

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Retirement and the Muster Grounds

Other names/site number: Dunn's Meadow; Craig-Fulkerson Farmstead; Old Hurt

Residence: DHR No. 140-0006

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 702 Colonial Road SW

City or town: Abingdon State: VA County: Washington

Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  N/A

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

<p>_____  <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>  <u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>  <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	<p>_____  <b>Date</b></p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____  <b>Signature of commenting official:</b></p>	<p>_____  <b>Date</b></p>
<p>_____  <b>Title :</b></p>	<p>_____  <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary structure

DEFENSE: Military Facility: muster grounds

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

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Museum

LANDSCAPE: Park

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

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

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

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; WOOD; METAL

### Narrative Description

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

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### Summary Paragraph

The Retirement and Muster Grounds property is composed of 8.88 acres, located in the town of Abingdon, Washington County, Virginia. The property is the starting point of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (NHT), which follows the route of assembly of the American Patriot Army that defeated an American Loyalist army at the battle of Kings Mountain, South Carolina, in 1780. Designated an NHT in 1980, the 330-mile trail extends from Abingdon through eastern Tennessee to the Kings Mountain National Military Park in South Carolina. The Abingdon site's two primary contributing resources are Retirement, a circa 1808 Federal style dwelling with later Greek Revival, Italianate, and Classical Revival embellishments, and the Muster Grounds, also known as "Dunn's Meadow," where the Washington County militia mustered prior to marching south to Kings Mountain and during the War of 1812, the American Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and World War I. Contributing secondary resources are the stone springhouse located west of the Muster Grounds and limestone retaining walls around the main dwelling. The property's four non-contributing buildings are a ca. 1980 frame garage (now used as a visitor's center), a ca. 1960 frame potting shed, a ca. 1930 refinishing shed, and a ca. 1930 horse run-in shed. Two non-contributing objects, a kiosk and a granite boulder with attached commemorative plaques, are associated with the property's current use as an interpretive center and are located at the roadside along the north edge of the Muster Grounds. A non-contributing footbridge, built in 2015, extends across Wolf Creek from the Muster Grounds

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to the springhouse. The property's integrity overall is very good, as the Muster Grounds have been largely undisturbed and remain an open, grassy space. Retirement is in somewhat deteriorated physical condition but has seen few unsympathetic alterations. The non-contributing resources are small in scale and compatible with the property's historic use as a dwelling and small farm. Overall Retirement and the Muster Grounds retain good integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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## Narrative Description

### Setting

Retirement and the Muster Grounds are near the historic juncture of two major American Indian routes with which modern Routes 58 and 11 are roughly aligned, and was also on the 18<sup>th</sup>-century "Wilderness Road" through the Appalachian Mountains to Tennessee and Kentucky envisioned by William Byrd III and explored by Daniel Boone. During Lord Dunmore's War in 1774, Joseph Black constructed a log fort as a refuge for local settlers and the town was known as "Black's Fort" until 1778 when it was incorporated as Abingdon. North of the property are the North Fork of the Holston River and the Clinch mountain range, and to the south and east are the River Knobs, the Holston Range, and the Virginia Iron Range.

Situated along the south side of Colonial Road SW, Retirement and the Muster Grounds are located on low ground near Abingdon's main commercial district, in a small dell beside Wolf Creek, which flows south toward the Holston River. The creek defines the western boundary of the Muster Grounds. The trees on the property are a mixture of deciduous hardwoods and evergreen cedars and pines.

The Muster Grounds site is low, flat bottomland, characteristic of the surrounding valley between two steep ridges of the Appalachian Mountains. Wooden split rail fences delineate the northern and eastern edges of the Muster Grounds. The fences were constructed ca. 2005 and are made of split timbers stacked in a serpentine arrangement. The kiosk and boulder with commemorative plaques are located at the head of the entry drive, while the garage/visitor's center is at the end of the drive, just southwest of the house.

Across an entry drive, a short distance to the east, Retirement occupies a small rise. The house site features landscaping typical of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> century, with large shade trees, foundation plantings, and a paved service court. A mortared, dressed limestone wall with a set of limestone steps runs along the north edge of the lawn. A limestone retaining wall is along the entry lane adjacent to the main dwelling ("Retirement"), used to reach the service yard at the rear. At the rear of the dwelling, other stone retaining walls follow the rising ground east toward the refinishing building and potting shed, which stand southeast of the dwelling.

A horse run-in shed is at the northern end of an open, grassy field that comprises the southern half of the property. Further south are a pond and a crescent-shaped woodlot that provide important habitat for local wildlife, plants, and migratory birds.

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A 2010 survey indicated the potential location of a prehistoric campsite on the area known as the Muster Grounds, on the banks of Wolf Creek. The site appears to have been occupied on multiple occasions by Native American groups prior to European contact, and artifacts recovered from the site include lithic flakes, a crude biface, and a chert core fragment. Professional archaeological testing, however, has not yet been conducted to assess if significant cultural deposits are present.

### Inventory

The following inventory lists all of the contributing and non-contributing resources associated with Retirement and the Muster Grounds, including date of construction, contributing status, and resource type. All non-contributing resources either postdate the property's period of significance, have extensive alterations, or are unrelated to the property's areas of significance.

1. Retirement (dwelling)	ca. 1808	Contributing building
2. Muster Grounds	ca. 1770	Contributing site
3. Spring house	ca. 1800	Contributing building
4. Garage	ca. 1980	Non-contributing building
5. Potting shed	ca. 1960	Non-contributing building
6. Refinishing building	ca. 1930	Non-contributing building
7. Horse run-in shed	ca. 1930	Non-contributing building
8. Interpretive kiosk	ca. 2005	Non-contributing object
9. Boulder with commemorative plaques	2007	Non-contributing object
10. Limestone retaining walls	ca. 1930	Contributing structure
11. Pedestrian bridge	2015	Non-contributing structure

### Detailed Description

#### **Retirement (Dwelling, contributing building)**

The house known as "Retirement" was constructed ca. 1808 on the site of an earlier log dwelling by Revolutionary War veteran Captain Robert Craig Sr. Craig owned mills on Wolf Creek south of the Muster Grounds, and himself led militia from Washington County during the American Revolution.<sup>1</sup> The house was acquired by Judge Samuel Fulkerson in 1857, and sources indicate he had Confederate soldiers under his command camp and drill on the property during the Civil War.<sup>2</sup> Originally rectangular, the house has evolved into an L-shaped plan with a late-19<sup>th</sup> century frame addition. A two-story Classical Revival porch was added during the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>1</sup> See Lyman Draper, *King's Mountain and Its Heroes* (Cincinnati, Ohio: 1881).

<sup>2</sup> Dustin T. Aldridge, *Samuel V. Fulkerson and his 37<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry* (paper dated 4/6/2011), cited in 'Draft Historic Structures Report for Retirement, Town of Abingdon, Virginia,' by Davis Buckley Architects and Planners, July 25, 2014, p 8-9.

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Originally a Federal-style house, Retirement is two stories, built of brick on a brick and stone foundation, with a five-bay façade. The side-gable roof is clad in standing-seam metal, pierced by three gabled dormers. Integral end chimneys with short corbelled stacks are located at both ends of the two-story main block. A cornice with paired modillions, evocative of the Italianate style, was added at an unknown date. A one-story, five-bay Classical Revival porch with Tuscan columns, built between 1909 and 1931, spans the northern façade, with a simple balustrade around the top to allow the porch roof to serve as a balcony.

The oldest part of the house is the two-story, two-bay east section, built of brick laid in Flemish bond on the front and irregular-coursed common bond on the east and rear elevations, with flat jack-arch headers over the windows. The first-story window arches are parged to simulate stone. This section reportedly contained five rooms and was originally known as "Mount Pleasant." The windows in this section have 6/6 wooden sash, with apertures noticeably wider than those on the western section of the house.

The house was substantially enlarged in 1858 when it was purchased by Judge Samuel Fulkerson and it is around this time that it seems to have been renamed "Retirement." The main house was expanded by three bays to the west, adding a central stair hall (likely replacing a stair in the original block's southeast corner).<sup>3</sup> The addition is also laid in Flemish bond on the front, with three-course common bond on the west (side) elevation and five-course common bond on the rear elevation, though the brick is slightly darker. The primary entry added in 1858 is roughly centered on the north façade and features a single-leaf door flanked by paneled, multiple-light sidelights and a rectangular transom topped with a molded cornice. The rectilinear character of the entry is more evocative of the Greek Revival style, but blends well with the original block's Federal style. The windows in the northwest section are narrower and have molded wooden lintels and jack arches. The addition's first story windows have 6/6 sash and these type sash once were in the second story windows, as indicated by a ca. 1880 photograph (Figure 1); it is unclear why the sashes were replaced in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The rear window in the stair hall has 9/6 sash that are believed to be the oldest sash in the building.

A lateral extension was appended to the house's east gable end in 1858 for use as Judge Fulkerson's law offices. The main part of the office addition is brick, laid in five-course American bond, comprising a single gable-roofed chamber to the north and a small shed-roofed lean-to directly behind.

The house was again enlarged in the 1880s by the Hurt family (related to the Fulkersons through a daughter, Kate Fulkerson Hurt).<sup>4</sup> The improvements included a two-story rear, frame ell, and possibly also the modillioned cornice and addition of dormers into the roof of the existing house. The rear ell is three bays long, with three windows in the upper story and two windows and a door in the lower story facing west onto the entry lane. The windows have 6/6 wooden sash with

<sup>3</sup> Meade Campbell, "Miss Kate Fulkerson's Wedding was Very Rudely Interrupted". Washington County News, Abingdon, Va. Feb. 29, 1968.

<sup>4</sup> Id.

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slightly peaked integral wooden hoods. The exterior is clad in weatherboards and historically may have had a shed or flat roof. The ell was substantially altered in 1965<sup>5</sup> when the south end wall and the east wall were rebuilt with concrete block, and the south part of the lower floor converted to a two-car garage by the Dunn family.<sup>6</sup> The lower part of the south wall was rebuilt with brick cladding over the block, the roofline extended to the east in a shallow-pitched gable, and two sets of paired 6/6 sash windows inserted into the south wall. These changes are evident in a 1968 photo (Figure 2).

The extant one-story, five-bay Classical Revival front porch with Tuscan columns and a plain balustrade rail on the upper roof was added between 1909 and 1931, and a similar two-bay porch was added to the one-story east addition. The roofs over the entire house are clad in standing-seam metal, and most of the windows are flanked by late-20<sup>th</sup>-century, louvered wooden shutters.

The interior of the house reflects the several building periods, with details ranging from fine Greek Revival mantels and wooden wainscoting in the east and west parlors, to late 20<sup>th</sup>-century built-in bookcases and closets in the second-floor bedrooms. The stair passage features Greek Revival molded trim and the stair itself has a turned newel, simple balusters, and a round rail. The second floor of the south ell (connected to the first floor of the main house) was converted into a kitchen during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, but retains historic ca. 1890 wooden flooring and some historic trim, including a chair rail, baseboards, and window and door casing. The historic wooden flooring on the second floor of the main house was sanded and refinished during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, while the historic wooden floors on the first floor were covered by carpet around the same time and only lightly restored ca. 2015. The house retains some historic hardware, including 19<sup>th</sup> century doorknobs, hinges, and locks, window hardware, and some late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup>-century light fixtures, including the etched glass pendant lamp in the stair hall.

### **Muster Grounds (contributing site)**

Located directly west of the dwelling, the Muster Grounds is a low, open meadow alongside Wolf Creek, which flows north-south through the property. The meadow is in grass, well-watered by the creek, and is ringed by trees. The banks of the creek are well-defined and the creek spans 10-15 feet at its widest. The land rises slightly to the northeast up to the house's

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<sup>5</sup> A 1969 photo shows the rear of the house shortly after the renovation and expansion of the ell. The caption reads "This is the rear view of this lovely home. When we visited Abingdon in 1969 we were shown the downstairs. We were told that the frame addition was very old. I think it was most likely part of the original house, perhaps where the kitchen was located. The present owners keep it in beautiful shape. It is furnished with lovely antiques." The photo is in the family collection of Dorothy Mitchell McClure, and is available online at <http://evermore.imagedjinn.com/blg/1036/home-of-capt-robert-craig-at-abingdon-virginia/>

<sup>6</sup> Meade Campbell, "Miss Kate Fulkerson's Wedding was Very Rudely Interrupted," *Washington County News*, Abingdon, Va. Feb. 29, 1968. Campbell wrote, "In 1965, the Dunns expanded the ell and enclosed the back porch, thus enlarging the kitchen and adding two more rooms; an informal sitting room, where a Franklin stove and a color television are at peace, and a bedroom adjoining the kitchen, handy for snack-prone guests or people with flu."



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small ridge. At the southwestern edge of the Muster Grounds, a footbridge, built in 2015, spans Wolf Creek to provide access to the springhouse. Wooden split rail fences delineate the northern and eastern edges of the Muster Grounds. The fences were constructed ca. 2005 and are made of split timbers stacked in a serpentine arrangement.

### **Springhouse (contributing structure)**

The springhouse is a low, one-story stone structure located adjacent to Wolf Creek, west of the Muster Grounds and southwest of the main dwelling. The springhouse is constructed using random-rubble stonework, with a gable roof clad in wooden shingles. A stone outflow channel runs southeast from the spring to the creek, and there is also a long pool extending north from the building's wooden entrance door. The interior of the springhouse is unadorned, with bare stone walls and a pool for cold storage.

### **Garage (non-contributing building)**

The ca. 1980 garage is a one-and-one-half story, frame building located southeast of the main dwelling. The garage is clad in vertical, wooden board-and-batten siding, and has an open carport on the east side. The garage's side-gable roof is clad with standing seam metal with wooden rake boards, and the carport has a subordinate gable roof with a cat's head extension, also clad in standing-seam metal. The garage rests on a concrete foundation, which extends out to the carport. The garage is accessible on the north and east sides by large, sliding wooden barn doors. The building was rehabilitated for use as a visitor's center in 2010; alterations included adding a metal door frame inside the north doors with metal and glass swinging doors, interior wall cladding, and a one-story addition on the south side to incorporate climate control systems, restrooms, and an extension of the main visitor's center display area.

### **Potting Shed (non-contributing building)**

The ca. 1960 potting shed is a small, one-story frame building constructed of wood, plywood and vertical-board cladding, and salvaged windows. The building has a shallow, end-gable roof clad in asphalt shingles, and rests on a concrete block foundation. The interior is unadorned and used for storage.

### **Refinishing Building (non-contributing building)**

The refinishing building was constructed in three parts, including the original one-and-one-half story frame building, a one-story shed-roofed rear lean-to on a concrete block foundation, and a subsequent one-story lean-to on wooden piers. The original section was constructed ca. 1930, and the additions appear to have been built in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century when the building was renovated for use as a part-time dwelling. The original section is clad in vertical-board siding, with a high end-gable roof clad in metal sheathing. The first (now middle) addition is clad in split-pole vertical siding, with an exposed concrete-block foundation and a shed roof. The rearmost addition also has a shed roof, and is clad in vertical-board siding.

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**Horse Run-in Shed (non-contributing building)**

The ca. 1930 horse run-in shed is a long, low, one-story building with two stalls facing a center hall, and a run-in pen on the west side under a single end-gable roof clad in metal sheathing. The main barn building is clad in vertical-board siding, and the pen is open on three sides. The pen roof is supported by undressed wooden posts.

**Kiosk (non-contributing object)**

The kiosk, constructed ca. 2005, is composed of three metal stanchions and polymer display panels. The three-sided kiosk is set in a poured-concrete foundation, and is sheltered by a small pyramidal metal roof.

**Boulder with Commemorative Plaques (non-contributing object)**

The commemorative plaques are metal plaques affixed to a large granite boulder, assembled ca. 2007 to memorialize the Battle of Kings Mountain, and located just west of the kiosk near the road.

**Limestone Retaining Wall (contributing structure)**

A limestone wall close to the west side of the main dwelling dates to at least the early 20<sup>th</sup> century but may be earlier, and is constructed of undressed fieldstone. A short section at the rear (south) of the main dwelling is also fieldstone.

**Pedestrian Bridge (non-contributing structure)**

A wooden pedestrian bridge was constructed in 2015, and is a simple arched bridge with a wooden handrail that spans Wolf Creek.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Criteria Considerations

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

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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MILITARY

ARCHITECTURE

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

**Period of Significance**

1780-1945

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

**Significant Dates**

September 23, 1780

Ca. 1808

1858

April-May 1861

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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

**Architect/Builder**

Fields, William

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

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

Retirement and the Muster Grounds is significant at the statewide level under Criterion A in the area of Military. On September 23, 1780, approximately 400 militiamen under the command of Colonel William Campbell gathered at the Muster Grounds in Abingdon and departed for Sycamore Shoals, near present-day Elizabethton, Tennessee. By September 25, the Virginia militia had joined with forces from modern Tennessee, Kentucky, and North Carolina, and were known as the “Overmountain Men”. They marched south, and with others from the colonies of South Carolina and Georgia, defeated British forces under Major Patrick Ferguson at the Battle of Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780. This battle is considered to be a turning point in the war because it forced British General Charles Cornwallis to retreat into South Carolina and abandon the British plan to attack George Washington’s American army on two fronts. In succeeding decades, the Muster Grounds again functioned as a place for local militia to gather, most notably during the Civil War, and the site was used during World War I and World War II for local troops to gather, for which the site is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Military. The property also is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The dwelling known as Retirement, constructed ca. 1808 and expanded in 1858, the 1880s and ca. 1909-1931, is significant for its architectural character and quality of workmanship. The property’s period of significance begins in 1780 when the Mustering Grounds first served as a gathering place for local militiamen and extends through the last use of the Muster Grounds for military purposes in 1945. Significant dates are September 23, 1780, when the militiamen first gathered, ca. 1808 when the dwelling now known as Retirement was first built, 1858, when Retirement was expanded, and April-May 1861, when Retirement’s owner permitted local Confederate soldiers to gather and train at the Muster Grounds.

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

### **Military**

During the American Revolution, the men of Fincastle, Virginia, aligned themselves with the disaffected settlers of the Watauga, Sycamore Shoals, Nolichucky, and Carter’s Valley settlements for the war’s duration. They found common cause in their hatred of Lord John Murray, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Dunmore and the last British governor of Virginia, had who proclaimed the eviction of all settlers south of the Big Island of the Holston (modern Kingsport, TN) in 1770.<sup>7</sup> These settlements were thereafter known as the Overmountain settlements, as they were “over the mountains” from the permitted settlement areas.

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<sup>7</sup> See the Treaty of Lochaber.

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In 1775, the Watauga and Nolichucky settlements took the initiative and declared themselves the independent (short-lived) District of Washington.<sup>8</sup> This provoked Cherokee raiding, and the local militia saw intermittent fighting against the Cherokee and Shawnee (encouraged by the British) throughout 1776-1778. The local troops never committed to regular service, instead preferring to harass the borders and return home at intervals to plant and harvest. After Lord Cornwallis' decisive victory at Camden, South Carolina, in August 1780, Major Patrick Ferguson (a Highland Scottish officer) was dispatched to subdue the militia in the mountains. Ferguson had a reputation for brutal reprisal, and the Overmountain men quickly gathered for what they saw as a mission to defend their homes.

In present-day Abingdon, four hundred men gathered at the Muster Grounds adjacent to Wolf Creek, setting off on September 23, 1780, to meet militia from the other Overmountain settlements. Robert Craig served as a captain under Col. William Campbell. They arrived at King's Mountain, South Carolina, on October 7, 1780, in the company of around 1,300 men and flanked the British forces under Patrick Ferguson who occupied the high ground. Famously, Campbell rode through the lines and shouted "Here they are, my brave boys, shout like hell, and fight like devils!"<sup>9</sup> The Overmountain troops won the day, thanks to unrelenting rifle fire from the militia's sharpshooters, and quickly retreated upcountry with seven hundred British prisoners of war.

Defeat at King's Mountain caused Cornwallis to abandon his campaign to join Gen. Henry Clinton in New York, instead retreating to South Carolina where a subsequent defeat at Cowpens on January 17, 1781, broke the strength of the British in the southern colonies. Cornwallis pursued American troops northward after Cowpens and won a narrow victory at Guilford Courthouse, but his force was so depleted he was forced to retreat to what he believed was safe harbor at Yorktown, Virginia. Cornwallis surrendered after the Battle of Yorktown on October 19, 1781.

During the War of 1812, Washington County men served in the 70<sup>th</sup> and the 105<sup>th</sup> Virginia militia regiments, gathering and drilling at the Muster Grounds.<sup>10</sup> The 70<sup>th</sup> was commanded by Baptist minister Andrew Patterson, and the 105<sup>th</sup> by Col. John Preston of Walnut Grove, who also served as Presiding Justice of Washington County between 1820-1852. Capt. Abram

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<sup>8</sup> The District of Washington, later the fledgling State of Franklin, eventually became nine counties in modern Tennessee.

<sup>9</sup> Draper, *King's Mountain and Its Heroes*, p. 586.

<sup>10</sup> See List of Pensioners on the Roll, January 1, 1883; Giving the Name of Each Pensioner, the Cause for Why Pensioned, the Post-Office Address, the Rate of Pension Per Month, and the Date of Original Allowance... (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1883), FHL Book 973 M2Lp v. 5; digital versions at Google Books and Internet Archive. Vol. 5, Virginia, Washington County, p. 106-107, identifies War of 1812 veterans living in this county in 1883. See also Stuart Lee Butler, *Guide to Virginia Militia Units in the War of 1812* (Athens, Ga: New Papyrus Press, 2011). See also Gerald H. Clark, *The Militia of Washington County, VA: Officers, 1777-1835, Militia Men, 1798-1835* (Signal Mountain, TN: Mountain Press 1979).

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Fulkerson Sr. and his brother John served together in the 105<sup>th</sup> and fought at Craney Island. It was Abram's son Samuel Fulkerson who later purchased Retirement in 1858.

The Muster Grounds also saw service during the Civil War, and the war came to the doorstep of Retirement as well. Two of the Fulkerson family served with the Confederate army. Judge Samuel "Uel" Vance Fulkerson was made a Colonel of the 37<sup>th</sup> Virginia. Abram Fulkerson Jr., an 1857 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and a captain of Co. K, 19<sup>th</sup> Tennessee, was wounded at the Battle of Shiloh, and later promoted to full colonel by Confederate President Jefferson Davis on Feb. 12, 1864.<sup>11</sup>

Samuel Fulkerson was promoted to Colonel (from his Mexican War rank of First Lieutenant) by Virginia Governor John Letcher in April 1861 with instructions to raise a regiment from Washington County. He issued the call and, for some weeks, drilled his recruits on the Muster Grounds adjacent to his estate (by then known as "Retirement"). In early May 1861, Fulkerson and the 37<sup>th</sup> Virginia Volunteer Regiment were ordered to Richmond. The 37<sup>th</sup> served in the Shenandoah Valley with Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson at First Kernstown, First Winchester, and Port Republic, and later fought at Richmond during the early summer of 1862. Fulkerson was killed at the Battle of Gaines Mill outside Richmond on June 27, 1862, and his command was assumed by Titus V. Williams. Fulkerson's unit went on to fight at Second Manassas, Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania Courthouse, and Gettysburg, surrendering with General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Courthouse in April 1865.<sup>12</sup>

Catherine "Kate" Fulkerson was teaching at the Martha Washington College (now Martha Washington Inn) during the war when she met local businessman Floyd B. Hurt. Hurt was initially a railroad employee, then later worked for the firm of Stuart & Palmer as superintendent of the Holston Salt and Plaster Company.<sup>13</sup> At the outbreak of war, Hurt was a widower with a young daughter named Eulalie, and was judged not fit for military service due to a persistent hernia.<sup>14</sup>

Kate Fulkerson's wedding to Floyd Hurt was planned for December 14, 1864. An oral history given by a freedwoman named "Aunt Lou" describes Hurt galloping up to the house on that day, shouting that Union troops were marching toward the town. Hurt then quickly took up the money he had collected selling Confederate bonds and fled with an enslaved man named White Chappell, leaving the ladies to fend for themselves.<sup>15</sup> Aunt Lou and Kate buried the family silver in the garden, and were shortly informed that the Union commander, General Stephen G.

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<sup>11</sup> This information, and Kate Fulkerson's letter to her brother dated Sept. 4, 1852, can be found at <https://sparedshared14.wordpress.com/2017/01/25/1852-kate-e-fulkerson-to-abram-fulkerson-jr/>

<sup>12</sup> Aldridge, *Samuel V. Fulkerson and his 37<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry*, cited in 'Draft Historic Structures Report for Retirement, Town of Abingdon, Virginia,' by Davis Buckley Architects and Planners, p 8-9.

<sup>13</sup> "Obituary of Floyd B. Hurt," *Tazewell Republican*, Vol. 18, No. 50, Dec. 9, 1909.

<sup>14</sup> Mary F. Landrum, "Unique Wedding Feast Took Place in Abingdon," *Bristol Herald Courier*, January 10, 1965.

<sup>15</sup> Mary F. Landrum, "Unique Wedding Feast Took Place in Abingdon", *Bristol Herald Courier*, Sunday January 10, 1965

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Burbridge, would be requisitioning their house as a temporary headquarters. The advance Union troops reportedly took full advantage of the wedding feast laid out in the dining room, despite the best efforts of Kate Fulkerson who advanced on them brandishing the fireplace poker. General Burbridge arrived just in time to forestall grave injury to his troops and cleared them out with many apologies to the ladies, though this did not prevent him from consuming the remainder of the wedding feast himself. Kate Fulkerson's wedding ring, hidden in the cake, was stolen but later returned by a "northern Congressman." Kate's brother Abram Fulkerson was elected to Congress in 1881 for the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and apparently met the man who had bitten down on it, and who still carried the ring on his watch fob many years later.<sup>16</sup>

The Muster Grounds were used for their eponymous purpose again at the outset of the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II.<sup>17</sup> The local significance of the Muster Grounds to the community, especially as multiple generations answered the call to service at this location, warrants extending the period of significance to the end of World War II in 1945.

### Robert Craig

Robert Craig came to Washington County (founded 1776) in the early 1770s, having spent time among the Scots-Irish settlements in Augusta County and in the vicinity of Lancaster and Carlisle, Pennsylvania.<sup>18</sup>

Many Scots-Irish settlers were encouraged to take up homesteads in Augusta and Rockbridge counties, on the southern headwaters of the Shenandoah, but they were evicted in 1771-1772 after a ruling by the General Court in Williamsburg. Essentially, Lord Fairfax considered that area to be part of the Northern Neck Proprietary and issued land grants to that effect, giving large amounts of land to investors like William Beverley who, in turn, recruited large numbers of

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<sup>16</sup> Mary F. Landrum, "Unique Wedding Feast Took Place in Abingdon," *Bristol Herald Courier*, January 10, 1965. See also Meade Campbell, "Miss Kate Fulkerson's Wedding was Very Rudely Interrupted," *Washington County News*, Abingdon, Va., Feb. 29, 1968.

<sup>17</sup> Campbell, "Miss Kate Fulkerson's Wedding."

<sup>18</sup> The date of Craig's arrival is given as 1777 in an 1898 letter from Robert Chambers Craig to John Thompson Craig, written at Benham, March 26, 1898, citing the obituary written by Stephen Bovell, second husband of Ann Middleton "Nancy" Craig. A photocopy of this obituary is in the collection of Jim Mitchell, and a transcript giving the date as 1787 is published at <http://evermore.imagedjinn.com/blg/9659/obituary-of-capt-robert-craig-february-8-1834-abingdon/>. An image of the original is not available, but may be contained within the records of the Library of Congress, which maintains microfilm copies of the *Virginia Republican*, a weekly newspaper in Abingdon that published editions between March 5, 1831, and July 28, 1834. The 1787 date may be correct because Robert Craig received a land grant on Wolf Creek in 1789 (that would become Retirement and the Muster Grounds), but he was a signatory of the call to Rev. Charles Cummings to preach at Sinking Spring and Ebbing Spring churches sent to the Presbytery at Tinkling Spring (Augusta County) in 1773 and led a company of the Overmountain Men during the Revolution in 1780-1781. Craig was also sheriff of Washington County in 1786, along with two of his brothers. See the Campbell Family Papers, 1731-1969, in the collection of Duke University, specifically letters from (fmr. Governor) David Campbell regarding the history of Holston Valley settlement dated November 1851.



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settlers. Beverley hired James Patton, a Scots-Irish ship captain turned tobacco trader, to transport willing families of Scottish exiles living in the ‘plantations’ in Northern Ireland<sup>19</sup> to his grant known as Beverly Manor on a tributary of the Shenandoah River<sup>20</sup>.

While Lord Fairfax was engaged in settling his grants, the colonial government was granting the same land to its own investors, causing a dispute that lasted over eighty years. One land agent named Jost Hite sued on behalf of several wealthy Tidewater investors acting with the support of the Virginia General Assembly. Fairfax filed suit in London, *Fairfax v. Virginia*, and the Privy Council upheld his claim in 1745.<sup>21</sup> The Virginian General Court, predictably, ruled in favor of Hite in 1771, and Fairfax was later disenfranchised entirely as a British noble after the American Revolution.

The *Hite* ruling resulted in the eviction<sup>22</sup> of many of the Scots-Irish settlers from land in Augusta and Rockbridge Counties if they could not pay the buyout price of £3 per hundred acres,<sup>23</sup> and some migrated south to new grants on the Holston River. The Holston River land was explored and surveyed as early as the 1740s, and James Patton himself was famously killed at the tiny settlement of Draper’s Meadows (near modern Blacksburg) in 1755.<sup>24</sup> The migration tended to seed tiny church communities, connected to other Scot-Irish settlements via “presbyteries” or

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<sup>19</sup> The origin of the term “Scots-Irish,” refers to a large number of Presbyterian Scottish individuals from the Borders and Lowlands of Scotland who emigrated to Northern Ireland to escape religious oppression, war, and a severe famine in the 1690s. English landlords found the Scots hardy, and a useful buffer against the dispossessed Catholic Irish natives. Many found life in Ireland so intolerable that they emigrated again a generation later to Pennsylvania, where they were heavily encouraged by pacifist Quakers, among them William Penn himself, to settle the western frontier as a buffer against dispossessed Native American tribes. As English landowners continued to clear the frontiers, pushing the Scots-Irish tenants off their homesteads, they moved south along the Proclamation Line to found settlements at Opequon Creek (Frederick County) and Tinkling Spring (Augusta).

<sup>20</sup> Generally, the land settled by the Scots-Irish of Beverly Manor and the Borden Tract was located between the South River (South Fork of the Shenandoah) and the Pasture rivers (tributaries of the South Fork of the Potomac) in modern Augusta, Highland, and Bath counties.

<sup>21</sup> See Arthur McClinton (ed.), *The Fairfax Line: A Historic Landmark*, including “The Fairfax Line: Thomas Lewis’s Journal of 1746,” (The Henkel Press, New Market, VA, 1925; reprinted by Shenandoah County Historical Society, 1990), p.12.

<sup>22</sup> Most of the records of the court process were lost to fire during the Richmond Evacuation Fire in 1865. However, Elizabeth H. Hyman’s work patching together related sources for her 1996 article is revelatory, and includes the memorable quote by the Hite lawyers: “recover of all intruders tho it should appear that we actually sold the land to others.” See Elizabeth H. Hyman, “Hite v. Fairfax and the Case of Terrapin Neck,” *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society*, LXII (1996), 44–82.

<sup>23</sup> The Robert Craig who patented a parcel in the northeast quadrant of the Beverley Manor Tract in 1740 may have been this Robert Craig’s father, uncle, or cousin. The minister to the Tinkling Spring congregation was the Rev. John Craig. See Lyman Chalkley, *The Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia: 1745 to 1800*, (Rosslyn, Va., 1912-1913; reprint, 1965).

<sup>24</sup> The incident was made more notorious because of Mary Draper Ingles, a woman captured during the attack who was transported west to near modern Big Bone Lick, Kentucky, escaped from her Shawnee captors, and walked over 500 miles following the New River back to her home.

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church associations in the Scottish Presbyterian Church, which provided support and communication.

The settlers in Washington County founded Sinking Spring and Ebbing Spring churches, and in 1773 wrote to the meeting of the local presbytery at Tinkling Spring in Augusta County<sup>25</sup> to request or “call” a minister. Robert Craig, along with many others, signed the letter to which the Rev. Charles Cummings was instructed to answer.<sup>26</sup>

Cummings, notably, drafted the Fincastle Resolutions of 1775, which have been described as a precursor to the Declaration of Independence. The Resolutions enumerates the grievances of the Scots-Irish settlers, for “even to these remote regions the land of unlimited and unconstitutional power hath pursued us, to strip us of that liberty and property with which God, nature, and the rights of humanity, have vested us... [t]hese are our real, though unpolished sentiments, of liberty and loyalty, and in them we are resolved to live and die.”<sup>27</sup>

Though Robert Craig was not a signatory to the Fincastle Resolutions, he was certainly aware of them and participated in the American Revolution as a captain of militia. General ill-feeling toward the Tidewater elites after the Augusta evictions was exacerbated by the poor treatment of the Virginia militia by British regular troops during Lord Dunmore’s War, and the furor over the Battle of Point Pleasant in which British troops failed to appear in support of Virginia militia against the Shawnee. Importantly, Lord Dunmore was governor of Virginia from 1771-1776, presiding over the Augusta evictions, the war against the Shawnee, and the early days of the Revolution. There was even widespread speculation that Lord Dunmore purposely orchestrated the war to deplete the Virginia militia in anticipation of rebellion.<sup>28</sup>

By the time of the Overmountain Men’s Revolutionary expedition in 1780, Robert Craig was an experienced military commander. He, along with his two brothers, David and James Craig, fought in the Fincastle militia during Lord Dunmore’s War, and later led troops during the Cherokee Expedition in 1776.<sup>29</sup> He was promoted to captain during the Overmountain campaign, and was commended in dispatches by the Overmountain men’s colonel, William Campbell.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Augusta County retains one of its 18<sup>th</sup> century churches, Augusta Stone Church in the town of Fort Defiance, built as a sister church to Tinkling Spring in 1740.

<sup>26</sup> Cummings’ cabin still exists, and has been relocated from its original location to Sinking Springs Cemetery in Abingdon.

<sup>27</sup> See Lyman Draper, *King’s Mountain and Its Heroes*, (Cincinnati, Ohio: 1881).

<sup>28</sup> In reality, Dunmore orchestrated the war to open settlement of lands in which he had a vested interest through the Illinois Company and was using the militia as private troops. See Norman K. Risjord, *Jefferson’s America*, (Rowman & Littlefield, 2010), pp. 104-105.

<sup>29</sup> Cherokee warriors, encouraged by the British and fearful of American encroachment, led raids east of the treaty lines in the summer of 1776. Around 1,800 Virginia militia under Col. William Christian marched southwest into east Tennessee. There was little active fighting, but the fort system established during this campaign directly influenced settlement patterns after the Revolution. Note: the Craig brothers cannot be found on the pay lists of those men under Capt. Campbell, or any other commander, during Lord Dunmore’s War, but several secondary sources claim their participation.

<sup>30</sup> Lyman Draper, *King’s Mountain and Its Heroes*, (Cincinnati, Ohio: 1881) 405.

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Craig also served as a Commissioner of the Provision Law for the Virginia General Assembly, organizing supplies for the militia and arranging payment from 1780-1783.<sup>31</sup>

Robert Craig also served as a town trustee for Abingdon in 1778, tax commissioner in 1779, coroner of Washington County in 1780, and road surveyor on behalf of the Commonwealth after the Revolution. He was elected to the General Assembly in 1800, and was a founding trustee of the Abingdon Male Academy in 1803.<sup>32</sup> In 1803, Craig sold a substantial portion of his land along Wolf Creek to the town of Abingdon to be incorporated into the town,<sup>33</sup> and was a reasonably wealthy individual whose holdings included six enslaved persons in his household.<sup>34</sup> Craig died in 1834 after a long and full life, having raised fifteen children and greatly contributed to the white settlement of Washington County.<sup>35</sup>

#### Judge Samuel “Uel” Vance Fulkerson

Samuel “Uel” (pronounced “Ewell”) Vance Fulkerson was born in Abingdon, Virginia, on October 21, 1822, and returned after an interval in Estillville (Gate City) to practice law in Abingdon between 1850 and his death in 1864.

Fulkerson had barely begun his practice in his adopted town of Estillville when he volunteered to serve in the Mexican-American War between 1847-1848, and was deployed to Mexico, although the war ended before he saw battle. He returned to Estillville and was named a delegate to the convention to ‘reform’ the Virginia Constitution in 1850.<sup>36</sup>

Fulkerson returned to Abingdon in the mid-1850s and was elected to be a judge of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District in 1857. Shortly thereafter, he purchased the Craig property at the edge of town

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<sup>31</sup> “Robert Craig,” General Claims Approved (APA 238): Folder 26. Public Service Claims. Commissioner’s Books (Nos. 1-3, reel 5; Nos. 4-5, reel 6) (1775-1783). Library of Virginia.

<sup>32</sup> Victoria Alice Gilliam, “Survey report, Retirement: 1937 Mar. 4,” Works Progress Administration, Library of Virginia.

<sup>33</sup> “An Act Enlarging the Towns of Berryville, Abingdon, and Staunton” passed by vote January 10, 1803. See Shepherd’s *Statutes at Large of Virginia from October Session 1792 to December Session 1806*, (continuation of Hening’s Statutes), pub. Richmond 1835; reprinted J. Casey: New York, 1896.

<sup>34</sup> “Robert Craig Sr.” 1806 Washington County Personal Property Tax List. Record indicates Craig owned one enslaved person under age 16, and five enslaved people over age 16.

<sup>35</sup> A photocopy of Robert Craig’s obituary is in the collection of Jim Mitchell, and a transcript giving the date as 1787 is published at <http://evermore.imagedjinn.com/blg/9659/obituary-of-capt-robert-craig-february-8-1834-abingdon/>. An image of the original is not available, but may be contained within the records of the Library of Congress, which maintains microfilm copies of the *Virginia Republican*, a weekly newspaper in Abingdon that published editions between March 5, 1831, and July 28, 1834.

<sup>36</sup> Mary F. Landrum, “Tales Told by Walls of House—‘Retirement’.” The Historical Society of Washington County, Virginia, *Virginia Bulletin* II. No. 41 (2004): 1-8).

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from one Robert Carmichel.<sup>37</sup> He lived there with his parents, his sister, Catherine “Kate” Fulkerson, and his sister-in-law, Selina Johnson Fulkerson (wife of Col. Abram Fulkerson, Jr.).<sup>38</sup>

In April 1861, Fulkerson was promoted to Colonel and given command of a regiment of local militia. The unit saw service in the Shenandoah in 1861 and then Richmond in 1862. From April 1 to June 13, 1861, the Confederate armory at Richmond issued “15,000 Musket Cartridges” and Caps and “490 Cartridge Boxes and Belts” to “Colonel S.V. FULKERSON.”<sup>39</sup>

Fulkerson was killed during the Seven Days’ Battles, at the Battle of Gaines Mill, on June 27, 1862. The letter notifying his family of Fulkerson’s death was written by General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, reading: “Col. S.V. Fulkerson was an officer of distinguished worth. I deeply felt his death. He rendered valuable service to his country, and had he lived, would probably have been recommended by me before this time for a brigadier generalcy. So far as my knowledge extends, he enjoyed the confidence of his regiment and all who knew him. I am Sir your obdt. servt, T.J. Jackson.”<sup>40</sup> Fulkerson’s remains were transported home and he is buried in Sinking Springs Cemetery in Abingdon.<sup>41</sup>

### Criterion C, Architecture

The brick house now known as “Retirement” was originally constructed ca. 1808 for Captain Robert Craig, who died in 1834 at the age of 90 after a distinguished career. There is some evidence to indicate that Craig purchased the land on which the house is located in 1807, but he may not have started construction of the brick house until he purchased the remaining 8 acres making up the full parcel in 1813.<sup>42</sup>

A small log dwelling was already on the property at that time and was converted into a detached kitchen when the main house was built. This log building was possibly associated with the extant stone springhouse, and could date to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The dwelling was described as a “log

<sup>37</sup> Carmichel was an associate of Robert Craig’s daughter Harriet Smith who, with her husband, removed to Georgia before Robert Craig’s death in 1834.

<sup>38</sup> Mary F. Landrum, “Unique Wedding Feast Took Place in Abingdon,” *Bristol Herald Courier*, January 10, 1965.

<sup>39</sup> Bob Fulkerson, “Samuel Vance Fulkerson,” *Fulkerson Family History*, available at <http://www.fulkerson.org/1-samv1.html>

<sup>40</sup> Letters from and regarding Samuel V. Fulkerson are available in Bob Fulkerson’s collection here: <http://www.fulkerson.org/1samv2.html#SEPT2>. The originals are contained within the “Fulkerson Family Papers 1835-1925,” MS 0363, Collection of the Virginia Military Institute Archives, Lexington, Virginia. See also the memoirs of Capt. James Wood, Co. D, 37<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment, published as James. H. Wood, *The War: Stonewall Jackson-- His Campaigns and Battles-- The Regiment-- As I saw Them*, Cumberland, Maryland: Eddy Press Corp. 1910.

<sup>41</sup> Victoria Alice Gilliam, “Survey report, Retirement: 1937 Mar. 4,” Works Progress Administration, Library of Virginia.

<sup>42</sup> Davis Buckley Architects and Planners, “Draft Historic Structures Report for Retirement, Town of Abingdon, Virginia,” July 25, 2014, p 5.

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cabin, a hundred feet back of the house...this kitchen topped most in inaccessibility.”<sup>43</sup> Another building, used as a dining room, may also have predated the brick house. “The builder took one more step and banished the dining room, too...it was on the basement level, an outside stairway its only connection with the parlors and bedrooms above.”<sup>44</sup> This structure may have been the south ell, constructed in the 1880s, or an earlier building incorporated into the ell. Photographs from 1937 show the east side of the ell, which appears to incorporate two distinctly different structures with a clear demarcation between the east and west sections, and a survey from the period notes a “quarter-circular closet with a curved door” which may have contained a stair.<sup>45</sup> The circular-doored closet is still extant.

The original house was substantially expanded and renovated in 1858 by Judge Samuel Vance Fulkerson. The contract between Judge Fulkerson and his contractor, William Fields, exists and states the following:

“William Fields agrees to build for Sam’l V. Fulkerson a brick house at the east end of and adjoining to the house on which said Fulkerson now lives. Said house is to be twenty feet long and as wide and high as the old house with a room below and one above. Shingle roof, two doors framed with hinges, locks, etc complete. Eight windows, sash glass, with venetian blinds. Said windows to be of a larger size and larger glass than the windows of the old house. Good and neat cornice on both sides of the house. Chimney with fire place in both rooms. Both rooms [unreadable] wash boards [baseboards] etc. Said Fields is also to do the excavation necessary to place the new house on a level with the first floor of the old house. Said Fields is also to build for said Fulkerson an office of brick sixteen feet square in the clear and proper height for one story to be set at the east end of and adjoining the said new house. Said office to be covered with shingles, two doors with locks, hinges, etc complete, two windows of the size of the windows in the old house with venetian blinds. The office to be plastered, to have a fireplace, mantle, and wash boards. Said Fields is also to make the necessary excavation to give the office a good foundation.

Said Fields is also to put a good and neat frame door, with lock, etc. complete and with side lights, where the eastern front window of the old house now is, and he is to remove the said window and place it where the front door of the old house now is, so as to make it correspond with the other windows of the old house in the same room.

Said Fields is also to open the passage (now the little room on the first floor of the old house) and is to construct a flight of stairs from said passage to second floor. Said stairs to be properly bannistered. Said Fields is also to take down the chimney at the east end of the old house and to repair the plastering which had fallen off in the two upper rooms [unreadable] done in a workmanlike

<sup>43</sup> Campbell, “Miss Kate Fulkerson’s Wedding.”

<sup>44</sup> Campbell, “Miss Kate Fulkerson’s Wedding.”

<sup>45</sup> Davis Buckley Architects and Planners, “Draft Historic Structures Report for Retirement, Town of Abingdon, Virginia,” July 25, 2014, Appendix B.

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manner and to be completed in this ensuing spring or as early in the following summer as practicable.

For all of which work said Fulkerson is to pay said Fields the sum of \$980. But if said Fulkerson should choose to have [unreadable] in the new buildings, any of the old doors and casing or mantles, he is be at liberty to do so, and said Fields is to deduct from said sum \$9 for old door and casing so used and \$4 for each mantle so used.

Given under our hands this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1858...<sup>46</sup>

After Judge Fulkerson was killed at the Battle of Gaines Mill in 1862, the house passed to his sister, Catherine Fulkerson Hurt. Hurt died in 1903, and her husband, Floyd B. Hurt, followed in 1909. The house passed to their daughter, Catherine “Kate” Lamar Hurt, who lived there with her brother Samuel Fulkerson Hurt.

Kate Lamar Hurt was apparently an accomplished woodcarver and cabinetmaker, who installed at least one carved fireplace mantel in Retirement prior to 1949. Since there is no evidence of this mantel today, it is believed that this mantel may have been in the south ell and removed by the Dunn family in the 1960s. The Classical Revival porch was added to the façade between 1909 and 1931, possibly after Floyd Hurt’s death when his children inherited the property and made improvements. The Hurts also added a small bathroom at the rear of the east addition (the judge’s chambers) to convert it into a small separate apartment. Kate Lamar Hurt died in 1949, leaving the property to a niece, Catherine Wharton Gray. Gray did not live in Abingdon, and sold the property to Paul and Rose Dunn.<sup>47</sup>

The Dunns were responsible for the extensive rebuilding of the south ell and, presumably, the demolition of the log kitchen. They also renovated the interior, adding closets and cased shelving, and a bathroom on the second floor. Their daughter, Paula Hoskins, sold the property to the town of Abingdon for use as a museum.

Washington County currently has 15 individually listed properties on the National Register. Of these, Walnut Grove (NRHP 2004; DHR #095-0022) is the only dwelling constructed before Retirement, and its history is similar in certain aspects. Colonel Robert Preston built the house ca. 1799 after he became the first land surveyor of Washington County and after he laid out the new town and the Washington County seat, Abingdon. Unlike Retirement, however, Walnut Grove is a frame dwelling with weatherboard siding

Other Washington County dwellings listed in the NRHP are Mont Calm (NRHP 1974; DHR #140-0018) and Brook Hall (NRHP 1997; DHR #095-0004). Mont Calm dates to 1824 and originally was Federal in style; an early 20<sup>th</sup> century renovation added Colonial Revival treatments, most notably the front porch with its Tuscan columns. Brook Hall, built ca. 1830, is

<sup>46</sup> Davis Buckley Architects and Planners, “Draft Historic Structures Report for Retirement, Town of Abingdon, Virginia,” July 25, 2014, Appendix A.

<sup>47</sup> Davis Buckley Architects and Planners, “Draft Historic Structures Report for Retirement, Town of Abingdon, Virginia,” July 25, 2014.”

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considered one of the most sophisticated examples of Federal style architecture in rural southwestern Virginia. The house is composed of two contemporaneous sections consisting of a two-story, five-bay, brick house with a two-story, four-bay, brick side wing. A reconstructed, single-bay, pedimented porch (postdating 1997) is centered on the primary façade and features four attenuated Doric columns, a turned post railing, and denticulated molding. Brook Hall was renovated during the 1930s, but unlike Retirement and Mont Calm, it did not receive a full-width front porch. Overall, however, the architectural character of Mont Calm and Brook Hall is similar to that of Retirement's, which evolved from a ca. 1808, two-story, two-bay, Federal dwelling to its current five-bay main block that includes Greek Revival attributes. After the Civil War, the house was expanded again with a two-story, frame, rear ell, and achieved its current appearance between 1909 and 1931, when the Classical Revival front porch was constructed.

Today, Retirement's character-defining features include its front porch, original fenestration, historic window sash, and interior finishes such as mantels, flooring, window and door casing, baseboards, wainscoting, and central hall with staircase. The dwelling's evolved form and stylistic attributes from four different periods are illustrative of the changing circumstances experienced by the Craig and Fulkerson families, as well as representing then-prevailing popular tastes in architecture. Retirement's high integrity of workmanship, design, and materials meet Criterion C in the area of Architecture, making the property locally significant and eligible for listing in the NRHP.

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McClure, Dorothy Mitchell, family collection, available online at <http://evermore.imagedjinn.com/blg/1036/home-of-capt-robert-craig-at-abingdon-virginia/>.

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"Robert Craig", General Claims Approved (APA 238): Folder 26. Public Service Claims. Commissioner's Books (Nos. 1-3, reel 5; Nos. 4-5, reel 6) (1775-1783). Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA.

"Robert Craig, Sr." 1806 Washington County Personal Property Tax List.

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff. "Mont Calm." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1973.

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

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Retirement and the Muster Grounds  
Name of Property

Washington County, VA  
County and State

- Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of repository: Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA; Town of Abingdon, VA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR No. 140-0006

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### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreege of Property** 8.88 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

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

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 36.703210 | Longitude: -81.993280 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

**Or**

#### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |          |           |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

Retirement and the Muster Grounds  
Name of Property

Washington County, VA  
County and State

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

The historic boundary coincides with the lot lines for the tax parcel recorded by the Town of Abingdon as parcel no. 017-1-37. The true and correct historic boundaries are shown on the attached Tax Parcel Map.

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

The historic boundary is drawn to coincide with the property current tax parcel, which encompasses the extent of the acreage associated with the property since ca. 1813. In addition to capturing the property's historic setting, the boundary is drawn to include all known historic resources.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Gray O'Dwyer and Lena Sweeten McDonald  
organization: Department of Historic Resources  
street & number: 2801 Kensington Avenue  
city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23221  
e-mail: lena.mcdonald@dhr.virginia.gov  
telephone: 804-482-6439  
date: January 10, 2018

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

**Photographs**

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

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Retirement and the Muster Grounds

Retirement and the Muster Grounds  
Name of Property

Washington County, VA  
County and State

City or Vicinity: Abingdon

County: Washington State: VA

Photographer: Michael Pulice

Date Photographed: October 2016

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

- 1 of 23. North façade, Retirement (main dwelling), camera facing southeast.
- 2 of 23. North façade and east elevation, Retirement (main dwelling), camera facing south/southwest.
- 3 of 23. East elevation, Retirement (main dwelling), camera facing west/southwest.
- 4 of 23. South elevation, Retirement (main dwelling), camera facing northwest.
- 5 of 23. West elevation, Retirement (main dwelling), camera facing east/northeast.
- 6 of 23. Detail of west elevation, Retirement (main dwelling), camera facing southeast.
- 7 of 23. Central stair hall, Retirement (main dwelling), camera facing southeast.
- 8 of 23. Living room, Retirement (main dwelling), camera facing northwest.
- 9 of 23. Parlor, Retirement (main dwelling), camera facing northeast.
- 10 of 23. Dining room, Retirement (main dwelling), camera facing northeast.
- 11 of 23. Judge's chambers, Retirement (main dwelling), camera facing northwest.
- 12 of 23. Second floor, east bedroom, Retirement (main dwelling), camera facing northeast.
- 13 of 23. Second floor, west bedroom, Retirement (main dwelling), camera facing northwest.
- 14 of 23. Boulder with commemorative plaques at north end of the Muster Grounds, camera facing west/northwest.
- 15 of 23. Garage (now a visitor's center), north and west elevations, camera facing south.

Retirement and the Muster Grounds  
Name of Property

Washington County, VA  
County and State

- 16 of 23. Refinishing shed, camera facing south.
- 17 of 23. Potting shed, camera facing east/southeast.
- 18 of 23. Horse run-in shed, camera facing east.
- 19 of 23. Pedestrian footbridge, camera facing southeast.
- 20 of 23. Spring house, camera facing northwest.
- 21 of 23. View from pond toward Retirement (center background) and the Muster Grounds (left background), camera facing northwest.
- 22 of 23. View of the south pasture looking toward Wolf Creek, camera facing west/northwest.
- 23 of 23. View along Wolf Creek, camera facing southeast.

### **List of Figures**

Figure 1. Ca. 1880 Photo of Retirement

Figure 2. 1968 Photo of Retirement

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

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



**LOCATION MAP**

**Retirement and the Muster  
Grounds**

**Town of Abingdon, Washington  
County, VA**

**DHR No. 140-0006**

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Latitude: 36.703210

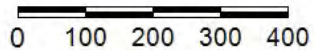
Longitude: -81.993280



**Historic Boundary**



Feet



1:4,514 / 1"=376 Feet

**Title:**

**Date: 1/9/2018**

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

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

**SKETCH MAP**

**Retirement and the Muster Grounds**

**Town of Abingdon, Washington County, VA**

**DHR No. 140-0006**

1. Retirement (dwelling) 1808 Contributing building
2. Muster Grounds ca. 1770 Contributing site
3. Spring house ca. 1800? Contributing building
4. Garage ca. 1980 Non-contributing building
5. Potting shed ca. 1960 Non-contributing building
6. Refinishing building ca. 1930 Non-contributing building
7. Horse run-in shed ca. 1930 Non-contributing building
8. Interpretive kiosk ca. 2005 Non-contributing structure
9. Commemorative plaque 2007 Non-contributing object
10. Limestone retaining wall ca. 1930 Contributing structure
11. Pedestrian footbridge 2015 Non-contributing structure

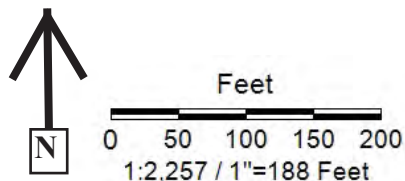


**Title:**

**Date: 1/11/2018**

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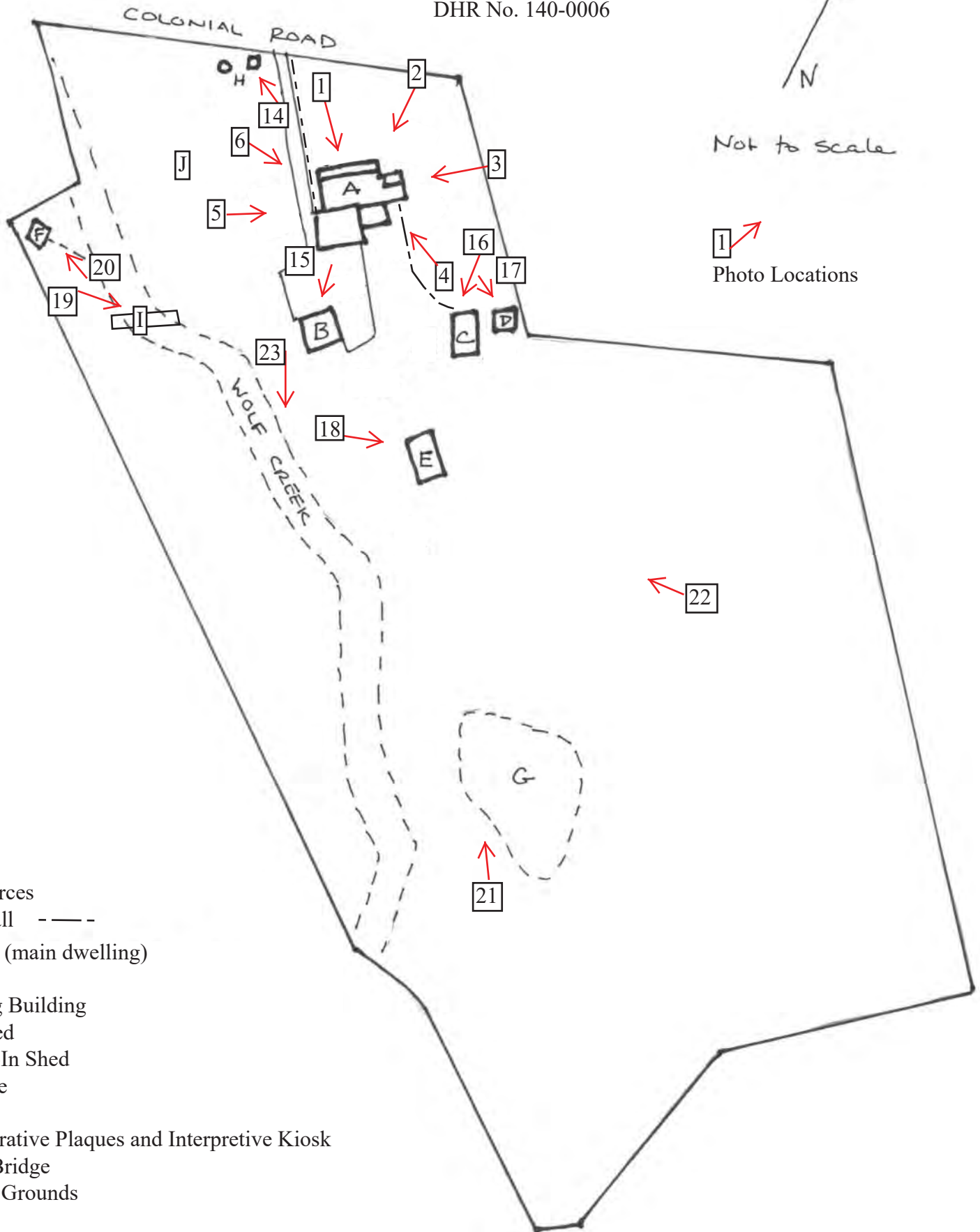


**PHOTO KEY**

Retirement and the Muster Grounds  
Washington County, VA  
DHR No. 140-0006



Not to Scale



1  
Photo Locations

- List of Resources  
Retaining Wall - - - -
- A. Retirement (main dwelling)
  - B. Garage
  - C. Refinishing Building
  - D. Potting Shed
  - E. Horse Run-In Shed
  - F. Springhouse
  - G. Pond
  - H. Commemorative Plaques and Interpretive Kiosk
  - I. Pedestrian Bridge
  - J. The Muster Grounds



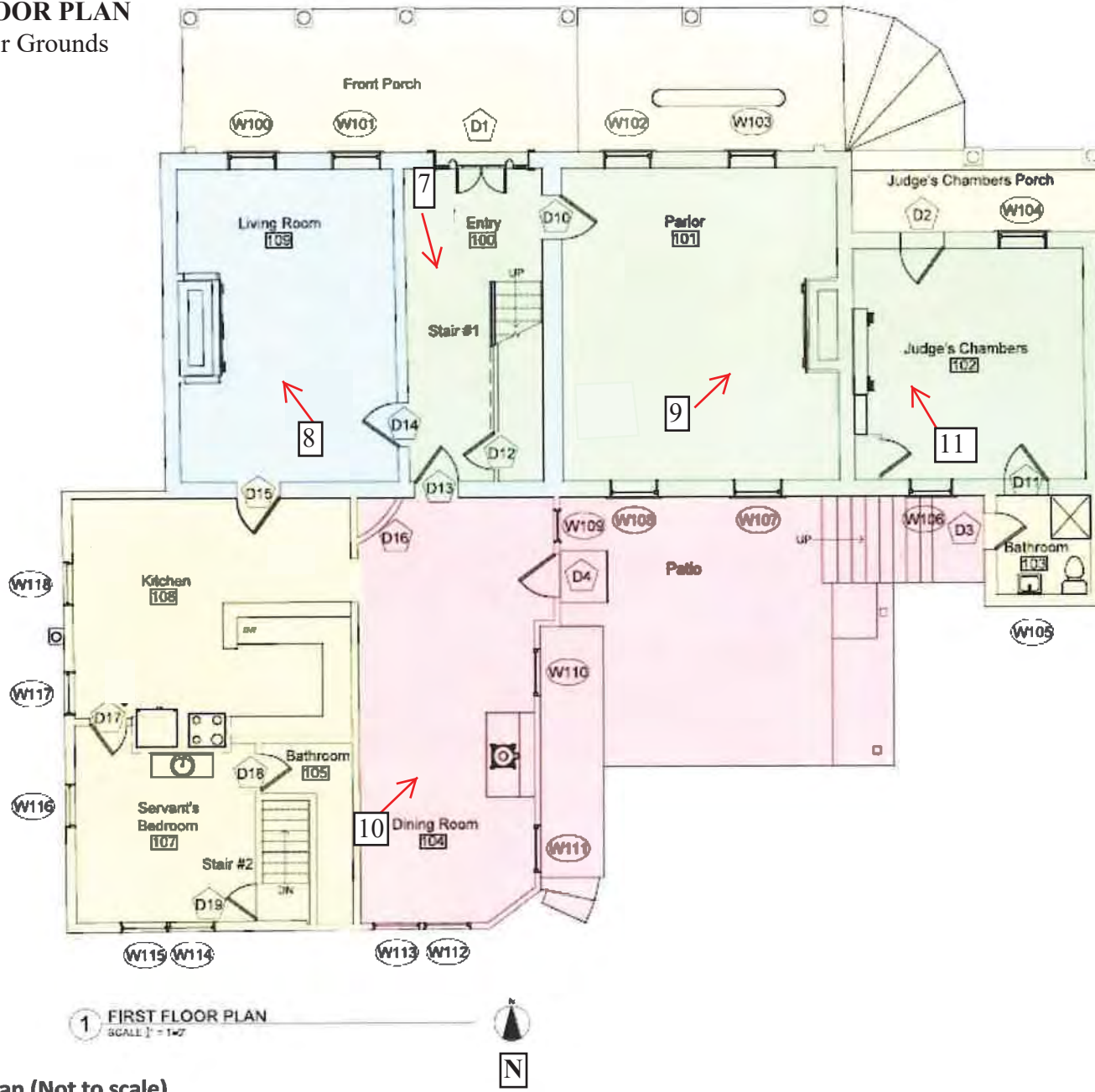
# PHOTO KEY AND FLOOR PLAN

Retirement and the Muster Grounds

Washington County, VA

DHR No. 140-0006

  
Photo Locations

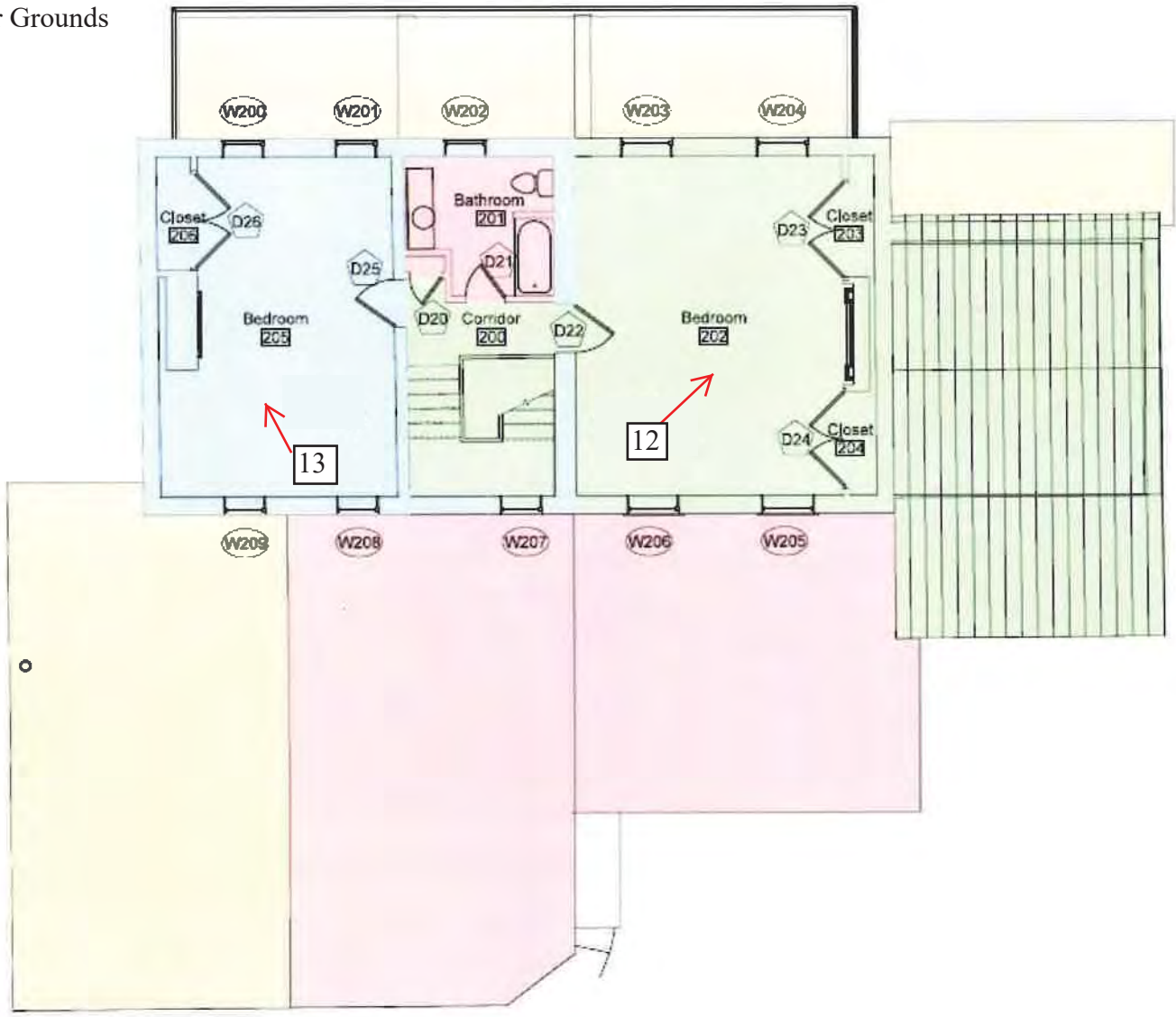


**Retirement First Floor Plan (Not to scale)**

From *Historic Structures Report for Retirement, Town of Abingdon, Virginia* (Davis Buckley Architects and Planners, July 2014)

**PHOTO KEY AND FLOOR PLAN**

Retirement and the Muster Grounds  
Washington County, VA  
DHR No. 140-0006



① SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



**Retirement Second Floor Plan (Not to scale)**

From *Historic Structures Report for Retirement, Town of Abingdon, Virginia* (Davis Buckley Architects and Planners, July 2014)



**Tax Parcel Map**  
**Retirement**  
**Town of Abingdon, Washington County, VA**  
**DHR No. 140-0006**



**Figure 1. Ca. 1880 Photo of Retirement**  
Retirement and the Muster Grounds

Washington County, VA  
DHR No. 140-0006

**Figure 2. 1968 Photo of Retirement**  
Retirement and the Muster Grounds  
Washington County, VA  
DHR No. 140-0006

