion and rebuilding during the twentieth century including enclosure of a two-story porch. The rear additions are frame but the postbellum kitchen and dining room addition on the left gable end of the original house is boxed. Boxed construction developed in the nineteenth century (with earlier roots) as a low-cost alternative to frame construction. Boxed construction is similar to frame construction in its use of major structural members like corner posts, sills, and plates, but it uses exterior vertical planks instead of studs to augment and rigidify the structure. The planks also provide enclosure. A nearby example of boxed construction is found at the Lexington & Covington Turnpike Toll House in Lexington, a brick building constructed ca. 1834. Tax records suggest the toll house's boxed rear rooms were added in stages, possibly beginning in 1871 and continuing as late as 1904.<sup>43</sup> The Taylor-Kinnear boxed addition, which has pegged mortise and tenon joints and pre-dates the brown wash on the brick section, may have been added early in that range, perhaps in the 1870s, and it appears to have retained its original one-story form into the early twentieth century, after which a wire-nailed frame second story was added and the wing sided with weatherboards. Areas of formerly exterior unsided planks survive on the back side where a kitchen porch existed and where the planks have layers of light brown paint (or a pigmented whitewash) and whitewash. A red wash or paint is also a possibility.

The property's two surviving historic farm buildings are fine examples of their type. The barn is built into a slight bank, which elevates the ramp that provides access to the upper level, though it would be a stretch to call it a bank barn. Only wire nails are used in construction contexts, in addition to the pegged mortise and tenon joints of the major structural members, suggesting the barn dates to the 1890s at the earliest and more likely the early twentieth century. The barn may have been built as late as the late 1910s, a period of agricultural prosperity in the county.<sup>44</sup> The barn has common accoutrements of its type, period, and locality, such as a slight projection of the upper level over the lower level, animal stalls with Dutch doors, upper-level vents, an upper-level structural frame consisting of bents, triangular hay drops, built-in ladders, and a hay carrier. The flip-down batten door on the lower level is an unusual feature. It may have doubled as a ramp for loading cattle into a wagon or truck. The granary, actually a combination granary and corncrib, is large and well-appointed, with various architectural provisions for keeping its contents dry and ventilated such as the corncrib's slatted siding and the siding-less grain bin wall, protected from the elements by the pole shed.

<sup>43</sup> Pezzoni, "Lexington & Covington Turnpike Toll House," 23-25.

<sup>44</sup> Pezzoni, "Brown-Swisher Barn," 10-11.

Taylor-Kinnear Farm  
Name of Property

Rockbridge Co., Virginia  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Barraclough, Brett. "Kinnear House." Virginia Department of Historic Resources PIF Resource Information Sheet, 2017.

Carmichael, John. "The County of Rockbridge, Virginia." Map, 1883.

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Taylor-Kinnear Farm  
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*Washington Post* (Washington, D.C.).

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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# 081-0324

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** approximately 3.5 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

Taylor-Kinnear Farm  
Name of Property

Rockbridge Co., Virginia  
County and State

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: -79.361163 Longitude: 37.816714

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

The boundary is portrayed on the approximately 1:100-scale Sketch Map that accompanies the nomination.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the surviving core resources historically associated with the property, namely the house, barn, and granary. The boundary lies, at a minimum, approximately 75 feet from the resources.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Amber Ansted and J. Daniel Pezzoni

organization: N/A

street & number: 306 Jackson Avenue

city or town: Lexington state: Virginia zip code: 24450

e-mail: amber.barraclough@cox.net

telephone: (540) 319-6400 ext. 2

date: May 1, 2021

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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.

Taylor-Kinnear Farm  
Name of Property

Rockbridge Co., Virginia  
County and State

## Photo Log

Name of Property: Taylor-Kinnear Farm

City or Vicinity: Lexington County: Rockbridge State: Virginia

Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2020

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

House and barn, view facing southeast. Photo 1 of 13.

House original front, view facing southwest. Photo 2 of 13.

House road-facing front, view facing northeast. Photo 3 of 13.

Detail of tripartite mantel in main parlor of house. Photo 4 of 13.

Mantel in right front room of house. Photo 5 of 13.

Under-stair painting in house. Photo 6 of 13.

Detail of under-stair painting in house Photo 7 of 13.

Stair in house. Photo 8 of 13.

Detail of graining on door and door surround of second-floor room in the road-facing addition to the house. Photo 9 of 13.

Section of left gable end of house inside boxed addition. Photo 10 of 13.

Barn, view facing north. Photo 11 of 13.

Barn interior. Photo 12 of 13.

House and granary, view facing northwest. Photo 13 of 13.

**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.).

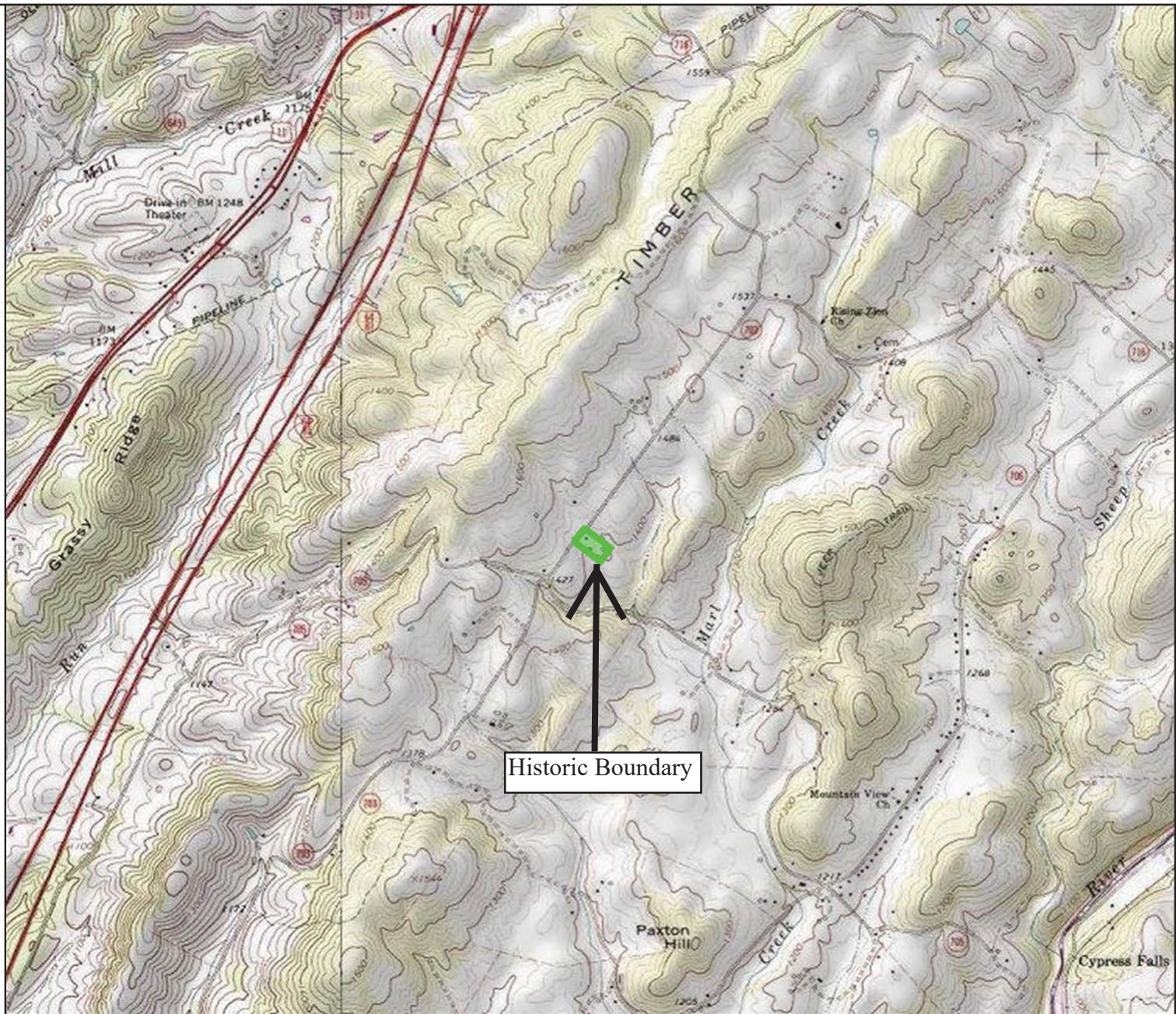
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form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





## TOPOGRAPHIC MAP - VICINITY

Taylor-Kinnear Farm  
Rockbridge County, VA  
DHR No. 081-0324



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400  
1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet

**Title:**

**Date: 4/16/2021**

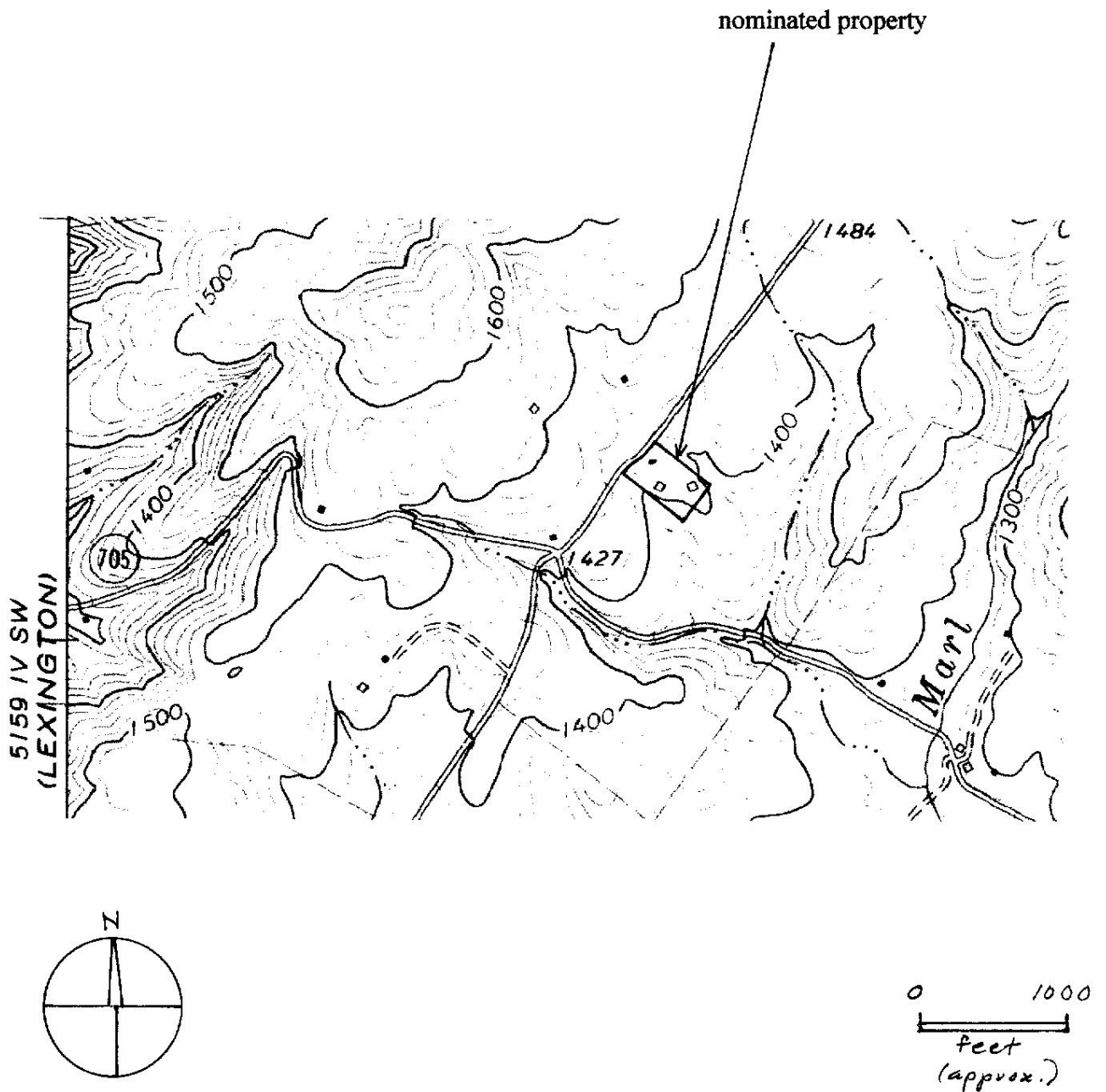
*DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information 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.*

**Taylor-Kinnear Farm**  
1364 Forest Grove Road  
Rockbridge County, Virginia  
DHR ID# 081-0324

National Register of Historic Places Location Map

Latitude: -79.361163 Longitude: 37.816714





## Taylor-Kinnear Farm

1364 Forest Grove Road  
Rockbridge County, Virginia  
DHR ID# 081-0324

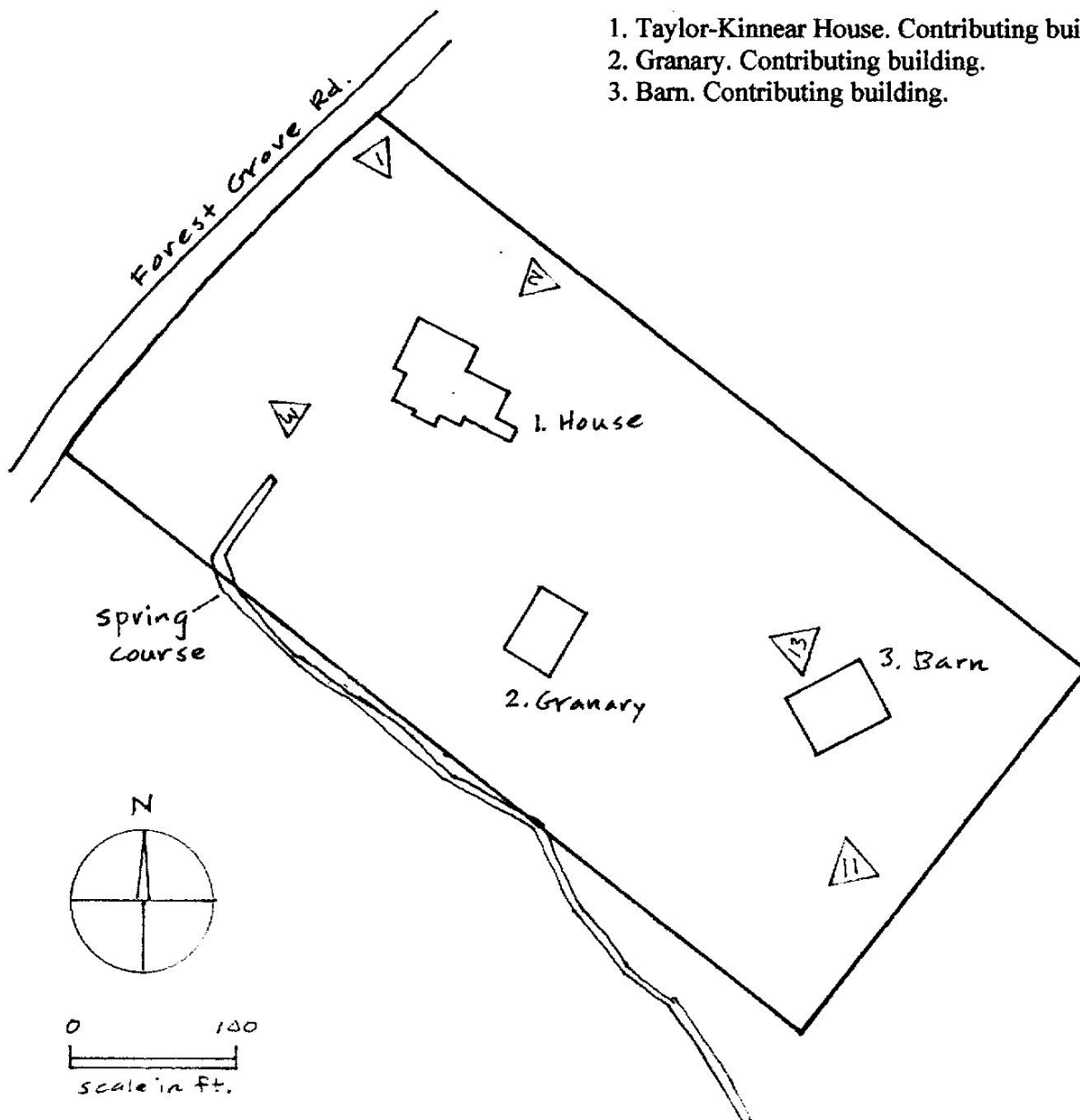
National Register of Historic Places Sketch Map and Photo Key (exterior views)

Photo number and direction of view indicated by triangular markers;  
photos keyed to nomination photo log.

Latitude: -79.361163 Longitude: 37.816714

### *Inventory*

1. Taylor-Kinnear House. Contributing building.
2. Granary. Contributing building.
3. Barn. Contributing building.







**AERIAL VIEW**

Taylor-Kinnear Farm

Rockbridge County, VA

DHR No. 081-0324



Historic Boundary



Feet

0 50 100 150 200

1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet

**Title:**

**Date: 7/8/2021**

*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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