

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Listed On:
VLR 04/17/1991
NRHP 07/03/1991

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 Kentland Farm Historic and Archaeological District
other names/site number VDHR Site No. 60-202

2. Location

street & number [REDACTED] N/A not for publication
city, town Blacksburg vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 zip code 24060

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>23</u>	<u>7</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Prehistoric and Historic Resources of Montgomery County, Virginia
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: [Signature] Date: April 29 1991
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

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

DOMESTIC: other: camp or village site

(see continuation sheet)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

EDUCATION: research facility

(see continuation sheet)

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls BRICK

roof METAL

other (see continuation sheet)

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See continuation sheets

See continuation sheet

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

ARCHEOLOGY: PREHISTORIC

AGRICULTURE

ARCHEOLOGY: HISTORIC - NON-ABORIGINAL

EXPLORATION / SETTLEMENT

INDUSTRY

TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

800 A.D. - 1940 A.D.

Significant Dates

1745

1834-35

Cultural Affiliation

LATE WOODLAND

BLACK

Significant Person

Harmon, Adam (ca.1700-ca.1765)

Kent, James Randal (1792-1867)

Cowan, John Thomas (1840-1929)

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

See continuation sheets

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property 350 acres

UTM References

A [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
 Zone Easting Northing

C [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

B [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
 Zone Easting Northing

D [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Kentland Farm Historic and Archaeological District are drawn so as to include the core area of the nineteenth-century farm as well as significant prehistoric sites [redacted]

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By Dr. John R. Kern, Director, & Daniel Pezzoni, Arch'l Hist'n, RRPO/VDHR;

name/title Dr. C. Clifford Boyd; Asst Prof of Anthropology, Radford University;

organization Dr. E. Randolph Turner, Archaeologist, VDHR date December 11, 1990

street & number 1030 Penmar Avenue, SE telephone (703) 857-7585

city or town Roanoke state Virginia zip code 24013

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7. DESCRIPTION

MATERIALS

other: WOOD: Weatherboard
: Shake
: Plywood / particle board
: other: Vertical board
: other: Board-and-batten
STONE: Granite
: Sandstone
: Marble
METAL: Steel
ASPHALT
CONCRETE

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Kentland Farm Historic and Archaeological District constitutes the core area of an extensive nineteenth-century holding [REDACTED]. The topography of the 350-acre district varies, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. The principal historic resource in the district is Kentland, an 1834-35 brick I house with sophisticated Federal and Greek Revival detailing. Associated with the main house are a hexagonal brick meat house, an altered antebellum frame dwelling, and a farm building complex including a large mid-nineteenth-century frame barn and a mid-nineteenth-century corncrib. Other historic resources in the district include a nineteenth-century mill, the Kent-Cowan cemetery, a turn-of-the-century building that may have functioned as a store, and a section of Norfolk Southern track, originally the Virginian Railroad line.

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ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

This list is keyed to the sketch map. Cross-referencing by archaeological site number is provided below for each architectural resource which is also described in the Archaeological Resource Inventory.

- A. DOMESTIC COMPLEX (44MY260)
- A1. Kentland. Mid-1830s. Two-story, five-bay, Flemish-bond brick I house with central-passage plan, extended two-story ell, stone foundation, metal-sheathed gable roof, sophisticated Federal- and Greek Revival-style exterior and interior detailing, adjacent brick cistern. Contributing building.
- A2. Meat house. Antebellum. Two-level, hexagonal Flemish-bond brick building with wood-shingled pyramidal roof. Contributing building.
- A3. Garage. 1930s. One-story, board-and-batten frame building with metal-sheathed gable roof. Contributing building.
- A4. Kitchen foundation. Antebellum. Brick, 20th c. concrete floor. Contributing site.
- A5. Foundation. 19th c. Pentagonal concrete-capped stone foundation filled with sand and brick. Contributing site.
- B. AGRICULTURAL COMPLEX
- B1. Barn. Mid-19th c. Two-level, board-and-batten, mortise-and-tenon frame barn with central drive-through, open hay mows, perimeter shed, metal-sheathed hipped roof, cisterns at SE and NW corners. Contributing building.
- B2. Corncrib. Mid-19th c. One-level, slatted, mortise-and-tenon frame crib with drive-through, shed addition, metal-sheathed gable roof. Contributing building.

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- B3. Granary. 1930s. One-story, board-and-batten frame building, metal-sheathed gable roof, concrete foundation. Contributing building.
- B4. Workshop. 1930s. One-story, board-and-batten frame building, metal-sheathed gable roof. Privy behind. Contributing building.
- B5. Machinery shed. Mid-20th c. Pole structure. Noncontributing structure.
- B6. Silos. Second half of 20th c. Two Read cylindrical steel silos. Noncontributing structures.
- B7. Pump house. Mid-20th c. Concrete block. Noncontributing structure.
- C. MISCELLANEOUS RESOURCES
- C1. House. Antebellum. Altered one-story, asphalt-sided, mortise-and-tenon frame house, metal-sheathed gable roof. Contributing building.
- C2. Kent-Cowan Mill. 19th c. One-story, weatherboarded, frame mill, metal-sheathed gable roof, stone foundation piers, hewn husk frame. Contributing building.
- C3. Kent-Cowan Cemetery. Mid-19th - early 20th c. Stone-walled family plot with marble markers. Contributing site. 44MY261.
- C4. Building. Ca. 1900. One-story, vertical-board-sided frame building with metal-sheathed gable roof, front porch, side wings, small frame outbuilding. Noncontributing building.
- C5. Dairy barn. Ca. 1960. Two-level, vertical-board-sided frame barn with metal-sheathed gambrel roof, concrete foundation, concrete-block silo. Noncontributing building.
- C6. Ford Meadow fieldstone pile. River cobbles. Contributing structure.

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- C7. Ford Meadow drainage ditch. Contributing site. 44MY435.
- C8. Harmon's Ford. Contributing site. 44MY262.
- C9. Approach drive and ford. Contributing site.
44MY434.
- C10. Norfolk Southern tracks. 20th c. Originally Virginian
line (1907), elevated bed, concrete culverts. Noncon-
tributing structure.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

DOMESTIC COMPLEX

Main House: Exterior

The southeastward-facing main house known as Kentland dates to 1834-35 and is a two-story, five-bay brick dwelling with a central-passage plan. Projecting to the rear is a two-story integral ell that was extended with a two-story addition at an early date. Projecting from the west gable end is a small, late-nineteenth-century, one-story brick addition with an enclosed, novelty-sided porch on the north side. Antebellum, one-story, shed-roofed porches formerly extended across the back of the house and along the west and part of the east sides of the ell. The brickwork of the house and the additions is laid in Flemish bond with pencilled mortar joints. The cornice of the house and ell is formed of corbelled and houndstooth-coursed bricks. Exterior chimneys (with rebuilt caps) rise on the east and west gable ends. The east chimney projects further from the gable end than the west chimney. The west chimney has only one shoulder at the attic level. Interior chimneys rise on the original and extended gable ends of the ell. The brick walls rest on a coursed rubble foundation incorporating many large and close-fitting limestone blocks and occasional sandstone blocks.

The dominant feature of the front elevation is the main entry, which has a six-panel door and a four-pane transom. The door and transom are divided by a guilloche molding. Formerly the entry was flanked by two engaged wooden columns that are now in storage elsewhere on the property. Still in place are the unusual column capitals which have delicate frond-like carvings in the bell and ringed, cylindrical extensions below a projecting entablature. At the foot of the entry is a limestone stoop and steps. The steps flare outward and were formerly provided with simple iron handrails. The first-story windows of the original sections of the house and ell are six-over-nine sash; the second-story windows and the windows of the additions are six-over-six sash. Most of the window sash in the house date to mid-twentieth-century remodeling; the window frames, however, are old. Over the first-story windows are jack arches of gauged brick; over the second-story windows are header-course lintels. The windows have molded surrounds and stone sills. The windows of the house and ell were formerly fitted with louvered wooden shutters that

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survive only on one front window. These shutters, which are probably original to the house, form a six-panel configuration when closed.

The extension of the ell is slightly lower than the original section, and the step in the roof line permitted the insertion of a transom-like window of eight panes running parallel with the rakeboard in the gable of the original ell. On the east side of the ell extension is a small four-pane window that lights an interior passage. A pair of small four-pane windows also appears in each gable of the main house block. The foundation walls above grade are interrupted by boarded-up windows or vents (one or more of which have iron lintels) and basement entries with stone steps are located on the east gable end and on the west side of the original section of the ell.

The original function of the one-story addition on the west gable end of the house is unclear. During the 1910s it served as a kitchen. Cornice returns, novelty siding in the gable, and an enclosed porch on the north side are features which suggest a late-nineteenth- or early-twentieth-century date of construction. The Flemish-bond brickwork of the addition is in keeping with the brickwork of the main house, although its execution is not as refined. On the south side of this addition is a pair of high kitchen windows that appears to have been added or reworked at some point. Next to the gable end of the addition is a concrete platform that encloses the circular upper section of a nineteenth-century brick cistern.

The porches that formerly extended across the rear of the house and the sides of the ell were probably added in the antebellum period, possibly in conjunction with the extension of the ell. These shed-roofed porches had plaster ceilings and square wood columns connected by balustrades. Brick piers from the foundation of the porch on the back of the house are encased in an early-twentieth-century poured concrete porch foundation. The concrete foundation extends along the east side of the ell, although at the end of the ell the foundation walls were never capped with a floor slab and instead the foundation was made into a flower bed. Limestone steps survive at what would have been the north end of the porch on the west side of the ell.

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Main House: Interior: First Floor

The interior of Kentland is richly detailed in the Federal and Greek Revival styles. The main entry opens into a central passage featuring a three-run stair. The stair has a ramped handrail supported by turned balusters which terminates on the first floor in a spiral supported by balusters and a slender central newel post. The two suspended top runs of the stair meet at a newel post with a turned drop. Under the first run is a closet with a four-panel door. At the ends of the treads are decorative scrolls above a stringer molding. A handrail rises with the stair on the wall surface and forms the sill of a window on the first landing. This handrail has a semi-circular cross section. Six-panel doors lead from the hall into the two front and all downstairs rooms and to the outside at the rear. The central passage shares with the other rooms of the house wood floors, molded chair rails, and beaded baseboards. Most of the central passage is walled in modern plasterboard over the original plaster-and-lath finish. Plaster-and-lath wall and ceiling finishes still characterize the other rooms of the house.

The room on the east side of the central passage served as a living room during the early twentieth century, probably its original function. The mantel in this room has a tripartite frieze supported by fluted consoles with water leaf carvings. The central tablet of the frieze is embellished by a representation of an eagle executed in flowing bas relief lines that probably consist of a molded paste. The projections at each end of the frieze are embellished by urns in half relief. In the recessed areas of the frieze are bas relief swags representing ribbons tied in bows. The frieze is bordered by reeded bands, the upper one combined with a pearl molding and forming a base for the multiple moldings of the projecting mantel shelf. The fireplace has a fluted stone surround with bull's-eye corner blocks. The hearth is also stone.

The room on the west side of the central passage served as the dining room during the early twentieth century. The mantel in this room, like the one in the parlor, has an elaborate tripartite design, although it differs from the other in the detailing of its components. The central tablet of the frieze is embellished by a covered urn motif. The projections at each end of the frieze have inset panels bordered by a band of carved beads. These projections are supported by pairs of fluted colonnettes

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with turned tops and bases. The recesses between the projections in the frieze are blank. Running at the lower edge of the frieze is a band of intricate diamond-point carving; above the frieze more conventional moldings support the mantel shelf. This room, like the other rooms of the original section of the house, has a molded chair rail with a beaded lower edge, but the original baseboard has been replaced by a turn-of-the-century baseboard with a cyma molding, and the four-panel door to the one-story west gable end addition also appears to be of turn-of-the-century date. A curious feature of the room is a chest-height cabinet door visible in the turn-of-the-century addition and which formerly communicated with the room but is now walled over. This door may have been used to transfer food to the room from the outdoors (before the west gable end addition was made); the kitchen that formerly stood in the west side yard would have been directly beyond it.

The fourth first-floor space in the original section of the house is the room in the ell that served as a sitting room in the early twentieth century. This room projects several feet into the mass of the main house block, enabling it to be entered through the door at the back of the central passage. The tripartite mantel in this room is less ornate than the other downstairs mantels but it combines elements from both. The central tablet and flanking recesses in the frieze are blank, but the inset panels in the projections at the ends have diamond-point carving like that appearing on the mantel in the west room. Also like the west room mantel, this mantel has paired fluted colonnettes, although they lack the turned tops and bases. Running along the bottom of the frieze is a ripple-like molding identical to that at the bottom of the frieze in the east room mantel. In the southeast corner of this ell room rises a two-run secondary stair with simple balusters and turned newel posts and newel post drops. Short two-panel double doors under the lower run provide access to the basement stairs. In addition to access from the central passage, west room, and added ell room, this room has exterior entries on the east side of the ell and on the west gable end of the main house block (opening into what is now the enclosed porch). The two exterior doors and the location of this room in the ell suggest that it may originally have served as a dining room. A bathroom was inserted into this room during the early 1970s. According to Cowan family tradition, walls in the principal rooms of the house were covered with wallpaper during the nineteenth century, but whether this wallpaper was original

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to the house is unknown. During the early twentieth century the mantels in the house were painted white. Brass or metal-finish drapery valances were formerly mounted above the windows in the downstairs, and the main rooms were richly appointed with furnishings from outside the area.³

On the first floor of the ell extension is a room that was John T. Cowan's bedroom during the early twentieth century. The mantel in this room has a plain frieze supported by paired fluted colonnettes with smooth bell capitals, molded bases, and subtle entasis. Unlike the slightly earlier colonnetted mantels in the original section of the house, this mantel has an academic fidelity that is more akin to the Greek Revival style. Flanking the mantel are modern closets. Between this room and the room in the original section of the ell is a narrow passage that formerly contained a third stair. This room may have had a west side exterior door that was converted to a window, probably during the early twentieth century. The stair was removed during the early 1970s and replaced by bathrooms on both floors.⁴ In this passage is a modern closet with an old six-panel door.

The nineteenth-century one-story addition on the west gable end of the main house contains a single room that is now used as a kitchen, its function since the early twentieth century. The room has a gable-pitched plasterboard ceiling with old rafters applied decoratively. The rafters are lapped and pegged at the ridge and have Roman numeral builder's marks. They may have come from the roof of the kitchen that formerly stood nearby.

Main House: Interior: Second Floor, Attic, and Basement

The upstairs central passage is largely taken up by a small room now converted into a bathroom. This room is apparently original, as indicated by its molded chair rail, identical to others in the house. The three second-floor rooms in the original section of the house and ell have virtually identical mantels with tripartite friezes. The sole variable in these mantels is the detailing of the small inset panels in the projections at the ends of the friezes: in the east bedroom mantel these panels have a curved, ripple-like surface; in the ell bedroom the panels have a straight, louver-like surface; in the west bedroom the panels are blank. In the east and west front bedrooms are beaded picture rails; in the west front bedroom are single-panel presses

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flanking the fireplace. The secondary stair of the downstairs rises into the room in the original section of the ell and has an early (though not original) enclosure with a six-panel door. Above this stair is another stair that rises to the attic. This attic stair has detailing similar to the stair underneath and has an upper enclosed portion with a six-panel door. In the addition to the ell is a bedroom with a relatively plain mantel consisting of a frieze with end projections but no central tablet and a fireplace architrave with turned corner blocks. This fireplace, like most of the others in the upstairs, retains its brick hearth and surround. Both second-floor rooms in the ell have curious embrasures in the walls suggestive of former windows and now used for shelves. In the passage between the ell addition bedroom and the original section of the ell is a modern bathroom and an early press with beadflush panels and a beaded board backing.

A common rafter roof is revealed in the attic of the house. The straight-sawn rafters are slightly irregular in size and are tapered from the eaves to the ridge and lapped and pegged at the ridge. The rafters are numbered one (I) through thirty-seven (XXXVII) from east to west. At the juncture of the ell roof with the main roof, 6" x 10" valley rafters are joined at the ridge by a through brace secured by wedges. Paired rafters rise to the juncture of the main house and ell roof ridges on the south-facing slope of the main house roof. In both the original and ell extension roofs are straight-sawn roof boards. Straight-sawn vertical-board partitions divide the main house attic in two and divide the main house attic from the ell attic. The partition between the house and ell attics has beaded boards and a beaded door surround. The presence of partitions suggests that the attic was used for activities other than or in addition to storage. Another feature that suggests some sort of work took place in the attic is located near the east gable in a well-lit area of the space. Spiked to the facing sides of two rafters are tapered blocks of wood that may have received some large vertical object wedged between them for stability, perhaps the upright post of a loom.

The basement under the main house block is divided into three rooms by brick partitions; a stone wall divides the main basement from a single basement room under the original section of the ell. In the ceiling are the whitewashed straight-sawn joists of the first floor. Floors throughout the basement are paved in brick and the west main basement room has a brick-lined drain.

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In the ell and east main basement rooms are fireplaces with segmental stone arches over the openings. In the brick wall between the west and center main basement rooms is an opening with a beaded surround and horizontal bars. Woven between the bars are pliable oak splints forming a screen that may have served to discourage rodents from entering a food storage area. In the east main basement room is a beaded batten door that may once have belonged to either of the two bulkhead entries to the basement. Although the basement was probably used for many activities during the nineteenth century, it received little active use during the early twentieth century. During that period the two basement fireplaces were used primarily in the winter to keep the house warm. Under the ell extension and the addition on the west gable end are crawl spaces.

Yard and Domestic Outbuildings and Features

The main house is surrounded by a large rectangular yard defined by a modern wire fence. Several mature deciduous trees, including sycamores and a catalpa, stand at the borders of the yard, and two enormous white oaks flank the house at its front corners. The two oaks are asymmetrical with respect to the house and probably predate it. At the base of the east oak is a large burl that was referred to by the Cowan family as "Proposition Hump." The domestic outbuildings and features associated with the house are located in the west side yard. Directly to the southwest of the ell extension is a hexagonal Flemish-bond brick meat house that is probably contemporary with the house. The two-level meat house is capped by a deteriorated pyramidal roof sheathed in plain sawn wood shingles. Running at the base of the roof is a double houndstooth-course cornice. The walls are pierced by brick lattice vents, typically nine to a side, that create a decorative pattern of hexagons. Rising to waist level on the walls is cement rendering that was probably applied to protect the brick from the corrosive effect of salt. The low entrance to the meat house, which is on the side facing the west gable end of the main house, has a beaded surround and a limestone flag threshold. Inside the lower level has plastered walls. The second level has a floor supported by straight-sawn joists radiating outward from the lower end of a hexagonal king post that supports the roof. The brick walls of the meat house are in an advanced state of deterioration and the entire structure is in

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imminent danger of collapse. In the 1910s and 1920s, meat was generally smoked in the meathouse rather than salt-cured.

Between the meat house and the main house is the foundation of the former two-story brick kitchen. The kitchen had a decorative brick cornice, a large chimney on the north gable end, and a four-bay facade reflecting a two-room plan within. The north downstairs room was the kitchen, the south room was the laundry, and the upstairs rooms were weaving rooms. Later, during the mid-twentieth century, the north room was used as a laundry. The stairs to the second floor were in the south room. The kitchen was demolished about 1970 and the bricks were used in the construction of a one-story Ranch-style house located on Route 623 on the Virginia Tech property (outside the district). The foundation of the kitchen is visible as a twentieth-century concrete floor with two cuts at the north end that received the chimney breasts of the fireplace. Some brickwork is visible at grade.

To the south of the kitchen foundation is a pentagonal limestone rubble foundation capped with concrete. The foundation is filled with sand, old brick, and ash and adjoins a shallow rectangular depression in the yard. The northernmost of the domestic out-buildings is a one-bay, board-and-batten-sided, frame garage that probably dates to the 1930s. The garage has a standing-seam metal-sheathed gable roof and sits on a poured concrete foundation.

Former occupants of the house recall two one-story, two-room, brick slave houses that stood beyond the meat house and garage. These houses were deteriorated by the 1940s and were used for raising lambs. A recent occupant of the house reports that a square foundation outline is evident during dry summers in the yard between the ell and the garage.⁹ A historical photograph of the meat house also shows a brick well or cistern cap located between the meat house and the end of the ell that was fitted with a small slatted pump or winch housing. Cowan family tradition asserts that a brick office formerly stood off the front east corner of the main house that was destroyed during the Civil War (A depression may mark the site of this office.). Cowan family tradition also records the existence of a formal garden with gravel paths to the south of the house (presumably in the vicinity of the present garden area to the southwest of the

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house), and an ice house is said to have stood at the base of the bluff in front of the house.

AGRICULTURAL COMPLEX**Barn**

The principal building in the agricultural complex to the north of the main house is a large mid-nineteenth-century frame barn. In form the barn has two equal-sized structural units separated by a wide drive-through and surrounded by a perimeter shed. The gable roof is hipped over the perimeter shed and is sheathed in standing-seam metal. The perimeter shed is largely enclosed with circular-sawn board-and-batten siding that also sheaths the gables. The two structural units sit on crude limestone rubble foundations and are constructed of widely-spaced vertical posts that reach two stories in height. These principal support posts, which are hewn and have chamfered corners, are arranged in three sets of four posts each for a total of twelve posts per structural unit. The tops of the posts are connected along the periphery by plates and across the depth of the structural units by tie beams. The cage-like construction formed by the posts, plates, and tie beams supports an unusual roof structure that is different over the east and west structural units. Over the east unit, large diagonal members (like canted queen posts or the web members in a truss) stem from each tie beam to support butt purlins in the roof plane. Secondary struts branch off from each diagonal member as added support and lateral bracing for the purlins. Principal rafters rising from the intersection of the plates and tie beams pass between the purlins at the point where the purlins and diagonal members meet. Between the principal rafters are secondary rafters supported by the purlins. In the roof plane are struts that stem from the principal rafters to support the purlins. Much circular-sawn lumber has been used in the construction of the diagonal members, struts, purlins, and rafters, suggesting that they have been modified through the years. The roof over the west structural unit is similar to that over the east unit but it differs in some important respects. Spanning between the tie beams at the base of the diagonal members are secondary tie beams that are laid at an angle so that an edge rather than a side faces upward and staggered so that the ends of the beams overlap. The secondary struts that support the purlins stem from the secondary tie beams, rather than from the

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diagonal members. Most of the lumber used in the construction of the roof of the west structural unit is hewn and left rough or planed down, suggesting that the roof is unaltered. Running the full length of the entire roof at the ridge is an iron track for a hay fork.

Each structural unit has lower-level horse stalls that are sided with straight-sawn boards.¹¹ Circular portholes about a foot in diameter are cut out of the siding at shoulder level on the southeast and northwest side of each unit. Access to the unit is provided by batten doors hung on pintel hinges with long, blunt-ended, wrought straps. The west unit has two dutch doors, one of which is hung on strap hinges with decorative ends. Most of the stalls in the units are constructed of circular-sawn lumber, although a few utilize hewn supports that are mortise-and-tenoned and pegged to overhead joists. In the upper levels of the units are hay mows that are open on all sides, perhaps to increase ventilation. The hay mows have floors of straight-sawn and circular-sawn boards and are reached on the drive-through side by fixed ladders with rungs set into the principal support posts. Connecting the units are hewn beams that span the drive-through at a level several feet higher than the hay mow floors. Mortises on the undersides of the beams spanning the ends of the drive-through and a wooden hinge assembly spiked to the principal support post at the north corner of the drive-through indicate the former existence of swinging doors. At the base of the two walls defining the drive-through are the hacked-off ends of sills that formerly connected the two structural units at ground level. This may be evidence of a former threshing floor.

The perimeter shed contains hewn and straight-sawn material indicative of an early date of construction, but other architectural evidence suggests it is not original. The shed on the northeast end of the barn is presently open, although it was apparently originally enclosed. At the east and west corners of the perimeter shed are concrete-capped cisterns with metal lids bearing the inscription "CIN'TI PUMP CO. / CIN. OH."¹²

Corncrib, Granary, Workshop, etc.

To the southwest of the barn is a mid-nineteenth-century drive-through corncrib with hewn, mortise-and-tenoned structural members forming the floors and walls. Under the crib is a double

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set of sill beams (one set stacked crosswise on the other) supported by limestone piers. The slats forming the sides of the crib and the rafters of the gabled roof are circular-sawn. Slatted hatches near the top of the walls facing the drive-through are hung on wrought strap hinges with decorative ends. Across the northeast side of the crib is a relatively modern shed addition supported by poles. To the west of the crib is a small mid-twentieth-century concrete-block pump house with a metal-sheathed gable roof. The pump house sits on a concrete platform with a built-in watering trough.

The barn, corncrib, and pump house form a southeast range of structures in the complex. Facing them across a lane is a northwest range including (from west to east) a granary, a shop, two silos, and a machinery shed. The 1930s granary is a gable-fronted frame building with board-and-batten siding and a metal-sheathed roof. The front half of the building sits on a poured concrete foundation whereas the back is supported by concrete piers. On the front gable is a door flanked by small six-pane windows and sheltered by a shed roof supported by struts. Inside the granary has a front open area and a back section with a raised floor and a central aisle lined by bins. In the east corner of the front open area is belt-driven machinery for grinding feed that sits below a wooden hood connected to a louvered wooden ventilator on the roof. Next to the granary is a smaller workshop of similar age and construction with a door on its front gable end. Long pegs extend from the exposed plates inside the shop and tools are still stored there. The granary and workshop are similar in construction to the garage near the house. Behind the shop is a shed-roofed, vertical-board-sided privy. Beyond the granary and shop is a pair of squat, cylindrical Read corrugated steel silos. At the end of the range is a long, open-fronted machinery shed with a shed roof, vertical-board-siding, and pole supports. At the south corner of the machinery shed is a large white oak, the only mature tree in or near the agricultural complex. To the north of the north range of outbuildings is a field that is the site of a nineteenth-century orchard. A few fruit trees may survive at the base of Sand Hill at the north edge of the field.

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MISCELLANEOUS RESOURCES

House

Standing in a field to the northwest and behind the main house is a much-altered one-story frame house that dates to the antebellum period, if not earlier. The early history and provenience of the house is uncertain. In the 1910s and 1920s the house served as the residence of the Cowan family cook, a woman named Malaka. At that time the house had an upper story under a gable roof with dormers, brick end chimneys, weatherboard siding, and a two-room or hall-parlor plan with an enclosed winder stair in the west room, which served as a kitchen. Presently the house has brick-tex asphalt siding over vertical-board undersheathing, a metal-sheathed gable roof with two brick flues at the ridge, six-over-six sash and modern two-pane windows, and wood post, limestone pier, and poured concrete footers. Across the front is a hip-roofed porch supported by two-by-four posts that probably dates to the early twentieth century. The interior is sheathed in celotex over beaded tongue-and-groove boards and has three rooms that bear no relationship to the two-room plan that characterized the house before the mid-twentieth century. Clues to the age of the house are found in its structure, which has log floor joists and hewn sills, plates, and ceiling joists; the ceiling joists bear evidence of a former plaster-and-lath ceiling. Interruptions in the sills at the gable ends occur where the chimneys formerly stood. The northeast chimney may have had a stone base.¹³

Kent-Cowan Mill

On the east bank of Toms Creek stands the nineteenth-century Kent-Cowan Mill, a one-story frame building with weatherboard siding (formerly whitewashed and later painted white) and a metal-sheathed gable roof. Formerly the mill had a second story, and entries in late-nineteenth-century business directories suggest that a saw mill was appended to or otherwise associated with the building.¹⁴ The mill has an entry on the south gable end with a batten door and jambs pegged to the sill and there is a pair of windows on the northeast and southwest elevations. Rising in the east corner of the building is a brick flue with a tall stack above the roof, and across the northeast elevation is a modern open shed addition. The foundation consists of a

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coursed limestone rubble wall under the northeast elevation and three tall limestone piers under the southwest elevation (A fourth pier at the west corner has collapsed.). Under the mill are two additional stone piers. The northern piers have ledges just above grade level that form seats for the remnants of a hewn husk frame. Lying near the husk frame is what appears to be the rocker arm for the crane used to lift the top mill stone. Adjacent to the Kent-Cowan Mill (but not included in the nomination) is the Adams Farm (VDHR Site No. 60-204) which includes a two-story weatherboarded frame house with a two-story ell, brick gable-end chimneys, and a two-story late-1940s portico. The house incorporates an earlier 1 1/2-story dwelling containing two vernacular Greek Revival mantels that probably date to the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The house was gutted by fire in 1985. Also on the farm are a number of frame barns and sheds, a possible generator house, a modern burial plot containing the remains of three Adams family members, and an early-¹⁵to mid-twentieth-century yard with extensive box-wood plantings.

Kent-Cowan Cemetery

On the hill to the west of the main house is a family burial plot that was apparently established with the death of James Randal Kent's wife, Mary, in 1858. The coursed-rubble limestone boundary wall is said to have been constructed at that time. In 1965 this wall was restored by Kent descendent Elizabeth K. Adams who employed Virginia Tech stonemason Lee Price to repair the stonework and pour a concrete coping and inner lining.¹⁶ The surface of the plot is covered in marble gravel. Inside the wall are markers for the graves of Mary [Cloyd] Kent (1800-58), James R. Kent (1792-1867), Louise Nevins (1880), Cynthia Kent Bentley (1820-83), Elizabeth Cloyd Kent (1819-84), Samuel Field Patterson (1888), Margaret Gordon Cowan (1840-1924), Mary Cloyd Cowan (1873-1928), and John Thomas Cowan (1840-1929). The nineteenth-century markers are white marble; the twentieth-century markers are gray granite. The Mary Cloyd Kent grave has a pulpit-like headstone connected to a footstone by a marble flower trough. On the footstone is a plaque identifying the maker as J. Vincent of Richmond. The James R. Kent grave has a headstone with drapery and a wreath crossed by a ribbon bearing the motto "OUR FATHER," and a footstone with an urn. On the headstone is the inscription of the maker, Gaddess Brothers of Baltimore. Elizabeth Cloyd

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Kent's grave is marked by a tall base supporting a statue of a recording angel. The graves of the infants, Louise Nevins and Samuel Field Patterson, are marked by a headstone, footstone, and sarcophagus on a concrete platform. According to Kent family tradition, the Mary and James Kent markers were conveyed to Buchanan, Botetourt County, on the James River and Kanawha Canal, and from there to Kentland by wagon, whereas the 1880s marble markers were brought by train from their place of manufacture.¹⁷

Building

This building is located at the gate to the approach drive to the main house [REDACTED]. The gable-fronted one-story building is of circular-sawn frame construction and probably dates to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. It has metal roofing, modern vertical-board siding over bricktex asphalt siding, concrete footers with modern concrete-block infill, two-over-two sash windows, cornice returns, and brick stove flues. On the front gable is a shed-roofed porch supported by turned posts. Across the southeast side of the main gabled section is a shed addition that probably originally served for the storage of bulk items like feed, seed, and fertilizer. This feature and the gable-fronted form of the building suggest that it served as (or was intended as) a store or office. A narrow wing with a shed-roofed back porch extends off the rear of the northwest side; this wing may have originally served as an efficiency apartment. At the rear gable is a cellar bulkhead with modern plywood trap door. The interior of the building has been modernized to serve as a farm office but it retains turn-of-the-century four-panel doors. Adjacent to the building is a small, shed-roofed, vertical-board-sided storage shed painted white. In front of the building extends a modern board fence. The early history of the building is unclear.¹⁸

Dairy Barn

This two-level, vertical-board-sided frame barn was built about 1960 [REDACTED] to the southwest of the main house. The barn has a metal-sheathed gambrel roof, a concrete foundation, and a concrete-block silo at its north end. In the first level are two rows of stanchions for dairy cows; above in the second level is a hay mow.

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Ford Meadow Fieldstone Pile

This large pile of river cobbles is [REDACTED] the result of field clearing. Considering the early date at which the Ford Meadow was probably cultivated, the pile may date to the eighteenth century.

Ford Meadow Drainage Ditch

This drainage ditch bounds the [REDACTED] the natural drainage of the area. The north section of the ditch, which approaches 5' in depth at places, follows a slight swale [REDACTED] and drains the marshy ground [REDACTED]. The west section is not as deep and runs below the terrace on which the main house sits, [REDACTED]. The ditch extends over a mile in length and may date to the period of Kent's tenure, considering the large labor force that would have been required to construct it.

Harmon's Ford

Harmon's Ford is located at the base of Ford Meadow Hill at the extreme southern tip of the nominated acreage. It appears in aerial photographs as the upstream edge of a band of whitewater [REDACTED]. The ford was in use by the mid-eighteenth century, if not earlier, and served as the southern terminus of [REDACTED] Road ordered built by the Orange County Court in 1745. The ford was used into the twentieth century for ¹⁹gattle drives from the counties to the west of Montgomery County.

Approach Drive and Ford

The approach drive to the main house and agricultural complex begins [REDACTED] at the east corner of the nominated acreage. The drive occupies a bench cut into the flank of the high ground above the river bottom. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] A deep cut in the bluff on the west side of the creek marks the location of the ford. The ford may be associated with the mid-eighteenth-century Indian Road [REDACTED]. Until recently, another road was used to approach Kentland that branched off from the access road along the railroad and cut across the bottom to the agricultural complex. This road probably dates to the twentieth century; it, not the original approach drive, appears on the Radford North, Virginia, USGS map portraying the property.

Norfolk Southern Tracks

In 1907 the Virginian Railroad built its line [REDACTED] through the Cowan Farm. The right-of-way occupies a 200'-wide band extending across the bottom [REDACTED]. The bed is slightly elevated and accommodates two tracks and a service road. The south end of the Ford Meadow drainage ditch passes under the tracks via a concrete culvert built in 1960. The line is now operated by Norfolk Southern Railway.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Documentary evidence suggests an 1834-35 date of construction for the original section of the main house at Kentland. In 1835 the valuation for the property jumped to \$2,500 from \$250 indicating the construction of a costly dwelling such as the present house. Earlier, in 1833, Virginia Board of Public Works engineer James Herron visited the farm during a canal survey of the Appalachian divide in Montgomery County. In his detailed field sketches Herron portrayed a cluster of buildings at Kentland unlike the present house and its present and former antebellum domestic outbuildings (See the accompanying diagrams at the end of Section 7.). These earlier buildings, which included what appears to have been a northward facing house with an ell, may have dated to the Trigg ownership of the property (1793-1813). Unlike the present domestic and agricultural buildings at Kentland which are laid out on a 45 degree angle respective to north, the buildings

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portrayed by Herron appear to have been arranged along a north-south axis. This north-south axis may still exist in the trace that extends northward from the back yard of the main house toward the agricultural complex. Another interesting feature of Herron's sketch is the portrayal of a large structure across a swale to the north and slightly to the east of the cluster of buildings. This structure would have been located at the present agricultural complex, suggesting that the mid-nineteenth-century functional layout of the farm with widely separated domestic and agricultural foci was already in place by 1833. The approach to the main house in 1833 would have been similar to the approach to the present house: around the farm buildings and then southward to the house past auxiliary structures. The difference is that the visitor of 1833 would have approached the front of the main house, whereas the visitor of 1835 would have come up to the rear of the present house, which faces the river.

A mid-1830s date of construction for Kentland is somewhat problematic in that it is later than the 1818 date of construction ascribed to the house by Cowan family tradition, and it is considerably later than the proposed construction dates for a group of architecturally and familially related houses ~~_____~~.²¹ The Back Creek houses include Back Creek Farm (VDHR Site No. 77-2; NR 1975), believed to have been built by James R. Kent's grandfather-in-law Joseph Cloyd (1742-1833) about 1790, and Springfield (77-34), believed to have been built by James R. Kent's father-in-law Gordon Cloyd (1771-1833) during the early nineteenth century and acquired by Kent's brother David Fenton Kent in 1833.²² Back Creek Farm and Springfield bear a strong resemblance to Kentland in their overall form and detailing and in the form and arrangement of their early domestic outbuildings. All three houses are five-bay, Flemish-bond brick dwellings with the I house form, central-passage plans, and integral two-story ells. All three sit on finely crafted limestone foundations and all have (or had) detached two-story brick kitchens with four-bay front elevations. Specific details that are virtually identical in Kentland and Back Creek Farm are the stair detailing, mantels with water leaf consoles, and the use of double houndstooth brick courses to form cornices.

In 1950 fire destroyed most of Springfield, but surviving architectural fabric and historic photographs demonstrate even closer affinities between Kentland and Springfield than between

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Kentland and Back Creek Farm. Like Kentland, Springfield has a mantel with water leaf consoles and an eagle in the central tablet.²³ Springfield formerly had a principal stair that was virtually identical to the one at Kentland, and it has outward-flaring front steps that retain ornamental iron railings.²⁴ The front entry was formerly flanked by engaged columns similar to the ones that formerly defined the Kentland entry. Springfield also has a hexagonal meat house.

The similarities between Kentland, Springfield, and Back Creek Farm suggest that they were built or remodeled by the same craftsman.²⁵ Unsubstantiated tradition in fact attributes the three houses to a single builder, John Swope. Swope was a resident of Montgomery County (which included Pulaski County before 1839) in 1820 and of Pulaski County in 1840 and 1850.²⁶ In 1836 Swope was paid by David Cloyd for major remodeling work at Back Creek Farm.²⁷ Swope's connection to Back Creek Farm and the architectural affinities between Back Creek Farm, Springfield, and Kentland suggest that Swope was involved in the construction of the houses, although he may not have been involved in some of the finer craftsmanship.²⁸

In a broader context, Kentland and the Back Creek Houses are related to an exuberant tradition of Federal-style interior detailing,²⁹ centered in the Shenandoah Valley and the west-central Piedmont. The houses in this tradition employ many of the same decorative motifs as Kentland, Springfield, and Back Creek Farm, such as mantel consoles draped with water leaves, paired colonnettes, and urns. These motifs were often copied out of British and American pattern books of the period. For instance, the urn on the mantel in the west front room at Kentland is virtually identical to one pictured in Pain's British Palladio of 1786 (See illustration at end of Section 7.).³⁰ Other details may have been borrowed from the pattern books of Owen Biddle. The eagle on the east room mantel is unlike the standard motifs of the pattern books and instead may have been inspired by certain calligraphic designs of the period.³¹

The architectural affinities between Kentland and the Back Creek houses reflect the close family ties between the sites as much as they do the probability of a single builder. The pattern books used to embellish the houses may have belonged to the builder or, alternatively, they may have belonged to (or, have been borrowed by) a member of the Kent or Cloyd families.³² The strikingly

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similar architecture of the houses can be read as the cultural expression of the consolidation of wealth and status achieved through the intermarriage of the Kent and Cloyd families.³³ Characteristics such as farm layout and operations, workforce composition, and small-scale industrial development should be examined to ascertain whether the same cultural mechanisms were at work in other non-architectural aspects of the sites.

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ENDNOTES

1. A number of individuals inside and outside the Virginia Department of Historic Resources provided research and editorial assistance for this section of the nomination. Intradepartmental assistance was provided by Jeff O'Dell, Calder Loth, David Edwards, Bruce Larson, Julie Vosmik, and Joe White. Assistance from outside the department was provided by Gibson Worsham and Mary B. Kegley.
2. Miss Margaret Cowan and Josephine Scrivenor interview, August 9, 1990. Miss Cowan and Mrs. Scrivenor are granddaughters of John T. Cowan and lived at the miller's house on the farm during the first decade of the twentieth century and later at the main Kentland house. When references in the text are made to "Cowan family tradition" or objects or events are dated to the 1910s and 1920s, the information derives from this interview. According to Cowan and Scrivenor, this wing was originally built as a kitchen. Another possibility is that the wing served as an office and may have been built by John T. Cowan to replace the detached office destroyed during the Civil War (according to Cowan family tradition).
3. Cowan-Scrivenor interview.
4. Elaine Gaines interview, June 28, 1990.
5. Springfield (VDHR Site No. 77-34), a house related to Kentland in Pulaski County, has a barred vent in an interior brick basement wall. The vent at Springfield formerly provided ventilation to a room-sized root storage area that was partitioned off from the rest of the basement. It is not known whether the Springfield vent formerly had a woven oak splint screen.
6. Gibson Worsham, personal communication, August 1990.
7. Cowan-Scrivenor interview; Hilda Guynn interview, June 28, 1990.
8. Cowan-Scrivenor interview.

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9. Guynn interview.
10. Gaines interview.
11. According to Cowan and Scrivenor, horses were stabled in both sides of the barn during the 1910s and 1920s.
12. Few large antebellum frame barns survive in the Montgomery-Pulaski county area. The stone and frame barns at the farms of James R. Kent's kinfolk in the Back Creek area of Pulaski County (Back Creek Farm, 77-2, and Springfield, 77-34) are comparable in size and antiquity to the Kentland barn but differ from it in important structural respects. The antebellum frame barn on the Crockett Kinzer Farm (60-138) in central Montgomery County has two-story uprights and high tie beams that span a drive-through. The antebellum frame barn on the Slusser Farm (60-337) has two-story hewn uprights. The Kinzer and Slusser barns do not share the unusual roof structure of the Kentland barn.
13. According to Cowan family tradition, this house represents the original house on the property which was moved when the present house was built. An earlier house was located in the general vicinity of the present house in 1833. Despite the poor integrity of this house, it is proposed that it be listed as a contributing resource under Criterion D for its research potential. More in-depth architectural, archaeological, and dendrochronological analysis may determine the true age and architectural character of the house as well as its relation to the early history of the farm.

Hilda Guynn, who was familiar with the farm during the 1930s, recalls a number of houses and house sites scattered across the farm. A house stood on or near the "Sand Hill" at the northwest corner of the nominated acreage (Miss Cowan and Mrs. Scrivenor recall that this was a two-story log house.). To the west of this in a hollow near the New River stood what was known as the "Little Meadow House," a possibly one-story dwelling that was in ruinous condition in the late 1930s. Another house formerly stood at the head of "White Oak Hollow" near the northern boundary of the Virginia Tech property.

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Two other houses stood in the vicinity of the nominated acreage. It is likely that these houses and house sites represented slave or tenant houses.

14. Cowan-Scrivenor interview. According to Cowan and Scrivenor, the former second floor of the mill was used for dances during the 1910s and 1920s and at one point even contained a piano.
15. Herron's Surveys 1833. Virginia State Library, Richmond; Cowan-Scrivenor interview; T. K. Adams interview. The Herron survey labels the "grist mill" and an adjacent structure (presumably the miller's house) "Honaker," probably the name of the miller at that time. The Alleghany between the North Fork of the Roanoke and New River, surveyed by James Herron, C. E., 1833 & 34., a map on file at the Virginia State Library derived from Herron's surveys, labels the mill "Kent's Mill." According to Cowan and Scrivenor, a miller named Fogelman occupied the miller's house at the turn of the century. Chataigne's Virginia business directories of 1880-81, 1884-85, and 1893-94, and Hill's directories of 1897 and 1917 list the Cowan grist mill and sawmill.
16. Nancy Musgrove, "Whitethorne home filled with history," quotes Elizabeth K. Adams.
17. Elizabeth Kent Adams, Old Kent Cemetery, 1981. The tomb of James R. Kent's brother David Fenton Kent (1807-1850) at Springfield in Pulaski County was also made at the Gaddess works.
18. According to Mrs. Josephine Scrivenor, this building was used as a dwelling in the 1910s and 1920s. A post office known as Cowans Mills operated in the general vicinity during the 1880s and 1890s; normally rural post offices operated out of a store. John T. Cowan may have operated a commissary on his farm, as suggested by his purchase of shoes and dry goods from a Blacksburg store in 1899 (See Section 8 of this report.). This circumstantial evidence suggests that a store existed on the property, possibly in this building. Another possibility is that the building dates to the period around 1907 when the Virginian Railroad Whitethorne depot was established nearby.

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19. Howard Newlon, Jr. et al. Backsights, p. 19; Cowan-Scrivenor interview; Jim Price interview, June 28, 1990. Price cites information on the cattle drives related to him by Frank Bannister of Blacksburg, Va., who participated in the drives.
20. Herron survey.
21. Gibson Worsham, Daniel Pezzoni, and David Rotenizer. Montgomery County Historic Sites Survey, p. 97.
22. Margaret Peters and Dell Upton, Back Creek Farm; Mary B. Kegley and F. B. Kegley, Early Adventurers on the Western Waters. v. 2., p. 272, gives the date 1803 for the construction of Springfield.
23. The eagle on the Springfield mantel is more realistically carved than that on the Kentland mantel and it is surrounded by a wreath. The eagle and wreath were originally painted in bold colors. The water leaf consoles on the Springfield mantel appear to have been copied directly from plate XXI in Pain's British Palladio (1786).
24. The Springfield stair formerly had a mural depicting a mountain landscape painted on the wall surfaces under the stringer and rising with the handrail mounted on the wall.
25. Montgomery County tax records indicate that costly improvements existed on the Back Creek Farm and Springfield tracts by the 1820s. Buildings on the Back Creek Farm tract were valued at \$3,500 over the period 1820 to 1827; buildings on the Springfield tract were valued at \$1,500 in 1820, 1821, and 1822, and at \$2,500 over the period 1823 to 1827. These figures suggest that the Back Creek Farm and Springfield houses had been built by the mid-1820s. In addition to Kentland and the Back Creek houses, the original 1826 section of Belle-Hampton (77-3) has interior detailing similar to that in the Kent and Cloyd houses (Gibson Worsham, Belle-Hampton).
26. U. S. Census. Population schedules, 1820, 1830, 1840, and 1850. Virginia-born John Swope (ca. 1776-1856) was

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listed as a carpenter in the 1850 census at which time he was a boarder in the James Wygal household and owned \$4,000 worth of real estate.

27. Cloyd Papers, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, cited in Kegley, Early Adventurers, v. 2., p. 275.
28. The list of repairs is substantial but does not refer to detail work or mantels.
29. Several contemporaneous, west-central Piedmont houses comparable to Kentland and the Back Creek houses in the exuberance of their Federal-style interior detailing are Elk Hill (09-6) and Fancy Farm (09-7) in Bedford County, Point of Honor (118-14) in Lynchburg, and Tallwood (02-73) in Albemarle County.
30. William and James Pain, Pain's British Palladio, or, The Builder's General Assistant, Plate XI.
31. An example of the kind of penmanship that may have served as a model for the Kentland eagle appears in Philip M. Isaacson, The American Eagle, p. 165. Isaacson's example is the handwritten trade card of Nathaniel D. Gould, "Teacher of Penmanship and Sacred Musick," Concord, N.H., 1834. At the top of the card is a calligraphic eagle.
32. Although Owen Biddle's pattern books were relatively inexpensive and are known to have been in wide circulation, the costly imported pattern books of the Pain brothers may have been outside the means of a rural Southwest Virginia builder (Calder Loth, personal communication).
33. A similar complex of architecturally and familiarly related houses from the same period has been described by Catherine Bishir, "The Montmorenci-Prospect Hill School: A Study of High-Style Vernacular Architecture in the Roanoke Valley." In Doug Swaim, ed. Carolina Dwelling, p. 92.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

A total of thirteen archaeological sites have been identified within the Kentland Farm Historic and Archaeological District. These sites were identified from 1963 to 1990 through focused, judgmental surveys of those portions of the Kentland Farm tract having highest archaeological potential or where archaeological resources could be predicted to occur based upon historical documentation. It is therefore important to recognize that the archaeological resources identified to date constitute only a portion of the potential archaeological inventory of the property in its entirety.

Native American utilization of the property is represented by five identified archaeological sites, all of which date to the Late Woodland period (A.D. 800-1600). One of these sites, 44MY6, was first investigated in 1962 as part of the first archaeological survey regional in scope for Southwest Virginia (Holland 1970: 21). Originally described as measuring 365 m X 10 m, the site, upon closer examination, was subsequently divided into two sites, 44MY6 and 44MY24, with the latter being an area measuring 60 m X 15 m and defined by the considerably denser surface artifact density here. Both sites are characterized by a variety of lithic flakes, tools, and projectile points in addition to prehistoric ceramics representing predominantly the New River ware and Wythe variant of Dan River ware. Damage to the northern edge of these sites occurred during the construction of a railroad crossing the property. However, the principal portions of these sites representative of their core areas were not damaged by such construction, having been for years in pasture or under cultivation. The reported discovery of a prehistoric burial in the 44MY6 area during excavation of a railroad culvert (Holland 1970: 21) documents the high potential for intact subsurface cultural features being present at these sites. A related site to the northeast, 44MY176, is reported as measuring 50 m X 50 m, containing both lithic and ceramic artifacts. Particularly diagnostic of a Late Woodland date is the presence of Radford ware. The site currently is in pasture with limited portions perhaps damaged through road and railroad construction along its eastern and southern edge.

The most intensively investigated prehistoric site at Kentland Farm to date is 44MY25, also known as the Whitethorne site. Reported as measuring over 200 m X 50 m, the lithic and ceramic artifact

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densities and site size are indicative, as is the case for 44MY6, 44MY24, and, to a lesser extent, 44MY176, of a sedentary community. However, in contrast to 44MY6, 44MY24, and 44MY176, artifact densities are higher at 44MY25 with its surface also being characterized by darker organic midden soil in association with periwinkle shell and deer bone. Radford ware and Wythe variety of Dan River ware ceramics are dominant at the site.

These site characteristics have prompted researchers to note similarities between the Whitethorne site and two other Montgomery County Late Woodland sites, the Trigg site (44MY3) and the Shannon site (44MY8). Excavations of these latter two sites identified thousands of intact postholes and other intact features, including burials, used to better interpret Late Woodland community organization and lifeways for this portion of Southwest Virginia. Unlike the Trigg and Shannon sites, both of which are now destroyed, the Whitethorne site is in a good state of preservation, currently being used as pasture. Given the rarity of surviving Late Woodland villages in Montgomery County and the adjacent region, 44MY25 possesses particularly high significance for regional studies related to the Late Woodland period.

In an effort to obtain a systematic, representative surface collection from 44MY25 and also test for subsurface conditions, investigations sponsored by Radford University were undertaken at the site in 1990 (Boyd 1990: 2). A large portion of the site area was gridded into 275 5-m squares which served as the locale for the surface collection. Test excavations included five 50 cm X 50 cm units excavated to the base of the plowzone which ranged in depth from 22 to 30 cm. These investigations documented both good horizontal and vertical integrity at the site.

In contrast to the above sites, the final prehistoric site identified to date at Kentland Farm, 44MY259, was not characterized by the presence of ceramics. Measuring approximately 10 m in diameter, artifacts at the site were restricted to lithics, particularly flakes, with one small triangular projectile point indicative of a Late Woodland date. The site represents a small specialized seasonal exploitation camp unlike the range of more sedentary settlements noted above. As such, it is significant as an example of the variety of Late Woodland site types present at Kentland Farm and characteristic of regional settlement patterns.

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Of the eight identified historic archaeological sites within the nominated boundaries, one represents eighteenth-century utilization of the property. 44MY262 is the location of Harmon's Ford on the New River, first clearly documented in a 1751 plat and now visible as a band of whitewater in aerial photographs (See also "Architectural Description" in Section 7.). Also archaeologically significant in the analysis of regional transportation systems and their development over time is 44MY434, the Toms Creek Ford. This site, including a deep road cut adjacent to the ford, is portrayed as early as 1833-34 on the Herron map (See also "Architectural Description" in Section 7.).

All remaining archaeological sites currently identified date to the nineteenth century. Given the minimal prior land disturbance activities at Kentland Farm, they serve as examples of the archaeological potential of the property for studies on nineteenth century plantation life and land use in Southwest Virginia.

44MY260 is the Kentland domestic complex (See also "Architectural Description" in Section 7.). Archaeological deposits so far identified within a 50-m diameter here include an ice house foundation and a depression representing James R. Kent's business office which was burned during the Civil War. Examination of the Kentland family house itself indicates that intact archaeological deposits are likely to be associated with it in addition to the other features noted above. Nearby is 44MY433, a brick kiln at which the bricks for Kentland were likely made. Measuring 20 m in diameter, the site is a low grass-covered mound containing extensive brick fragments. Subsurface testing at the site indicates it to be in a good state of preservation.

Adjacent to the Kentland house is 44MY431, a very significant complex of 12 small grass covered mounds. These represent the remains of slave cabins arranged in two rows over an area encompassing 90 m X 50 m. The mounds are spaced at regular intervals and are roughly the same size (ca. 8-10 m long and 4-6 m wide). Archaeological testing here has resulted in the identification of intact foundation remains as well as diagnostic artifacts dating to the early- to mid-nineteenth century.

Associated with the above distinctions between slave owners and slaves are two cemeteries on the property. 44MY261 is a stone-walled Kent family plot measuring 13 m x 12 m and containing nineteenth-century burials with elaborate marble markers (See also

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"Architectural Description" in Section 7.). This may be contrasted to 44MY432, a grass-covered slave cemetery measuring 45 m X 25 m in which some of the graves are marked with river cobbles for headstones (See also "Architectural Description" in Section 7.). Besides being significant as physical representations of differing burial practices based upon status distinctions, these sites are worthy of preservation given their archaeological significance for physical anthropological studies of human skeletal material. Of particular importance is the analysis of pathological alterations reflective of variations in nutrition and disease and their relation to social and economic status.

One final site associated with the plantation complex that has been identified to date is the Ford Meadow drainage ditch, 44MY435 (See also "Architectural Description" in Section 7.). Being in a good state of preservation, the lengthy ditch helps define historic land use patterns on this agricultural property as attempts were made to drain marshy land for more productive uses.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

- 44MY6 - Prehistoric (Late Woodland) site which with 44MY24, 44MY25, and 44MY176 represent village complex. Contributing site.
- 44MY24 - Prehistoric (Late Woodland) site which with 44MY6, 44MY25, and 44MY176 represent village complex. Contributing site.
- 44MY25 - Prehistoric (Late Woodland) site which with 44MY6, 44MY24, and 44MY176 represent village complex. Also known as the Whitethorne site, 44MY25 is the core area of this complex in terms of population nucleation. Contributing site.
- 44MY176 - Prehistoric (Late Woodland) site which with 44MY6, 44MY24, and 44MY25 represent village complex. Contributing site.
- 44MY259 - Prehistoric (Late Woodland) site which represents small specialized seasonal exploitation camp. Contributing site.
- 44MY260 - Historic domestic site dating to the nineteenth century. This site represents the main plantation house and directly adjacent dependency building foundations. Contributing site.
- 44MY261 - Historic cemetery containing nineteenth-century burials of the Kent family. Contributing site.
- 44MY262 - Historic New River ford associated with the Harmon family and dating to the mid-eighteenth century. Contributing site.
- 44MY431 - Historic nineteenth-century site. The site of 12 mounds representing the remains of dependencies inhabited by slaves prior to the Civil War and tenants after 1865. Contributing site.
- 44MY432 - Historic nineteenth-century slave cemetery associated with the Kentland plantation. Contributing site.
- 44MY433 - Historic industrial site representing nineteenth-century brick kiln. Contributing site.
- 44MY434 - Historic ford and road trace dating to nineteenth century at Toms Creek. Contributing site.
- 44MY435 - Historic drainage ditch at Ford Meadow likely dating to nineteenth century. Contributing site.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kentland Farm Historic and Archaeological District constitutes the core area of an extensive nineteenth-century holding [REDACTED] in northwestern Montgomery County, Virginia. At the heart of the district is the brick I house known as Kentland, built in 1834-35 by Montgomery County's largest antebellum landholder, James Randal Kent (1792-1867). The Kentland house has sophisticated Federal and Greek Revival detailing. The district also includes a hexagonal brick meat house and a large mid-nineteenth-century frame barn of unusual construction. Equal in importance to the architecture at Kentland Farm are its prehistoric resources, including an assemblage of Late Woodland village or camp sites. Archaeological resources are also associated with the historic occupation of the district which has been cultivated continuously from the eighteenth century through the present. The district incorporates Buchanans Bottom, one of the earliest patented tracts [REDACTED] (1750), as well as a portion of Adam Harmon's mid-eighteenth-century ford on the New River, the southern terminus of the Shenandoah Valley Indian Road ordered built by the Orange County Court in 1745. James R. Kent, who acquired the land comprising the district in the early nineteenth century, amassed holdings of 6,000 acres by 1860, worked by 123 slaves. Kent's son-in-law and successor, John Thomas Cowan (1840-1929), managed Kentland Farm during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when it ranked among the half dozen largest farms in the county. A number of agricultural buildings dating to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries survive in the district. Also in the district are the nineteenth-century [REDACTED] Mill and transportation-related features [REDACTED]

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JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA

The Kentland Farm Historic and Archaeological District is being nominated to the register under Criteria A, B, C, and D. The district is eligible for its agricultural and industrial resources under the Criterion A Agriculture and Industry areas of significance as defined by the "Agricultural Architecture, 1745-1940" and "Industrial Architecture, 1745-1940" contexts of the "Prehistoric and Historic Resources of Montgomery County, Virginia" Multiple Property Listing (hereafter referred to as the Montgomery County MPL). The district is also eligible under the Criterion A Exploration/Settlement area of significance for Harmon's Ford and other evidence of eighteenth-century occupation. The district is eligible under Criterion B for its association with Adam Harmon, one of the New River Valley's earliest settlers, and for its association with James R. Kent and John T. Cowan, leading Montgomery County agriculturalists and entrepreneurs during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The district is eligible under the Criterion C Architecture area of significance as defined by the "Domestic Architecture, 1745-1940" and "Agricultural Architecture, 1745-1940" contexts of the Montgomery County MPL for the refined Kentland house and meat house and for a complex of nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century farm buildings. The Kentland Farm Historic and Archaeological District is eligible under the Criterion D Archeology: Prehistoric area of significance as defined in the "Prehistoric Settlement Patterns" context of the Montgomery County MPL and under the Archeology: Historic - Non-aboriginal area of significance for the rich assemblage of prehistoric and historic sites on the farm. The period of significance for the Kentland Farm Historic and Archaeological District extends from 800 A.D., the beginning of the archaeological period defined as the Late Woodland, until 1940, a date that brackets the decade of the 1930s when the last historically significant agricultural buildings were built on the property.

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Kentland Farm is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] in what is now Montgomery County. The farm contains some of the richest land in the region and has been owned by a succession of important leaders in pioneer settlement and commercial agriculture. An Orange County Order Book entry in 1745 reported that James Patton and John Buchanan had viewed and marked off a road from the "Frederick County Line to . . . Adam Harman's [REDACTED]" Adam Harmon served as overseer of the road [REDACTED] in 1746 and as Captain of the local militia under Augusta County jurisdiction. In 1750/1 Adam Harmon's tract, "500 acres of Land lying on the north [and east] side [REDACTED]," was entered in the Augusta County Surveyors Record. Adam Harmon's 500 acre tract roughly approximates the land included in this nomination of Kentland Farm.

Adam's brother Jacob also obtained a survey of 985 acres across the river on "Horse Shoe Bottom," in 1750/1, and the survey of Jacob's patent, "Beginning at an Iron Wood tree at Adam Harmon's ford," fixes the Harmon ford at the shallows which are still apparent just downstream from the island at Kentland Farm.¹ In 1752 Adam and Jacob Harmon received patents from Augusta County for their lands discussed above. Jacob was killed by Indians in 1756 and Adam lost his 500 acres in 1763 for tax arrears.²

Colonel John Buchanan became the next owner of the "tract on the east side of the New River where Adam Harman formerly dwelt, containing 500 acres." John Buchanan had begun service in Augusta County as deputy surveyor in the 1740s. He later became deputy sheriff and in 1755 succeeded Colonel James Patton as commander-in-chief of the Augusta County militia. When he died in 1769, Buchanan's will named his son John as heir to "the 500 acres formerly Harman's." The tract, known thereafter as Buchanans Bottom, remained in possession of the Buchanan family until 1792.

Abram Trigg purchased Buchanans Bottom in 1793. Trigg had commanded Montgomery County troops during the American Revolution. He had represented Montgomery County at the Virginia convention of 1788 which ratified the federal constitution, and he represented western Virginia in Congress from 1797 to 1809. During the years of his congressional service, Abram Trigg and his wife Susannah

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acquired additional lands adjoining Buchanans Bottom where they may have resided. The 1810 census for Montgomery County recorded Trigg as the head of a household of seven whites and no slaves. The 1813 Land Book for Montgomery County shows him in possession of the 500 acre Buchanans Bottom tract and three other parcels with all four parcels totaling 1,781 acres.³

In 1813 three brothers, Gordon, Thomas, and David Cloyd, paid Abram and Susannah Trigg \$10,000 for a 1,630 acre tract which comprised all of the land "owned or held by . . . Trigg on the east side of New River, adjoining and below Toms Creek." Joseph Cloyd, father of Gordon, Thomas, and David, had commanded militia forces during the Revolution, after which time he built his home at Back Creek Farm around 1790 on land, now in Pulaski County, about seven miles from Buchanans Bottom. Joseph's oldest son Gordon built his home at Springfield adjacent to Back Creek Farm around 1800. The 1820 Montgomery County Land Book, the earliest to record building evaluation, showed Joseph Cloyd paying taxes at Back Creek Farm with buildings valued at \$3,500; Gordon Cloyd paid taxes at Springfield with buildings valued at \$1,500; and Gordon, Thomas, and David Cloyd paid taxes at Buchanans Bottom where buildings were valued at \$200. Sometime around 1820 Gordon Cloyd bought out his brothers' interest in the 1,630 acre "tract of land upon New River called Buchanan's Bottom" and gave the land to his daughter Mary who had married James Randal Kent in 1818.

The 1820 census recorded James R. Kent as the head of a Montgomery County household comprised of himself, his wife, and two young daughters. In addition he owned 15 slaves. In 1821 James Kent paid taxes for the first time on the 1,630 acre tract where he and Mary would live for the remainder of their lives.

James and Mary Kent were the intermarried descendants of families who had gained wealth and influence in southwestern Virginia during the period of the American Revolution. Their common grandparent James McGavock was a staunch Scotch-Irish Presbyterian and a member of the committee of fifteen which drafted the Fincastle Resolutions in 1775. James McGavock married Mary Cloyd in 1760, and their daughter Margaret married militia colonel Joseph Kent in 1787. Colonel Joseph Kent and Mary Cloyd Kent raised 14 children on their estate at Kenton in Wythe County; James R. Kent was their fourth child. Elizabeth, another daughter of James McGavock, married her first cousin Gordon Cloyd of Back Creek in 1797; Mary Cloyd, their

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eldest daughter, completed the family ties at Kentland when she married her first cousin James Kent in 1818.⁴

Well married and established on rich New River bottom lands by 1821, James R. Kent proceeded to make Kentland the most prosperous plantation in Montgomery County. He served as deputy sheriff of Montgomery County in 1822 at about which time he began to accumulate land holdings in addition to the homeplace at Buchanans Bottom. By 1830 he paid taxes on the 1,630 acre parcel at the mouth of Toms Creek where buildings were then valued at \$250, and he owned two more parcels of undeveloped land which totaled 2,605 acres and contained no evaluated buildings. The 1830 census recorded James Kent as the head of a household which included himself, his wife, and four daughters. In that year he owned 39 slaves. The following year Kent acquired an additional parcel of 169 acres on both sides of Toms Creek near its mouth, and the 1832 Land Book showed buildings valued at \$100 on that tract. The buildings on the 169 acre parcel may have been associated with the mill just east of Toms Creek which is shown as belonging to James Kent on James Herron's map of 1833-34.

Sometime around 1834 James Randal Kent probably built the formal brick residence which survives today and is known as Kentland. When James Kent's father-in-law Gordon Cloyd prepared his last will and testament in November 1832, Cloyd specified, "I have already given to my daughter Mary, wife of James R. Kent, the tract of land upon New River called Buchanans Bottom. Should that gift need any confirmation, I do ratify and confirm it." Cloyd's will also provided for Mary to inherit 100 shares of stock in two Virginia banks and for James Kent to receive "my third part of 80,000 acres of land lying in Giles County." After Gordon Cloyd's death in May 1833, James and Mary Kent may have decided to build a new house because they had just received confirmation of their title to the land at Buchanans Bottom and because they were now in receipt of a substantial additional inheritance of real and personal property. Montgomery County Land Books provide additional evidence supportive of a circa 1834 construction date for Kentland: from 1828 to 1834 buildings on Kent's 1,630 acre tract on the New River at the mouth of Toms Creek were valued at \$250; from 1835 to 1850 buildings on that tract were valued at \$2,500. Since Joseph Cloyd's buildings at Back Creek Farm were valued at \$3,500 and Gordon Cloyd's buildings at Springfield were valued at \$2,500 during the 1820s, and since Kentland closely resembled the dwellings at Back Creek Farm and Springfield, it seems likely that Kentland was not

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constructed in its present form until just before 1835 when the value of buildings at Kentland Farm first rose to a comparable evaluation of \$2,500.⁵

James Kent substantially increased his wealth and influence in Montgomery County between 1835 and the Civil War. By 1840 he owned about 6,000 acres of land and 90 slaves.⁶ Two decades later his 6,000 acres of farm land valued at \$126,000 and his 123 slaves made him by far the county's most prosperous planter; no one else in Montgomery County in 1860 owned farm land valued at more than \$63,000 or more than 71 slaves. The 123 slaves of James Kent were quartered in 13 slave houses in 1860 when the Kent farms kept 40 horses and 1,100 other head of livestock and raised 15,000 bushels of corn and 3,600 bushels of grain. In addition to his agricultural estate and slaves, Kent owned personal property valued at \$196,000 in 1860. This included substantial holdings in the Montgomery White Sulphur Springs Company, a resort near the present community of Ellett, whose buildings were valued at \$89,000 in 1859, as well as shares in three Virginia banks and in the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad Company.

Apparently James Kent's extensive financial interests occupied most of his time and energy for he never held elective office, though he did serve as a Montgomery County Justice in 1842 and 1845 and as the Montgomery County Surveyor in 1847. From 1849 to 1853 Kent played a leading role in promoting construction of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad through Montgomery County. In this capacity he attended at least one meeting of the Virginia Board of Public Works as a representative of Virginia and Tennessee stockholders. Successful in securing construction of the main line through Christiansburg by late 1853, Kent failed in his efforts to promote a branch line which would cross his plantation on the New River. Consequently, in October 1853 he asked to be relieved of his reporting responsibilities to the Board of Public Works, requesting the appointment of someone in his stead "who will have more leisure than myself." In 1855 Kent also served as a Trustee of Olin and Preston Institute, a precursor of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Montgomery County and James Kent experienced hard times during the Civil War. Military records have not been found to substantiate family tradition which tells of a devastating Yankee raid on Kentland following the Battle of Cloyd's Mountain in May 1864, but a Montgomery County Order Book specified in November 1864 "that

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James R. Kent be exempted from paying the County levy for the year 1864 on 44 negroes and 38 horses which were taken by the public enemy previous to the laying of the said levy."⁷ Another entry from the Montgomery County Order Book in January 1865 recorded the appointment of a special committee with instructions to present a memorial to the Governor of Virginia which stated that "within the past twelve months a large number of the able bodied negroes . . . have been carried off by or made their escape to the Yankees." Because "almost all the ablebodied and efficient white laborers have been withdrawn from the cultivation of the soil and placed in the army," and because slaves had been captured or escaped, the memorial explained that "the surplus of crops made by the labor of the county during the past year has not been sufficient to feed the families of the soldiers . . . and a great portion of our population will be reduced to destitution and great suffering." James Kent was not destitute at the close of the Civil War, but his estate certainly suffered substantial losses in consequence of the conflict. When he died in 1867, his land holdings were evaluated at \$74,000, 41% less than in 1860, and his personal estate probably suffered at least a comparable reduction in value.

James Kent's wife Mary had predeceased him in 1858; and when he prepared to divide his property among his five surviving daughters in May 1867 the week before his death, his last will and testament specified that "Margaret G. who is my youngest child shall have the home place known as Buchanan Bottoms, together with any and all lands adjoining belonging to me."⁸ Margaret Kent married Major John T. Cowan of Clarksburg, now West Virginia, in 1868 and they lived at Kentland Farm ~~_____~~ for the remainder of their lives.

John Cowan, who had served as an officer in the Twenty-fifth Virginia Infantry during the Civil War, managed Kentland Farm as a profitable agricultural and milling enterprise until around World War I. In 1880 Cowan's farm, valued at \$58,000, produced 8,000 bushels of corn, 2,700 bushels of grain, and 4,500 pounds of tobacco on 1,650 acres of tilled land at the cost of \$1,000 paid in wage labor. Cowan also raised and traded Shorthorn cattle throughout his tenure at Kentland Farm.

Cowans Mill ~~_____~~ was listed as a post office during the 1880s and 1890s, years in which the mills there produced corn meal, flour, and sawn lumber. Cowan's flour sold for \$4 a barrel in 1899, a commodity which he exchanged with a merchant in Blacksburg

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for shoes and dry goods. Cowan doubtless used those store goods as partial payment for the laborers who worked his land, a few of whom were descendants of slaves owned by James Kent.⁹

John Cowan had attained sufficient status through his successful administration of his mills and farm lands so that he was chosen as a member of the original Board of Trustees of Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, eventually to become Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He also served on the Sixth District of the Virginia State Board of Agriculture and Immigration, and he represented Montgomery County for one term as a Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly in 1899-1900.

Margaret and John Cowan's son James Randal Kent Cowan married Maude Battle and moved from Radford to the mill house at Cowans Mills sometime after 1900. James and Maude Cowan's daughter Margaret remembers that the Cowans hired someone to operate their ferry across the New River at the mouth of Toms Creek; the ferry at Harmons Ford was operated from the other side of the river.¹⁰ In 1907 the Virginian Railroad completed a line along the north and east bank of the New River, and Whitethorne, the rail stop at Toms Creek, replaced Cowans Mills as the placename associated with Kentland. Shortly before World War I James Cowan and his immediate family traded dwellings with his parents, and James and Maude Cowan lived at Kentland Farm until 1936 when the Cowans lost the estate to cousin Francis Bell of Dublin.¹¹ The Bells sold Kentland Farm in 1966.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University acquired the acreage and important cultural resources of Kentland Farm in 1988. The rich bottom lands formerly owned by the families of Harmon, Buchanan, Trigg, Cloyd, Kent, and Cowan are now used for research by the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Kentland Farm Historic and Archaeological District contains significant archaeological resources dating to both the prehistoric and historic periods. Of the thirteen sites discovered to date, five are particularly important for archaeological studies relating to the Late Woodland period (A.D. 800-1600), while the remaining eight have importance for archaeological studies relating to

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eighteenth-century exploration and settlement and nineteenth-century plantation life.

Of the five prehistoric sites identified at Kentland Farm, four (44MY6, 44MY24, 44MY25, and 44MY176) are part of a village complex. With the exception of some peripheral disturbance through road and railroad construction, a recent archaeological examination of these sites sponsored by Radford University indicates they very likely have good horizontal and vertical integrity. Unlike many sites in Southwest Virginia, site damage resulting from looting appears to be minimal. This complex of sites is archaeologically significant for regional studies on the origins of sedentism and large villages as well as community organization within such villages. Based on analogy with similar previously excavated sites in the region such as Trigg (44MY3) and Shannon (44MY8), the high likelihood of well preserved features such as trash pits and burial pits enhances the significance of the sites for regional archaeological studies on subsistence patterns, chronology, technology, mortuary practices, and demography. All of these, in turn, should aid archaeological studies in cultural ecology and cultural evolution as related to the analysis of changing environmental adaptations and the development of increasingly complex means of socio-cultural integration within the region during the Late Woodland period. Further enhancing the archaeological research potential and need for long-term protection and preservation of this complex of sites, many of the region's most important Late Woodland villages have been destroyed, such as both Trigg and Shannon, as a result of twentieth-century urban expansion and industrialization. The final prehistoric site, 44MY259, represents a small specialized seasonal exploitation camp unlike the above sites representative of sedentary settlements. Other related sites are very likely to be identified as more intensive archaeological investigations take place at Kentland Farm. Together, all of these sites, and the variability reflected within them, are significant for archaeological studies of regional Late Woodland settlement and land use patterns.

The historic archaeological sites identified at Kentland Farm could provide significant data concerning the social character of nineteenth-century plantation society as well as spatial patterning of occupation and agricultural practices across the landscape. Archaeological research has documented a wide variety of well preserved nineteenth-century remains, and historical research indicates the high likelihood of additional eighteenth-century

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sites representative of early exploration and settlement in the region being present. Of particular importance for studies on nineteenth-century regional plantation lifeways, especially as reflected in social and economic status distinctions, are the Kentland domestic complex (44MY260), slave quarters (44MY431), Kent family cemetery (44MY261), and slave cemetery (44MY432). 44MY433, a nineteenth-century brick kiln, is significant for the investigation of industrial activities characteristic of large plantation complexes. Harmon's Ford (44MY262) and Toms Creek Ford and roadtrace are significant for investigations of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century transportation networks within the region. Finally, the Ford Meadow drainage ditch (44MY435), being in a good state of preservation, aids in defining agricultural land use patterns at Kentland Farm. Together, the variety of different types of historic sites that have remained preserved at Kentland Farm are representative of the range expected for a nineteenth-century plantation, further enhancing its archaeological significance.

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ENDNOTES

1. Local historian Jimmie L. Price is probably correct when he reasons that Adam Harmon lived near his ford rather than a mile away at the mouth of Toms Creek.
2. Adam Harmon is reported to be the person who found Mary Draper Ingles after her escape from Indian captivity in 1755.
3. Montgomery County Land Books prior to 1816 neither list buildings nor provide land descriptions, so they do not provide evidence which can be used to locate the place of the Trigg dwelling.
4. Joseph Cloyd, the father of Gordon Cloyd, was Mary Cloyd McGavock's brother. The Cloyds, Kents, and McGavocks were also related by marriage to James McDowell, the husband of Sarah Preston. Sarah's father William Preston had headed Revolutionary War efforts in the New River Valley where he also established large landholdings and built Smithfield. These intermarriages of influential and landed families in southwestern Virginia between 1760 and 1818 are similar to the ties of kinship and status established in Tidewater Virginia a century earlier.
5. The value of Gordon Cloyd's buildings at Springfield was listed at \$2,500 from 1823 through 1827. Of course earlier buildings at Kentland may have been retained after the new residence was constructed circa 1834. Perhaps one of these structures was the two story brick kitchen which survived as one of the domestic outbuildings at Kentland until about 1970.
6. Mary Kent had inherited 20 of her father's slaves when Gordon Cloyd died in 1833.

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7. Jimmie Price located this information and reported it on a video tape of Kentland which he generously provided to the authors of this nomination.
8. Buchanans Bottom was the most valuable portion of James Kent's estate and two of Margaret Kent's brothers-in-law, Francis Bell and James Otey, and one of her widowed sisters, Mrs. Henry Bentley, unsuccessfully contested the Kent inheritance in the Montgomery County courts for 15 years. The James R. Kent Papers in the Special Collections at VPI&SU contain some of the depositions pertaining to this complex litigation. For a cogent summary of the dispute, see John Nicolay, "Foundation Notes," Montgomery News Messenger, Feb 6, 1983; May 15, 1983, and May 22, 1983.
9. John Nicolay's Papers in the Special Collections at VPI&SU contain fascinating interviews with residents of Wake Forest, a black community located off Route 652 to the north of Kentland Farm. Margaret Gordon Cowan had provided land for the church at Wake Forest in the 1920s, but Nicolay and Clyde Kessler, who conducted the oral history interviews in the early 1980s, found no informants who discussed ante or postbellum life at Kentland.
10. Interview with Margaret Cowan and Josephine Scrivenor, Roanoke, Virginia, Aug 9, 1990.
11. Josephine Scrivenor, also a daughter of James and Maude Cowan, explained that her father had mortgaged Kentland to cover cattle trading losses in the 1920s and could not meet payments during the Depression. Mrs. Scrivenor said that she learned from this loss by noting that her parents never expressed any bitterness about their misfortune. James Cowan went on to serve many years as Montgomery County treasurer, an office which his daughter Margaret Cowan later held for 19 years. Ibid.

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