

VLR-6/20/89 NRHP-11/13/89

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See Instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation Sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lawrence, Frank House  
other names/site number 60-3

2. Location on south side of VA Route 612, 1/5 mile east of junction of  
street & number VA Rouses 612 and 614 N/A  not for publication  
city, town Basham  vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 zip code 24138

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Prehistoric and Historic Resources of Montgomery County  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
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.

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

5. 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 the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: early 20th-century mail order house

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls wood: weatherboardroof metal: tin

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The two-story frame house is located on the south side of VA Rt. 612 in the vicinity of Basham and Pilot in the southern part of Montgomery County. The house with its foursquare floor plan is very well preserved and retains most of its original features. It has a five-bay, wraparound porch with Doric columns and square balusters. The poured-in-place foundation is scored to resemble ashlar masonry. Two brick chimneys rise above the peak of a pyramidal roof that features two side dormers and two projecting gabled-roofed bays. The roof is covered with its original pressed metal shingles. One of the two-story bays opens off the dining room and the chamber above; the other two-story bay acts as a stair tower. The house is covered with weatherboards with frieze boards marking the second floor and attic floor. The weatherboards are mitered at all the forty-five-degree angled corners. The windows are one-over-one sash and there is stained glass in various first- and second-floor windows and dormers. Oval glass doors lead from the porch into both the entry hall and the dining room. To the rear of the house is a two-story, two-level porch supported by square posts on scored concrete piers, and the porch is screened with lattice.

The main stair is paneled and is equipped with square balusters and a square newel topped by a brass lamp. The mantel in the parlor is of oak with a mirrored overmantel, full height pilasters, tile surround, and a bronze-finish summer piece. The swinging door leading into the pantry from the dining room was removed as was the wall between the pantry and the kitchen. A built-in press with egg-and-dart molding remains in the pantry location. The house was originally lit with carbide gas.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

ca. 1918  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Frank Lawrence House is significant under criterion C as an important and well-preserved dwelling representing the popularity of mail-order houses in the early to mid-twentieth century. It was the only catalog house identified in the 1986 Montgomery County Reconnaissance Survey, although several others were believed to be mail-order dwellings.

The current owner, Wade Eanes, states that the house was built around 1918 by Frank Lawrence of Christiansburg who used a Sears and Roebuck Company plan. Most elements of the house (such as poplar weatherboarding) were shipped by railroad. Lawrence built the house at his wife's request and he only lived in it part-time. Robert Eanes, the present owner's father, acquired the house in 1950.

The Sears and Roebuck Company catalogs describe the house as a "large modern residence with a large front porch with Colonial columns. We have no doubt about pleasing the most critical with this large modern residence; it can save the builder a considerable amount of money." Details and features are listed as "wraparound porch with wood columns; bay window in dining room; front door with oval window; colonnaded opening between hall and living room; built-in bookcases with leaded glass doors in living room; china closet in dining room; and semi-open stairs." The colonnaded opening and built-in bookcases were not included in the design at the Lawrence House. The house was offered to customers from 1911 to 1917. In 1917 it was identified as plan C215 and was priced at \$1,561. The house is reversed in plan from the one in the catalogs (Stevenson p. 276).

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Eanes, Wade. Interview, October 1987.

Stevenson, Katherine Cole. Houses by Mail. Washington, D.C.: National Trust, 1986.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of property less than one acre.

UTM References

A 17 560630 41100680  
 Zone Easting Northing

C         

B           
 Zone Easting Northing

D         

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at point A on the south side of VA Route 612 1/5 mile east of the intersection with VA Route 614, proceeding east 285 feet along the south side of VA Route 612 to point B, thence 363 feet south to point C, thence 285 feet west to point D, thence 363 feet north to the point of origin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were chosen to include the house and its immediate domestic-related area.

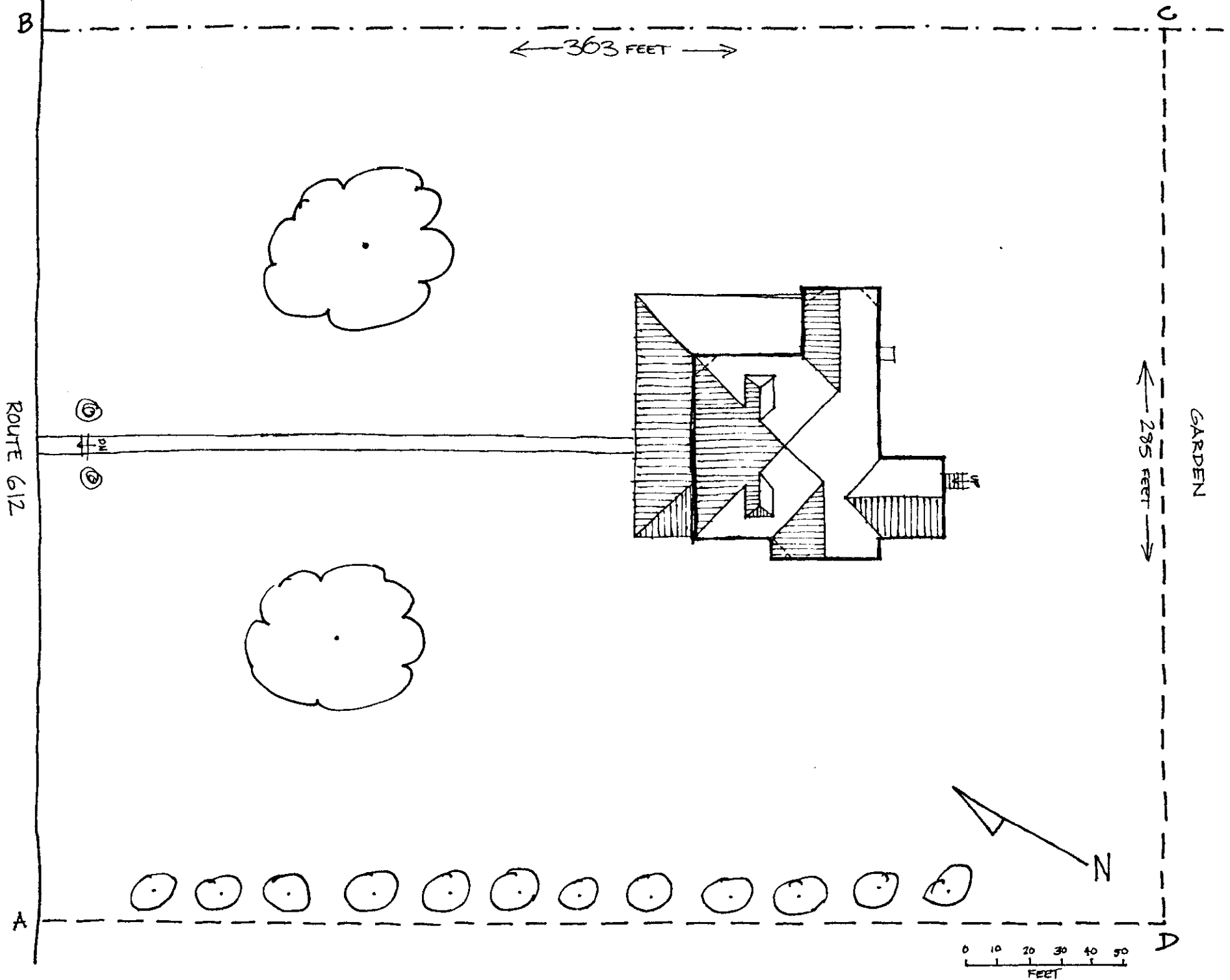
See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Gibson Worsham date June 1988  
 organization Gibson Worsham, Architect telephone (703) 552-4730  
 street & number Route 2, Yellow Sulphur Springs state Virginia zip code 24073  
 city or town Christiansburg

60-3 FRANK LAWRENCE HOUSE

G. WORSHAM  
K. MARTIN 10/87





403  
401  
400  
2'30"  
409

ASSE IN SW  
(FRANER)  
CHRISTIANBURG 6 MI.

GUERRANT HOUSE  
17 557020 4100820

FRANK LAWRENCE  
HOUSE  
17 560620 4100650

PILOT  
QUAD