

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structures

Agriculture: agricultural outbuildings

Religion: religious facility

Funerary: cemetery

Current Functions

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structures

Agriculture: agricultural outbuildings

Religion: religious facility

Funerary: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic: Federal

Other: vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Brick

walls: Brick

roof: Asphalt shingle

other: Wood

Stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally

statewide

locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A

B

C

D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A

B

C

D

E

F

G

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1844-ca. 1930

Significant Dates

1844, 1845, ca. 1880,
1898, ca. 1930

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

James Smiley

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

X See continuation sheet**9. Major Bibliographical References**X See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing

(36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

X State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository: VA Dept. of

Historic Resources

221 Governor St.

Richmond, VA 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: 202 acres

UTM References

A			B		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
C. <u>X</u> See continuation sheet			D.		

Verbal Boundary Description

X See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

X See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William T. Frazier/Nancy Born
organization Frazier Associates
street and number 121 S. Augusta Street
city or town Staunton

date March 1990
telephone (703) 886-6230
state VA zip code 24401

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The McClung House is a singular example of rural vernacular architecture of the antebellum period in Highland County. This five-bay, two-story brick residence has a single-pile, central-passage plan and an original two-story rear addition. There are three exterior end chimneys and there is one central chimney in the addition. The dwelling has nine-over-six and six-over-six windows and a molded brick cornice. A triple-bay front porch was added in the late nineteenth century. The interior of the house retains most of its original woodwork, which is of exceptional quality and in good condition. There have been very few alterations made to the house in its 146-year history. The McClung farm is situated on the north side of a 1274-acre tract that is bisected by Route 678. The Bullpasture River parallels the road and runs through the fields across the road from the house. Clover Creek flows through the property next to the farm buildings and into the river. The contributing resources besides the house include the following: a large barn, a small barn, a cattle ramp, an outhouse, a corncrib, a smokehouse, a shed, and the Clover Creek Presbyterian Church and its outhouse. All of these frame resources date from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century. The contributing sites are a wood shed foundation located on the south side of the McClung house; the ruins of the McClung Mill located on the east side of the Bullpasture River near Route 612; and the Clover Creek Presbyterian Church cemetery on the west side of the church. Two well-documented mid-eighteenth-century archaeological sites are located by tradition in the field to the east of the house between Route 678 and the Bullpasture River: Fort George and the Wallace Estill House. Because archaeological testing has not located the sites, however, they are not a part of this nomination. Once they have been located the nomination will be amended to include them.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The five-bay, two-story brick house has a central passage plan, an original two-story rear ell and three exterior end, brick chimneys. A fourth chimney is located within the rear ell. The facade features brick laid in Flemish bond with a molded brick cornice from which returns extend, while the sides and rear elevations feature six-course American bond brickwork. A brick located in the south chimney is inscribed with the name of the brick mason, James Smiley.

The first floor windows are nine-over-six double-hung sash types; in contrast, six-over-six

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

double-hung sash windows are seen on the second floor. All windows are framed in simple architrave trim, with heavy wood sills below. At one time the house had louvered shutters. The east facade entrance contains double doors which are original, with a four-light transom above. The triple-bay front porch is a late-nineteenth-century addition. It has a standing seam metal hipped roof which is supported by four square chamfered posts.

The interior has heart pine flooring, handcrafted yellow pine woodwork throughout the house, and poplar wood splays in all of the windows. The interior partitions consist of brick covered with plaster. The house still has much of its original hardware, which includes iron rim locks with brass knobs ("J. Walker's Improved Locks"). The south room of the first floor, known as the parlor, has wainscoting with flat board panels that are surrounded by a raised cove molding. The symmetrically-molded door and window trim with bull's-eye cornerblocks have a narrow beaded surround and plain flared window reveals. The carved mantel consists of a high shelf of bands and moldings that are located above a paneled frieze. It is supported by paired, modified Doric columns on pedestals. A square hatch opening in the wide pine floor, which functioned as a hiding place for goods during the Civil War, has been sealed.

The central hallway has high molded baseboard, a beaded coat rail that continues up along the staircase wall, and doors with graining and original brass locks. In the central hall and throughout the house, the doors have six raised panels with a beaded edge. The U-shaped, open string stair has scroll brackets, a paneled spandrel, plain balusters, pegged rounded handrail, and five Tuscan column newels. A half bath has been added under the staircase in an existing closet.

In the north room of the first floor, used as a sitting room, the woodwork is similar to that of the parlor. While the sitting room does not have wainscoting, it does have a distinctively designed and similarly styled mantel. It consists of a high shelf of bands and moldings above a frieze that contains a combination of fluting and reeding. The frieze is supported by paired reeded columns on pedestals. The fireplace also has a nineteenth-century cast-iron surround with a lion's face motif, which was retained and reattached to the fireplace after the firebox was rebuilt.

In contrast to the first floor of the main block, the dining room, which is located in the rear ell, has trim with plain cornerblocks. The dining room mantel has a high shelf, paneled frieze, and fluted Greek Doric engaged columns. The mantel panels are poplar, the frame is pine and the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

columns are walnut. A built-in cupboard with double doors is located beside the fireplace. A beaded board and batten Dutch door, on the west wall serves as the entrance from the dining room to the kitchen. A six-panel door with an original lock, located on the south wall, leads from the dining room to an enclosed winder staircase. Under the back of the stairs is a storage closet with a two-panel door. The dining room has two exterior doors: one is at the north side and the other leads to the south side porch.

The kitchen, which is located west of the dining room, has been extensively remodeled. The kitchen walls, which were originally plaster, are now drywall. Brick facing with a segmentally arched opening has been added to the fireplace wall and the kitchen's original, raised mantel shelf was reattached above the opening. The kitchen has two exterior batten doors: the north door was taken from a neighboring farm house and contains a lock that was taken from an upstairs door. The south door has a glass pane insert. New linoleum flooring has been added to the kitchen.

The plaster walls of the second floor front chambers have simple woodwork consisting of high, large beaded baseboards, and chair rails without wainscoting. The chair rail's molding has a large bead reversed from its location on the baseboard. The symmetrical trim around the second floor doors and windows in the hall and south bedroom, has plain cornerblocks. In the north bedroom the molding is plain with no cornerblocks. The mantels are smaller than those found on the first floor, but they have a similar design. Both upstairs mantels have a shelf consisting of bands and moldings. The frieze on the north room mantel contains a single, horizontal panel, while the other mantel's frieze is made up of fluting and reeding. Both friezes are supported by pilasters.

The corner enclosed stair, with its beaded frame, located in the dining room, is the only access to the two second floor rooms of the rear ell. The chamber that is located over the dining room has a fireplace which is similar in design to the mantel found in the parlor on a smaller scale. There is a built-in closet with a six-panel flat door next to the fireplace. The other chamber in the rear ell does not have a fireplace. Both of these rooms have beaded chair rail, baseboard and door and window trim. A beaded batten door on the east wall of one rear bedroom serves as access between the two rooms, while a similar door leads from the room over the dining room to the attic stairs.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

The attic flooring is constructed of wide pine boards and the pit-sawn rafters are pegged together with mortise-and-tenon joints and contain Roman numeral carpenter markings. The attic of the rear ell and the main part of the house have similar rafters and construction, indicating that the two sections were built at the same time.

The house has sustained few changes since its original construction, as great care was taken when modern conveniences were added. A new drywall ceiling and cove molding were installed in the living room and the dining room has a new ceiling. Electric baseboard heat was installed throughout the house and a utility chase was constructed in the southeast corner of the central hall. The east portion of the large upstairs hall was enclosed for a bathroom. Portions of the exterior walls were repointed, although all original openings remain. These alterations were made by the current owners from 1978 to 1980.

A nearby smokehouse dating from 1845 (bill for construction in possession of owners) was built by George Smiley. It is not known what relation George is to James Smiley, the brick mason who built the main house. It is a sawn log structure with unusual squared and fitted notching. Its overhanging gable roof is clad with wood shingles. The foundation of this outbuilding was rebuilt and a new roof was added in 1980. Behind the smokehouse is a small, frame privy with a shed roof. According to a neighbor, it was built by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s, one of many similar projects in the area.

South of the house is a deteriorating large barn, which was built in 1898. The circular sawn, pegged frame is clad in weatherboard and is capped with a standing seam metal roof. The barn contains some hand-hewn beams that were reused from another structure and its first floor walls are partially constructed of diagonal lattice work. The interior contains a wide central passage, two side passages and a spacious loft. The barn was used for storing hay and grain and for sheltering cattle in severe weather. South of the barn, is a gable-roofed, frame cattle ramp. A corncrib was built just north of the barn. The front part of this gable-roofed structure is open with the roof supported by two round wood posts. A vertical board shed with a wood shingle gable roof was built northeast of the corncrib. A poured concrete, wood shed foundation dating from the early twentieth century is located just south of the main house. North of the house

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

near Route 612 is a smaller, frame, gable-roofed, early-twentieth century barn used to shelter sheep and horses.

In the 1880s two and one-half acres were donated by Louis Martena McClung for the construction of the Clover Creek Presbyterian Church which was in use until the 1960s. The land is surrounded by the McClung property and is located west of the house on Route 678. This white, frame, gable front structure is in remarkably original condition. It has two, four-over-four sash windows on the north and south sides, a diamond shaped window above the front door, and a central belfry with a narrow spire. The simple interior has plaster walls, painted floors, a grained, two panel door, original pews, and a balcony with a horizontal paneled balustrade. The wood pulpit has narrow, recessed, vertical panels and a tall, paneled, wood pedestal on either side. Only minor changes have been made to the building, including the installation of suspended ceiling lamps, and rebuilt flues for the woodstoves. The church property includes a frame outhouse and a cemetery located on a hillside west of the building where many of the McClung family are buried. The church property is owned by McDowell Presbyterian Church. Its file number in the Virginia Department of Historic Resources is 45-113.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McClung Farm Historic District consists of the McClung House and its associated outbuildings and the Clover Creek Presbyterian Church. The house and farm have remained in the same family for the last century and a half. Although the house, which was built in 1844, was unusually sophisticated for Highland County, similar examples exist in nearby Augusta County and may have served as the model. The house's interior woodwork is exceptional, and includes grained doors and stairway panels, five Tuscan newels, scrolled brackets on the stairway, and six handsome mantels. Near the house is the frame, vernacular church, which stands on land donated by Louis M. McClung in the 1880s. The McClung Farm Historic District is significant for its continuous association with the family of an early settler in Highland County, for the craftsmanship of the house, and for the remarkable integrity of its unspoiled, bucolic setting.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The land on which William McClung's house was built originally belonged to Wallace Estill. He first obtained the property in 1743 as part of a 344-acre patent.¹ The property is on Clover Creek, a branch of the Bullpasture River, in an area that was then part of Augusta County. The family descendants state that the Bullpasture River may originally have been known as Clover Creek and that the creek at the south side of the property has no name. However, the church and post office established in the late 19th century are both known as Clover Creek, a name also on the USGS quadrangle map. Therefore, it is unclear whether the present stream or the Bullpasture River were historically known as Clover Creek.

The field to the east of the McClung House, between Route 678 and the Bullpasture River, is the traditional site of both the Estill house and Fort George, one of a chain of stockaded outposts constructed during the French and Indian War to guard the frontier. Captian William Preston, of the Augusta County militia, constructed Fort George in 1757 near the house of William Estill. This location was ideal for a fort, because it was close to a gap in the Blue Ridge and near the road that passed through the gap and forded the Bullpasture River beside Estill's house. (Because of its historical significance, the field has been kept in

¹ Beverley Fleet, Virginia Colonial Abstracts, vol. 30: Huntington Library Data, (Richmond: Reproductions from typed copy, 1947), p. 371. (The name on the 1743 land record appears to be Ashton. The reason for the discrepancy in the name Ashton or Estill is probably due to illegible writing).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

pasture by the McClung family and never plowed.) A 4 April 1747 letter from Captain Preston to Major Andrew Lewis, as well as other contemporary records, describes the fort in some detail. Because archaeological testing has not located the sites of the fort or the house, however, they will be nominated in the form of an amendment when the sites have been identified. The ruins of the McClung Mill, on the other hand, are visible on the east side of the Bullpasture River. This nineteenth-century gristmill remained in operation until the early twentieth century.

On 18 August 1761 Wallace and Ann Estill conveyed 133 acres to their oldest son, Bowdy Estill. The remaining 211 acres were conveyed to John Peebles on 10 November 1774. During the following twenty-five years, James Wood, the governor of Virginia, granted four additional tracts of neighboring land to John Peebles. The four tracts included an 88-acre tract granted in 1781; a 193-acre tract and a 200-acre tract, both in 1783; and a 50-acre tract in 1797. These four parcels, along with the original tract of land acquired from Wallace Estill, resulted in John Peebles's acquisition of an estate totaling 742 acres.² A copy of the land grant for the 50-acre tract, known as the Mill Run Hollow tract, is hanging on the wall of the front hall in the McClung House.

In John Peebles's will dated 19 May 1800 he requested that his land be sold and the proceeds divided. Two of his sons, John and Thomas Peebles, as John Peebles's executors, sold the original 211-acre tract along with four other tracts of land to Captain David Gwin, a Revolutionary War veteran, on 8 July 1806. Captain Gwin who was wounded in the battle of Guilford Court House and witnessed the surrender of the British commander, General Cornwallis, at Yorktown, devised the land to his son, David S. Gwin, on 18 April 1820.

In 1821 Rachel Gwin, the daughter of Captain David Gwin, married William McClung. McClung was born on a Cowpasture River farm in Bath County in 1793, the son of John and Sara (McCutcheon) McClung. John McClung was born in Ireland in 1733 and served as a chaplain in the Revolutionary War. William and his new bride first settled in the house that was

²McClung family records and historical photographs. Collection of Mrs. Montgomery McClung Linkous, 510 College Circle, Staunton, VA 24401.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

originally built by Wallace Estill where twelve of their children were born.³ On 29 December 1838 David S. Gwin sold 654 acres of his Bullpasture River land to his brother-in-law, William McClung.

By 1844 McClung had completed his new brick dwelling on land near the intersection of Clover Creek and the Bullpasture River. Of William and Rachel Gwin McClung's thirteen children, Louis (1846-1927), the youngest, was the only child born in the McClung house. Rachel McClung died in 1847, shortly after she moved into her new home.

William McClung spent most of his life in the area. He was a highly successful farmer, raising cattle and growing corn, wheat, buckwheat, and hay. By 1865, when he died, William McClung had acquired approximately eleven thousand acres of land in the region.⁴ He also was the local postmaster at Clover Creek until his death when the post office was closed.

William McClung died without a will. Therefore, his heirs recorded an agreement in 1867 that divided his extensive holdings. The house and surrounding farm land passed to two of his surviving sons, Louis M. and Silas B. McClung. Louis McClung was sent as a youth to school in Rome, Georgia, from 1858 to 1862. Upon his return he joined the Confederacy and served in Company C, 14th Virginia Cavalry, during the Civil War. He lost his leg as a result of an injury suffered during the Battle of Winchester in 1864.⁵ Louis and Silas McClung lived together on the farm until May 1873 when Silas moved to West Virginia. In November 1873 Louis McClung married Sudie E. Reamer and they had three surviving children, Harry S., Louie E., and Frances S. McClung. On 17 August 1882 Silas McClung deeded his share of the land to Sudie Reamer McClung and her children. Sudie McClung died in 1885, and two years later Louis McClung married Drucilla Blair but they did not have any children.

Louis McClung earned a living as a prosperous stockman by raising cattle and sheep and was an elder of McDowell Presbyterian Church. In 1877 the post office at Clover Creek reopened and Louis McClung became the local postmaster. His office was, at one time, located in the back

³ The American Historical Society, *History of Virginia*, 31 vols. (Chicago: The American Historical Society, 1924) vol. VI: *Virginia Biography*, p. 77. (Although this written history states that the house was built by John Peebles, the McClung family descendants state that it was constructed by the Estill family.)

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

of the McClung House and his U.S. Postal certificate can still be seen hanging in the house. Louis McClung died in 1927; his second wife, Drucilla, had preceded him by two years.

Louis McClung's oldest son, Harry S. McClung (1880-1968), inherited the property upon his father's death and continued to raise cattle and sheep on the farm. Harry S. McClung's nieces, Montgomery McClung Linkous, Mary McClung Leake, and Frances McClung Buchanan, are the present owners of the property.

The other principal resource in the district, the Clover Creek Presbyterian Church and its associated privy and cemetery, stands on land donated by Louis M. McClung in the 1880s. The church, a simple, frame, vernacular building, is well preserved although no longer in use. It contributes significantly to the unspoiled rural setting of the district, as well as to its remarkable integrity.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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- _____. A History of Highland County, Virginia. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1969.

Unpublished Sources

- McClung family records and historical photographs. Collection of Mrs. Montgomery McClung Linkous, 510 College Circle, Staunton, VA 24401.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 2

Interviews

Kenneth and Montgomery McClung Linkous
510 College Circle
Staunton, VA 24401

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

UTM References

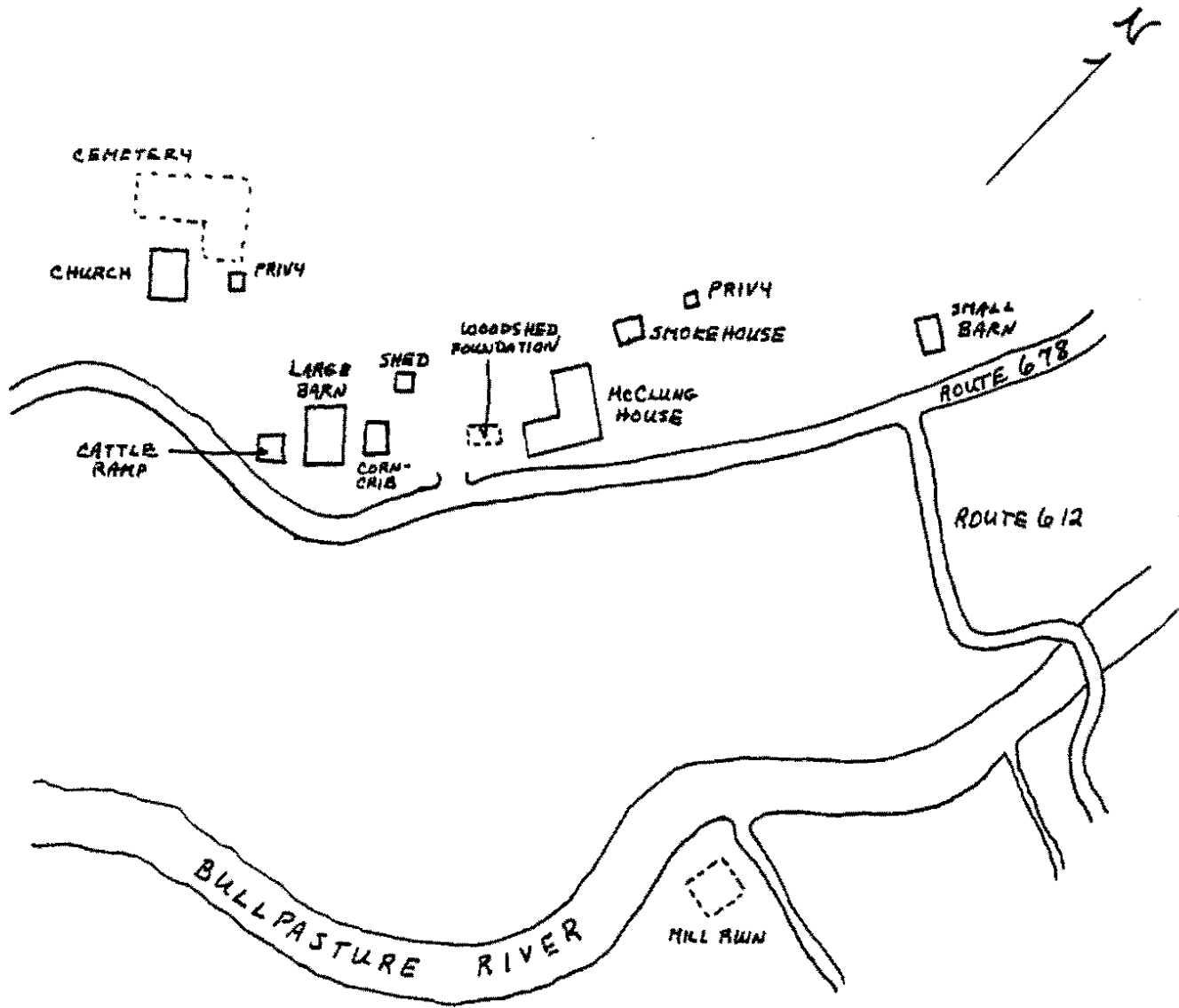
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C	17/628280/4236720	D	17/628280/4236380
E	17/627540/4235720		

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated boundary is shown on Monterey SE, Virginia 7.5 quadrangle map. The west corner of the property begins at a point 4800 feet south of the intersection of Claylick Hollow stream and the Highland Wildlife Management Area. From this point proceed in a northeasterly direction for 1660 feet. Then proceed in a southeasterly direction for 2690 feet to the Bullpasture River. From this point follow the river southwest until it intersects Route 612. Then follow Route 612 for 700 feet in a southeasterly direction. Then proceed in a southwesterly direction for 3420 feet. From this point proceed in a northerly direction for 3640 feet to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property consists of 202 out of the 1,274 acres that comprise the entire tract. The boundaries of the nominated property include the historical resources (house, outbuildings, church, cemetery, and mill site, as well as the traditional sites of the Estill house and Fort George) and exclude that part of the tract that is devoid of known resources.



SITE PLAN
 NOT TO SCALE

McCLUNG FARM HISTORIC
 DISTRICT
 HIGHLAND CO., VA

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATION

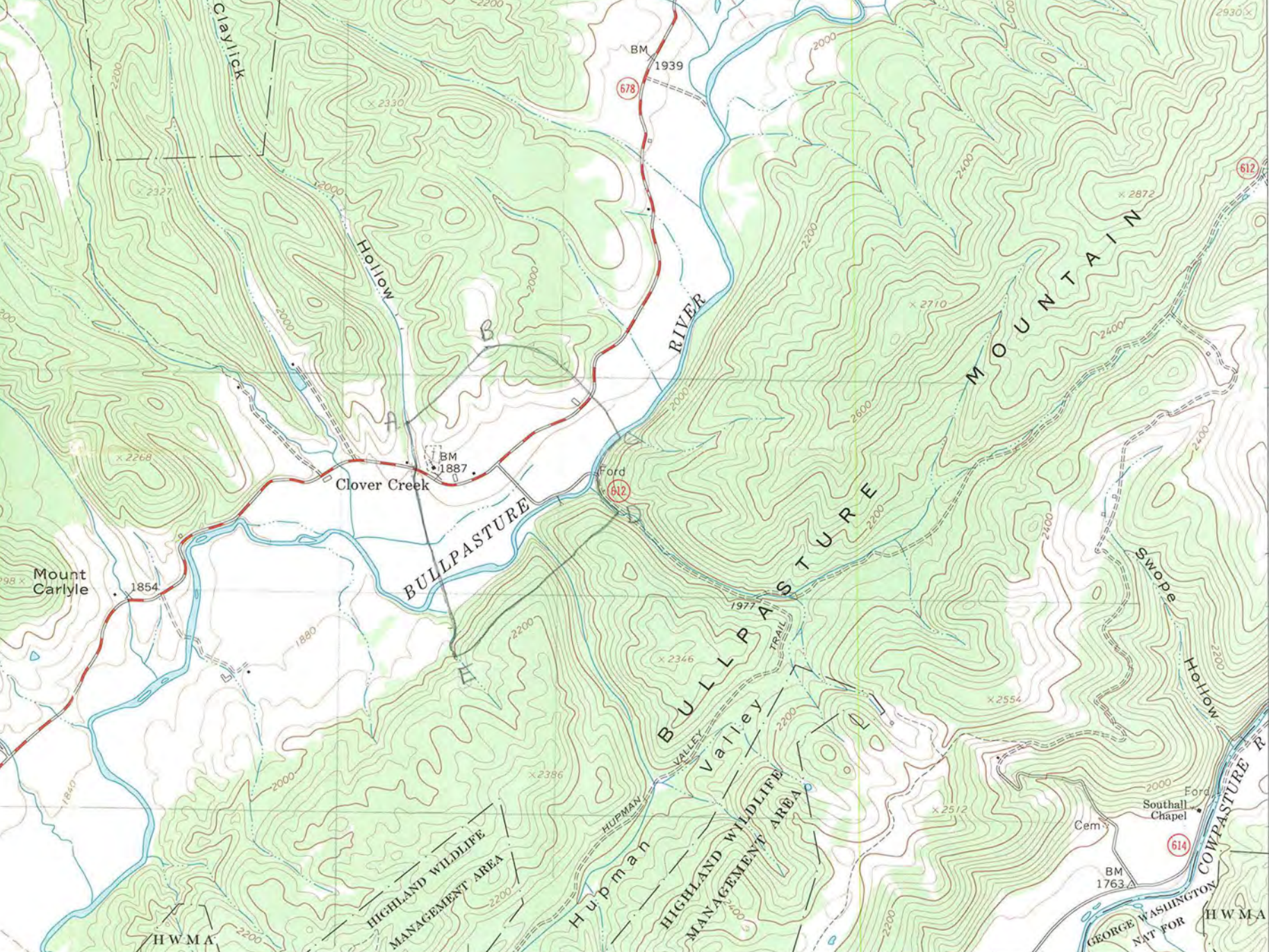
1. William McClung House
Highland County, Virginia
William T. Frazier, photographer
December 1989
Negative on file: Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va.
View of east (front) elevation
2. View of south elevation
3. View of south and west elevations
4. View of north elevation
5. View of east (front) porch
6. View of molded brick cornice, southeast corner of east elevation
7. View of chimney on south elevation, with bricks inscribed with brick-
mason's name
8. View of north parlor mantel, looking north
9. View of south parlor mantel, looking south
10. View of dining room mantel, west ell, looking west
11. View of door and trim, second floor, south bedroom, looking south
12. View of stair, first floor, looking west
13. View of McClung farm from church cemetery, looking east

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

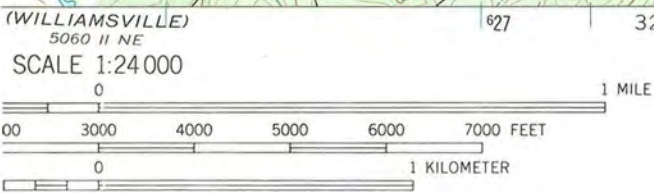
Section number _____ Page _____

14. View of McClung farm, looking southwest
15. View of smaller barn to north of house, looking west
16. View of cattle ramp to south of house, looking north
17. View of larger barn to south of house, looking west
18. View of corncrib to south of house, looking west
19. View of chicken house/shed to south of house, looking west
20. View of log smokehouse to north of house, looking north
21. View of privy built by WPA to north of house, looking north
22. Clover Creek Presbyterian Church
Highland County, Virginia
John S. Salmon, photographer
July 1990
Negative on file: Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va.
View of east (front) elevation, privy, and cemetery
23. View of east (front) elevation
24. View of altar, looking west
25. View of gallery, looking east
26. View of privy, looking northeast, with McClung farm in background

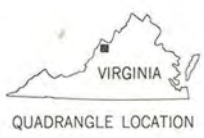


UTM REFERENCES:
 A: 17/627300/4236780
 B: 17/627660/4237140
 C: 17/628280/4236720
 D: 17/628280/4236380
 E: 17/627540/4235720

WILLIAM
 McCLUNG
 HOUSE
 HIGHLAND COUNTY



VERTICAL INTERVAL 40 FEET
 ELEVATION IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.—1971
 630000m. E.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
U. S. Route	State Route

MONTEREY SE, VA.
 SE/4 MONTEREY 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3815—W7930/7.5

CONFORMS TO NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
 FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST