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: La Fourche
   Other names/site number: La Fourche Tavern; Everettsville; Everett’s Tavern; Traveler’s Grove; Pleasant Grove; Royal Acres; Owatunka; DHR No. 002-0300
   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: 3555 Keswick Road
   City or town: Keswick
   State: VA
   County: Albemarle
   Not For Publication: N/A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  ___ local
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   ___A  ___B  ___C  ___D

   Signature of certifying official/Title: Virginia Department of Historic Resources
   Date
   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
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: [X]  
Public – Local
Public – State
Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s) [X]  
District
Site
Structure
Object
### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **3** buildings
- **0** sites
- **0** structures
- **0** objects
- **3** Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register **0**

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### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- COMMERCE/TRADE/RESTAURANT
- COMMERCE/TRADE/PROFESSIONAL
- DOMESTIC/SINGLE DWELLING
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/AGRICULTURAL OUTBUILDING

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/SINGLE DWELLING
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/AGRICULTURAL OUTBUILDING
7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
COLONIAL
LATE VICTORIAN: ITALIANATE
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: COLONIAL REVIVAL

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: STUCCO, BRICK, WOOD, STONE/SLATE

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
La Fourche is located in a residential area of Keswick in Albemarle County and sits at the northeast corner intersection of Keswick Road and East Keswick Drive, adjacent to Interstate 64 West and US Route 250. The three-story, L-shape dwelling and three contributing outbuildings are sited on three acres of rolling hills. The house is oriented to the north with one outbuilding to its south and two to its east. The building comprises two joined sections: the c. 1780s rear ell that was a tavern through the mid-19th century and c. 1860, c. 1920s, and c. 1935 main block. La Fourche is notable for its primarily Colonial Revival style with Italianate remnants displayed in its prominent features such as Chinese Chippendale railings; Doric columns rising from the foundation to the roofline; and two-over-two windows. Three outbuildings remain on the property, including two dependencies and one barn. The main house, outbuildings, and property retain a high level of integrity.

Narrative Description
Setting
La Fourche, located at 3555 Keswick Road in Keswick, Virginia, stands on 3 acres of rolling hills in a residential area of Albemarle County at the northeast corner intersection of Keswick
La Fourche
Name of Property

Road and East Keswick Drive and is adjacent to Interstate 64W and US Route 250. While its geographical location is at the intersection of three roads leading west to Charlottesville, east to Richmond, and North to Washington DC along historic King’s Highway and Three Notched Road (also referred to Three Notch’d Road or Chopt Road), the property retains its rural character with neighboring fields and large residential parcels immediately surrounding it. A split rail fence delineates the boundaries of the parcel. There are two driveways at La Fourche; one semi-circular driveway that connects to East Keswick Drive and another driveway that connects to Keswick Road and runs east to west between the main house and barn, and serves as a driveway to the neighboring properties. An in-ground pool sits directly east of the main house. At the west entrance to the property, stone walls and an iron gate frame the walkway leading to the front entrance door. A white wooden post fence lines the property’s perimeter on either side of the stone walls. The stone walls and gate were added in the early 20th-century.

Dwelling (Contributing Building)

Exterior

This L-shape, Italianate and Colonial Revival-style house consists of a two-and-a-half story, three-bay-wide center block and two-and-a-half story, four-bay-wide rear ell, both covered in stucco. The foundation is clad in red brick laid in a Common bond pattern and a lead-coated copper side-gable roof tops the dwelling. The moderately pitched roof contains three interior chimneys, two on the west slope and one on the south slope. Three unevenly spaced, pedimented dormers are located on the roof’s west, north, and south slopes.

The west elevation consists of a centrally located wood six-panel entrance door with a spider-web fanlight above and sidelights with geometric muntins on each side. The entrance bay is flanked by two-over-two windows on the first and second stories. Above the entrance door, a cantilevered balcony with Chinese Chippendale railings frames a set of screened French doors with louvered shutters. A full-width porch extends from the roofline and is supported by six two-story fluted Doric columns and two pilasters with raised brick bases. Atop the columns, a simple Doric frieze and architrave sit beneath an intricate Chinese Chippendale balustrade, similar to that surrounding the balcony below. Three pedimented dormers with ten-by-ten casement windows pierce the west roof slope. The central bay dormer is flanked by one chimney on either side.

The north elevation of the main block comprises a pair of two-over-two windows on the west end and a single six-over-six on the east. The arrangement is identical on the first and second stories. Centered above the paired windows, a ten-by-ten arched casement window is located in the roof’s gable. The slope of the roof on the east end of the elevation extends further than that on the west end, creating a slight shed appearance with the uneven eave returns.

The east elevation of the main block contains a pair of nine-over-nine windows topped by a pair of six-over-six windows on the north end of the elevation. A pedimented dormer with ten-by-ten casement window sits slightly off-center above the second story windows. An interior chimney...
pierces the roof to the south of the dormer. Another dormer of the same size and style is located on the other (south) side of the chimney on the east roof slope. The rear ell is attached to the south side of the east elevation.

North elevation (of ell – including the service quarters, tavern, and main block sections)
The four-bay, single-pile ell extends from the main block’s east elevation. A one-bay, single-pile section is located at the east end of the ell. The north elevation of the wing consists of an inset porch with two single double-hung six-over-six windows at the west end. The porch screening is divided by arched openings that support an overhanging second story. On the east half of the wing, the screened porch is accessed by an integrated wood and screen door with a 10-by-15-by-10 tripartite window integrated into the easternmost porch opening. On the second level, there are four evenly spaced pairs of 15-by-15 casement windows across the overhanging section. At the third story roof, three pedimented dormers with 10-by-10 casement windows are evenly spaced across the north slope. An internal chimney is located on the end of the wing, in between it and the attached rear end section. The two-bay rear end section contains two sets of paired 15-by-15 casement windows on the first and second floors, topped by a side gable roof of the same lead-coated copper material as the rest of the house.

East elevation (of ell): The east elevation of the ell consists of an entrance door on the north end of the wall and a single, double-hung six-over-six window on the south end of the first story. At the second story, a pair of double-hung six-over-six windows are located in the center of the roof gable. The north end of the gable extends down further than the south.

South elevation (of ell): The south elevation comprises three sections – the prior service quarters, the tavern section, and the south side of the main block. The service quarters section are located furthest east on the south elevation and contain a central bay of a single, double-pile six-over-six window on the first story, topped by an identical window on the second. This section’s roofline sits below the other two, which reach almost a full three stories. In the middle of the south elevation, the tavern wing is four bays long and two-and-a-half stories tall, with three dormers across the roof. The easternmost two bays are identical with single, double-hung nine-over-nine windows at the first story, six-over-six at the second, and pedimented dormers with 10-by-10 casement windows at the roof. A c. 2003 brick chimney sits evenly between the second and third bays, with the third having the same window and dormer configuration as the first and second. To the west of the third bay, the fourth is attached to the south elevation of the main block. The fourth bay contains a semicircular portico with two Doric columns and two Doric pilasters and six-panel wood entrance door with geometric sidelights and elliptical fan light, matching the main block’s entrance door. Above the door, at the second story, a single, double-hung six-over-six window matches the other three bays. The westernmost single bay of the main block’s south elevation contains a two-over-two bay window at the first story, a pair of two-over-two windows at the second, and ten-by-ten arched casement windows in the gable at the third story.

Interior
La Fourche’s interior detailing primarily reflects the 19th and 20th century Italianate and Colonial Revival architectural styles in its use of wainscoting, molded door surrounds, baseboards, and ceiling trim, wide-planked heart pine floors, and fireplace surrounds.

First Floor
The first floor plan consists of two principal rooms separated by the central hall, with a long secondary entrance hall at the rear of the main block. The side entrance contains the primary stair to the second story and a bathroom. The fully integrated one-pile rear wing is accessed through the dining room or on the exterior, through a screened porch, and contains a dining room and kitchen. At the furthest end of the wing, a secondary kitchen, stair, and informal living room are walled off from the rest of the ell living spaces.

The first floor features late-19th early-20th century wide planked heart pine hardwood floors ranging from 4” – 6”. Throughout the floor, there are three large fireplaces with mantels located in the informal living room (main block), living room (main block), and dining room (ell). The wainscoting, crown moldings, and column screen in the center hall near the west entrance hall of the first floor date to the c. 1915-25 renovations. The mantelpieces in the informal and formal living room also appear to be part of that phase with their fluted column ornament echoing the prominent exterior porch columns. In the informal living room, the bay window remains intact from the original construction, but trim has been added to the framed opening to match the more formal wainscoting and trim added throughout the first floor in the Colonial Revival mode.

The stair hall contains a tall, open stringer staircase with turned balusters and a prominent turned, tapered, and octagonal starting newel post dating to the c. 1860 construction. The landing newel posts also appear to date from the same period but are square-shaped with carved central sections. The balusters likely date from the early twentieth century remodel and replaced smaller, square balusters based on the patch marks in the wood. Above the first floor stair landing, there is a small, segmental arch casement window that opens onto the enclosed porch. This window appears to have been added when the porch was reconfigured and casement windows were added in the early twentieth century, but could have replaced a larger window that previously existed due to the infill of molding below the window on the exterior wall.

In 1990, the kitchen was renovated and enlarged to consume one-third of the back porch, which comprises the north elevation of the ell. Also during the 1990s, the house was rewired to meet current standards and the masonry foundation repaired. The first floor gives evidence to the late-19th century (ca. 1860) and early 20th century building periods from its baseboards, heart pine hardwood flooring, window hardware, and mortise lock door hardware. The dining room, adjoining hall, kitchen, a service room which was referred to as a butler’s pantry during the late 18th- early 19th-century, and the bedrooms above on the second story are original to the c. 1860 tavern reconfiguration. The wall structure and characteristics of the materials and flooring date to mid-late-19th century.²

² Mead, Historic Homes.
The ceiling plasterwork and southernmost corner cupboard in the dining room were added during the early- to mid-20th century reconfiguration. The corner cupboard was built to match the existing one on the north side of the room, which dates to the c. 1860 construction period. The addition of a matching cupboard reinforces the desire for formality and symmetry often seen in prominent Colonial Revival dwellings. During its Italianate stage, there was a door on the first floor of the south elevation that was replaced with a window when the style changed. The fireplace on the east wall was removed and rebuilt on the south wall (c. 2003), a change that can be seen from the exterior in the brick chimney along the south elevation (figures 9 and 10). The removal of the fireplace on the east wall of the dining room allowed the addition of a doorway between the two built-in cupboards that led to the kitchen and original tavern wing. There appear to be three different widths and variations of distress in the pine flooring indicating three different phases of renovation in this part of the house. The kitchen, which was part of the original tavern, was renovated along with the butler’s pantry in the early 21st century. It has a raised white subway tile backsplash, built in cabinet shelving, granite countertops, and farm sink.

Second Floor
The second story contains three rooms across the front of the main block with the stair hall and ell access at the rear. The ell comprises a long, rectangular primary bedroom, as well as another bedroom that can only be accessed by the secondary stair. The master bedroom has a coffered ceiling (c. 2003) and was originally two rooms but they were combined during the late 20th century. The master bedroom features a master closet and bathroom. The second floor has four bedrooms, one with access to an exterior cantilevered balcony, and all of which have fireplaces, however only two are currently operative, and with what appear to be mantelpieces from the c. 1860 construction. There are three full bathrooms, two of which appear to be early 20th century. The third bathroom had minor updates during the early 21st century including tile work, shower stall installation, and paint. The pine flooring differs in color and texture, with varying dings and aged characteristics from the ones on the first floor, and dates to c. 1915-25.

Third Floor
The third story features two bedrooms and three bathrooms and an L-form stair with laundry facilities, an office, and storage closets. The attic space was converted into a finished third floor during the late 20th and early 21st centuries to accommodate University of Virginia students. At the third floor, a c. 2003 phase of remodeling included adding new flooring and handrails leading to the third floor, light fixtures, hardware, and wood molding, including the wainscoting.

Basement
The oldest fabric of the basement appears to be ca. late 18th - early 19th century due to the building materials and methods of construction. The combination of pink brick and fieldstone around axe-hewn beamed supports cut by hand and pegged joinery, and early cut nails date to ca. 1790-1825. A combination of repairs are evident but the structural system appears to be in excellent condition. There is a variety of old and new sill joists, girders, rafters, bands, columns, and support jacks. The late 19th century cross-bridging remains. There are some patched concrete

reinforcements throughout the bricks and stone. There are two points of access to the basement, one from the interior first floor staircase under main staircase adjacent to the bathroom and the other from an exterior stair at the north elevation. During a 1950’s renovation, cornhusk insulation and handmade bricks were found in the basement and date to the late-18th early 19th century.4

**Outbuildings**

Three outbuildings remain on the property, including two contributing dependencies and one non-contributing barn. Outbuilding 1 sits south of the main dwelling and Outbuilding 2 and the Barn are to the east.

**Outbuilding 1 (Contributing Building)**

Outbuilding 1, also known as the Doctor’s Office, consists of two sections: the c. mid-19th century west wing and the c. mid-20th century east wing. The west wing is an American bond brick, two-bay building with a side-gable copper roof. The east section is sheathed in HardiePlank siding and has a side-gable roof. The roof slopes of the two sections intersect with a chimney in the center. Windows are primarily vinyl double-hung, six-over-six or one-over-one with two c. 1950 wood double-hung, six-over-six. Doors include one fiberglass six-panel and one fiberglass nine-lite panel.

The Doctor’s Office was originally unpainted and retained the pink hue of its brick material, but was painted white prior to 2003 and, more recently, painted the current yellow hue. In 2003, the main house and outbuildings were remodeled – a secondary entrance door was added to the Doctor’s Office and copper roofing was added to the main house and the Doctor’s Office.

**Outbuilding 2 (Contributing Building)**

The earliest building, Outbuilding 2, is a combination of two structures – a wing of the tavern and the smokehouse – that are joined by a central connector to serve together as a single-story guest dwelling with two bedrooms. The wing that was once part of the tavern was detached during the 1860 reconfiguration. The building was stuccoed and painted in the 1950 renovation phase to match the main house. The grey slate gable roofs on each end are connected by a slate low-pitched gable roof. It has a wood door on the west elevation and a sliding glass door that to the 1950s. Windows are wood frame, double-hung, four-over-four and six-over-six; wood frame, double-hung four-over-four, and one set of vinyl, double-hung four-over-four and date to the mid-20th century, ca. 1950. Doors include one wood paneled Dutch and one fiberglass sliding-glass.

**Barn (Non-contributing Building)**

Outbuilding 3, the Barn, sits on the north side of the main house and is a L-form with two sections – a front gable barn with large central barn door and shed roof side ell with three barn doors. It has a stone and cement foundation throughout. The front-gable section is sheathed in composite siding and the roof covered in corrugated metal. A short access drive leads from

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La Fourche through the property, in between Outbuilding 2 and the Barn. The form of the barn remains from the early 20th century, but its exterior building materials were replaced and the interior space opened and remodeled in 2021. The interior now has polished concrete floors, finished drywall surfaces, electrical wiring with light fixtures, a kitchen/bar area, a large flexible space, and dining room.

**Integrity Analysis**

Viewing La Fourche in its current iteration, as a Colonial Revival country house with a 19th century undertone, it retains a high level of integrity related to location, setting, feeling, and association. La Fourche, as a single-family dwelling incorporating the rotated tavern, has remained in place since the initial construction. The outbuildings have also remained in-situ since the c. 1860 phase of construction. The rural setting and feeling remains pastoral and the prominent intersection of historic roads is intact. The roads have been paved and Keswick Road is two lanes wide. The acreage accompanying the main house and outbuildings has decreased since the c. 1860 construction period and now sits on approximately three acres, but the rural character of the environment remains due to the agricultural nature of the surrounding parcels. Any development that has occurred after the c. 1860 phase is located far enough away from the parcel that there is little impact to the setting. There are farms and single-family dwellings on neighboring acreage. The addition of an in-ground pool toward a row of hedges at the rear edge of the property does not visually disrupt the landscape. While the outbuildings have been updated, their orientation to the main house and entirety of the property provides an understanding of how the complex might have functioned in the 19th and 20th centuries. The environment on site and in the main house relay a feeling of how the site existed in the early to mid-twentieth century, in its latest Colonial Revival iteration.

Additionally, there is a high level of integrity related to design, materials, and workmanship, with the exception of the tavern wing due to the nature of the integration of it into the main block. The tavern wing remains within the fabric of the ell and framing, nails, and possibly bricks date to at least the early 19th century throughout the basement. Throughout the various phases of remodeling, the spatial arrangement has remained primarily intact and changes are limited to the opening of a doorway between the dining room and kitchen; the creation of the primary bedroom, where two rooms were combined; and on the third floor, where walls were added. Overall, La Fourche is in very good condition, with its form, roofs, exterior openings, and wood finishes maintained. The building currently shows the early twentieth century Colonial Revival style as the dominant update.

Workmanship is evident throughout the house, particularly in the basement with a few sections of hand-pegged sills and hewn beams under the ell section, and throughout the rest of the house, in its masonry, moldings, window and door surrounds, mantels, flooring, and decorative ornament. The evolution of the house is apparent on each floor. The house’s chronological order is apparent on each floor, starting with the basement, which is the oldest part of the house and the third floor being a part of more recent additions. The oldest part of the house is the basement and each floor progresses with the degree of renovation and restoration, with the third floor having
the greatest amount of alterations and new material. The basement dates to the late-18th - 19th century. The first and second floors are from the 19th century with minor 20th century renovations such as bathroom and hardwood flooring upgrades. The third floor is from the 21st century. The interior walls on the first and second walls and ceilings are made of plaster and wooden laths and the third floor has sheetrock walls and ceilings.

Figure 1. La Fourche, west elevation, ca. 1860.
La Fourche
Name of Property

Albemarle County, VA
County and State

Figure 2. La Fourche, south elevation, ca. 1860.
La Fourche
Name of Property

Albemarle County, VA
County and State

Figure 3. La Fourche, south elevation, ca. 1890.
La Fourche
Name of Property

Albemarle County, VA
County and State

Figure 4. La Fourche, west elevation, ca. 1920-1925.
La Fourche
Name of Property

Albemarle County, VA
County and State

Figure 5. La Fourche, west elevation, c. 1935.
La Fourche
Name of Property

Albemarle County, VA
County and State

Figure 6. La Fourche, Northwest Elevation, c. 1935.
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.
- [x] 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
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900

La Fourche
Name of Property

Albemarle County, VA
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
c. 1800 to 1935

Significant Dates
1860, 1900-1925,
1935

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

Cultural Affiliation
(Complete only if Criterion D is marked above.)
N/A

Architect/Builder
Heywood, Henderson

Section 8 page 18
La Fourche, located at 3555 Keswick Road, at the intersection of Keswick Road and Keswick Drive, in Keswick, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The two-and-a-half story farmhouse stands on a large parcel at the intersection of East Keswick Road and Keswick Drive and retains its rural setting among the rolling hills of Albemarle County. The Period of Significance begins with the tavern’s construction in c. 1800 and ends with the last major remodel in c. 1935. The dwelling and outbuildings serve as relics of architectural styles, materials, and building methods primarily from the 19th and 20th century reconfigurations.

La Fourche comprises two sections and multiple periods of construction. The c. 1800 tavern, originally named “Traveler’s Grove” was rotated 180 degrees in 1860 to become the rear wing of a newly constructed Italianate farmhouse. The tavern’s original foundation and some structural elements remain in parts of the present-day building. Though modern renovations have concealed much of the 18th century fabric of the La Fourche, the current dwelling fully embodies the significant c. 1860, c. 1925, and c. 1935 architectural transformations into a meandering farmhouse with dominant Colonial Revival ornamentation. La Fourche fits into the context of other country houses in Albemarle County that were altered in the early-twentieth century to become more visually prominent and architecturally refined.

Narrative Statement of Significance

In 1730, Welsh immigrant Col. John Harvie purchased the land on which La Fourche currently sits from Joshua Graves. It is unknown who owned the land prior to Graves, however, Manahoac and Monacan tribes inhabited this region prior to European colonization. Harvie served as Thomas Jefferson’s guardian after his father, Peter Jefferson, died in 1757. Years later, as Governor of Virginia (1779-1781), Thomas Jefferson tried to purchase the land from Harvie for his son-in-law, but Harvie declined his offer.

During the American Revolution, in 1781, following the Raid on Richmond led by Benedict Arnold; Thomas Jefferson and Virginia's legislature escaped Richmond and headed to Monticello, Jefferson’s home in Charlottesville. Once the British received that information, they sent British Gen. Sir. Banastre Tarleton and his army to capture the legislature. As British troops made their way through Louisa County, Jack Jouett, a local farmer, saw them and learning of their intent, rushed to Monticello on horseback and warned Jefferson before the British arrived.

Because of its geographical location at the intersection of three busy country roads leading west to Charlottesville, east to Richmond, and north to Washington DC along historic King’s

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Highway and Three Notched Road (also referred to as Three Notch’d Road or Chopt Road), travelers on horseback stopped at Harvie’s property to rest and exchange their horses. Tarleton and his men stopped at Harvie’s property on their way to capture Jefferson at Monticello, just five miles to the west, unaware that Jefferson had already been warned.

Harvie’s family sold the property (then known as “The Crossroads Plantation”) in 1788 to John Everett. Everett established a small village that he named Everettsville and built an official tavern named “Traveler’s Grove.” After only a few lots sold, Everett changed the village’s name to “Pleasant Grove” to attract more people and to generate more business. At that time, the tavern was also referred to as “Everett’s Tavern.” The tavern is said to have been a frame structure with a taproom, washroom, and small bedrooms during the stagecoach era. Due to its geographical location, the tavern also served as an inn to travelers moving along the busy country roads. Everett also built a stable, general store, post office, and election building around the tavern so the building was the focal point of the local community’s official business and commerce. Three-Notched Road was a significant trade route during the 18th century and crucial to the importation and exportation of goods to and from the region.

Everett sold the tavern in 1807. In 1821, Dr. Charles Everett purchased the property and in November of 1824, Marquis de Lafayette stopped at Traveler’s Grove for “liquid refreshments” on his way to see Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. Everett was a physician and planter, and briefly served as James Monroe’s private secretary and one of Jefferson’s attending physicians in 1826. In 1848, his nephew, Dr. Charles D. Everett II, inherited the property. Although it is unknown how many African American laborers were enslaved on the property, Everett II, following his uncle’s will, freed all of the enslaved laborers living on-site at the time; however, previous research proves that he also supported the Confederate States Army, loaning it $110,000.

In 1849, Keswick Station was built and became the new focal point of the local community, making Traveler’s Grove somewhat obsolete. In 1860, Dr. Charles Stuart Bowcock purchased the tavern and the rest of the property. He extensively reconfigured and added to the tavern, turning it into a single-family residence that still served as an inn for travelers. During this major 1860 reconfiguration and new construction of the farmhouse, the house was named “La

6 The word “tavern” will appear throughout this narrative and means inn, lodge, bar, watering hole, and/or roadhouse along a country road.
8 Mead, Historic Homes.
11 Mark Reinberger and De Teel Patterson Tiller, La Fourche Tavern, Building Number 117, Three Notched Road Survey, (May 1, 1976).
La Fourche, "which means "fork", after its geographic resemblance to Lafourche Parish, Louisiana, which sits at the fork of the Mississippi River.

Upon his purchase of the property, Dr. Bowcock reconfigured the position and style of the tavern and attached it to the rear of a newly constructed, Italianate farmhouse, creating an “L-shape” plan. Bowcock rotated the original single-pile, single-story tavern 180 degrees and added a second story.

In 1863, after the new dwelling was assembled, Confederate Army Gen. Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson and his army stopped at La Fourche on their way to Richmond. Soldiers rested outside of the inn in the grove of woods on the property. In 1864, Confederate Army Lt. Gen. Jubal Anderson Early established his headquarters at La Fourche.

After the Civil War, La Fourche continued to serve as the main residence of the Bowcock family and as an inn for travelers. In 1890, Bowcock’s daughter Mary Stuart Bowcock married Virginia Senator Conway Robinson Sands in the parlor of La Fourche.

During the early-20th century, ca. 1920-1925, new owner Powhatan Wyndham Robertson commissioned a renovation of the vernacular farmhouse that began the transition to “pretentious master house.” At that time, the entire facade of the house was covered in stucco and Robertson replaced the wood Italianate style columns with classic Tuscan columns. Robertson owned and operated Owatunka Dairy Farm, which was noted as “formerly Lafourche” from 1925-1935.

When John C. Inge of New York purchased the property around 1935, he renamed Owatunka Farm “Royal Acres”. Little evidence remains on the operations of the farm. During his ownership, Inge replaced the remaining Italianate architectural features with Colonial Revival elements that remain today including the prominent porch balustrade (Figures 5-6). Also during the early-20th century, the owners of the house built a barn (Outbuilding #3) on the north side of the main house for the storage of farming equipment.

The property was marketed for sale in 1948 with an auction sale on August 11 and 12th of that year for the “Royal Acres Subdivision of Owatunka Dairy Farm – between Charlottesville and Keswick including the mansion house and the entire Guernsey dairy herd, other livestock, dairy equipment, and farm machinery and equipment.” When Dr. and Mrs. Hammond purchased the property in 1950, the house had quite a bit of deferred maintenance so they undertook a straightforward restoration of the property. At that time, they also commissioned local architect

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12 Mead, Historic Homes (revised edition).
15 Toldano, “La Fourche”.
16 Pate and Magruder. “Owatunka: Survey Report, 1937”.
17 Ibid.
Heywood Henderson of the firm Baker, Heyward, and Llorens to create a guesthouse by combining the historic smokehouse and a freestanding wing of the tavern.\footnote{Toledano, “La Fourche.” To note: some of the records of Benjamin Baker of Baker, Heyward, and Llorens are held at UVA’s Special Collections Library, but they do not appear to contain information relevant to the project(s) at La Fourche.}

**Architectural Significance**

La Fourche is locally significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of Colonial Revival style domestic architecture and the evolution of a tavern and farmhouse into a stately country dwelling in Albemarle County, Virginia. Due to its phases of construction and remodeling, La Fourche embodies architectural elements and building methods from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. As it presently sits, the overall aesthetic of the stuccoed Colonial Revival dwelling greatly differs from its beginnings as a tavern and Italianate farmhouse and primarily reflects the alterations completed in c. 1920 – 1925 and c. 1935. The “L shape” form remains from the c. 1860 construction with the front main block and the rear tavern wing.

La Fourche is also significant under this Criterion because Albemarle County does not have any examples that replicate its architectural history and current style. Albemarle County’s Boyd Tavern served travelers along Three Chopt Road from c. 1825 to 1937. The current building was constructed between 1825 and 1840 on the site of an earlier tavern that was built around 1750 for Thomas Jefferson’s brother-in-law, Col. Charles L. Lewis. Similar to La Fourche, Boyd Tavern originally known as Watson’s Ordinary was visited by notable patrons such as Jefferson and the Marquis de Lafayette. However, La Fourche exemplifies a grander evolution of architecture with different styles, materials, and order of buildings. The seven-page nomination of the D. S. Tavern is one of Albemarle County’s few remaining structures that have relevance to previous taverns. However, the D.S. Tavern differs from La Fourche in architectural style, historical significance, deeming La Fourche to be a unique architectural resource.

The c. 1800 tavern remains in its form and some of its architectural elements are visibly contained within the rear wing of the dwelling, particularly noticeable at the interior of the basement. An outbuilding and a back room of the main house served as a wing to the original tavern (see floor plan). The c. 1800 tavern was originally a one-story, single-pile form, but gained a second story when it was rotated in c. 1860.

Upon his purchase of the property in 1860, Dr. Bowcock reconfigured the position and style of the tavern and attached it to the rear of a newly constructed Italianate farmhouse, creating an “L-Shape” plan. Bowcock rotated the original single-pile, single-story tavern 180 degrees and added a second story. He also removed the northern portion of the original tavern and converted it into an outbuilding. At the time of the c. 1860 construction of the main block farmhouse and remodeling of the rear tavern wing, the dwelling fit into the increasingly popular Italianate style, similar to illustrations of A.J. Downing in “The Architecture of Country Houses” and Samuel Sloan in “The Model Architect”. As compared to the later Colonial Revival, Italianate architecture was generally more eclectic and embellished.
La Fourche
Name of Property

Albemarle County, VA
County and State

The style referenced the early Italian villas of Tuscany. Italianate, also known as Italian Villa was the product of the improvisation of local builders who added decorative and elaborate themes to published classical designs. The houses were often asymmetrical in plan with stuccoed walls and bracketed cornices.20

As it currently sits, La Fourche retains few visible elements from the c. 1860, but those that do exist include the large, two-over-two windows and louvered shutters throughout the main block and the bay window configuration at the west elevation of the main block.

Details such as a projecting roof with brackets, milled porch columns and balustrade above the smaller entry porch, weatherboard siding, projecting front gable, and window trim remained intact until the early-twentieth century when then-owners P.W. Robertson and J.C. Inge remodeled the dwelling according to the Colonial Revival style that was popular at the time. By 1935, the wide, overhanging eaves on the gable ends appeared much less deep and the brackets had been replaced by a formal, three-part frieze that fit into the overall theme seen on the rest of the exterior. The Colonial Revival alterations are also prominent on the south elevation. At the entrance, a half-round portico and Tuscan columns and pilasters surround an elaborate door surround and elliptical fanlight matching that on the west elevation. The east and north elevations are less ornate but on the north elevation of the wing and east elevation of the main block, pedimented dormers are evenly spaced along the roof slope.

The most significant changes came with the overhaul of the west elevation, particularly the front porch, with its heavy Grecian entablature supported by colossal fluted Doric columns. It created the illusion of symmetry along the façade and elevated the formality and status of the house upon approach. Other adaptations included removing the projecting front gable and creating a straight roofline across the front elevation. The porch is supported by six large fluted Doric columns beneath a heavy frieze. A Chinese Chippendale balustrade along the roofline and cantilevered balconies above the central bay entrance door at the second story add to the overall Colonial Revival aesthetic and are reminiscent of elements at Jefferson’s Monticello and the Grounds at the University of Virginia. The architectural trends seen at La Fourche follow those in the County and larger region. The shift from the picturesque, less ostentatious Italianate cottage to a genteel, yet monumental Colonial Revival manor with classically inspired architectural elements reflects the notion that one’s personal dwelling represented their character and social standing.21

In Architecture, Colonial Revival represented more than just a style, it represented an identity... The Colonial Revival movement in architecture even began with the preservation of notable houses in Virginia like Mount Vernon and Monticello, which were first seen as memorials to their owners, and then became material culture that memorialized the eras in which they were built. Of course, similar to today, race,


Section 8 page 23
class, and other social implications were tied into the architectural fabric, which includes scale, materials, labor, Eurocentric inspiration and features.

Within just a few years, however, the definition of “colonial” expanded to include Greek and Italian—classically derived architecture such as Georgian, Federal, Jeffersonian, and Greek Revival styles. Vernacular interpretations of Colonial Revival proliferated, and certain motifs quickly became associated with Colonial Revival in Virginia. This is perhaps best exemplified by the late-nineteenth-century, two-story, red brick houses with white-columned porticoes, painted white trim, and multiple-light windows flanked by shutters that still can be found across Virginia today.22

As with other houses in rural Albemarle County that received Colonial Revival overhauls, the early-20th century alterations made quite an impact on the overall impression of the building. La Fourche is an excellent example of the evolution of a large farmhouse into a prominent country manor house, seen throughout the region at the time. In Albemarle County, neighboring Clifton, c. 1800, 1925 (DHR #002-0155) is an example of another essentially 20th century dwelling with an earlier core and represents the desire to embellish a more modest dwelling to create a grand impression. The addition of a prominent front porch gave an immediate impression of grandeur, even if it was simply attached to the existing dwelling. By the time of La Fourche’s transition into a Colonial Revival manor, there were several earlier houses that could have provided inspiration for the stately changes, including Bellevue, c. 1859 (DHR #002-0847), which was an imposing blend of Italianate and Greek Revival elements; Birdwood, c. 1819 - 1830 (DHR #002-0003) with its Chinese Chippendale cantilevered center balcony and prominent front porch with oversized columns; and even though Carr’s Hill, c. 1909 (DHR #002-5082) is located in Charlottesville proper, it is an excellent example of how classical architectural elements were reimagined in the Colonial Revival mode.

As noted in the 1930s, La Fourche evolved into a “very stately and commodious country seat, surrounded by a grove of lofty trees and ornamental plants. A rock entrance, covered over with English ivy, forms the gateway to the yard. The mansion, which now has a stuccoed effect, gives the appearance of the Georgian type of architecture, with its lofty pillars and long portico.”23 In a 1940 advertisement for the sale of “Royal Acres”, what would have been originally described as a frame vernacular farmhouse was advertised at that time as “the white stucco manor house” located between Shadwell and Keswick County and “hunt clubs with lovely grounds” – which fits into the narrative of the early 20th century gentleman farmer in Albemarle County.24

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22 Ibid.
24 “Royal Acres”.
9. Major Bibliographical References

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

3555 Keswick Road/La Fourche, GIS-Web Geographic Data Services, County of Albemarle, Virginia, 03/26/2021.


Everett, Robert Louis, The Everetts of Albemarle County Virginia, (Riverside, California, Canyon Crest Printing, 1992).


Macgruder, Mrs. Horatio, Shadwell, Virginia, (publication information and date unknown).

Map of Registered Historic Properties in Albemarle County, Virginia, Department of Community Development, Office of Geographic Data Services; map created 03/19/2021.


Mickler, Margaret P., *La Fourche*, File Number 2-300, Negative Number 4424, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey Form, (April 1, 1980).


Reinberger, Mark and De Teel Patterson Tiller, *La Fourche Tavern, Building Number 117*, Three Notched Road Survey, (May 1, 1976).


Satterwhite, Mary Sands, Letter written by Mary Sands Satterwhite, the great-great granddaughter of Dr. Charles Stuart Bowcock, (Ashland, Virginia, October 3, 2010).


La Fourche Tavern Form, Survey Form, Virginia Landmarks Commission, 04/01/1980.


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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

Sections 9-end page 26
La Fourche  
Name of Property  
____ 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  

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):  DHR No. 002-0300

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  ___3_________

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: 38.012520 Longitude: -78.374880  
2. Latitude: Longitude:  
3. Latitude: Longitude:  
4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References  
Datum (indicated on USGS map):  
[ ] NAD 1927 or [ ] NAD 1983
La Fourche
Name of Property

Albemarle County, VA
County and State

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

The boundaries of this property extend 3-acres and occupy Parcel IDs 79A1-0A-1 and 79A1-0B-1.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundaries of this property are justified according to the County of Albemarle Geographic Data Services collected on 03/26/2021.

1. **Form Prepared By**

   name/title: ROBERT LOUIS BRANDON EDWARDS; Joanna McKnight
   organization: N/A; Department of Historic Resources
   street & number: 3837 LEE HILL SCHOOL DRIVE; 2801 Kensington Avenue
   city or town: FREDERICKSBURG; Richmond state: VIRGINIA zip code: 22408; 23221
   e-mail: RLBRANDONEDWARDS@GMAIL.COM; Joanna.McKnight@dhr.virginia.gov
   telephone: (540) 642-6621; 540-482-6439
   date: June 2022

**Additional Documentation**
Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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

**Photo Log**

**Name of Property**: La Fourche

**City or Vicinity**: Keswick

**County**: Albemarle  **State**: VA

**Photographer**: Robert Louis Brandon Edwards

**Date Photographed**: 03/25/2021

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

01_la_fourche_main_house_north_elevation_032521  
02_la_fourche_main_house_north_elevation_032521  
03_la_fourche_main_house_north_elevation_032521  
04_la_fourche_main_house_south_elevation_032521  
05_la_fourche_main_house_south_elevation_032521  
06_la_fourche_main_house_south_elevation_032521  
07_la_fourche_main_house_south_elevation_032521  
08_la_fourche_main_house_east_elevation_032521  
09_la_fourche_main_house_east_elevation_032521  
11_la_fourche_main_house_west_elevation_032521  
12_la_fourche_main_house_southwest_perspective_elevation_032521  
13_la_fourche_main_house_west_elevation_032521  
15_la_fourche_outbuilding_#1_north_elevation_032521  
16_la_fourche_outbuilding_#1_south_elevation_032521  
17_la_fourche_outbuilding_#1_east_elevation_032521  
18_la_fourche_outbuilding_#1_west_elevation_032521  
19_la_fourche_outbuilding_#2_north_elevation_032521  
20_la_fourche_outbuilding_#2_south_elevation_032521
La Fourche
Name of Property
Albemarle County, VA
County and State

21_la_fourche_outbuilding_#2_east_elevation_032521
22_la_fourche_outbuilding_#2_east_elevation_032521
23_la_fourche_outbuilding_#3_north_elevation_032521
24_la_fourche_outbuilding_#3_south_elevation_032521
25_la_fourche_outbuilding_#3_east_elevation_032521
26_la_fourche_outbuilding_#3_west_elevation_032521

Additional documents included:
Figure 1. La Fourche, west elevation, ca. 1860.
Figure 2. La Fourche, south elevation, ca. 1860.
Figure 3. La Fourche, south elevation, ca. 1890.
Figure 4. La Fourche, west elevation, ca. 1920-1925.
Figure 5. La Fourche, west elevation, ca. 1935.
Figure 6. La Fourche, north-west view, ca. 1935.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.
3555 Keswick Road

*First Floor*

- **Living Room**: 19'4" x 19'3"
- **Entrance Hall**: 19'4" x 11'3"
- **Library / Media Room**: 19'4" x 15'4"
- **Dining Room**: 21'2" x 15'4"
- **Screened Porch**: 22' x 8'
- **Breakfast Nook**: 9'5" x 19'6"
- **Tavern Living Room**: 12'8" x 15'6"
- **Front Porch**: 10' x 45'