

VLR-6/15/94 NRHP-8/16/94

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Springfield
other names/site number DHR File No. 42-428

2. Location

street & numbers side SR 631, .4 mi. SW of jct. w SR 671 not for publication N/A
city or town Coatesville vicinity X
state Virginia code VA county Hanover code 085 zip code 23015

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Way C. Miller
Signature of certifying official Date 6/24/94

Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I, hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register
 - removed from the National Register
 - other (explain):

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows include counts for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and a Total row.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling
Secondary structure
LANDSCAPE Garden

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling
Secondary structure
LANDSCAPE Garden

7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
roof STONE: Slate
other BRICK; WOOD

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1820

Significant Dates 1820

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

=====
 10. Geographical Data
 =====
Acreage of Property 25 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	270060	4194210	2	18	270320 4194120
3	18	270150	4193680	4	18	269910 4193760

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

 =====
 11. Form Prepared By
 =====

name/title Nancy C. Wood
 organization Mary Washington College date December 12, 1992
 street & number P. O. Box 122 telephone 804-448-3443
 city or town Doswell state VA zip code 23047

 =====
 Additional Documentation
 =====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

 =====
 Property Owner
 =====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Robert G. Smith
 street & number Route 2, Springfield telephone 804-449-6525
 city or town Beaverdam state VA zip code 23015

 =====
 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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Springfield
Hanover County, Virginia

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Springfield is a 426-acre farm located in rural western Hanover County, Virginia, at the center of which is a dwelling and six dependencies surrounded by open fields comprising approximately twenty-five acres. The house is a 48'x 20', brick, two-story, Federal-style residence with a central passage-single pile plan. It is situated on an English basement with two interior end chimneys, a gable roof, and a frame gable-roofed porch. Additions made during the 1970s include a one-room, one-story, brick wing added to the east gable end of the original house and a rear shed addition that contains two rooms and an enclosed porch. Adjacent to the house are six outbuildings. Contributing resources include a kitchen and meat house dating to approximately the same period as the residence. The remaining four outbuildings are noncontributing and include a twentieth-century guest house, well house, schoolhouse, and corncrib. A circular garden of English boxwood, traditionally said to have been planted by the first owner of Springfield, is located on the north side of the main house. The house was completely renovated and enlarged in the mid-1970s. Care was taken to preserve original brickwork, roof framing, interior floors, and woodwork. Springfield is a fine example of an early-nineteenth-century farm that has been continuously occupied since its construction. The property is well maintained by the current owners.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The house at Springfield is a two-story, five-bay, Federal-style, brick residence with an English basement and a gable roof. The brickwork in the 48'x 20' structure is laid in five-course American bond on all elevations. There is no water table or belt course. Replacement brick in common bond is evident in the west gable end for five courses above the ground level. The two interior end chimneys also exhibit running bond brick above the ridge line. Repairs to both the west gable foundation and the chimney stacks were part of the 1970s renovation.

The windows at the foundation level contain glazed three-over-three double-hung sash. The windows at the first- and second-story levels contain glazed six-over-six double-hung sash. Two-piece wooden architraves and wooden sills frame all windows and doors. While window sashes were replaced in the 1970s, architraves and sills are original. Pairs of hinged, adjustable-louvered shutters are present at the windows of the primary elevation. The central bay contains a modern six-panel door added in the 1970s. The Greek Revival door surround includes a five-light transom and five-light sidelights above a single recessed-panel dado.

There is a plain boxed cornice at the eaves and wooden rake boards with wooden louvered vents flanking the chimney stack at both gable ends of the house. All woodwork at the eaves and raking cornice was replaced in the 1970s. The common rafter framing of the gable roof is original, while the exterior slate shingles were added in the 1970s.

The frame gabled entry porch on the principal or north elevation replaced an earlier porch during the 1970s renovation. Six brick steps lead up to and support the front of the wooden porch floor. Two pairs of square wooden posts support the front end of the gable roof. The gable itself is wood-paneled with a louvered vent in the apex.

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Section 7 Page 2

Springfield
Hanover County, Virginia

Two additions to the house date to the 1970s. The first is a one-story, one-room wing added to the east gable end of the original structure. The second is a one-story shed-roofed rear addition that replaced a late-nineteenth-century frame addition. The eastern half of the addition is frame constructed, sheathed with weatherboards, and has three sliding casement windows. It also features a double-door entry with large single glazed panels and a door surround with glazed sidelights and transom. Eight wooden steps including wooden balustrades lead to the entry door on the first floor. The materials and construction of both additions complement the original house.

The house has a central passage-single pile plan. The basement walls and ceilings are covered with plaster and the floors with flagstone. The stairs in the central passage are pine with a pine balastrade and newel post. The pine handrail is original; however, the remainder of the stair components are replacements. All basement wall finishes, doors, door surrounds, and floors are additions or replacements that date from the 1970s renovation.

The room on the east side of the passage is currently the dining room. Built-in pine cupboards with raised-panel and glazed doors on either side of the interior end chimney suggest that the room originally may have been used as a dining room. The room on the west side of the passage is an informal living area. Exposed beams in the basement ceiling exhibit lathing nail holes indicating the ceiling was once plastered and the basement served as finished living space. Both fireplaces and mantels in the basement are 1970s replacements.

The first floor, which includes the parlor, central passage, and bed-chamber, features woodwork from the Greek Revival period. The baseboard is plain and approximately six inches wide. Architraves around the doors are also plain including the corner blocks. The apron under each window sill exhibits a horizontal fillet of one-half inch in width. The chair rail, beaded on both edges, is a 1970s addition. The walls are plastered and the floors are random-width pine. The original doors are six-panel and retain much of their original hardware. The staircase in the central passage has a paneled spandrel, plain newel, square balusters, and walnut handrail. The staircase is a geometrical stair; it has no newels at the turning points. The parlor mantelpiece, originally located in the second-story room above, is in the Federal style with reeded pilasters, reeded central frieze panel, and a molded shelf. The chamber mantelpiece is very similar to the one just described; however, its pilasters are fluted and there is a horizontally reeded ovolo at the base of the molded shelf. The chamber mantelpiece too was moved from the second-story room immediately above.

The second floor of the original structure consists of a central passage, two bed chambers, and a bath. Floors, walls, and doors duplicate those on the first floor. The door and window architraves are two-piece and are of the style seen in Georgian and early Federal houses. The mantelpieces, originally in their respective rooms directly below on the first floor, are very simple. Greek-Revival in style, they have no carving on the pilasters or the frieze.

On the north side of the house is an English boxwood circle sixty-six feet in diameter. The plants themselves are fourteen feet wide and seven feet tall. Their size suggests that the garden dates from approximately the same period as the main house.

Two outbuildings are contributing resources and appear to date from the period of the main house. The kitchen, built on a low brick foundation, is a 40' x 16', one-story, four-

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Section 7 Page 3

Springfield
Hanover County, Virginia

bay, frame structure sheathed with weatherboards and has a gable roof and a stone and brick central chimney. A shed is also attached to the south side of the building. Both the shed roof and the gable roof of the kitchen are covered with standing-seam metal. There is a plain box cornice at the eaves. The north elevation of the kitchen contains four bays: two doors and two square window openings without sashes. A square window opening is located in the gable of both the east and west elevations. The south elevation contains one door at the east end of the building and one at the east end of the shed addition. The kitchen has a linear plan with one room on either side of the central chimney. There are large fireplace openings on both sides of the chimney that would have been used for cooking. Two smaller fireplaces are located at the upper level of the chimney, suggesting there may have been two rooms in the loft as well; however, the interior walls, ceilings, and floors no longer exist. The building is in very poor condition.

At a right angle to the kitchen is the meat house. This building is a 16' x 14', one-story, one-bay, frame structure on a brick foundation. The walls are sheathed with weatherboards and the gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal. There is a single door constructed of vertical boards, a box cornice at the eaves, and rake boards on both gable ends. A large rim lock is present on the interior of the door that appears to be original. The meat house is in stable condition.

Four noncontributing, twentieth-century outbuildings are also present at Springfield. The guest house is a one story, frame, 32'x24' structure built in the 1980s on an earlier foundation. The one-story, 18'x24', frame schoolhouse adjacent to the meat house was built around 1900, moved to Springfield from another site in the 1940s, and is currently in a state of collapse. The corncrib, a 8'x10' structure with a standing-seam metal gable roof dates from the first half of the twentieth century. The well house is a 5'x5' frame building with a metal gable roof dating from the same period as the corncrib. Both the corncrib and the well house are in stable condition.

The current owner has taken care to restore the house while preserving as much historic integrity as possible. The outbuildings are scheduled for restoration in the near future.

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Section 8 Page 4

Springfield
Hanover County, Virginia

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Springfield is historically significant as a well-preserved example of a Federal-style dwelling and, along with its rare surviving outbuildings, is typical of larger family farms in the rural Virginia Piedmont during the first half of the nineteenth century. Continuously occupied since its construction in 1820, Springfield has retained much of its historical integrity, is well maintained, and continues to operate as a working farm in western Hanover County. Springfield is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C for significance in the area of architecture.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Hanover County is divided by the Fall Line into two distinct topographical areas. The western portion, where Springfield is located, consists of rolling lands with some steep slopes along waterways. With settlement beginning in the late seventeenth century, the rural agricultural nature of the area created a landscape of dispersed farms separated by cultivated fields and woodlands, much of which remains today (Land and Community Associates, 97-98).

According to Hanover County tax records, the house at Springfield was completed in 1820 as a residence for Lucy Grymes Nelson. Mrs. Nelson was the widow of Thomas Nelson, who was a general in the Revolutionary War, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and following independence, the fourth governor of Virginia. The social prominence of Mrs. Nelson assured Springfield a position of local importance in western Hanover County early in its history. According to the 1820 census, Mrs. Nelson was the head of the household and resided at Springfield with four other adults and thirty-seven slaves--eighteen male and nineteen female. Fifteen members of the household were listed as being involved in agriculture. After Lucy Nelson's death in 1830, the property passed to her daughter Judith, who in turn was in residence until her death in 1846 (Hanover County Land Tax Book 1820, 1846; Hanover County Historical Society, 149; Hanover County Census 1820, 1830; St. Martin's Parish Records 1830).

In 1849 Mary Fulcher purchased Springfield and the property remained in the Fulcher family until 1896 when it was purchased by a Scottish immigrant, Mathew Wilkie. The Wilkie family retained ownership until 1964 when it was purchased by the current owner, Mr. Robert G. Smith. Records indicate that Springfield has been an owner-occupied, working farm throughout its history (Hanover County Land Tax Books, 1847-1869; Hanover County Deed Book 235, 533; Deed Book 33, 144; Will Book 4, 544; Deed Book 3, 345; Hanover County Historical Society, 150).

Since little has changed in the original portion of the house at Springfield, the integrity of design and workmanship characteristic of western Hanover County during the first half of the nineteenth century is preserved. Late Federal-style brickwork, woodwork, and hardware reflect the craftsmanship and interpretation of current architectural styles by local artisans.

The one major change evident in the house is the replacement of original door and window surrounds and mantelpieces on the first floor with Greek Revival-style examples.

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Springfield
Hanover County, Virginia

Although the documentation dating this change has not been discovered, studies of local architecture reveal that the Greek Revival style began to influence residential architecture in Hanover County between 1840 and 1850. Changes in woodwork on the first floor at Springfield probably took place sometime during that period (Land and Community Associates, 35-38).

The contributing outbuildings--the kitchen and meat house--add to the significance of the property. With their integrity of design and location, these two outbuildings represent the activities of those living and working there during the early nineteenth century. Springfield is one of few houses in Hanover County dating to 1820 that retains outbuildings of the period (Land and Community Associates, 45). Completing the image at Springfield is the circular boxwood garden traditionally said to have been planted by Lucy Nelson, the first owner. This well-preserved garden depicts a style and type of planting typical of the early nineteenth century, few examples of which survive today. Springfield, with the historic integrity of its residence, outbuildings, and garden intact, remains an outstanding example of rural life in early-nineteenth-century Hanover County (Land and Community Associates, 17, 97, 99).

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Section 9 Page 6

Springfield
Hanover County, Virginia

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Primary sources

- Hanover County Census 1810, Virginia State Library.
- Hanover County Census 1820, Virginia State Library.
- Hanover County census 1830, Virginia State Library.
- Hanover County Deed Book 24, 50.
- Hanover County Deed Book 28, 154.
- Hanover County Deed Book 33, 144.
- Hanover County Deed Book 54, 491.
- Hanover County Deed Book 235, 533.
- Hanover County Land Tax Book, St.Martin's Parish,
1802-1817, Virginia State Library. Hanover County Land Tax Book, St.Martin's Parish,
1818-1829, Virginia State Library.
- Hanover County Land Tax Book, St.Martin's Parish,
1830-1837, Virginia State Library.
- Hanover County Land Tax Book, St. Martin's Parish,
1838-1847, Virginia State Library.
- Hanover County Land Tax Book, St. Martin's Parish,
1847-1852, Virginia State Library.
- Hanover County Land Tax Book, Beaverdam District,
1853-1857, Virginia State Library.
- Hanover County Land Tax Books, Beaverdam District
1858-1880, Hanover Court House.
- Hanover County Will Book 4, 257.
- Hanover County Will Book 4, 544.
- St.Martin's Parish Register, 1825-1876, Virginia State Library.
- Wilkie, Mary C., personal letters and diary, collection of Mrs. Robert G. Smith

Secondary Sources

- Hanover County Historical Society. Old Homes of Hanover County Virginia.
Hanover: Hanover County Historical Society, 1983.
- Land and Community Associates. Survey of Historic Resources Hanover County,
Virginia. Hanover County: Hanover County Planning Department, 1992.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 7

**Springfield
Hanover County, Virginia**

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by a polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference points beginning with the northwest corner and proceeding in clockwise direction: A 18 270 80 E, 18 4194 200 N; B 18 270 320 E, 4194 140 N; C 18 270 160 E, 18 4193 700 N; D 18 269 920 E, 18 4193 760 N.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of Springfield includes the house, outbuildings, and approximately twenty-five acres of surrounding open fields bordered by forest. The described area has historically been part of Springfield and currently maintains the historic integrity of its setting.

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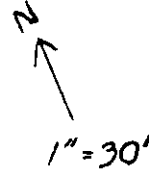
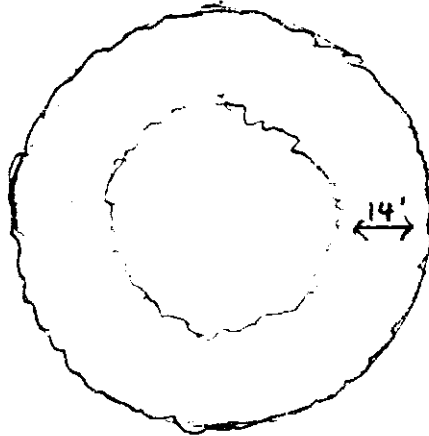
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Section Sketch Map Page 9

Springfield
Hanover County, Virginia

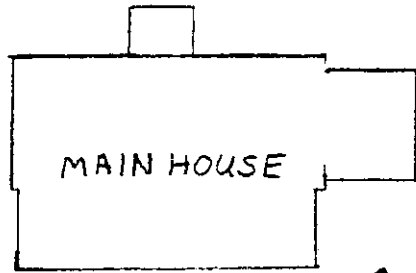
SOIL AND GRAVEL DRIVE → TO 631

GARDEN



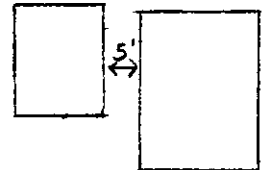
10' ↓

← 68' ± →



← 66' ± →

MEAT HOUSE



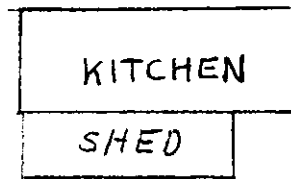
64' ±

SCHOOL
(N/C)

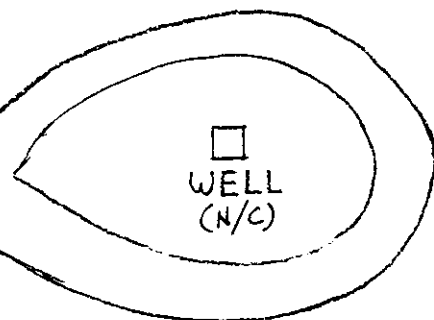
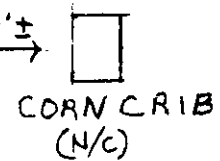
GUEST HOUSE (N/C)



← 67' ± →



← 25' ± →



3-26-92

5459 / NW
(BEAVERDAM)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

77°37'30" 270000m.E. MATERVILLE VA 272 35' 273
37°52'30" 4194000m.N.

Springfield
HANOVER COUNTY, VA

UTM
COORDINATES

- A 18/270060/4194210
- B 18/270320/4194120
- C 18/270150/4193680
- D 18/269910/4193760

