

VLK 6/1/15  
NRHP 7/27/15 OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable" for functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Spring Hill Farm  
other names VDHR File Number: 053-5546

2. Location

street & number 39018 Piggott Bottom Road NA not for publication  
city or town Hamilton X vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Loudoun code 107 zip code 20158

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

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

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Classification

#### Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	1	objects
5	2	Total

#### Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

#### number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Domestic/secondary structure

#### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Domestic/secondary structure

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic

Greek Revival

#### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

weatherboard

roof tin

other

#### Narrative Description

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

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- B** Property 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)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

### Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

### Period of Significance

circa 1830 - circa 1950

### Significant Dates

Construction Dates: Original dwelling—circa 1830  
Third-story addition—circa 1857  
Frame addition—circa 1950

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

N/A

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

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

#### Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record  
# \_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** 1.64

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

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

### Boundary Justification

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

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Dean Doerrfeld and Chris Heidenrich  
Organization R. Christopher & Associates, Inc. date 1 February 2005  
street & number 241 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100 telephone 301.694.0428  
city or town Frederick state Maryland zip code 21701

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### Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional Items

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

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### Property Owner

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

name Larry R. and Betty L. Williams  
street & number 39018 Piggott Bottom Road telephone (540) 338-2103  
city or town Hamilton state VA zip code 20158

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**Paperwork Reduction Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et. seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Spring Hill Farm  
Loudoun County, Virginia

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## Site Description Summary:

Spring Hill farm is located northeast of Piggott Bottom Road north of Hamilton, Loudoun County, Virginia. The house is oriented facing south and is sited atop a slight rise. Although the present orientation is perpendicular to the roadway, the 1853 Yardley-Taylor map indicates that the historic track of a roadway passed near the front of the house, and the remnants of a depressed roadbed support this. The house lies within a landscaped houselot. The surrounding acreage is agricultural in character with pasturage and scattered, forested areas composed of woodlots and fence lines. Originally encompassing nearly 200 acres, Spring Hill Farm decreased in size to 120 acres in the early-nineteenth century and currently comprises less than 24 acres. The property being nominated surrounds the house and support buildings along the fence lines, but does not include any of the resources related to the agricultural property as the farmstead is not in use as such any longer. Five buildings contribute to the significance of the domestic property: the main house of brick and frame construction, stone smokehouse, stone carbide house, frame garage, and stone springhouse. A concrete masonry unit garage, and the rubblestone gateposts, which were constructed in the late-twentieth century, are within the domestic boundaries, but are non-contributing resources.

## Main House Summary:

The extant house at Spring Hill Farm, a side-gable-roofed, irregularly massed building of frame and masonry construction. Based on structural evidence detailed in the description below, the house exhibits several periods of construction. Brick composes the right seven bays and represents the earlier portion of the building constructed ca. 1830. The original building was illustrative of a telescope plan and exhibited the plan and massing characteristic of the form. The staggered massing and telescoping plan associated with the house type is documented in the progression from a vertically-accented, three-bay, double-pile, two-story principal block to a second, four-bay, two-story, single-pile mass with reduced wall height. This second masonry section is set back approximately eight feet from the front plane of the principal block. A single-story terminus of the original house is evidenced by the ghost of a central

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gable roof on the southwest wall of the existing building. The massing and scale of the telescope plan were further emphasized by the successive recession of the front plane of each section of the three-part composition, from the formally detailed northeast principal block of the dwelling through the final, one-story portion. While the telescope plan was popular in the Tidewater region of Virginia and Maryland, it is less characteristic of major construction in the Piedmont and upper Shenandoah Valley.

A third story was added to the double-pile section of the dwelling during the second building period. Built in the third decade of the nineteenth century, this addition altered the scale and massing of the original design. The newly created third story reinforced the primacy of this portion of the building. A final building period took place in the 1950s with the construction of a one-story, frame kitchen to the left of the facade. The current frame kitchen occupies the approximate location of the southwest pavilion of the original plan.

## General Descriptions:

### Main House

The original dwelling at Spring Hill Farm exhibits a three-room plan with front and rear rooms in the double-pile section and a single cell in the single-pile portion. This portion of the dwelling is supported by a brick foundation creating a full cellar. The single-pile section is two stories in height, constructed in five-course common-bond brick, and fenestrated with six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. This four-bay portion of the facade is composed of asymmetrically placed windows and a four-light door. The openings of the outer window bays and the door opening are topped by jack arches. The remaining bay, roughly centered in the façade, displays a stretcher row above the wooden frame. Window openings contain stone slip sills. A four-light door provides access to this portion of the building. The façade is spanned by a modern, shed-roofed porch. Sliding doors enclose the porch and its roof is supported by square, cased posts. The roof of the porch is sheathed in asphalt shingles.

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The second floor of the façade is opened by six-over-six, double-hung sash windows corresponding to the two outer bays of the first floor. Like the lower level, the window openings are framed with jack arches and stone sills. A molded cornice lies beneath the box soffit and a molded fascia trims the eave. The roof is covered in standing-seam metal roofing. The roof is flush verged and is trimmed with a tapered verge board.

The rear or northwest wall of this portion of the building is of three bays, and asymmetrically fenestrated with a modified, six-panel door near the southwest edge of the masonry wall and two six-over-six, double-hung sash wood windows occupying the other bays. Modification to the door includes the removal of the two uppermost panels and the insertion of fixed glazing. The door bay itself also shows signs of alterations with the jack arch failing to span the entire width of the opening and replacement brick on the latch side. Alterations are also visible at the middle window bay, roughly centered on the wall. Brick infill below the window and a single stretcher course between the jack arch and window frame indicates the removal of an earlier door.

Second-story windows of the rear wall align with the two outer bays of the first level. These windows are also six-over-six in configuration and framed by jack arches and stone sills. The southwest gable wall of this two-story portion of the building contains no openings, but a plaster ghost indicates the past existence of a one-story gable-roofed addition southwest of the existing building.

The first two levels of the three-story section are contemporary with the single-cell portion of the dwelling. The rear wall and cellar show continuous coursing of brick with no visible evidence of modification or reconstruction. The upper floor dates to the third quarter of the nineteenth century. This three-story, three-bay portion displays Flemish-bond masonry on the first two levels of the façade with five-course common bond extending above the second-story windows.

The remaining walls of this portion of the building are laid in five-course common bond. Fenestration of the first level of the facade includes nine-over-six, double-hung sash wood windows. Window openings are defined by jack arches and cut stone slip sills. Entry to the building is through a six-panel door

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topped by a four-light transom. The door is trimmed with an elliptical torus molding. The door opening is topped by a jack arch, and the threshold is of cut stone. A modern, asphalt-shingled, hip-roofed porch spans the front of the building, sheltering the three openings. Constructed in the 1980s, the porch respects the design of the house and is sympathetic to its scale and massing.

The second level is pierced by symmetrically placed six-over-six, double-hung sash wood windows in alignment with the three openings of the first floor. These openings are also framed by jack arches and stone slip sills. The brick bonding changes above the second-floor jack arches. Laid in Flemish bond with corner closers from grade to the top of the arches, the bonding shifts to five-course common bond and the closers are absent. This modification of brickwork, combined with a slight shift in color to more reddish brick implies that the building was raised from two stories. Details such as the jack arches, cut-stone sills, and six-over-six, double-hung sash wood windows were retained when the building was raised. The right-most window of the third story varies slightly with a replacement single-light sash in the lower position. Windows of the façade retain their shutters and hardware. A wood-sheathed box soffit with molded fascia defines the eave and the roof is clad in standing-seam metal.

The right, or northeast gable wall contains seven window openings defined by jack arches and cut-stone, slip sills--two on each level and one in the upper gable. Windows are located near the outside edge of the walls with six-over-nine light configuration on the first floor and six-over-six light double-hung sash on the second and third levels. A four-over-two light, double-hung sash is located near the apex of the gable. An interior end, brick chimney with a double-corbelled course is centered on the wall. A molded raking cornice follows the roofline and returns at the eave.

The rear elevation is symmetrically fenestrated with a centrally located, six-panel door flanked by nine-over-six, double-hung sash wood windows. Each of the upper floors contains three, six-over-six double-hung sash. Mirroring the facade, the rear elevation is finished with a box soffit and molded fascia. The southeast gable wall is pierced by one six-over-six, double-hung sash wood window on the third level and located towards the facade edge of the wall. A four-over-two, double-hung sash wood window lies



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high in the wall lighting the attic. An interior chimney rises from the rear slope of the roof. The raking cornice and returns are repeated on this elevation.

The final portion of the building is a one-story, frame addition supported by a concrete foundation. This part of the building lies above a crawl space. The facade is fenestrated by a three-unit casement window slightly to the right of center. The walls are sheathed in wide-board, wood siding with three-inch corner boards. A shed-roofed entry vestibule lies on the southwest gable wall. The vestibule is enclosed on two sides and jalousie windows pierce these walls. Wooden steps lead to the six-light door. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The rear wall of the frame section is asymmetrically fenestrated with six-over-six, double-hung sash wood windows flanking an exterior brick chimney and firebox, and a third window lying near the southwest corner of the building. The chimney is shouldered above the firebox and the double-width stack rises through the eave. A single corbelled course slightly above the eave indicates that the chimney was raised at some point. The box soffit is sheathed in wood and a plain fascia trims the eave. The kitchen addition represents a functional replacement of the earlier terminus of the telescope plan that likely served as the kitchen of the dwelling.

The interior spaces of the house show limited modification with some replacement wall finishes, but high retention of historic fabric. The single-cell portion of the building contains first-floor joists of stripped logs averaging about nine inches in diameter. A vertical batten door lies in the southwest corner of this portion of the cellar, although it now opens to a storage area under the porch. The rear wall retains its six-light windows; however, a window opening in the front wall, now opening into the storage room, is missing its sash. Early wide-board flooring is visible from the cellar, although later material now finishes the room above. The floor structure above the southwest corner of the cellar is composed of sawn joists rather than logs and does not exhibit the wider boards seen elsewhere in this level. This location corresponds with the winder stair on the first level and indicates the removal of a stair between

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the first level and cellar. Access to the crawl space under the kitchen addition is through a break in the masonry wall in the northwest corner of the cellar.

The first floor of this portion of the building is one large room separated from a side passage by a beaded board partition. Ceiling joists of the principal room are partially exposed. A fireplace lies on the northeast wall and features a double architrave surround with mantelshelf. The shelf is supported by short pilasters extending from the backband of the architrave and marked by a capital ornamented by an ovolo with astragal. The field between the pilasters is filled by a flush panel. Door and window trim is stark with an architrave detailed only by an incised groove that defines the backband. The side passage is accessed through a six-panel door set into the board partition. A boxed winding stair lies in the southwest corner and leads to the second level. A run of three steps drops from the rear of the stair enclosure and accesses the kitchen area. The second level of this portion of the building is a single room now serving as a master bedroom.

The three-story mass is divided into two rooms on the first floor, three each on the second and third levels, and a single room in the attic. A stair hall occupies the southwest corner of all three stories. A stair to the cellar descends from beneath the principal staircase. The cellar stair is constructed with an exposed stringer and every fourth tread fastened with through mortise-and-tenon joints. The remaining treads lie within a shallow rabbet.

The joists of the first floor are stripped logs, ranging from eight to ten inches in diameter, with stripped log posts supporting the joists along the centerline of the building. The exposed underside of the flooring is gauged and trenched. Brick relieving arches with wooden lintels lie along the northwest and southeast walls of the rear half of the cellar. Six-light windows lie in the front and rear walls. The forward portion of the cellar is not accessible due to the installation of a modern wine cellar.

The first floor of the three-story portion is divided into a formally appointed room in the right front, or northeast room of the building; a stair hall to the southwest; and a large room occupying the rear of the building. The staircase is constructed with an open string, square balusters, and turned newel. The rear

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wall of the stair hall is set diagonally to provide an entry wall into the rear room of the first floor. The most formal room is located in the northeast corner of the building's first floor. Window surrounds feature symmetrically gouged moldings and corner blocks incised with paterae. The mantel is topped by a solid shelf with strongly elliptical moldings and a pronounced ovolo along its base. The mantel pilasters are heavily fluted and are supported by heavy plinths. A rectangular capital tops the shaft of the pilaster and is detailed with a raised panel. The field beneath the mantelshelf is ornamented with a similar panel. Small paterae and gouged moldings surround the firebox. A heavy baseboard with cyma recta base molding surrounds the room. The remaining first-floor room is finished with modern wainscoting and crown molding. Door and window trim in this room is composed of a single architrave with beaded opening and cyma leading to a simple backband. A fireplace is located in the southwest corner of the room, and a small press with paneled door lies to its right.

The second and third levels of the three-story portion of the building each contain three rooms: forward and rear bedrooms with a bath off the stair hall. Finish of the second-floor openings closely follow the single architrave found on the first level. Paired newels support the molded handrail on this level. Third-floor finishes differ from the lower levels with reeded surrounds and aprons. An enclosed stair leads from the third floor to the attic. Rafters measure approximately four inches square and meet at the ridge in a simple bevel joint. The rafters appear re-used as empty half-lap joints indicate the removal of collar ties and many joints appear on the upper face of the rafters.

The one-story frame kitchen dates to the 1950s. The room is finished in vertical knotty-pine boards and features a loft ceiling pierced with skylights. A Colonial Revival-style mantel is centrally located along the rear northwest wall. The kitchen area lies within the southern portion of the room. Two small rooms are located in the southwest portion of the addition. The room to the north is pierced by six-over-six, double-hung sash wood windows in both its north and west walls, while the southern room only holds a window on its west.

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## Secondary Resources

Associated with the main house are four contributing buildings: a smokehouse, springhouse, garage, and carbide house. The smokehouse lies off the facade on the south side of the house, and it is oriented facing northeast. Constructed of coursed rubblework and rising from a stone foundation, the smokehouse is a single-story, one-bay, front-gable building. Access is provided through a vertical-batten split-leaf door centrally located on the facade. A carved date stone above the door carries the initials "S·B·P" and the date "1840." This information relates to the ownership of Samuel Pierpoint who acquired the property in 1830. The moderately pitched gable roof features a closed raking soffit and plain rake. A louvered ventilator lies within the gable of the southwest wall. The roof is covered in standing-seam metal. Concrete and brick pave the floor. A heavy plate, measuring about six inches square, supports the four-inch-by-six-inch rafters. Rafters meet at the ridge in a simple bevel joint. Heavy timber girts span the building and rest atop the longitudinal walls. Moderate smoke darkening and numerous nail holes within the girts support the use of the building as a smokehouse.

Southeast of the residence stands a one-story frame garage constructed in 1927. The front-gable building is oriented facing southwest. A concrete foundation supports the building, which is sheathed in vertical-board siding. Vertical-batten doors configured as a sliding tri-fold provide access. A boxed raking soffit trims the eaves of the standing-seam metal-covered roof. A shed addition lies off the northeast gable wall. Sheathed in vertical beaded board and topped by a flat-seam metal roof, the shed was added in the mid-twentieth century to accommodate larger automobiles.

Immediately east of the residence lies a partially subterranean structure of uncoursed rubblework that once housed a carbide gas generator. The building is topped by a rubblework, barrel-vault roof that rests atop a course of flat stones creating a slight step at the juncture of wall and roof. The bulkhead doors are of braced batten construction and the walls are parged. The interior of the building is accessed through a double-leaf bulkhead entry and a run of stone steps. The interior is braced by several metal crossties.

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Small diameter piping exits the southwest wall of the building, originally serving to convey the gas to the dwelling.

South of the residence stands a one-story uncoursed-rubblework springhouse constructed around 1900. The building lies adjacent to a small pond. The doorway is located under the overhanging roof on the northeast side of the building and lies slightly below grade. Rubblework walls create an entry well. A vertical-batten door opens into the springhouse and a concrete lintel spans the top of the opening. Four-light windows are centrally located on the three other walls. A plain wooden cornice tops the walls and a box soffit trims the eaves. The hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles and a small gablet defines the entry well. A pyramidal-roofed louvered cupola is centered on the ridge.

## **Non-Contributing Resources**

Directly west of the main house stands a six-bay, shed-roofed, concrete masonry garage. The left three bays are accessed through replacement overhead doors with six fixed lights. The right three bays are filled with vertical boards and pierced by fixed sash windows. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. The farm entry is flanked by a pair of late-twentieth-century rubblestone gateposts with ornamental iron gates.

## **Integrity of Historic Resources**

Spring Hill Farm retains integrity of materials, workmanship, feeling, association, design, setting, and location. Few modifications to the original building fabric are apparent with repairs to such items as masonry and roofing executed with in-kind materials and workmanship. The enclosure of the front porch of the four-bay mass of the building does not greatly affect the integrity overall and is a reversible modification.

The kitchen added in the mid-twentieth century is a significant addition to the building and documents changes over time reflecting late Colonial Revival domestic fashions. Also reflecting trends established in the area of Hamilton in the 1870s, the continued adaptation of buildings in this portion of Loudoun

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County represents the continued use of the county as a summer retreat by residents of the Washington metropolitan area, and more recently, its place as a commuter suburb.

The concrete masonry unit garage and rubblestone gateposts do not contribute to the significance of the property; however, the presence of these structures, constructed in the mid- to late-twentieth century does not compromise the overall integrity of the Spring Hill Farm complex.



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## Summary Statement of Significance:

Spring Hill Farm possesses the qualities of significance under Criterion C in architecture as an extant representative example of a type and style of construction in Loudoun County.

Under Criterion C, the original plan of the Spring Hill Farm dwelling exhibits the telescope plan and massing popular in Maryland and Tidewater Virginia in the early-nineteenth century. The plan represented several trends in architectural refinement and the adoption of traditionally urban forms into a rural setting. The dwelling at Spring Hill Farm, having a three-room, telescope plan, expresses itself more fully as a three-bay, side-gable, side-passage building. The use of Flemish-bond brick for the facade and its two-story height clearly illustrates its architectural dominance over the lower, single-pile section. The side-passage plan proved popular in urban settings for its economy of space, allowing for smaller building lots and more dense development. The popularity of the style extended to smaller communities, such as nearby Waterford, which made full use of the three-bay, side-passage plan for many of its dwellings. While not a dense urban area, the town of Waterford experienced many of the same constraints of space due to its location in a river valley and relatively steep, hillside location. As in urban areas, extensions to Waterford houses took the form of a rear ell projecting back from a side-gable wall. Spring Hill Farm exhibits a modification of the form intrinsic to rural areas--additions to the main mass extended to the side, frequently housing secondary functions. Kitchens and domestic spaces occupied the wings, with more formal spaces commonly placed to the front or public face of the dwelling. The openness of the agricultural landscape allowed for expansion across the façade rather than receding from it. The desire to emphasize a particular element, the formal front, led to the recession



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of mass through diminution of scale, frequently from two-story to one-and-one-half-story to one-story construction. The original configuration of Spring Hill Farm classically displays this logic. The two-story, Flemish-bond facade receded to a two-story wing, albeit of reduced wall height and set back from the principal plane, and terminated in a single story appendage. The causal reduction of mass and scale illuminates the appreciation of plan and style exhibited in the urban form, yet capitalizes on the availability of space only found in the rural landscape. Spring Hill Farm possesses the qualities of significance under Criterion C as an excellent example of the telescoping plan and its application in Loudoun County. As a domestic complex, Spring Hill Farm gains additional significance for its assemblage of outbuildings including a smokehouse, springhouse, carbide house, and early-twentieth-century garage.

Another facet of history illustrated in Spring Hill Farm is the continued popularity of the Colonial Revival style in the middle decades of the twentieth century and the rediscovery of local vernacular dwellings. The frame addition carries many characteristics of the Colonial Revival including its multi-pane windows, colonial-inspired mantel, and interior pine siding. The sensitive restoration of the dwelling by its current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Ritchie Williams, exemplifies this appreciation for the vernacular, cultural landscape.

The farmstead also possesses the qualities of evolution from a primarily agricultural area dominated by single-family farms to an exurb characterized by residential use and a gradual decline in farm acreage. Originally encompassing nearly 200 acres, Spring Hill Farm declined in size to 120 acres in the early-nineteenth century, and continued to decrease in the twentieth century to its current size of less than 24 acres. This trend is widespread in the county, and dates to the vicinity of Hamilton in the late-nineteenth century. With the introduction of the railroad, Hamilton emerged as a summer and weekend destination for Washingtonians who purchased numerous rural properties in the area. This contraction of the

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agricultural landscape, from large holdings under cultivation to lesser tracts of land targeted for single-family residences with limited association to agriculture, continued throughout the twentieth century. The frame addition to the Spring Hill Farm dwelling is indicative of this trend as rural farmhouses experience a type of “gentrification,” modifying existing dwellings to the needs of a newer generation.

## **Resource History and Historic Context:**

The current land area of Loudoun County was part of a 5.2 million-acre tract granted by Charles II to John and Thomas Culpeper in 1649. Although the first land grant in what is now Loudoun County dates from 1704, intensive European settlement did not occur until the 1720s, after the Treaty of Albany had eliminated the Native American influence in the region and solidified British claims to the Northern Virginia Piedmont. By the 1730s, land speculators in the area of Lovettsville had acquired grants from Lord Fairfax for Piedmont Manor (approximately 17,296 acres). Piedmont Manor was generally located west of Lovettsville and north of Purcellville, in the immediate vicinity of Spring Hill Farm. Piedmont Manor was bounded on the east by Milltown Road, on the south by the South Fork of Catoctin Creek, on the west by Purcellville Road, and on the north by the Potomac River (Scheel 2002b:60).

The first settlers in Loudoun County settled in two areas. Germans, Scots-Irish, Dutch, and Quakers from New York and Pennsylvania settled west of the Catoctin Mountains (Deck and Heaton 1926:10), while migrants of English descent from the Tidewater region of Virginia settled east of this natural line of demarcation (Poland 1976:6). By the 1740s, tobacco cultivation in Loudoun County, begun by the English, began to decline, as in other areas of Virginia, due to soil exhaustion, labor shortages, and decreasing foreign demand (Poland 1976:28). Grain production, however, increased, and, during the 1750s, gristmills were established along the numerous creeks that traversed Loudoun County. Wheat eventually became

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the staple crop in the region, and gristmills became an integral element of Loudoun's economy (Marsh 1958:21-22).

Development of an overland transportation infrastructure during the eighteenth century was vital to the economic success of the region. The Carolina Road extended north and south through the center of the county, east of the Catoctin Mountains. This road became a principal route for trade, travel and migration; Noland's Ferry, established in 1748, linked the Virginia portions of this corridor to Maryland and Pennsylvania (Poland 1976:29). The region's primary east-west artery was the Vestal's or Keys Gap or New Church Road (Poland 1976:32-33).

By 1790, the population in Loudoun County numbered 18,962 people, consisting of 14,749 whites and 4,213 blacks (Poland 1976:65). Land ownership in the county during this period took a variety of forms. Among the very wealthy, the land often was rented to tenants. A study of 287 landowners in Loudoun County revealed that most of them owned modest acreage between 100 and 500 acres. Only eleven landholders owned more than 500 acres (Poland 1976:26).

### **Waterford and Hamilton**

Loudoun County's principal transportation routes were punctuated with small communities that existed primarily to provide services for farmers. Drawing from a radius of between two and five miles, the towns included retail outlets, churches, schools, and taverns, and offered the services of physicians, lawyers, cobblers, blacksmiths, wagon makers, tailors, and tanners (Poland 1976:68). Spring Hill Farm is located off Hamilton Station Road between two of these towns, Waterford and Hamilton.

Members of the Society of Friends from Bucks and Chester counties in Pennsylvania settled Waterford around 1733. By 1741, the community had its first gristmill, had constructed a log meeting house, and began holding quarterly meetings. In 1744, Waterford Quakers held the first monthly meeting in the newly sanctioned Fairfax Meeting, named for the recently created county (Waterford Village 2005). The Fairfax meeting drew members from a large area of Loudoun County including the towns of Hillsboro, Hamilton,

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Lincoln, and Philomont (Waterford Village 2005). Scots-Irish began settling in Waterford during the middle years of the eighteenth century, and by 1750 Mahlon Janney laid out Main Street and a series of building lots (Wilson 2002:102).

By the 1780s, Waterford appears to have received its present name, apparently from an Irish immigrant who wanted to honor the city of his birth. The settlement also had several houses, a store, a blacksmith shop, the mill, the meetinghouse, and about 80 residents (Scheel 2002a:10). In 1800, when the population had grown to 150, a post office was opened, and in 1801 the state established the settlement as a town (Scheel 2002a:10-11). Loudoun County's first bank, the Loudoun Company, was opened in Waterford in 1815, but was short-lived, closing in 1824. The Waterford Library Company was chartered in 1810. The town reached the height of its population in 1840 with 521 people (Scheel 2002a:16-17).

Like Waterford, the town of Hamilton was founded by the Society of Friends in 1740. The settlement of Hamilton's Store, located approximately one mile south of Spring Hill Farm on the road from Leesburg to Snicker's Gap, was centered on a store that was named a post office in 1827 (Scheel 2002b:23). Originally referred to as Harmony, the town experienced slower growth than Waterford. It showed marginal increases in the early nineteenth century with the construction of the Snickers Gap Turnpike, but did not see significant population growth until the decades following the Civil War. The town was incorporated in 1875 (Scheel 2002a:25).

### **Spring Hill Farm in the Nineteenth Century**

During much of the nineteenth century, Spring Hill Farm functioned as a family-occupied and productive farm. The residence was built in the early 1830s by Samuel and Betsy Brown Pierpoint, and the farm's operations resembled those of other Loudoun County agricultural enterprises. The Civil War interrupted daily life in Loudoun County, but the immediate vicinity of Spring Hill Farm was not directly affected because commercial growth had slowed and major transportation routes bypassed the area. After the war, the farm remained productive and increased in value.

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### *The Brown and Pierpoint Families*

The oldest portion of the residence appears to have been constructed by Samuel and Betsy Brown Pierpoint, who obtained the property through her brother, Samuel Brown, after his death in 1829. The 1830 Loudoun County property tax record noted that property totaling 120½ acres and 12 perches, valued at \$3,615, was transferred to Samuel Pierpoint. The record noted that the property was “of Samuel Brown’s executor by marriage with Elizabeth” (Loudoun County Land Book 1830). This property probably was the same as that listed in the 1829 real estate inventory for Samuel Brown’s estate, described as “by estimation” 122½ acres consisting of “one farm” valued at \$3,654.50. The will instructed his executors to sell his property and distribute the proceeds to his family; Samuel and/or Betsy Brown Pierpoint may have bought the property from the estate (Loudoun County Will Book R:180).

The Brown and Pierpoint families were Quakers descended from English immigrants. Betsy Brown’s forebears immigrated to Chester County, Pennsylvania in the 1600s, and arrived in Loudoun County by the mid-1700s (Brown family genealogy n.d.). Samuel Pierpoint’s ancestor, Henry Pierpoint, immigrated to southern Virginia in 1635. Henry later moved to Anne Arundel County, and his son, Charles Pierpoint, moved to Baltimore County. In 1750, Henry’s grandson, Francis Pierpoint, left Baltimore County with Sarah Pierpoint, his wife, and began attending the Fairfax Monthly Meeting in Waterford. Francis and Sarah Pierpoint were Samuel’s grandparents (Hedman 1973:24-25). Samuel Pierpoint was born in 1789 to Obed Pierpoint (1740-1830) and Esther Myers Pierpoint (1752-1839). Betsy Brown was born in 1797 to Richard Brown (1760-1813) and Sarah Cox Brown (1762-1856) (Brown family genealogy n.d.).

Samuel and Betsy both were born in Loudoun County; they married in 1829 at the Fairfax Monthly Meeting in Waterford (Hedman 1973:194). The couple had four children: Albert (1830-1898), John (1831-1900), Sarah (1833-1916), and Hannah Ann (1837-1865). Pierpoint’s occupation is listed as farmer in the 1850 census, the first census for which occupations are provided, and in the 1860 census, the last in which he appears. All four children were still living at home in 1850, ranging in age from 14-year-old Hannah

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Ann to 20-year-old Albert. By 1860, Albert had moved out and John and his wife, Mary, 21, lived with his parents in the house. Daughters Sarah, 26, and Hannah Ann, 22, also lived at home. A 21-year-old laborer named Jacob Quigley was included in the census count for the family (Hedman 1973:194; United States Census 1860a). Both Samuel and Betsy Pierpoint were buried in the Fairfax meetinghouse burying ground, Samuel in 1863 and Betsy in 1868 (Hedman 1973:194).

### *Antebellum Construction and Additions*

Property tax records suggest that the oldest portion of the house was built between 1830 and 1834. The records do not list a value for buildings on the property from 1830 to 1832, indicating either that the land purchased or transferred from Samuel Brown's estate had no buildings, or that any buildings on the property had been razed. In 1834, the property tax record noted that the buildings on the Pierpoint property were worth \$1,500; the explanation for the change in value was "buildings assessed" (Loudoun County Land Book 1834). Several features of the home support this theory. The original portion of the building was a three-room, two-story mass with the three-bay section to the right of the façade having a taller wall height in both the first and second levels. The absence of any visible seams in the masonry, either on the exterior or in the cellar, implies a single building episode creating both the lower-walled, four-bay section to the left of the façade and the taller, three-bay section to the right. Interior trim of the front room of the three-bay section carries characteristics of the Greek Revival style with symmetrical moldings accented by corner blocks with paterae and elliptical cross-sections of various ornamental elements. The remaining rooms possess more subdued stylistic treatment with a simple architrave accented only by a backband and incised groove. The application of Greek Revival detailing in the "best" room implies an acceptance of stylistic trends of the 1830s while the retention of detailing more closely associated with the Federal period in the secondary rooms supports a construction date within the third decade of the nineteenth century.

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A barn was built between 1853 and 1855, when the total value of buildings increased from \$1,000 to \$1,400. The assessor noted, "barn assessed" (Loudoun County Land Book 1853, 1855). The total building value increased to \$2,000 in 1857, but no explanation for the increase was provided (Loudoun County Land Book 1856, 1857). The addition of the third story to the three-bay mass of the building may account for this increase in taxable value. The strong vertical accent produced by the addition of the uppermost level adds an Italianate influence to the building. Popular from about 1850 to 1880, the Italianate style emphasized the verticality of structures and frequently incorporated broad overhanging eaves and bracketed cornices (Lanier 1997: 149). Although lacking the detail commonly associated with the style, the strong vertical lines created by the third-story addition creates a vernacular adaptation of a then popular style. Property tax records indicate no other construction before the Civil War.

## *Agriculture*

When the Pierpoints obtained Spring Hill Farm in the 1830s, Loudoun County had developed into a rich agricultural region. Wheat, livestock, and orchard products were the county's primary commodities. Farm output increased as local farmers adopted new laborsaving devices such as cradles and plows, and new soil management techniques like crop rotation and the use of lime and gypsum to fertilize and condition the soil increased crop yields (Poland 1976:84). The agricultural societies formed later in this period further encouraged the continued development of new farming devices and techniques. The Agricultural Society of Loudoun, Fauquier, Prince William, and Fairfax was founded in 1825, and the Agricultural Society of Loudoun was formed in 1842 (Poland 1976:92). The trend in agricultural education continued into the 1850s with the establishment of the Loudoun County Agricultural Academy and Chemical Institute (Poland 1976:93). By 1850, the county boasted over 70 grist and saw mills, all of which were constructed to process locally grown commodities (Poland 1976:74).

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Many early-eighteenth-century roads were improved into turnpikes, toll roads that were operated and maintained for profit by state-chartered private companies. Secondary roads were constructed to link these major thoroughfares, producing an extensive road network that improved access from more remote areas of Loudoun County to its principal market in Alexandria (Poland 1976:114-9). These roads facilitated the transportation of produce, livestock, and passengers (Poland 1976:121). Two transportation improvements in Maryland affected the livelihood of Loudoun County farmers. The completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal linked Loudoun County with markets in Georgetown, and the construction of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad provided a link to markets in Baltimore. Improved roads were constructed to link with the transportation network on the Maryland shore of the Potomac River. A road led from Waterford to Knoxville, Maryland (Stephenson 1981: Plate 27). By 1853, the Berlin Turnpike was constructed. This north-south route connected the major east-west Loudoun County roads with Brunswick on the B&O Railroad line in Maryland (Taylor 1853).

In 1850, Spring Hill Farm encompassed 80 improved acres and 41 unimproved acres, and had a cash value of \$6,000. It produced some of the primary crops grown in Loudoun County, including 500 bushels of wheat and 1,000 bushels of corn. The farm also produced 50 bushels of rye, 30 bushels of Irish potatoes, and six tons of hay. Like other farms, Spring Hill Farm produced orchard products (valued at \$20) and butter (250 pounds). Livestock, valued at \$600, included eight horses, three milk cows, nine other cattle, and fourteen swine. Slaughtered animals were valued at \$200. Farming implements and machinery were valued at \$150 (United States Census 1850). By 1860, Spring Hill Farm consisted of 100 improved acres and 20 unimproved acres. Its cash value increased to \$8,000. Production included 400 bushels of wheat, 600 bushels of corn, 60 bushels of rye, 20 bushels of Irish potatoes, six tons of hay, 50 bushels of oats, and 250 pounds of butter. Livestock, valued at \$500, included six horses, seven milk cows, four other cattle, and 16 swine. Slaughtered animals were valued at \$150 (United States Census 1860b).



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### *The Civil War*

During the mid-nineteenth century, increased tensions over slavery played out in Loudoun County. After the Civil War broke out, daily life was disrupted in the county because its strategic position made it a crossroads for Union and Confederate troops. Numerous residents joined militia units, for the Confederate and Union causes, and one battle and several skirmishes were fought in the county. Nevertheless, archival research does not indicate that Spring Hill Farm was physically affected.

Slavery had emerged as a divisive force among the citizens of Loudoun County. Loudoun County's extensive Quaker population led the abolitionist crusade in the county (Poland 1976:163). As Quakers, the Pierpoints likely held no slaves and probably supported abolitionist ideas. Census records and available inventories support the absence of slaves on the Pierpoint farm. Voters in the Waterford precinct voted 220-31 to remain in the Union in May 1861 (Scheel 2002b:18). In contrast, many residents perceived John Brown's raid on nearby Harper's Ferry as a threat to the county's security, and they formed several militia units (Frantum and Henry 1998:13). During the May 1861 vote, Leesburg voted 400-22 to join the Confederacy (Scheel 2002b:18).

During the Civil War, Loudoun County became a crossroads; it bordered Union territory and straddled a major north-south transportation corridor for both Union and Confederate forces operating in Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia. Numerous county residents joined military units, and they fought on both sides of the conflict (Poland 1976:188; Deck and Heaton 1926:19). At the onset of the war, nearly 4,000 Confederate troops were stationed in Loudoun County, with headquarters at Leesburg.

The Civil War changed civilian life in Loudoun County dramatically. County residents remained divided; people in northern and western Loudoun typically remained loyal to the Union while the residents of southern Loudoun supported the Confederacy. Early in the war, military rule was imposed. Travel, trade, and postal service were hampered. Religious services were disrupted as county churches were pressed into service as hospitals or barracks (Poland 1976:215; Frantum and Henry 1998:19). A few schools and homes

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in the county housed wounded soldiers. Loudoun County's rural areas were hit the hardest. Both Confederate and Union troops burned crops, sacked towns, and destroyed houses and barns (White 1926:18). Many businesses suspended operations. Land was almost worthless (Head 1908:182).

One battle and numerous skirmishes occurred on Loudoun soil; Spring Hill Farm was geographically close to three. The most important was the Battle of Ball's Bluff. Also referred to as the Battle of Leesburg, this daylong engagement was fought on October 21, 1861, at Harrison's Island, along the Potomac River east of Leesburg (Poland 1976:193-202). The location associated with the battle that was closest to Spring Hill Farm was Hamilton, where a school served as a makeshift hospital. No evidence was found that indicated that Spring Hill Farm was used as a hospital after Ball's Bluff. A Confederate military presence remained in the county during winter 1861. The county came under Union control in spring 1862 (Poland 1976:203). Throughout the rest of the war, control alternated at least 65 times between Confederate and Union forces (Frantum and Henry 1998:41).

Military activity relatively near Spring Hill Farm occurred next in August 1862, when two Loudoun County units skirmished at Waterford Baptist Church (Poland 1976:187-191). In September, a Confederate hospital was established in Middleburg, in southern Loudoun County, to care for wounded soldiers after the Battle of Antietam. Other soldiers were brought to locations from Leesburg south to Warrenton (Poland 1976:205). Spring Hill Farm and other homes in the area are believed to have housed wounded soldiers. Archival evidence did not identify Spring Hill Farm as a well-known hospital location.

In November 1864, the northern and western sections of the county were particularly hard hit when Union forces burned the area, attempting to halt Confederate forces by cutting off their resources (Weatherly 1976:29). The inferno of Loudoun Valley lasted for five days. Barns and haystacks were burned, mills were destroyed, and all livestock was driven from the region (Poland 1976:213). The Spring Hill smokehouse survived the war intact; however, the fate of the barn assessed in 1855 is unclear (Loudoun County Land Book 1855). The barn lay across the current Piggott Bottom Road from the dwelling, on land

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now separated from the farm. The smokehouse still carries the 1840 datestone and lies immediately southeast of the dwelling house.

Maps of troop movements depict the march of Union troops along Leesburg Pike, approximately one mile south of Spring Hill Farm, in 1864 and 1865 (Cowles 1891-1895:100-1). The last military activity in the vicinity of Spring Hill Farm occurred near Hamilton on March 21, 1865, when a Union force tried to stop Mosby's Rangers from commandeering supplies and conscripting residents for the Confederate cause (Poland 1976:213). It is not clear where this skirmish occurred.

Loudoun County suffered severely during the war, but major activity spared the Spring Hill Farm vicinity for two reasons. Commercial growth in Waterford remained stagnant after many Quakers left to move west, frustrated with the institution of slavery. In addition, major transportation routes bypassed the area. The arrival of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in Point of Rocks in 1830 and of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal in that town in 1832 diminished Waterford's role as a major shipping point for the area (Scheel 2002b:17). Completion of the Leesburg and Snickers' Gap Turnpike (old Route 7) in 1832, the Berlin Turnpike in 1852, and the Leesburg to Point of Rocks Turnpike (Route 15) in 1853 isolated the area in a protective box (Scheel 2002b:17-18). Spring Hill Farm was located approximately one mile north of the Leesburg to Snickers' Gap Turnpike, the southern boundary of this box.

### *The Post-Civil War Period*

Despite reconstruction efforts, soon after the war the county's population fell below 20,000 for the first time since 1800. Many Loudoun residents moved to Washington, D.C. for better job opportunities.

Nevertheless, Spring Hill Farm and the Pierpoints appear to have survived the war without major disruption. The family did suffer the personal hardship of three deaths: Samuel in 1863, daughter Hannah Ann in 1865 at the age of 28, and Betsy in 1868. Betsy Pierpoint remained on the property after her husband died. No will was found to indicate Samuel left the property to Betsy, but the deed for the land's sale stated that she died in possession of the property.

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Samuel Pierpoint's personal property was inventoried and sold in August 1868, four months after Betsy's death. The inventory indicated a well-stocked house and farm. The items were appraised at \$705.24, and included: cooking utensils and equipment; dishes; kitchen accessories; furniture, including several bedsteads, beds, and bed clothing; decorative household items such as curtains and carpet; tools; a two-horse carriage; a stand of bees; and one cow (Loudoun County Land Records 2U:123-25). Other items were added, and the entire personal estate sold for \$791 (Loudoun County Land Records 2U:125-131).

The Pierpoints' three surviving children sold the property in September 1868 to Lorenzo Dow Hess for \$12,058.12 (Loudoun County Land Records 6B:190). Hess, who was born in approximately 1830 in either Maryland or Virginia (1860 and 1870 census data conflict on his age and birthplace), was a farmer living in or near Charles Town, Virginia in 1860 (the area later became part of West Virginia). At that time, the 30-year-old Hess lived with Mary, his 25-year-old wife; their four-year-old daughter Virginia and one-year-old son David; his 68-year-old mother, Anne; and his mentally handicapped 48-year-old sister, Mary. Hess was relatively wealthy; his real estate was worth \$10,180 and his personal estate was valued at \$1,900. Anne Hess also had a personal estate, worth \$950 (United States Census 1860a).

The family continued to prosper after moving to Spring Hill Farm. According to the 1870 census, Hess's real estate retained the \$12,000 value he paid for it, and his personal estate was worth \$6,000. The value of the land and buildings, which remained at \$60 per acre from 1857 to 1869, increased to \$80 per acre in 1871 (Loudoun County Land Book 1857-1871). The rise reflected an increase in the land value and a \$500 increase in the value of the buildings, from \$2,000 in 1869 to \$2,500 in 1871. Hess apparently had enough money during that period to alter or add to one of the buildings, or construct a new building (Loudoun County Land Book 1869, 1871). However, by 1873 the land's value dropped, which lowered the value of the land and buildings to \$70 per acre. Despite the drop, the per-acre value remained above its Civil War-era rate (Loudoun County Land Book 1873).

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Mary, Hess's wife in 1860, was not listed in the 1870 census. Anna, 21, listed directly after him, might have been a second wife. Other family members were Mary and Lorenzo Dow Hess's children, including Virginia, David, and another daughter, Margaret, 9; and his sister, Mary. The household also included four workers and one child, all listed as "mulatto:" Amanda Valentine, 27, a domestic servant; Lawrence Valentine, 40, a laborer and likely Amanda's husband; Ginnie Valentine, 1, their child; John Lee, 17, a laborer; and Henry Riley, 26, a cook (United States Census 1870a). The laborers might have performed many of the farm's day-to-day operations, since Hess was employed not as a farmer but as a retail merchant, according to the census (United States Census 1870a).

The farm remained productive. According to the 1870 agricultural census, it contained 100 improved acres and 21 acres of woodland. It produced 800 bushels of winter wheat, 300 bushels of Indian corn, 50 bushels of oats, 20 bushels of Irish potatoes, seven tons of hay, and 400 pounds of butter. Livestock, valued at \$500, included two horses, four milk cows, and seven swine. Slaughtered animals were worth \$150. His farming implements and machinery were worth \$150. The estimated value of all farm production, including "betterments and addition to stock," was \$1,815. A new category documenting pay totals for agriculture workers indicated that Hess paid \$150 in wages during the previous 12 months, including the value of board, presumably paid to the two live-in laborers listed in the population census (United States Census 1870b).

Improved transportation facilitated economic reconstruction in Loudoun County. The railroad between Alexandria and Leesburg, which had halted service during the war, reopened in the spring of 1865, following repairs to tracks and bridges damaged during the war. The railroad gradually became the primary means of moving both freight and passengers in and out of the county (Poland 1976:127, 237). Expansion of rail service to Hamilton (1871), Round Hill (1874), and Bluemont (1900) also established these communities as rural "resort" destinations for city dwellers (Scheel 1975:36, 42).

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By the 1880s, Loudoun County's agriculture had rebounded. By 1900, 92 per cent of the county's land was under some sort of cultivation and 75 per cent of its forests were cleared (Deck and Heaton 1926:42).

Between 1850 and 1900, the number of farms increased from 1,256 to 1,948 (Head 1908:83). Most of these were modest tracts of between 100 and 174 acres. Twenty-five per cent of the county's farms were tenanted (Deck and Heaton 1926:83). At first, livestock, wheat, corn, and orchard products were the principal commodities raised by farmers in the region (Head 1908:87). As the century came to a close, however, many Loudoun farmers turned to dairy farming, particularly after the extension of rail transportation made possible the transportation of perishable products to markets in Washington (Poland 1976:294).

Hess added a 42-acre parcel to his holdings and sold the resulting 162-acre parcel to Alexander S. Marbury of Georgetown, Washington, D.C. in 1878. Hess had paid nearly \$14,000 total for both parcels, but only received \$11,400 in the sale (Loudoun County Land Records 6M:358). Marbury was not found in the 1880 agricultural census, and no population census information was found for him. In 1897, Marbury's estate sold the 162-acre parcel to Ellen Greene. This deed might have been the first reference in land records to the property as "Spring Hill Farm." Greene divided the property and sold it to three buyers in 1901.

Thomas Compher bought the 101-acre parcel that included the house (Loudoun County Land Records 7o:226; Loudoun County Land Records 7U:428). Compher, born in 1860 in Virginia, owned the farm without a mortgage. In 1910, he was a widow who lived with his 13-year-old daughter, Ella May, also Virginia-born, and his unmarried 69-year-old sister, Elmira. The household also included a 64-year-old servant named Lucy Mills, a single white woman. In 1920, Ella May, 23, and Elmira, 79, continued to live with him (United States Census 1910, 1920).

The construction of the carbide house likely took place in the closing years of the nineteenth century or early years of the twentieth. In the years prior to rural electrification, domestic lighting was restricted to candles and petroleum products such as kerosene. The creation of coal gas plants in many urban areas in

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the late nineteenth century provided a clean, bright source of gas for domestic lighting fixtures. Rural dwellers, however, had few options. The discovery of a method of commercially producing acetylene gas in 1892 offered rural property owners the opportunity to light their homes in this manner (American Chemical Society 2001). By 1895, small gas generators and compressed gas cylinders appeared on display at the Atlanta Exposition. Acetylene lights, installed in the home and connected to the gas cylinder or generator, ignited the gas through specially constructed burners creating a bright, white light ten to twelve times brighter than any other commercially available fuel (American Chemical Society 2001). In operation, carbide generators are quite basic. A valve drips water onto calcium carbide that reacts with the water forming acetylene gas. As the gas pressure increases, the valve slowly closes eventually stopping the water flow. Consumption of the accumulated gas causes a reduction in pressure allowing the valve to open and water to again drip onto the calcium carbide. The process saw application outside of domestic lighting. Miners continued to use carbide lamps into the 1920s when long-lasting, dry-cell batteries replaced it. Navigational buoys replaced oil burners with acetylene generators in the early-twentieth century and many remained in use into the 1960s.

## **World War I to the Present**

By World War I, Loudoun County had regained its former prosperity. Agricultural production increased dramatically and, by the 1920s, Loudoun County ranked first in the state in total corn production, third in total wheat production, and sixth in hog production. Dairying also had emerged as one of the county's leading industries (White 1926:23; Poland 1976:319). During the 1930s, however, traditional agriculture in Loudoun County began its final decline. The severe drought of 1930, coupled with the onset of the Great Depression, proved disastrous for Loudoun County farmers, despite participation in many New Deal farm support programs. Between 1930 and 1935, the number of operating farms in Loudoun dropped by more than 20 per cent (Poland 1976:328), although farming revived temporarily during World War II.

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By 1930, Spring Hill Farm had passed from Thomas Compher to his daughter, Ella M., 33. The census listing that year indicated that she owned the farm but that her occupation was “none.” A family who rented from her apparently oversaw the farm’s operations. Herbert Trussell, 34, was a farmer married to Mary G. Trussell, 36. They had two children, Florence, 10, and Robert, 3 (United States Census 1930). Compher sold the property to Turner and Retta Cornwell in February 1949, and they sold the property a month later to Sally and Walter Grant (Loudoun County Land Records 12D:305; Loudoun County Land Records 12Z:336).

The use of automobiles and improvements to major roadways such as Virginia Route 7 and U.S. Route 15 during the postwar period led to the ultimate demise of Loudoun County’s traditional rural lifeways. The growth in automobile ownership and corresponding improvement in road networks allowed an increasing number of Loudoun’s residents to commute to work outside of the county. By 1960, more than 28 per cent of the population commuted out of the county for work; by 1970, this figure had risen to 40 per cent (Poland 1976:342). The disappearance of Loudoun’s farms accelerated, particularly in eastern parts of the county. In 1950, approximately 50 per cent of Loudoun’s population lived on farms; by 1960, this percentage had fallen to 20 per cent (Poland 1976:362).

A frame kitchen and family room addition was built on to the west side of the building during the 1950s. In 1959, Sally Grant, widow of Walter Grant, sold the 102-acre property to William and Mary Stubblefield. They sold the property to Ian I. and Alma J. Sammers in 1961 (Loudoun County Land Records 389:252; Loudoun County Land Records 409:405).

The 1950s marked the first time since 1800 that Loudoun County’s population increased significantly. An even more dramatic population surge began during the 1960s as the county slowly was incorporated into the Washington metropolitan area. Construction of Dulles Airport in the southeast portion of the county during the late 1950s accelerated the demise of agriculture. Signaling the area’s shift from agriculture to rural suburbia, Spring Hill Farm was reduced to 40 acres when the Sammerses sold it to John K. and Jane F.



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Holcomb in 1967 (Loudoun County Land Records 474:321). John K. Holcomb sold a portion of the property to Richard N. Hopkins in 1977; he sold the property to the current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Ritchie Williams in 1986 (Loudoun County Land Records 670:81; Loudoun County Land Records 884:1281). They undertook a comprehensive restoration of the property. The current property encompasses just under 24 acres.

The continued enlargement of the Spring Hill Farm dwelling manifests the continued role of Loudoun County as a residential enclave of the Washington metropolitan area, beginning with Hamilton in the 1870s and continuing to this day as the county faces increasing transitional pressures from agricultural to rural suburban. Though the entire farm is not in use as an agricultural facility any longer, the nominated area remains as a fine example of an evolved domestic complex.

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- 1850 Schedule 4, Productions of Agriculture
- 1860a Schedule 1, Population
- 1860b Schedule 4, Productions of Agriculture
- 1870a Schedule 1, Population
- 1870b Schedule 4, Productions of Agriculture
- 1910 Schedule 1, Population
- 1920 Schedule 1, Population
- 1930 Schedule 1, Population

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## **Verbal Boundary Description:**

The proposed boundary begins on Piggott Bottom Road, west and slightly north of the dwelling, then proceeds east a distance of approximately 450 feet, following the fence line defining the domestic complex. The boundary then turns south, again following a fence, a distance of approximately 220 feet before turning to the west. The boundary continues following fence lines bearing west for roughly 160 feet then turning south for a distance of about 90 feet. The proposed boundary then turns to the southwest for about 120 feet, intersecting with Piggott Bottom Road. The boundary follows Piggott Bottom Road north, then northwest to the beginning, encompassing about 2 acres.

## **Boundary Justification:**

The boundary includes the dwelling and support structures of Spring Hill Farm within the domestic complex as outlined by fencing and does not include the surrounding agricultural resources or fields. The property possesses the qualities of significance under Criterion C for its ability to embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method construction in Loudoun County as an extant domestic complex. The proposed boundary incorporates those buildings manifesting that significance and serves to protect the setting of the dwelling and its immediate support buildings.

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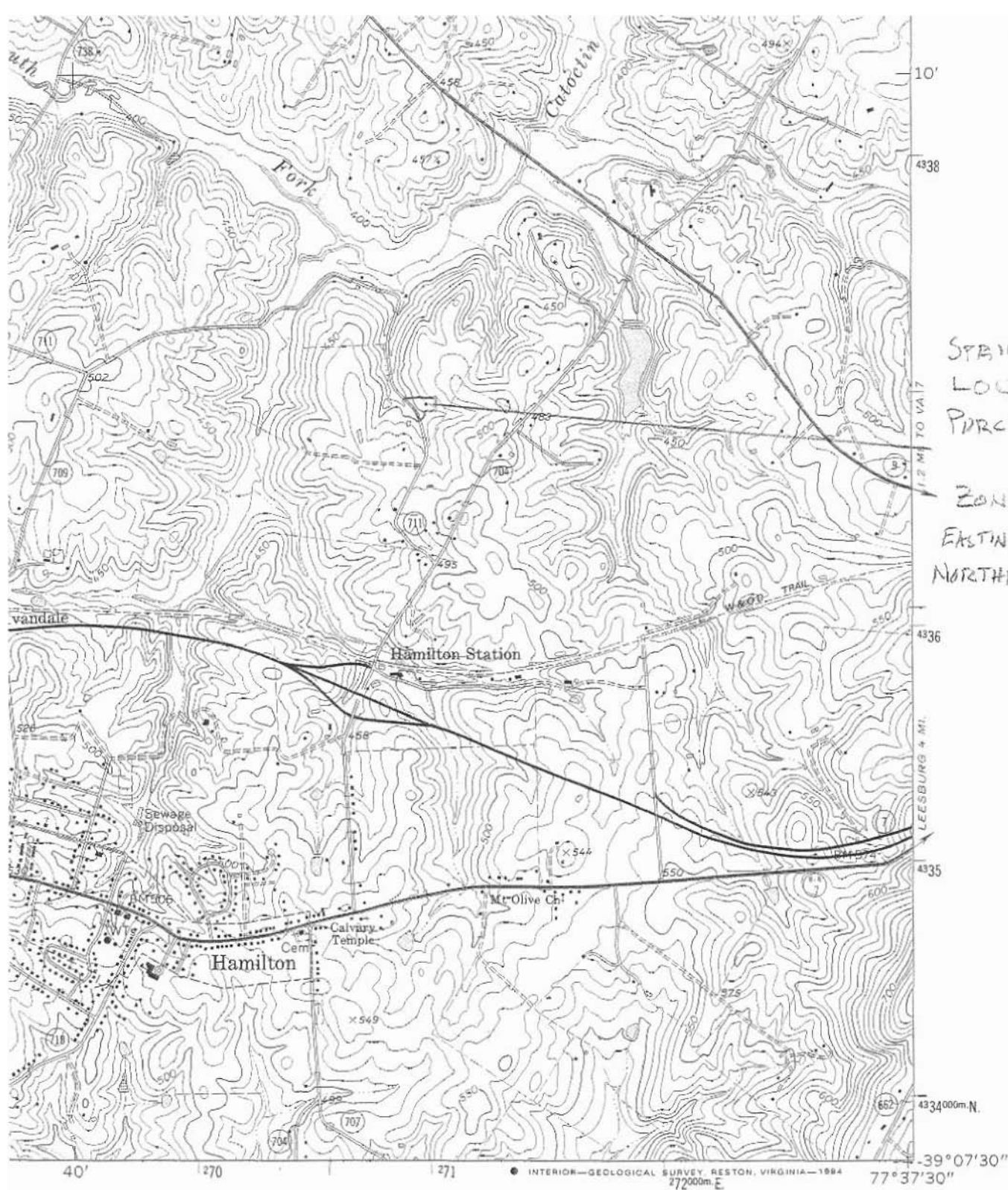
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Excerpt of aerial photograph showing National Register boundary.



SPRING HILL FARM  
 LOUDOUN COUNTY  
 PURCELLVILLE  
 4VAD  
 ZONE: 18  
 EASTING: 271109  
 NORTHING: 4337217

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface —————  
 Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface. . . . .  
 Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface ————  
 Unimproved road, fair or dry weather - - - - -

○ State Route



Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1982 and other sources. This information not field checked  
 Map edited 1984

PURCELLVILLE, VA.  
 39077-B6-TF-024  
 1970  
 PHOTOREVISED 1984  
 DMA 5462 II NW—SERIES V834