

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

Listed  
VLR: 6/16/2016  
NRHP: 8/15/2016

**1. Name of Property**

Historic name: Clynchdale  
 Other names/site number: Archibald Thompson House; VDHR #092-5060  
 Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**2. Location**

Street & number: 146 Beartown Road  
 City or town: Tazewell State: VA County: Tazewell  
 Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  X

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
 I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
 In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local  
 Applicable National Register Criteria:  
A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of certifying official/Title:** **Date**  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of commenting official:** **Date**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Title :** **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure: Carriage House

AGRICULTURE: Animal Facility: Barn

AGRICULTURE: Storage: Corncrib

FUNERARY: Cemetery

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

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure: Office

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure: Workshop

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure: Garage

AGRICULTURE: Animal Facility: Barn

\_\_\_\_\_

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, WOOD, METAL: Tin

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

Archibald Thompson built the original portions of the Federal-style house called *Clynchdale* sometime between 1830 and 1833. *Clynchdale* is recognized as the oldest house in the head of Thompson Valley and one of the oldest brick houses in Tazewell County. Repairs and additions to the original house were made in 1870 and in 1910. The L-shaped four-over-four brick house with a three-bay facade is located at the base of Clinch Mountain on Maiden Spring Creek (formerly South Fork of Clinch River). Both the sides and the rear of the house are laid in four-course common bond, three wythes thick. The front of the house is laid in stretcher bond, which utilizes 8 x 8-inch square bricks to avoid the uneven end-brick appearance. In addition to the dwelling, the nominated property includes five contributing secondary resources: three domestic outbuildings, a large barn and a small cemetery, all of which are located south or southeast of the house; there are no non-contributing resources. The nominated property comprises 135 acres.

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#### Narrative Description

##### Site Description

*Clynchdale* is located at the base of Clinch Mountain on Maiden Spring Creek (formerly the South Fork of the Clinch River). Maiden Spring Creek flows in front of the north-facing house through a low-lying, relatively flat area and is fed by a strong emerging spring 230 feet southwest of the house. The house itself is sited at the edge of the creek floodplain and the base of the Clinch Mountain slope, 1,120 feet southeast of the junction of Beartown Road (Route 604) and Laurel Bed Road (Route 602). Much of the surrounding acreage consists of open cow

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

pastures. In addition to the house are five contributing secondary resources: three domestic outbuildings, a large barn and a small cemetery, all of which are located south or southeast of the house. The nominated parcel comprises 135 acres.

### Detailed Description

Every aspect of the original three-ranked L-shaped construction at *Clynchdale* conforms to Federal Style (1780-1840) or to early Greek Revival Style of architecture (1825-1860) (McAlester 2004: 223, 240). At *Clynchdale* ghost marks from painting the now-removed railings indicate that the original entry consisted of a 16 foot wide exposed balcony over the downstairs entry, typical of Federal-style houses (McAlester 2004: 226-8). *Clynchdale's* original roof formed a simple non-projecting gable with an inset rosette window adjacent to the balcony, rather than the present portico which dates to 1910.

The front façade has 3 x 6 foot windows on each floor to each side of 8 x 8 foot central doorways, above leading to the balcony and below leading to the front portico. There are keystone-like bricks above and 4 inch thick timbers below each window. The roof on the front side is hipped with central chimneys at the base of each hip. Counting the intersection with the rear L-wing, the total would be described as hip and valley. The roof was double-pitched above the balcony. A central rosette window above the balcony provided light for the attic. The double pitched roof is now extended into a massive portico added about 1910.

The 16 x 18 foot living room in the front of the house has windows to the north and west and a door to the hallway on the east and another to the dining room on the south. The parlor on the east side of the hall is also 16 x 18 feet long and has a window to the north symmetrical with the north window of the living room, both directly under the symmetrically-placed upstairs windows. There is another window on the south side of the parlor directly below the window of the bedroom above. A doorway on the west side of the parlor leads to the central hall.

The roof has been hipped from the beginning, as indicated by the hand-hewn rafters in the attic. The chimneys are placed to the outside at the base of these hips. The roof has a 45-degree slope to allow runoff from the wood shingles which originally covered it. The current crimped-tin roof dates to 2015, but replaced an earlier identical roof from around 1910. The six-pane original windows are pure Federal style with splayed brick arches to form the upper lintels.

The rooms are 18 x 18 feet on the inside, each room running into the next room without a hallway within the L-extension. However there is hallway running between the two main front rooms on each floor. The rooms are simply plastered with no moldings between the walls and the ceiling. All of the walls are composed of 14 inches of brick and plaster. The 4 x 8 inch bricks are four to five course Common bond, three bricks thick on the sides of the house. Eight inch square bricks are used on the front to effect a stretcher bond, again 3 bricks thick. Frog bricks are often utilized. These Frog bricks all have rounded bevels of a type consistent with the 1820-1830 period (Pulice 2011: 42, fig. 4.8). White penciling was applied to all the neatly-struck mortaring.

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

Eight Rumford-style fireplaces provide heating for each of the original eight rooms of the house. The fireplace mantels on six of the eight fireplaces at *Clynchdale* are outlined in Asher Benjamin's *The Architect or Practical House Carpenter* (1830). The mantels over the fireplaces in the living room and parlor were replaced in 1910. The ninth fireplace at *Clynchdale*, found in the office, was added in 1910.

The original windows in the house each apparently were composed of six panes of glass, giving a six over six double-hung sash construction. The six pane windows still survive only in the kitchen and in the back two bedrooms. In the front two bedrooms upstairs and downstairs in the parlor and living rooms, the original windows have been replaced with single panes. The later additions from circa 1870 show double pane windows.

The floor and ceiling joists at *Clynchdale* at all three levels, including the basement, are composed of poplar 3 x 8 inch timbers. These joists were cut with hand-power with pit saws from 8 x 12 inch beams which were first hand-hewn with axes and adzes to form them. Half of the joists show saw cuts on all sides and half show the V-marks of the hand saw on one face and the axe marks on the other face, clearly indicating the means of production. The 4 x 4 and 4 x 6 inch roof rafters in the attic are hand-hewn on all faces out of oak. Joints are morticed and pegged together. The chestnut boards in the roof also show straight reciprocating saw cuts.

All of the joists have lathe plaster boards 3/8 inch thick on the bottom nailed in by 1 1/4 inch cross-grain-cut type 6 nails (1810-1840) and the 6-inch poplar floor boards have straight saw cuts on the bottom and are nailed in by 3 inch type 7 in-line grain nails (1834-1847).

The 8 1/2 foot square cut-out for the front-door construction is original to the brick work. The present door and lights to the side date to 1910. The original door construction could have included full transom lights beside double doors as now found on the Greek Revival style door system in the rear of the house. The 8 x 8 1/2 foot double doors in the rear of the house were made in 1870, as the original locks have Corbin patent dates of 1868, although the surrounding window lights are earlier than the door, since their woodwork is warped and does not closely fit the opening. This 1868 Corbin lock is the only one ever utilized on these back double doors. The faux-grain paint was applied after the locks were screwed on. There is bare wood under the locks with no trace of patched-up holes from earlier locks. Of course these double doors are from the 1870 addition to the house. The 7 1/2 x 9 1/2 foot Dutch-door window combination system upstairs leading to the balcony also fills an original cut out, but probably dates to 1870. These doors and lights at the front door were then replaced in 1910 as above. Because of the 40 year-long exposure to the severe mountain weather and probable lack of maintenance during the Civil War, all of the original external doors were replaced in 1870, which is the date of all of the locks, which were manufactured by Corbin.

Of the 7 x 3 foot doors, two were external doors needing replacing and three were needed for the new doorways into the newly-enclosed rooms on the east and west sides of the house. Because there were only four 7 x 3 foot doors remaining in the house into the rooms each side of the

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

hallway upstairs and downstairs, the Thompsons elected to replace these doors as well. Only the six closet doors were left as original to the 1830 phase of the house. These closet doors were then turned around, painted with faux grain on the outside, as opposed to the original tan and brown, and fitted with new locks. These doors were probably unpainted on the inside in 1830. One of the original locks was found at the bottom of the clay pit for the 1870 bricks. The inside of the door to the closet under the stairs originally opened out and fitted within the frame. The sides of the door were widened to abut up against the frame on the inside so that the door could open in. The inside of this door had originally been left flat and unpainted. It was not turned around, but the hinges were shifted from one side to the other.

The kitchen forms the downstairs south back part of the L-wing. The original doorway has been turned into the dining room closet, with the east side of the kitchen being turned into a bathroom in the 1930's. The door was then moved to the west side. The door to the east side of the kitchen was added circa 1970. The kitchen was turned into a laundry room in 1910, while the dining room was made into a kitchen. The kitchen fireplace, designed for cooking with swing-out bar rings still in place, was bricked up at that time, datable by Old Virginia Beer cans in the fill.

In 1867 the entire downstairs of the house was flooded. After the 1867 flood the brick on the east side of the basement under the dining room was damaged to such an extent that this portion of the basement under the dining room was abandoned and filled with rubble, held in place by a newly-added crude brick wall. The fill is composed of clay at the bottom and old broken bricks and dirt on top, up to 4½ feet above the floor which still remains under the living room. The basement plaster ceiling was destroyed by the flood. However the 1¼ inch nails holding the lathing still remain as do most of the boards used to level out the hand-hewn beams that enable the lathing to be nailed evenly to the joists. The original stairway going into the half of the basement under the dining room was abandoned when the rubble was added. Then the stairway leading upstairs from the dining room was moved to the side beginning on the east wall and turning to the left on the north wall. The window beside the original stairs was then turned into a door and the window was moved 8 feet to the north.

A second small 7 x 16 foot porch was added at the same time to the west wall. The 16 foot Federal-style front porch was extended to the full length of the 50 foot wide house. Both the bricks and the masonry work on the columns to support both of these new porches, the small 16 foot long one to the west and the large 50 foot long one to the north, are identical to the bricks and masonry work on the new addition and must have been completed at the same time. Somewhere around 1875 the rest of the east-side porch was enclosed with sawmill cut 1 inch oak boards (slanted) covered by overlapping poplar siding. The windows in this porch each have double long-glass panes.

Around 1910 the Neo-classical portico was added in place of the Federal-style front portico and balcony. Again sawmill boards and wire nails were used in the construction of this portico. The portico has false gutters indicative of a sheet-metal roof added at the same time as the portico. This roof was replaced in 2015. The original door and window moldings in the living room were covered with Neo-classical-style moldings made of oak. To complement this oak molding in the

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

living room, the inside of the door and the framing for the door and windows in the parlor, which had been painted white, were crudely repainted with faux oak grain. The original mantels in the living room and in the parlor were replaced with factory-made oak mantels, one of which is actually dated 1910. The water-damaged floors in the living room and hall were covered with new oak flooring.

The library was separated from the office in 1910 by building a wall with moldings the same style as in the living room. The south window of this room, originally with three panes in each sash was replaced by sashes with single panes. The east window of this room was moved to the south of this wall to make way for a central east chimney of factory bricks. The top sash of this moved window has the original 3 panes and the bottom a single pane added at the time of the move.

The door from the library to the office is an 1870 door which has been turned around with an inset lock added on the opposite side. The 1910 lock on the door from the hall to the living room was inset by simply removing the old external lock and replacing it with an internal lock. All of the windows in the front portion of the house were replaced with single pane windows. A single pane window was also used in the new portico in place of the 1830 rosette window (which was more reflective of Georgian style rather than the usual Federal fan). These single-pane wood windows were more recently replaced with vinyl windows. In 2000 the 1830 rosette window, found lying in the attic, was used to replace the single pane window in the attic.

### **Material and Architectural Analysis**

All the brickwork of *Clynchdale* was masterfully done from bricks fired at the site. The brick clay sites have been located for the two main building dates: main house built in 1830-33 and the addition added in 1870-73. The brick clay was excavated in 1830-33 from the side of a rise on the north side of Maiden Spring Creek approximately 200 yards from the house site and 20 yards north of the creek. The brick was fired just above the clay excavation site as indicated by the many broken bricks and charcoal found there. Fire place sweepings and trash dumped later at the brick firing site date from 1820 and 1840 judging by the, charcoal, glass, salt-glazed crockery shards, and blue transfer ware found there. A broken frog brick excavated from this brick firing site is identical to those used in constructing *Clynchdale* and gives a positive indication that brick fired at this site was used to construct *Clynchdale*. Cracked, deformed, and highly-glazed fragments from this site indicate the high temperature used in firing the bricks. The second excavation created to dig out the clay for the bricks for the 1870 addition is located to the south of the house and was under the present outdoor wood furnace added in 2010. This excavation was also used as a trash pit from 1870 to 1900, as indicated by the periods of manufacture of the items excavated at this site.

These bricks are laid in common bond on the sides, with headers every four or five courses, and a “stretcher bond” on the front utilizing square bricks in place of headers. Even on the front side the walls are three bricks thick except where the 8 x 8 tile bricks replace two of the regular



Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

bricks. Many of the 4 x 8 inch bricks show crude rounded frog edges or lips consistent with a date to the period around 1820-1830 (Pulice 2011: 42, fig. 4.8). The 8 x 8 square bricks used in the front facades “stretcher bond” are also noted by Pulice (2011: 49) where “the earliest known examples date to the 1840’s” in southwestern Virginia. Pulice further notes that some buildings in this region from the 1870’s still have them. Shaw’s treatise of 1832 *Operative Masonry* refers to the use of the square bricks labelled as “tiles” (Pulice: 50). The curious eight-inch square bricks are also found in the Clay Building constructed in 1819 for the statehood convention in Huntsville, Alabama. These square bricks allow a “running bond” in the face. The “running bond” Jones described in Huntsville, as also found at *Clynchdale*, is said to be more expensive than Flemish bond, as the 8-inch bricks are harder to make. It is possible that this masonry technique occurred earlier in Huntsville and spread up the Tennessee Valley to southwestern Virginia. The square tile bricks are not inconsistent with an 1830 date for *Clynchdale*.

Some brick fronts of Federal period buildings have all running bond; that is, none of the bricks are turned endways (headers) to tie the face bricks to the inner bricks. The face brick ties consist of occasional courses of eight-inch square bricks which present a normalized face but which extend eight inches back into the inner bricks. The Clay building has this feature, with the usual common bond on the side and rear walls, which has an unattractive header-course about every seven courses. (Harvey Jones, “Constitution Hall Park” 1999: 60 *Historic Huntsville Quarterly of Local Architecture and Preservation* (Spring and Summer 1999).

The nails used on the original four-over-four L house at *Clynchdale* are all made of wrought iron. Hume (1978: 253) dates the cross-grain nails of the type found in the lathe ceilings at *Clynchdale* to 1815-1830’s and the longer parallel-grain nails found at *Clynchdale* to post 1820 for their use in Virginia. Wells goes into more detail for dating of nails in use inland from the Gulf of Mexico. The shapes of the cut nails used at *Clynchdale* are of three of Well’s types, based upon those used in Louisiana and the Gulf states. The dates of use of these nails in Tazewell may be a few years earlier or later. The dates given by Wells need to be rounded off, due to the impossibility of exact beginning and end dates of use. His dates are based upon the building dates of the houses in which they were found and are based upon a relatively small sample of housing sites. They do demonstrate that the nails were in use by the time of the dates he gives. *Clynchdale*’s lathing nails 1¼ inches long are type 6 with a cross-grain dating to 1810 to 1840, its sinker-type nails 3 inches long are type 7 with an in-line grain and square points dating in Louisiana houses to 1834 to 1847, and its intermediate nails are 2 inches long are type 6 with a cross-grain dating to 1805 to 1836 (Wells 1998: 92).

The construction-technique and shapes of these nail types would then suggest that they could be found together at a single site during the period 1830 to 1840. The two shorter nail types break apart easily, demonstrating a cross grain and production in narrow sheet roller mills. One of the 3 inch nails found in a window sill at *Clynchdale* is split in half down its length demonstrating that the grain runs the length of the nail. Thus it was produced in a wide-sheet rolling mill. “It appears that by 1830 wide roller technology had come into common use by American nail makers to make an improved, in-line-grained nail” (Wells 1998: 85). Pittsburg had its own

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

steam-powered rolling mill by 1811. One such plant was established in Wheeling twenty years later. With better rolling techniques “such cracks are less often seen in nails made after the 1840’s” (Wells 1998: 86). Round wire nails come into use around 1870 and become widespread after 1880, when steel replaced iron for use in all nails, cut or wire.

The first-floor poplar floor boards, whose undersides are visible in the basement, and the second-floor ceiling boards, visible in the attic, show straight reciprocating saw cuts from a water-powered mill with straight saw blades. Boards used in later post 1870 portions of the house show the circular cuts of a circular saw driven by steam power, typically found post 1870. Although the first circular saw was patented for windmill use around 1780, steam driven saw mills had generally driven out the inefficient water driven reciprocating saws by 1870. 1870 is generally a terminus date for straight saw cut boards.

There is one 2 x 10 oak board in front of the fireplace in the basement with broad straight cuts indicating that it was cut in a water-powered reciprocating saw mill and is probably post 1830. All of the floor joists and window sills for *Clynchdale* are hand sawed to form 3 x 8 inch boards from 8 x 12 inch hand-hewn timbers. The roof rafters are formed from hand-hewn 4 x 6’s and 4 x 4’s of chestnut. The 3 x 8 inch poplar joists under all the floors are hand-hewn on the bottom face and either hand-hewn or hand-pit-saw cut on the side faces, as indicated by V-shaped cut marks. First a 12 x 8 inch log was formed by a broad axe exactly as for a log house. These logs were then sawed into four boards each. Five of the twelve 3 x 8 joists in the basement, which are identical to the joists in the attic, show a hand-hewn face on one of the 8 inch sides. Seven of the joists show hand V-shaped saw cuts on both faces. All of the joists are hand-hewn on the bottom. The manufacturing technique is demonstrated by the fact that approximately half of the joists show hand-saw cuts on two side faces and half show saw cuts on only one face. The window sills were formed from the same 3 x 8’s as the floor joists. Some of these show the same axe marks as the floor joists. Three dozen 20 foot 8 x 12 inch poplar logs would have provided the joists and window sills for the whole house. The 4 x 4 and 4 x 6 inch roof rafters in the attic are hand-hewn on all faces out of oak. Joints are morticed and pegged together. The chestnut boards in the roof also show straight reciprocating saw cuts.

The original windows in the house each are composed of six panes of glass, giving a six over six double-hung sash construction. The two over two windows in the 1870 portions of the house were most popular from 1865 to 1900 (“Dating a Historic Building” in Peter B. Dedek, *Historic Preservation for Designers*, 2014: 242) and help to confirm that six over six windows indicate a considerably earlier date for original house construction period. In 1880 sheets of glass big enough for one-over-one windows became available. The individual 11 x 16 inch panes in the six over six kitchen window and back upstairs windows at *Clynchdale* show glass panes with bubbles, creases, and an uneven surface, suggestive of an early date.

Everything about the materials utilized in the original brick L-shape house is consistent with a date around 1830-33. On the other hand the post 1870 additions, such as the office room or the portico, have wire nails and show circular saw-mill cut lumber. The materials utilized to

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

construct the original Federal period core of the house all support the date projected by other means.

All interior doors, measuring 3 x 7 feet and constructed of four panels, were replaced around 1870. Also the exterior double doors were replaced at this time. They each measure 2 ½ by 6 ½ feet, constructed of two panels, so that when closed they give a 5 foot wide four panel appearance. One of the Corbin locks on the new double doors is actually dated 1868. The faux-oak grain was painted at that time. The lights surrounding the back hall double doors probably were taken from the upstairs balcony opening. The unusual double windows over the Dutch doors would then date to 1870 as well. Also in 1870, the closet doors were turned around to have their inside on the outside. The impressions of the inside locks are now on the same side as the current hinges. These doors still have the original colors on what is now the inside. The panels are tan with a brown outer framing. The present exteriors were then painted with false oak grain during the 1870 remake. The closet doors, measuring 3 x 6 feet and constructed of six panels, are of a style common to the period 1820 to 1830. The door to the closet under the main stairway was specifically constructed 4 inches smaller in all dimensions to 32 x 68 inches to fit the stairs and fitted with new locks around 1870. However an older handmade lock exactly fitting the surviving impression on one of the closet doors was found in the lowest levels of the debris filling in the pit from which the clay was excavated to form bricks for the 1870 addition. The closet doors are of a type illustrated in Asher Benjamin's *The Architect of Practical House Carpenter* (1830).

The eight original fireplaces at *Clynchdale* are all of Count Rumford design. Except for the living room and parlor mantels, which were replaced in 1910, *Clynchdale*'s fireplace mantels are of a Federal/Classical style and also are outlined in Asher Benjamin. Here we also find balusters like the one at *Clynchdale* (pl. XXV), double doors like the 7½ x 8 foot door at *Clynchdale* (pl. XXVIII), and similar moldings like those at *Clynchdale* (pl. XXXIX, XL).

### ***Clynchdale* Phases**

Phase 1: 1830-33.

The house is a four over four L-shape, similar to an 1819 three over three L-shaped house from Huntsville, Alabama (Jones 1999: 32). The 1829 Cameron House in Raleigh, North Carolina, also shows the back addition at the center rather than the side of the house, as well as three across windows and chimneys at the base of each hip of the roof (Lane 1985: 137). In appearance the front face of *Clynchdale* is somewhat like that of Madison Pitzer's *Belle Aire* in Roanoke (Virginia Landmarks Register: p. 453) constructed by master builder Gustavus Sedon of Roanoke in 1849. However, *Belle Aire* shows Classical details, while *Clynchdale* is Federal in its rooms and exterior. Eight-inch square bricks are used on the front of the house of the house to effect a stretcher bond, again 3 bricks thick, as also found in Federal-period houses in Huntsville, Alabama.

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

Since rivers were the great connectors and the roadways during the first half of the nineteenth century, cultural and stylistic similarities align along the river systems. *Clynchdale* shows a similarity to houses downstream from it in the Tennessee River Valley. The Clinch River flows into the Tennessee River at Kingston, Tennessee, just west of Knoxville. The Tennessee River basically loops through middle Tennessee before merging with the Ohio at Paducah, Kentucky, just to the east of where the Ohio merges with the Mississippi between Memphis and St Louis. Before the Civil War two major cash crops would have been produced at *Clynchdale*: whiskey and beef cattle. The cattle could walk out of Thompson Valley, but the whiskey would have to have been transported out downhill in barrels to the nearest access to flat-bottom river boats to make its way to side-wheel steamers at Knoxville. Jefferson lifted the tax on whiskey in 1802, earlier imposed by Washington. Whiskey then became the major way to get to market corn produced in the Appalachian Mountains until 1871. After this date the tax on whiskey, initiated during the Civil War, was enforced on the Southern States by President Grant, making it prohibitively expensive for small-scale production.

To take his barrels of whiskey to market Archibald Thompson could have carted his barrels by oxcart downhill to Clynchport and there loaded them onto river boats (bateaux) and floated them on to Kingston, Tennessee, where they would have been transferred to sidewheel riverboats. Alternatively he could have carted them by oxcart to Kingsport, Tennessee and floated them down the Holston River on bateaux to Knoxville. In 1828 the steamer *Atlas* steamed through Muscle Shoals and arrived in Chattanooga and Knoxville. Indeed this would have been the most comfortable way to travel to major ports and cities, as Clinchport (85 miles downhill from *Clynchdale*) and Kingsport (80 miles downhill from *Clynchdale*) are both less than half the distance to Lynchburg (190 miles and over the mountains), the nearest place to catch a bateaux to Richmond, Virginia. The railroad did not reach Wytheville until 1854. By 1856 it had reached Abingdon and Bristol. It was not until 1887 that a rail-line extended to Tazewell. Before that date oxcart transport along the Clinch River Valley and Holston River Valley to Abingdon and Bristol would have been the only way to transport goods to and from Thompson Valley.

As for the date of 1830-33 for the construction of the main part of *Clynchdale*, the early Federal *Feeny-Barber House* in Huntsville, Alabama, has identical trim décor to *Clynchdale* on the stairway (p 27), which is very similar. The *Weeden House* in the same town dates to 1819 (p 44) and is a similar L-shape, but 3 over 3 rather than 4 over 4.

As with the sides of the house, the front of *Clynchdale* is 3 bricks thick. In the front of the house the 3 brick thickness is effected through the use of 8 inch square bricks in place of the header courses found on the sides of the house. *Clynchdale's* curious 8 inch square bricks are also found in the *Clay Building* constructed in 1819 (for the statehood convention in Huntsville), which allows a running bond in the face (opposed to stretcher bond, which is only 1 brick thick). The running bond described in Huntsville, as also found at *Clynchdale*, is said to be more expensive than Flemish bond, as the 8 inch bricks are harder to make. It serves the same purpose but makes for a more even face. The above house descriptions are from *the Historic Huntsville Quarterly of Local Architecture and Preservation* (Spring and Summer 1999). If *Clynchdale* were found in Huntsville Alabama, one would have no problem with the date of 1830-33.

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

The construction date of the first phase of the brick house known as *Clynchdale* is indicated in the tax records by a jump of \$200 in building value in 1830 followed by another jump of \$300 in 1833 with the notation “\$300 added for improvements”. The tax valuation of the house is then \$1000 when added to the 1820 \$500 valuation of an original log house, whose foundation stones and chimney stones remain approximately ½ mile southwest of *Clynchdale*.

The plan of the new brick house constructed around 1830 is a four over four L-shape with the elbow to the west to take advantage of the hill slope to create a half basement under the dining room and living room. The architectural style of the first phase of the house is Federal in nearly all details on the exterior. All of the rooms have brick walls on all faces extending from basement to attic. The brick is laid in common bond with headers separated by four or sometimes 5 rows and a smooth running or stretcher bond on the front to the north effected by 8 x 8 inch “tile bricks”. All of the walls are three bricks thick encompassing about 14 inches including the mortar joints and inside plaster. The frog bricks are all of the type dated by Pulice (2011: 42, fig. 4.8) to 1820-30. All of the beams in the attic are hand hewn logs. The nails are of an early square cut type consistent with this 1830 date. The rooms 16 x 18 are classic Federal.

The 8 ½ foot square cut-out for the front-door construction is original to the brick work. The present door and lights to the side date to 1910. The original door construction could have included full transom lights beside double doors as now found on the Greek Revival style door system in the rear of the house, a type dating to 1825-1860 by McAlester (2004: 249). The original upstairs-balcony-door system probably included the lights which are now utilized on the back double doors downstairs. The front doors in 1870 and possibly even in 1830 probably looked like those currently at the back of the house leading to the breakfast room.

There are presently two rooms in the basement, one of which, formed in 1870 through the addition of a dividing brick wall, is now largely filled in. The original basement had lathe plaster ceilings 6 ¼ feet higher than the present cement floor and 6 feet higher than an original clay floor, whose remains are detectable under the basement fireplace beneath the living room. To each side of the northern basement fireplace were windows 18 inches high and 24 inches wide, one of which to the south of the chimney is now taken up by a coal door and the other to the north of the chimney by the current entry door way. There are additionally two 4 x 8 inch vent holes in each of the north face and west face walls. The northern half of the basement room is 16 x 18 feet, while the southern half is 16 x 20 feet. The rooms above the basement have the same dimensions. Originally there would have been an 8 x 12 inch beam running between the two halves of this room, now replaced by a sloppily built brick wall. This beam would have been hand-hewn and exactly the same as the beams which were sawn into four floor joists.

Access to the basement was from a stairway on the west wall of the dining room running downward from north to south. Above this basement stair was another stair providing access to the second floor of the house running upward from south to north. Thus the two stairs were parallel one above the other. This stair to the second floor provided the only access to the back south two L-rooms upstairs and the basement downstairs. Both stairs thus terminate about 4 feet in front of brick walls. There are cutouts now boarded-up on both downstairs and the upstairs

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

floors to show where these original stairs ran. Also there is a support post in the basement where the cutout for the stairs went through the joists.

The current furnace feeds into a bricked-up basement fireplace under the living room fireplace. This fireplace is 38 inches wide, the same as the one above it in the living room, which is also the same size as that in the parlor. There was apparently another fireplace now buried under the rubble beneath the dining room fireplace (4 feet wide). The buried fireplace may have contained an oven, but this is speculation since the fireplace is still buried. This large basement area, encompassing around 650 square feet, was then used apparently for cooking, food preparation, a pantry, and perhaps for washing laundry as well. Food prepared in the basement could then be brought directly up the stairs into the dining room.

The two back L rooms on the ground floor include at the extreme south a 12 ½ x 16 foot inside kitchen. It appears that the upstairs kitchen and fireplace is also original to the 1830 house. The central feature on the north side of this kitchen is a large open cooking fireplace of Rumford design, with an opening nearly 5 feet wide by 3 ½ feet high. This large fireplace would have been difficult to add after construction of the rest of the house. The mantel for this fireplace is nearly identical in design to that in the dining room. This kitchen fireplace was fitted with a swingout bar for hanging pots over the fire and a hearth, 6 feet by 3 ½ feet wide, for raking charcoal out to heat fry pans and Dutch ovens. There is a window to the west side of this upstairs kitchen and a central doorway to the outside to the south with another offset door to the north. The bedroom above the kitchen is of similar plan, minus the south-facing door. Perhaps the upstairs kitchen was used in the summer, since it was separated from the dining room by a brick wall and the basement kitchen was used in the winter. It should be noted that summer months half a mile high in Thompson Valley are 5 degrees cooler than in the Town of Tazewell and 10 degree cooler than in the eastern Virginia Tidewater or Piedmont regions. As located the summer kitchen at *Clynchdale* was amply separated by a 14 inch brick wall from the rest of the house.

Two kitchen homes were not that uncommon in the early 19th century. One example from 1855 is described on Long Island Sound.

From this hall an entry leads to a summer-kitchen ... which is fifteen by nineteen, and so placed as, though sufficiently removed from the main building to prevent heat or odor penetrating the interior, is conveniently near for use. The space below is occupied by a large kitchen under the dining-room provided with a range and boiler, an old-fashioned brick oven, and a large open fire-place for roasting. There is also a laundry beneath the family parlor (Homes for the People... by Geevase Wheeler NY: 1855 in Researching Food and Food History 2010: Summer Kitchen).

Besides the kitchen fireplace, there are 7 other original fireplaces at Clynchdale, all of a Rumford design. According to Wikipedia, Rumford fireplace were common from 1800 to 1850 and are another indication of the date of the house.

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

To the north of the kitchen, still in the L-wing, is the 16 x 20 foot dining room with solid brick walls. The dining room had a central mid-placed west window beside the stairs and directly under the upstairs window. There was a door to the southeast side of the dining room where the closet is now, providing access to the kitchen. The present door at 90 degrees to the original kitchen door, providing access to the porch, was added in 1870. Since the molding does not quite match with a slightly narrower rim, the bottom south side of the trim was never completed, and this door seems totally out of place. The door to the east directly under the second story window provided the original access to the porch, but it now leads to the enclosed library. The door to the north is original to the house and provides access to the living room.

The centrally-placed fire places to the east and west in the parlor and living room are poorly-planned as their chimneys are at the center and base of sloping hip roofs inviting leakage. This plan is similar to that at Montpelier in Orange County, but at Montpelier the two chimneys on each side of the hip rooms allow the main volume of water to cascade between them. The central hall between the living room and the parlor is 10 x 18 feet and contains the 7½ x 8 foot front door, with two 2 ½ foot double doors creating a 5 feet wide opening with foot wide lights to the sides and above. There are doors leading into the parlor and living room to each side of the stairs.

The main stairs located in the hall are four feet wide and reverse direction at a landing. As for the cannon base of the central hallway stairs, the original pillar may have been rickety and replaced in 1870, but the stairway itself is original. It should be noted that there are similar balustrades illustrated in Benjamin 1830 (pl. XXV). In *The Architect or Practical House Carpenter* (1830), we also find stairway balusters like the one at *Clynchdale* (pl. XXV), double doors like the 7½ x 8 foot door at *Clynchdale* (pl. XXVIII), and similar moldings around the doors and windows like those at *Clynchdale* (pl. XXXIX, XL). It is clear the Asher Benjamin works of 1806-1830 were the inspiration for much of the interior woodwork at *Clynchdale*.

Above, the doors lead to the two bedrooms east and west. The differentially-painted panels and frame on the 1830 closets either side of the fireplaces are a feature of the Georgian-period *Drayton Hall* built in South Carolina on the Ashley River in 1742 (Lane 1984: 46, 48). The 1825 two-tone graining and marbleizing on the doors at *Sylvania* in Bradley, South Carolina, show that the concepts were at least still alive during the Federal period. At some point at *Clynchdale* the moldings and frames around the doors, window, and mantels were painted white except in the hallways. All the moldings on the hall side of the doors, as well as the doors are faux grain. This faux grain at *Clynchdale* apparently dates to 1870, not to 1830.

To the north of the upstairs landing is a balcony with an opening the same size as the front door below. There was a small portico below the second-floor balcony. Paint traces on the outside front are still visible of terminal posts of the downstairs railings.

Phase 2: 1867-1869

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

The Clinch River flows into the Tennessee River at Kingston near Knoxville. What was originally considered the south fork of the Clinch River originates near *Clynchdale* and is now known as Maiden Spring Creek. In the first week of March 1867 sixteen inches of rain fell on the upper Tennessee River Valley, including the upper Clinch River Valley, causing a flash flood to cascade down the mountain side. *Clynchdale* lay directly in the path of this torrent. The surge of water several feet deep flowed with considerable force into the L of the brick house, flooding the downstairs floors, doors, and woodwork and severely damaging the basement foundation on the east side. The basement was completely filled 7 feet deep with water. Any plaster on the ceiling and walls would have dissolved. The fireplace brick shows water staining up to a depth of 44 inches from standing water, approximately the depth of the bottom of the basement windows. Because of this damage the tax valuation on the house and land was lowered from \$4350 to \$2175 for the years 1869 and 1870.

### Phase 3: ca. 1870-71

The rain of 1867 caused severe leaking through the wooden shingle roof in addition to the downstairs flood damage. The walls were wallpapered over to cover the cracks and damage to the plaster. At the time of the 2000 reconstruction, even the badly-cracked ceilings were covered with nine layers of post-Civil-War wallpaper, indicating frequent leak damage. Until the roof was replaced by tin in 1910 there must have been repeated damage through the leaky shingle roof, especially since the attic was full of bat guano. Runoff from this bat guano leaves ugly black streaks on the plaster. The current owner of *Clynchdale* removed approximately six hundred pounds of bat guano from the attic during the 2000 reconstruction.

Following the 1867 flood, the house was apparently abandoned for several years. Sometime between 1867 and 1871 the half of the basement under the dining room was filled with a 2 ½ foot deep layer of compacted brick clay in an attempt to stop further water run-in to the remaining part of the basement under the living room. Next a 2 ½ foot deep rubble layer was added to prevent the east wall of the ell from collapsing. The total of clay and rubble fill extends to within 2 ½ feet of the ceiling on the north side and to within 1 ½ feet of the ceiling on the south side. The outside ground level is 4 feet below the ceiling on north side and 3 feet below the ceiling on the south side of the filled-in room. The room was thus filled in 1 ½ feet above the outside ground level. There can be no doubt that the basement most likely was filled in to sure up the foundation on the east side, which may have been partially collapsed and bulging, and to ensure against future collapse from water damage on this wall.

The rubble in the top 2 ½ foot layer is composed of the ash, broken bricks, and clay formed from firing the bricks for the office added around 1870 as outlined below. Some of the fill was dumped through a hole obtained by removing the brick-over-board hearth on the south side of the dining room beneath which there is still a deep pile of rubble a foot higher than elsewhere. Some of the fill was dumped through the basement stairway cutout on the west side. Some of the fill was brought into the basement through constructing a door out of the window on the northern part of the west basement wall. At this time a drain was added with a cast-iron pipe to drain out water that still leaks into the surviving basement from the southeast corner.



Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

The sloppily-built wall separating the dining room basement half from the living room basement half was elevated along with the fill level. Along this sloppily-constructed south wall even frog bricks are turned sideways with their ridges facing out, and foundation-tile bricks are at an elevated level. The east wall of the living-room portion of the basement interlocks with the brickwork in the 90 degree wall to the north running west to east. The current brick wall separating the dining room and the living room halves of the basement simply abuts the west and east walls, demonstrating that it is a later addition. There are boards at the bottom of the floor rafters on which the rafters and upstairs bricks are laid. The 3 ½ x 7 ½ hand-inch hand-hewn floor joists are spaced at 16 inch intervals. To support the upstairs hearth, beams are cut into a 3 x 9 ½ inch beam and pegged. The lathing runs up to this beam on both sides, so it ran 1 ½ inches below the plaster.

Inside the wall on the first floor between the living room and the dining room there is a beam eight inches wide running transversely 2 feet above the floor level. The brick wall continues, laid on top of this beam, which is plastered over. The original basement must have run the full length of the living room and dining room with a large wooden beam supporting the upper walls in combination with this other beam above it still in the wall. Remains of the bottom portion of a brick column, eight inches square, to support this beam survives on the west side of the sloppily-built brick wall. Perhaps this beam was already rotting at the time of the 1867 flood, when the house was nearly 40 years old. Black ants are a problem in this area, as some were still infesting the rotting oak joists under the west-facing porch at the time of its reconstruction in 2015. The supporting beam would then have been replaced by the brick wall after the 1867 flood.

There can be no doubt that the south end of the basement was filled in, at least in the top layer, when the office room was added. The bottom layer of red brick clay is placed over top of an earlier concrete floor. Between the concrete floor and the clay is a two inch layer of sand and silt, evidence of the flooding. The basement clearly had 6 ½ foot ceilings under this portion of the house explaining the original plastering of the ceilings. The stair to the basement was removed and an external entrance to the portion of the basement surviving under the living room was cut in its place.

The stairway to the second floor was then moved to the north east corner of the house and provided with a door and a Corbin lock (circa 1870), enabling dating. When the stairway to the second floor was moved, the original cutout for the stairway on the second floor was re-floored with 2 ½ inch wide pine boards. This pine flooring is identical to that used in the library and office consistent with this construction all being done at the same period. Also the west facing window at the bottom of the stairway in the dining room to the second floor was turned into a door to a newly constructed porch. The two over two window cut to the north of this doorway to replace the original window is identical to the two over two windows in the breakfast room added a couple of years later.

A brick-faced room was added behind and to the south of the parlor, which is now used as an office. The bricks were hand-made more crudely than the earlier bricks and applied as a fascia over oak wooden siding. With the addition of this room the south window of the parlor was

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

sealed up and the frame and window moved to the east wall of the parlor. The window on the south face of this addition is original, while that on the north face was moved from its original location where the chimney now is. Two 2 ½ foot wide double doors were added next to the dining room to provide an exit to the back porch. These doors provided a 5 foot wide opening with lights above and to the sides to total 8 x 8 feet for the cutout. This door cutout is similar to that of the 8 x 8 foot front door cutout. A Corbin lock (patent dated 1868) is still on this door. The window under the east-facing second-story window was turned into a door into this room from the dining room. Most of the wooden doors and locks (Corbin) throughout the house were changed or added at this time. The old doors only remain on the upstairs closets and on one downstairs closet. One of the older locks and knob survives and fits one of the closets.

The 1870-75 date of the addition is indicated by use of round wire nails, round saw mill cuts on the oak boards, and the date of the garbage fill in the excavation from which the clay was dug to make the bricks on-site. These 1870 bricks are more crudely made than the original 1830 bricks for the L-shaped house. The bottles and other debris, including bone tooth brushes and canning jars, date in the earliest level to around 1870. From a higher-up debris layer comes a complete medicine bottle for Warner's Safe Kidney and Liver Cure from Rochester, NY, dating to circa 1880.

The square piano which is in the parlor dates to 1868-70 in manufacture by Daniel F. Beatty of Washington, New Jersey. In 2000 a ninety-year old Mrs. Lynch conveyed the information to the present owner of *Clynchdale* that it was brought up Plum Creek by an oxcart drawn by 8 oxen and that it was new when it was brought into the house. The renovations of 1870 must have been completed before this piano was brought to the house. The 1870 date of the piano coincides exactly with the date of the Corbin locks on the new doors.

The 16 foot Federal-style front porch was extended to the full length of the 50 foot wide house as was customary with Victorian/Italianate-style architecture dating from 1840 to 1885 in the US as a whole. The brick pillars for the supports under the extended full-length downstairs front porch were added at this time. In contrast the pillars for the original entrance and built to support the pillars for the balcony shows bricks and brickwork from the same period as the original 1830 house. Also the brick pillars for the west porch are identical to those for the extended porch. All of these pillar bricks were made at the same time as the brick-faced room, which is now used as an office. The floor joists under both porches are 2 x 10's of oak, showing circular saw cuts. The shifting of the dining room stair system provided an opportune moment to add a door and create the room, which would be turned into a solarium around 1910. The upstairs balcony may have been removed when this full-length porch was added.

These repairs and additions must be complete by 1871 when there is an increase of \$435 to the total value of the buildings.

Phase 4: ca. 1873

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

An additional phase of building is suggested by the fact that another \$290 was added to the valuation of the house in 1873. By this time a frame enclosed porch had been added outside and to the east of the kitchen and dining room, now called the breakfast room. Inch thick oak boards nailed diagonally were then covered with poplar siding. Three 3 ½ x 5 ½ foot windows run the length of this enclosure. The windows in this porch each have double long-glass panes, which like the full-length porch, are indicative of the Italianate period (1840-1885) (McAlester 2005: 284-5).

A door was added from the kitchen to this enclosed porch. Round-headed nails, circular saw cut boards, and diagonal sub-flooring boards were used throughout, as opposed to the square-cut nails, and pitsaw straight cuts of the phase 1 construction.

The combination of this frame addition with the brick addition then extended the east of the house a foot higher up the hill at the bend of the L-shape reducing the depth of any potential future floods. Judging by the nearly one foot depth of the 2001 flood, the 1867 flood may have reached a depth of 3 feet at the L-juncture of the original building and flowed along its edge with considerable force. A concrete-lined ditch 2 feet wide and 1 foot deep was added at the house edge to help drain any water making it passed a stone-face dyke and ditch dug along the road to the east to channel the water away from the yard.

#### Phase 5: 1910

Big, heavy columns were added to support a Classical Revival portico to cover the upstairs balcony, which would have been re-added at this time. The hidden box gutters, built-in as part of the wooden structure on this portico, show that it dates to the same period as the tin roof. Such box gutters were popular between 1880 and 1910. The ¾ inch-thick tongue and groove factory pine floor boards under the now roofed-over balcony certainly date to around 1910. The fence around this balcony was added on top of these boards. The Dutch doors and windows leading to this balcony probably date to 1870, but the opening and original balcony date to 1830.

The fireplaces in the kitchen, dining room, and living room were bricked shut around this time and replaced with stoves. The living room fireplace was built out to accommodate a stove pipe. This transformation of the fireplace coincided with the addition of a new mantel in 1910, as the mantel has that date on the back label. The mission oak framing for the doors and windows was added at the same time over top of the earlier faux-grain painted poplar molding. The similar style of the molding over the doors and windows in the office to the 1910 oak molding of the living room would suggest that the office was closed off from the central hall at this time, as would the inset lock on the door.

A simple Craftsman-style fireplace was added to this office room after it was closed off. The bricks for this new office-room fireplace are factory-made. The fireplace as originally-built did not draw properly and was later extended in height. The window which the fireplace replaced was moved to the side. This three-over-three moved widow shows the same molding work as the

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

door, confirming the date of 1910 for the fireplace. The living room and entrance hall poplar floors were covered over with narrow oak floors at this same time. A kitchen stove was added at this time as well. The walled-up kitchen fireplace was full of medicine bottles and Old Virginia Beer Cans which had caps similar to modern beer bottles. Therefore the kitchen fireplace must have been walled up before Prohibition (1919). An open screened-in porch was added to the south and back side of the kitchen. This porch uses poorly laid stone done in sectors for its bottom portion. The original six-paned windows in the four front four rooms were replaced with single-pane windows. The rosette window in the attic was taken down and laid on the attic floor. A new single-pane window replaced this window in the new portico.

#### Phase 6: 1930-50

A coal furnace to provide forced air central heat was added in the surviving basement under the living room. With the addition of this coal-fired central heat, the upstairs' fireplaces were bricked shut. The kitchen was moved to the old dining room. The old kitchen chestnut floor was covered with a new floor (July 1931 newspaper found between floors). A bathroom was added in the east portion of the old kitchen. The west portion became a laundry room. Electricity and phones came to *Clynchdale*. A cistern was constructed on the hill above the house. Water was then pumped to this cistern by an electrically-powered pump to supply water for bathroom in the old kitchen area and for the new kitchen, now located in what used to be the dining room. An upstairs bathroom was added as well to the east portion of the south bedroom around 1945-50 with a green enameled iron tub and matching toilet.

#### Phase 7: 2000-2015

Nine layers of post-Civil-War wallpaper were steamed off the walls and ceilings and the plaster repaired beneath these layers in 2000. The south back porch was turned into a downstairs bathroom. The kitchen was restored from the 1930's bathroom and 1910 laundry room. The red tile floor was laid with the slate floor indicating the original extent of the stone hearth, underneath it. The red tile replaced an original chestnut floor of rough boards which were rotted beyond repair. All of the fireplaces were opened-up and given glass doors. In 2015 a new green roof of tin replaced the 1910 roof. The west porch from 1870 was restored to its enclosed condition of 1910 but given a marble floor. Leak damage from the old tin roof was repaired. The 1930's toilet in the downstairs bathroom was replaced by an 1890 C. J. McCubbin toilet with a chain pull. Expert carpenters repaired and repainted all the external woodwork to the beige color it had in 1870.

## **Secondary Resources Descriptions**

### Outbuildings

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

1) The one-story gable-roofed weatherboarded frame building located 32 feet east of the house was constructed ca. 1910 as a carriage house, and is now used as an office. The interior has been remodeled, but the exterior appearance is essentially unchanged. Contributing Building.

2) The one-story frame corncrib located 83 feet east-southeast of the house is believed to have been constructed ca. 1870 and is now used as a garage and workshop. The corncribs are still in place on each side of the central drive-through bay. Contributing Building.

3) The oldest portion of the one-story frame shop building 145 feet east-southeast of the house is believed to have been constructed ca. 1870. Added to the south end is a ca. 1910 livestock barn, now in poor condition, used as a workshop. A truck garage was added in 1970. Contributing Building.

#### Barn

The large gambrel-roofed frame barn, built ca. 1930, is located 600 feet east-southeast of the house. Contributing Building.

#### Cemetery

A 65 x 32-ft. enclosed cemetery is situated 325 feet south of the house. Archibald Thompson is buried in the cemetery as is his son William, who served in the Virginia House of Delegates (1822-1823). The exact number of interments is not known. Contributing Site.

The following interments were recorded from the extant gravestones in the cemetery:

Mary S. Thompson: B. December 22, 1827, D. May 19, 1896 (first grave from south on west side) (2nd wife of James B. Thompson).

James B. Thompson: B. 1809, D. April 10, 1858 age 49 (2nd grave from south on west side).

Mary Rutledge Thompson: B. 1806, D. 1842 (3rd grave from south on west side) (1st wife of James B. Thompson).

Archibald Thompson: B. June 10, 1764, D. August 4, 1846 (4th grave from south on west side).

Rebecca Thompson: B. July 2, 1778, D. November 12, 1836 (5th grave from south on west side) (wife of Archibald).

William Thompson: B. February 21, 1797, D. March 3, 1875 (second row in from west side).

Ellen E. Thompson and Edward R. Thompson (large tombstone).

Ellen E. Thompson: B. June 1, 1840, D. October 3, 1903 (small tombstone).

Edward R. Thompson: B. October 7, 1834, D. March 10, 1896 (small tombstone).

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

Mary Matilda Thompson: B. 1859, D. 1895 (wife of D. W. Lynch) (large tombstone).

Also interred are various Correll, Lynch, and Neal family members.

### **Statement of Integrity**

Analysis of the architectural design and construction materials and methods of *Clynchdale* have demonstrated that the dwelling retains a high level of integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. The property overall has integrity of location and retains its historic agricultural setting with 135 acres encompassed within the historic boundary. The larger area surrounding the nominated property also reflects its largely rural and agricultural historic use. Within the nominated property, the collection of four contributing outbuildings and a family cemetery are evocative of the property's historic and current agricultural uses. Thus *Clynchdale* also retains integrity of feeling and association.

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Clyncdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1830 – ca. 1930  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1870-1873  
ca. 1910  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

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

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

*Clynchdale* at its inception in 1830 was the largest Federal-style brick house in Tazewell County. It is the oldest house in the head of Thompson Valley, named after William and Archibald Thompson who first settled there in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Archibald Thompson owned 2,444 acres in the valley when he began construction of *Clynchdale*. Its four-over-four, brick construction is unusual for a Federal-style house in Southwest Virginia. Located at the head of the Tennessee Valley Divide, until the railway reached nearby Abingdon in 1854, Thompson Valley was economically and culturally closely tied to the important centers downstream from it on the Tennessee River, such as Knoxville and Chattanooga in Tennessee, and Huntsville, Alabama. Inspiration for the design of *Clynchdale* may have come as much from these areas as from the northeast and the rest of Virginia. Although there are other brick houses in Tazewell County showing Federal and Early Classical Revival style, none are as grand in scope as *Clynchdale*. The house and farm property is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The period of significance spans from construction of the house ca. 1830 through ca. 1930 when the last contributing resource on the farm (the barn) was believed to have been erected.

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

*Clynchdale* is recognized as the oldest house in the head of Thompson Valley and one of the oldest brick houses in Tazewell County. It was built by Archibald Thompson who fought in the important Revolutionary Battle of Kings Mountain. The house may be depicted in a fanciful engraving from memory on page 79 of George Bickley's 1852 *History of the Settlement and Indian Wars of Tazewell County*.

Archibald Thompson referred to *Clynchdale*, unnamed, as "my plantation" in his will of 1846 that left it and all of the adjoining land to his son James B. Thompson (1809-1858). The name of the house was conveyed to the current owner, Garrett Olmsted, in the year 2000 by a Mrs. Lynch, who was born at the house around 1910. James B. Thompson who inherited the home from Archibald in turn left the plantation house and adjoining land to his son Edward R. Thompson (1834-1896). In 1896, the house began to pass through the female side. Direct Thompson descendants had lived at *Clynchdale* through 1972 under the names of Lynch and then Neal. Only two families have owned *Clynchdale* since 1972: the Moss family who purchased the house and 210 acres of land in 1972 and the Olmsted family. Garrett Olmsted bought the property and 210 acres from William Moss in 2000. The adjoining land to the West already belonged to the Olmsteds. Today 450 acres of the original farm are still associated with *Clynchdale* under Olmsted ownership.

Archibald Thompson (1764-1846), who built *Clynchdale*, came to what would become Tazewell County with his father William in 1770 to settle in the area around the Crab Orchard Fort (now

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

located at the juncture of route 19-460 and business route 61). In 1774 during Dunmore's War, Archibald Thompson's father William accompanied Reese Bowen and other men from the area in the raid on Cornstalk's village at Pont Pleasant. In 1788, William Thompson and his family settled on 200 acres between the Rich and Clinch Mountains, which was recorded in a deed of 1799 in what was then Wythe County. William may have received this property for his role in the Revolution (DAR Ancestor #: A114675). William and his son Archibald (then 16), fought in the fall of 1780 at the Battle of King's Mountain in South Carolina, having marched there with Lt. Reese Bowen as part of the Over-Mountain men. Although Reese Bowen died in the battle of King's Mountain, both William and Archibald returned victorious over Major Patrick Ferguson and the British. William Thompson was made Commissioner of the Peace for Wythe County in 1790 and Sheriff in 1797. Until 1799 Thompson Valley was part of Wythe County. Tazewell County was not formed until 1799. In addition to accompanying his father to fight at King's Mountain, William's son, Archibald, was a member of the militia that attempted to protect the settlers from attacks by the Shawnee which occurred regularly up until 1792.

In 1783 the family moved to Thompson Valley to reside on a revolutionary land grant tract of 200 acres. William Thompson (1722-1798) subsequently purchased an additional 1,300 acres of land along the Maiden Spring Fork (originally known as the South Fork of the Clinch River) in 1789. The area surrounding the land on which William Thompson settled was named after him and is still called Thompson Valley. After his father purchased the additional 1,300 acres, Archibald Thompson moved to the newly acquired land where he built a log house up the side of the mountain (site identified) and began to clear the land for grazing and plowing and to manage the large tract of land for his father. By 1820 Archibald Thompson had acquired 2444 acres deeded to his name. At this stage he owned around a dozen slaves to work the extensive acreage. Archibald's father William continued to reside on his original 200 acre land-grant tract until his death in 1798.

Tax records, archaeological survey, architectural style, construction material, and building technique all concur that Archibald Thompson built the brick plantation house *Clynchdale* sometime between 1830 and 1833, and that additional rooms were constructed and renovations were carried out during the period 1870-73 and later circa 1910. Sadly, Archibald Thompson died in 1846 so he only had 15 years to enjoy the home. He might have anticipated such an outcome since he was already 65 when he built *Clynchdale*. Today, nearly 450 acres of the original 290, 196, and 200 acre tracts which surrounded what would become *Clynchdale* are still part of the tract of land comprising the original plantation.

### **Tax Records**

Land taxes in Tazewell County between 1800 and 1820 were based only on the land, with no notation for buildings. The value of all properties in Tazewell County is constant from 1801 through 1819. During this time period Archibald Thompson's tract of 196 acres was valued at \$.12 per acre, his 120 acre tract was valued at \$.25 per acre, while the 290 acre tract adjoining these two was valued at \$.48 per acre. These values reflect the fact that presumably only the 290 acre tract was partially cleared for grazing and cultivation while the 196 acres were still virgin

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

wood lands. The 120 acre tract was then presumably less partially cleared. In 1820 the valuation for the 290 acre tract went up to \$5 an acre but now included a house valued at \$500. The tax records state that buildings add an additional \$500 to the value of the land. Since James Brown of Richlands owned a 265 acre tract valued at \$3.25 an acre, including a house adding \$100 of the value, it is probable that Archibald Thompson's 290 acre tract was valued at \$3.25 an acre in 1820, equaling \$943 with the \$500 house bringing the total to \$1443 (rounded up to \$1450). The tax records give the value of the 290 acres at \$5.00 per acre equal to \$1450 for the land and buildings. In Tazewell County from 1820 to 1830, tracts over 100 acres with buildings valued under \$30 were valued at \$2 to \$4 per acre for the land. The value noted at around \$3 per acre for Archibald Thompson's land is then consistent with other properties in the county.

In 1820 the valuation in Tazewell of all buildings over \$300 were noted to the nearest \$100 on the tax record. Only 18 out of the approximately 200 houses in the county had valuations in this range. Nine buildings in the county were valued at \$500 or more. Reese Bowen's house in the Cove was valued at \$800, while David Whitley's residence on the Clinch River was valued at \$1000, but perhaps this was a mill or a commercial property. During this period only 50 out of the 200 buildings were valued over \$100. So fully three quarters of Tazewell's residents resided in houses valued at less than \$100. All non-residents are noted by their places of residence, the most notable being Henry Banks of Richmond who owned 10,800 acres in Burkes Garden valued at \$.25 per acre. Another non-resident, Moses Justice of Ohio owned 150 acres on Clear Fork valued at \$2.25 per acre.

Although the taxes leaped from \$139.20 in 1819 to \$1450 in 1820 for the 290 acre tract and land, this increase does not reflect necessarily the construction of a new house. Rather it most probably reflects the existence of a previous house, substantial by Tazewell standards, valued at \$500 whose value was now taken into account in levying taxes. The probable site for the earlier house, presumably of logs, is just across Maiden Spring Creek from the current brick house. The site was later plowed to grow corn. Remaining on both sides of the current driveway is layer of charcoal and burnt bricks. The bricks are poorly fired and crumbly and presumably were part of a chimney. Pottery finds at this site include salt-glazed crockery and English blue transferware dating from 1810 to 1830. Judging by the heavy layer of charcoal and the date of the ceramic sherds, the house must have burnt sometime around 1830.

The tax valuation for the 290 acre tract plus house remains unchanged from 1820 to 1829. In 1830 an additional \$200 is noted under the category "sums added on account of buildings". While the total "land plus buildings" goes from \$1450 to \$1650, the "sum per acre" remains at \$5. In 1833 an additional \$300 is noted under the "sums added on account of buildings" to bring the total to \$1950, with the additional explanation at the side "\$300 added for improvements". Clearly whatever house was on the property by 1833 was then valued at \$1000 as opposed to the \$500 valuation for the house on the property in 1820-29.

In 1840 the value of the tracts adjoining the 390 acre plantation tract increases from \$.30 to \$1.00 per acre. County wide both house and land values increased radically in Tazewell in 1840. During the period 1833 to 1839 the land was valued at around \$950 while the house was valued

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

at \$1000, so it would be reasonable to assume that this equal valuation of land and house continued into the next decade. If so the \$2900 total would yield \$1450 for the value of the land and \$1450 for the value of the house. It is likely that the land which had a stated value of \$3.25 per acre during the period 1820 to 1833, increased to \$5 per acre by 1844. In 1857 the adjoining 120 acres of agricultural land was valued at \$10 per acre, while the 290 acre tract was valued at \$15 per acre for the combined value of house and land. The house would then have added a constant \$1450 to the value of the 290 acres of land as it increased in value from \$5 to \$10 an acre, the value of the adjoining 120 tract in 1857. The value of this 120 acre tract goes from \$1 per acre in 1844, to \$7 per acre in 1851 to \$10 per acre in 1857. Projecting \$8 per acre for the 290 acre tract in 1851 increasing to \$10 per acre in 1857 then leaves a constant valuation for the house at \$1450 for the period from around 1833 to 1868. The total valuation of the 290 acre tract plus buildings referred to goes from \$2900 in 1844, to \$3770 in 1851, to \$4350 in 1857.

It is noted in Archibald Thompson's 1845 will: "I give and devise unto my son James B. Thompson, the plantation that I live in, containing by deed two hundred and ninety acres more or less, also the tracts or parcels of land adjoining, one of one hundred and twenty acres and the of one hundred and ninety six acres". As Mark Nichols notes (Synonyms for House), *plantation* is defined as, "An agricultural estate, though the term may refer to the main house on the property". This plantation Archibald "lived in" until 1845 is undoubtedly the present brick house (minus the later additions) plus the 290 acres of land. During the restorations of 2000 and 2015 the brick house was projected to date to around 1835 by style, nails, saw marks, and fireplace mantels, and it was undoubtedly the place Archibald refers to "the plantation that I live in" in his 1845 will.

In 1869 and 1870 the valuation of the 290 acre plantation tract fell from \$4350 to \$2175, exactly half the amount it was valued at from 1857 to 1868. The value per acre of the plantation tract of land and house fell from \$15 per acre to \$7.50 per acre. In 1871-72 the valuation rose back up again to \$12.50 per acre for a total of \$3625. From 1873 to 1880 the land and house was valued at \$10 per acre. In 1881 the value of the house and land together on the 290 acres fell again to \$8.50 an acre. If one allows \$3.50 an acre for the land, nearly the same as the adjoining 196 acre tract, which fell to \$3.00 an acre, then the value of the house in 1881 would be \$1450 just as it had been before the Civil War. The total value of land plus house in 1881-83 was only \$2465.

One possible scenario to explain these changes is that in 1869 the value of the Thompson land and house were each devalued by half following the Civil War and the economic privations endured in the South. The adjoining 120 tract was valued at \$2 an acre in 1871, down from the \$10 an acre value in 1857-68, while the adjoining 196 acres fell from \$7 an acre in 1857-68 to \$3 an acre by 1876. It should be noted that these adjoining tracts do not fall in value until after *Clynchdale* and the 290 acre tract on which it is built actually rise in value in 1871. It is not inconceivable that the land of the 290 plantation tract fell from \$10 an acre in 1857-68 down to \$5 in 1869 just as the 120 acres adjoining fell from \$10 in 1857 down to \$2 in 1871. If the house were devalued from \$1450 to \$725 for the two years from 1869-70, then the notation from 1871 to 1875 would be clear. In 1872 the valuation of the house increased by a noted \$435, and in 1873 \$290 was added to this \$435 increase to bring the total additional value to \$725. This would then bring the plantation house back up to the \$1450 value it had from 1840 to 1868.

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

Except for the two years between 1869 and 1870, *Clynchdale* would have had a constant valuation of \$1450 while the land fell in value.

The problem with this scenario is that other properties with houses in the county do not fall in value until 1873, when *Clynchdale* and the surrounding land once again falls in value as well from \$12.50 down to \$10 per acre. Thus the John Thompson farm in Burkes Garden on 200 acres was valued at \$26 per acre from 1861 through 1870. The value rose to \$27 per acre in 1871 then fell to \$17 per acre in 1873. The Harvey George house on 450 acres at the Head of the Clinch and the Bluestone Rivers stayed at \$14 per acre from 1861 through 1870 then rose to \$15 per acre in 1871 to fall to \$11 in 1873. The James H. Harmon house on 225 acres at the Head of the Bluestone stayed at \$7 per acre from 1861 through 1872 then fell to \$4.50 an acre in 1873. In contrast the 290 acres belonging to the Thompsons (James B. then Edward R.) stayed at \$15 per acre from 1857 through 1868 to fall to \$7.50 per acre, half its previous value in 1869, to rise back up to \$12.50 an acre in 1871 to fall again to \$10 an acre in 1873. Clearly the 1873 fall does reflect a county-wide lowering of values. Some marked deterioration hit *Clynchdale* in 1868-69, to be rectified in 1871-2 when a \$435 value is added from buildings with an additional \$290 added in 1873. This would bring the house back up to the \$1450 value it had from 1857-68.

One assumption to account for this 1869 fall in value is that a previous wooden house on the property had burned down and that the sole value of the 290 acre tract lay in the value of the land at \$7.50 per acre. The adjoining 120 acre tract was then valued at \$10 per acre while the 196 acre tract was valued at \$7 per acre. The problem with this theory is that in 1871 there is an increase of \$435 to the total value of the buildings, while an additional \$290 is added in 1873. This theory would place the total valuation of the substantial brick house at \$725 if it was built new in 1872. In 1873 the total value of the land and house was raised to \$2900 with a valuation of \$10 per acre exactly as it was in 1844-49. This \$10 per acre valuation was kept till 1881 when the value of 290 acres plus house was lowered to \$2465. This \$725 valuation of the house would reflect that the value of the land had fallen to \$6 an acre in 1881 from the previous \$7.50 with the house continuing to be valued at only \$725 through 1883. At that stage *Clynchdale* had considerable additions and would have been worth much more than \$725. Clearly some disaster hit *Clynchdale* to lower by half the value of the house and land from 1869 to 1870, which was rectified in 1871.

### **Explanation for the 1869-70 Halving in Property Value: Flooding at *Clynchdale*.**

*Clynchdale* is poorly situated in relation to two mountain streams which run water in the springtime and after major rainfall, but otherwise are dry. These two streams have an origin in two great ravines in Clinch Mountain carved out by glaciers during Ice Ages. In the springtime these two streams come together approximately 200 yards above the house and run along the driveway to the east of the house. The steep hill behind and to the south of the house channels the water directly into the level plane to the east of the house. The driveway beside and to the east of the house is sunk down approximately six inches below the peak of a shallow hill which crests at the driveway. The house was built on the downhill side of the driveway with the high hill to the south as well. Water levels below the six-inch mark allow water to flow northward

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

over the down-sloping driveway to Maiden Spring Creek. Water levels above the six-inch mark then allow the excess water to flow to the west directly against the east side of the house. The L-shape of the house forms a catchall dam and reservoir for any runoff above this six-inch mark from the stream/driveway in front of the house.

After heavy rains exceeding 10 inches within a week in 2001, even with ditching to the east of the road, water flowed over the crest of the driveway onto the east side of the house where it was caught in the L-shaped dam. The L-extension was placed on the west downhill side of the house to create the half basement three feet below ground and four feet above ground under the first floor. The house is situated on the slope of the hill (which slopes 4 feet over the 50 feet width of the house) purposely for this half basement. This situation on the slope of the hill also gives proximity to the great spring flowing out of the base of a cliff just to the west and below the house. Unfortunately this location of the L-wing creates major problems during periods of extreme rainfall.

Major flooding did occur in the upper Clinch River basin in February 1862. Previous floods occurred in March 1826 and 1847. None of these was as devastating in the Tennessee River Valley as the flood of 1867. A likely possibility for halving in value of the property recorded in the 1869 tax books could be the damage suffered by *Clynchdale* in the great storm of March 1-7, 1867. During this storm, 16 inch of rain (8 inches on the first day) caused record flooding on the Clinch and Holston Rivers as well as on the Tennessee River.

The flood of March 1867, which was a maximum on the Tennessee River at Knoxville and Chattanooga, was also a maximum in the lower reaches of the Holston, French Broad, and Little Tennessee Rivers. The flood of February 1875, which was second highest on the Tennessee River, was second on the lower portions of the Holston and French Broad Rivers and third on the Little Tennessee and Hiwassee Rivers. (*Flood-Producing Storms in Flood and Flood Control, Tennessee Valley Authority: Technical Report No. 26, Knoxville 1961: 31, 78, 90, 103*).

That this 1867 flood also affected the upper reaches of the Clinch River is indicated by another FEMA study of 1912 for nearby Clinchport and Dungannon.

At Dungannon, the principal source of flooding is the Clinch River. The April 1977 flood reached elevation 1,302.9 NAVD 88 at Clinch River mile 236.86 and is the greatest flood known to have occurred at Dungannon since 1862... The farmland around the town sustained extensive damage (Reference 4)...The February 1862 flood, the second highest of record, was 3.0 feet lower than the April 1977 flood and is estimated to be about a 1.0 percent annual chance flood. A large flood occurred in 1867 for which no floodmarks are available. Several longtime residents ranked the 1867 flood second to that of 1862. (Flood Insurance Study: Scott County Virginia, Flood Insurance Management Agency, 2012: 10).

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

The Report of Chief of Engineers, on *The East Tennessee Flood of 1867* (1875-1876: 2) gives an ample description of what probably befell *Clynchdale* in that year.

The flood of 1867 far exceeded all precedents for the past 90 years. It consisted of one great rise due to furious rain storms which covered its entire valley, particularly the mountain region. At Kingsport, on the Holston, rain fell nearly continuously from February 28 to March 7. At noon on March 7 the river attained its highest point, being 30 feet above low water and 4 feet above any other flood. In 20 hours it fell 10 feet. At Strawberry Plains [northeast of Knoxville] the freshet [flood waters] rose 52 feet above low water and 11 feet above any other flood. At Knoxville the river rose 12 feet above the high-water mark of 1847 and was over 50 feet deep. Near Harrison the Tennessee rose 15 feet above any known water mark. At Chattanooga the rise began on March 4, overflowed the banks on March 8, and attained height on March 11, being 53 feet above low water and 15.5 feet above the high water of 1847, the highest on record. The river fell with equal rapidity to the usual level. Rains were incessant for four days before the highest water. The rain which caused this great inundation extended simultaneously from the Blue Mountains composing the entire drainage of the upper Tennessee which, with the melting snow, filled every tributary of that river at nearly the same time. Such a thing was never known to occur before and may never happen again.

*The Nashville Union Dispatch* of Sunday, March 10, 1867, stated:

The whole of the Virginia and Tennessee Valley has been visited with the heaviest freshets [flooding] within the memory of the oldest inhabitants. The whole valley [area] from Lynchburg to Chattanooga was swept by swollen streams. It rained incessantly for 3 days from the 2d instant which, with the melting snow from the mountains, overflowed all these streams. The Virginia & Tennessee Railroad is damaged. The trains are all blockaded at Marion, Va.; a bridge swept away and deep cuts filled with rocks and dirt.

This 1867 deluge apparently flooded out the entire first floor of the house, which may have been more than a foot deep in water, completely filling the basement 7 feet deep which had no outlets except for the stairway into the dining room. In its original setting without ditching, flooding from the convergence of two mountain streams just above and uphill from the house would have also damaged the downstairs floors. The dining room floor shows curled boards indicative of just such damage. Sandbagging the door would have kept water out of the parlor which has brick walls on all sides. The living room and hall floors were covered over in 1910 with 2 ½ inch wide oak floors. The original poplar floor underneath is no longer visible. One may assume that this new flooring was laid to conceal the damaged flooring beneath them.

It appears that flooding did such extensive damage to the foundation that half the basement had to be filled in with rubble over clay to stabilize the eastside brick wall, in which one can still see a bulge at the top edge of the rubble. The plaster ceiling in the basement was completely dissolved. All that remains are the boards added to the hand-hewn rafters to level them off for the lathing,

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

for which plaster lines and small square-cut nails remain. Major damage was done to the east side of foundation wall which extends to the basement. There is a layer of sand and silt 2 inches thick over the cement basement floor indicative of this inundation. To shore up the walls a layer of brick clay extending to a depth of 1 ½ to 2 feet was packed in over top of the floor and the 2 inch silt layer. The top two feet of this rubble came from the ash, clay, and broken bricks from making bricks for the 1870 addition. The rubble was filled to a depth of two feet over the other ground level, demonstrating that the original basement was indeed filled in. The natural soil outside of these rooms is loam demonstrating further that the two foot layer of packed clay over the concrete floor was added to shore up the walls. The south brick wall of the current furnace room was rebuilt on top of this packed clay. Later the packed clay would be scooped out to the level of the cement floor to enable the room to be used to hold coal and the furnace.

The deluge also may have caused major roof leaks on the wood shake roof, which was possibly 30 years old at the time. Such leaks could have caused major damage to the plaster. It is doubtful that the roof was repaired during or just after the Civil War. The leaks would have done severe damage as well, especially along the east and west chimneys at the base of each side of the roof. Presumably in 1870 a stone-lined dyke was built along the east side of the road with a corresponding ditch, now partially filled in with sediment.

One can only imagine the damage 16 inches of rain in a few days would have caused, especially if the driveway (a shallow stream every spring) was not ditched properly and the wood shingle roof was 30 years old. Restoration in 2001 revealed nine layers of post-Civil-War wallpaper used through the post-Civil-War period to cover up repeated water damage. After all these layers of wallpaper were steamed off, massive damage to the plaster was revealed, explaining why even the ceilings were papered over. The house must have become uninhabitable for the tax valuation to have dropped to half of its previous value in 1869. It may have taken a year for the damaged state of the house to have been noted by the county bureaucracy. Later heavy rains and floods occurred in 1886 and 1902, and may have prompted the 1910 repairs to *Clynchdale*.

A severe flood occurred on July 27-29, 2001, when 10 inches were dumped on Tazewell and neighboring counties. The flood overwhelmed the ditch and drainage along the east side of the house causing a stream a foot and half deep to run along the east side of the house. The current owner has added dykes and ditches hopefully to prevent future problems. The current owner recently replaced in 2015 the 1910 metal roof from which leaking along the west chimney damaged the west bedroom ceiling.

The following periods may then be noted in the history of the 290 acre tract and house which Archibald Thompson referred to as "the plantation I live in". Sometime between 1789 and 1820 a house which was valued at \$500 in 1820 was built on the property. The house and land together were valued at \$5 an acre to total \$1450. This house was apparently made of logs and located across Maiden Spring Creek from the present house. Between 1830 and 1833 an additional \$500 was added to the value of the property with \$200 and then \$300 noted as "added for improvements" to the buildings. An additional \$450 was added to this \$1000 total for the buildings in 1840 to bring the total to \$10 an acre for land and building each adding about half to



Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

the total and each valued at \$1450. The house continued to be valued at \$1450 while the land doubled in valued from 1850 to 1858 from \$5 to \$10 an acre. We need not speculate on why the house and land on the 290 acre tract fell to half their 1868 value in 1869 while the adjoining 120 acres stayed at \$10 per acre till 1871. The massive flood of 1867 explains all. The rise again to \$1450 for house in 1873 then reflects repairs and additions which brought the house back up to its previous value.

The \$500 house built between 1789 and 1820 would appear to have been replaced by a house valued at two to three times the original structure sometime between 1830 and 1840, most likely by 1833 when "improvements" were noted in the land taxes, but possibly it was completed as late as 1840 when the valuation went from \$1000 to \$1450. Values of house and land increased across the county as a whole 1840 making it unlikely that this rise in value reflects any new construction at *Clynchdale*. It seems nearly certain that *Clynchdale* was completed in its original form between 1830 and 1833. The damage from the floods of 1862 and 1867 then caused in 1869 the total value of house and land to fall from \$4350 to \$2175 less than the \$10 acre previously just for the land and less than the \$10 an acre for the adjoining 120 acres. Repairs and additions were then made in 1871 to 1873 to bring the house back up to \$1450 in value. Additional repairs and additions, such as the coal furnace, portico and tin roof, were made around 1910. At this time the living-room floor, trim, and mantelpiece (with date of 1910 on a backside label) were redone in Mission Oak style. The house now had an two-story entry porch in common with a full-length one-story porch, as often found in Neo-classical houses (McAlester 2004: 437).

Externally then there are three phases to *Clynchdale*. The portico dates to 1910 and is Neo-classical in style. Also dating to 1910 is the rear porch, now a bathroom. The east addition, constructed of crude bricks and masonry, and the slightly later enclosed wooden porch on the east side date to 1870. Also dating to 1870 is the west-side porch. These 1870 additions are consistent with the Italianate style of construction current during that period. The original L-shaped brick house is clearly earlier than these additions, which are totally distinctive in style, construction, and material. The materials utilized (hand-cut or hand-hewn boards and hand-cut nails), and a combination of Federal style with Greek revival highlights indicate the period 1825 to 1840. The tax records narrow these dates to 1830-33.

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

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Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
County and State

\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR No. 092-5060

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 135

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 37.082620 | Longitude: -81.478720 |
| 2. Latitude: 37.084200 | Longitude: -81.474960 |
| 3. Latitude: 37.079510 | Longitude: -81.470330 |
| 4. Latitude: 37.077340 | Longitude: -81.474680 |
| 5. Latitude: 37.081750 | Longitude: -81.478870 |

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

The nominated 135-acre property includes all extant contributing resources on the farm, a portion of open acreage behind the house and around the cemetery, and the expansive open area in front of the house, south of Bear Mountain Road. The north, east and west boundaries conform to that of the tax parcel currently recorded by Tazewell County as parcel number 133-A-0008. The south boundary extends to historic fence lines that once delineated the property's south line. The true and correct historic boundaries are shown on the attached map entitled "Aerial View."

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

The historic boundary includes all extant contributing resources on the property as well as considerable acreage associated with the property's historic agricultural setting, and encompasses all known historic domestic and agricultural activity areas of the property.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Garrett Olmsted, owner/occupant of Clynchdale

organization: N/A

street & number: 146 Beartown Road

city or town: Tazewell state: VA zip code: 24651

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

date: April 2016

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

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

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Clynchdale

City or Vicinity: Tazewell vicinity

County: Tazewell

State: Virginia

Photographer: Michael J. Pulice

Date Photographed: October 15, 2015

Clynchdale  
Name of Property

Tazewell Co., VA  
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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 16. Farm and context, looking south-southeast (house at center behind trees)

2 of 16. Farm and context, looking southeast (house at center)

3 of 16. House, façade, looking southeast.

4 of 16. House, façade and west elevation, looking east-southeast

5 of 16. House, west and south (rear) elevations, looking north.

6 of 16. House, east elevation, looking west-northwest.

7 of 16. House, façade and east elevation, looking southwest.

8 of 16. House interior, center passage, main stair.

9 of 16. House interior, first floor, northwest room.

10 of 16. House, interior, second floor, main stair, balustrade, and flooring.

11 of 16. House interior, second floor, northwest room

12 of 16. House interior, ell second floor, north room

13 of 16. House and outbuildings, looking north

14 of 16. Workshop (at right) and Garage (at left), looking southeast.

15 of 16. Barn, looking southeast

16 of 16. Cemetery, looking southeast

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

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

Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources



Virginia Cultural Resource Information System

## LOCATION MAP

Clynchdale

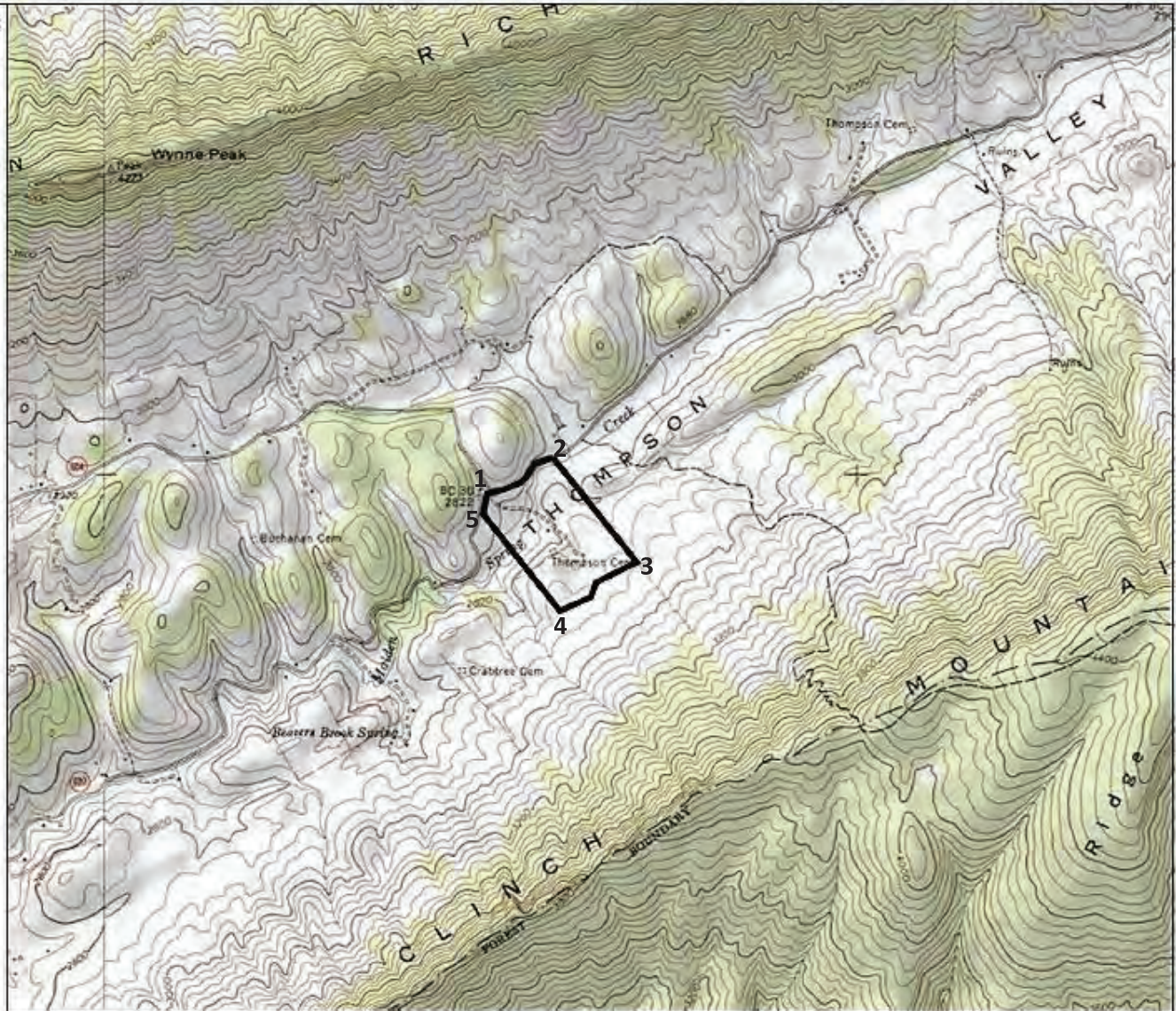
Tazewell County, VA

DHR No. 092-5060

Latitude/Longitude

Coordinates

1. Latitude: 37.082620  
Longitude: -81.478720
2. Latitude: 37.084200  
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Title: 092-5060 - Clynchdale - Tazewell County, VA

Date: 4/6/2016

*DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.*

*Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.*



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400

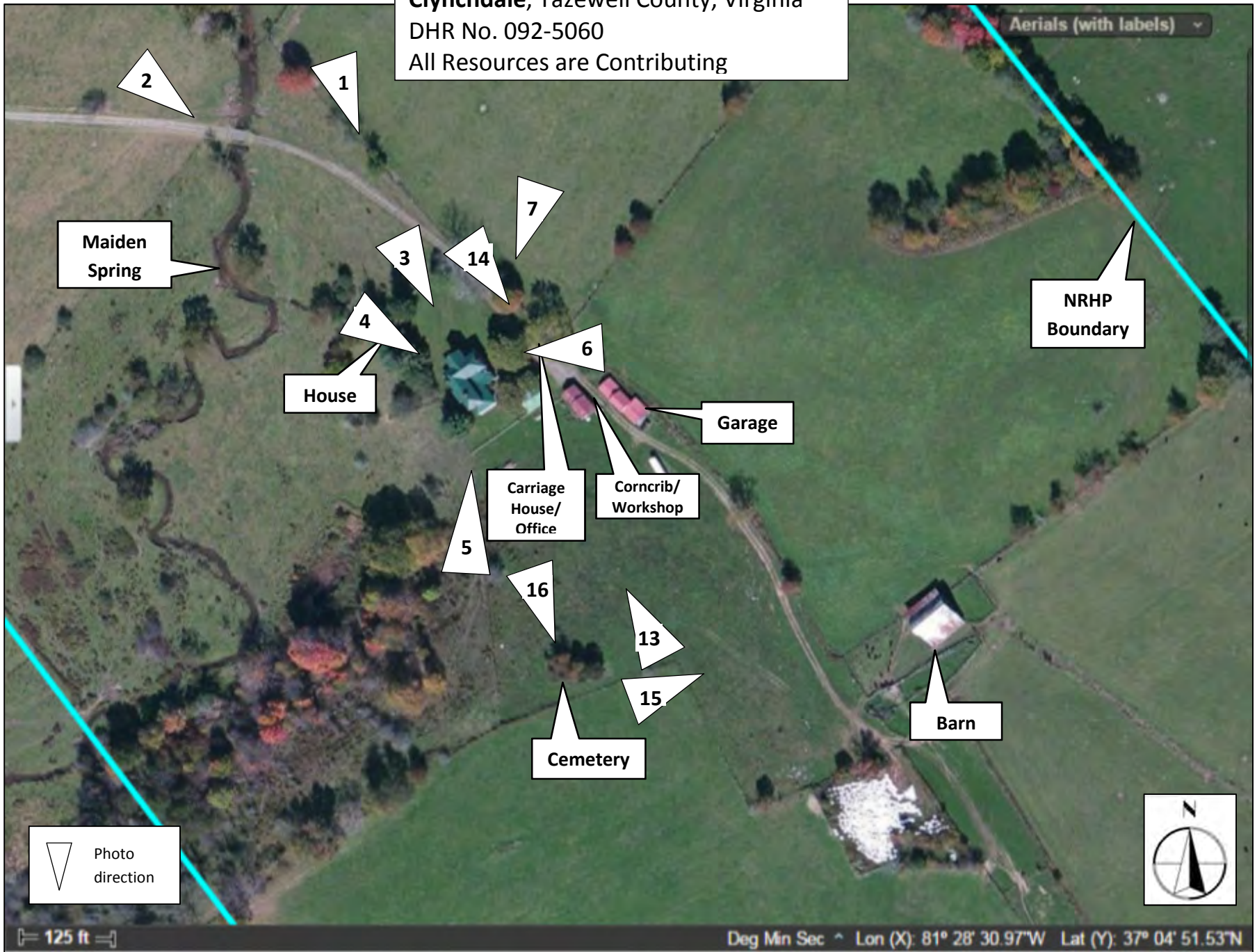
1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet

**SKETCH MAP/ PHOTO KEY**

**Clynchdale, Tazewell County, Virginia**

DHR No. 092-5060

All Resources are Contributing







AERIAL VIEW

Clynchdale

Tazewell County, VA

DHR No. 092-5060



Feet

0 200 400 600 800

1:9,028 / 1"=752 Feet

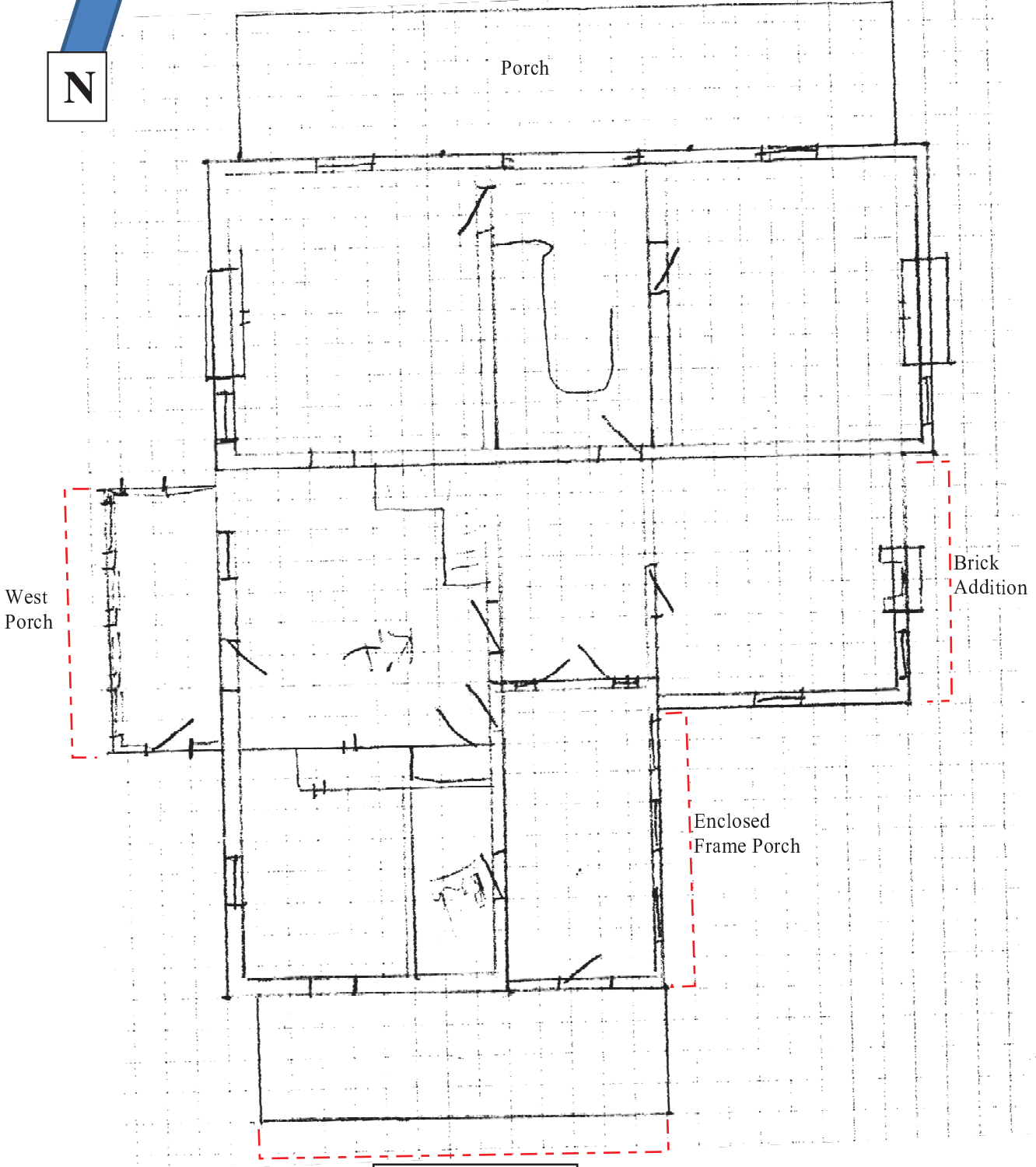
**Title: Clynchdale**

**Date: 5/12/2016**

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**FLOOR PLAN – First Floor**  
**Clynchdale**  
**Tazewell County, VA**  
**DHR No. 092-5060**



South Porch (originally  
a screened-in porch)