

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

**VLR Listed: 9/19/2019**  
**NRHP Listed: 11/18/2019**

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Periwinkle Cottage

Other names/site number: DHR # 002-5311

Name of related multiple property listing:

The Work of Marshall Swain Wells, Architect, #104-5154

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 2245 Blue Ridge Lane

City or town: Charlottesville State: VA County: Albemarle

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide   X   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  A     B     X     C     D  

<p><b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b> <u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u></p> <p><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 <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p><b>Signature of commenting official:</b></p> <p><b>Title :</b></p>	<p><b>Date</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>3</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

LANDSCAPE: Garden

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

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

LANDSCAPE: Garden

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

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, WOOD, STONE: Slate

### 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 historic property known as Periwinkle Cottage is located at 2245 Blue Ridge Lane, surrounded by the Farmington Country Club golf course on the north and west, the Farmington Country Club Clubhouse on the south, and Blue Ridge Lane to the east. The resource is composed of a single-family dwelling and the following non-contributing secondary resources: a garage, log cabin, garden, and garden chapel. The 1.3-acre, irregularly shaped, flat lot is covered by a grassy lawn, some mature trees, and formal gardens. Boxwood and other hedges provide natural fencing around most of the parcel. The resource is located within the Farmington Country Club residential neighborhood, eligible as the Farmington Historic District (Virginia Department of Historic Resources [DHR] # 002-5153)<sup>1</sup> and the rear of the house and garden open directly onto the golf course. The pea gravel driveway extends southwest from Blue Ridge Lane toward the primary resource and garage and terminates at a park court located east of the primary resource. A brick walkway provides access to the primary entrance. Periwinkle Cottage is significant for its Colonial Revival-style architecture, designed by architect Marshall Swain Wells. All of the property's secondary resources, a log cabin, garage, chapel, and formal garden, are non-contributing because each postdates the property's period of significance. Both the primary and secondary resources are in excellent condition, inside and out, and have been well-preserved, remaining in the same family since construction. Periwinkle Cottage maintains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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## Narrative Description

### **Dwelling: Exterior**

The primary resource at 2245 Blue Ridge Lane is a one-and-a-half-story, five-bay, Colonial Revival-style, single-family dwelling designed by architect Marshall Swain Wells and built in 1938–1939. The historic core of the building is a central one-and-a-half-story, five-bay block flanked by one-story, two-bay wings. A circa-2005 one-and-a-half-story, two-bay addition extends from the northeast elevation, while a circa-2005 one-story, two bay addition extends from the southwest elevation. The steeply sloped side-gabled roof, with a total of six hipped dormers and a denticulated cornice, is sheathed in slate shingles. The flanking wings have side-gabled roofs with dramatically flared eaves. The house has copper gutters throughout. The foundation and structural system are clad in a Flemish-bond brick veneer on the main block, with horizontal wood siding on the flanking wings and additions. Two large interior-end, corbeled brick chimneys flank the main block of the house on the southwest and northeast elevations while two exterior-end brick chimneys that are smaller in scale are centered in the same elevations of the flanking wings. The primary entrance is centered on the southeast elevation (façade) featuring a single-leaf, paneled wood door with six-light wood storm door and sidelights and transom. The six-light sidelights are surrounded by engaged pilasters and the transom is five lights. The door surround has a denticulated cornice, like the roof. A brick stoop provides access to this entry. Other fenestration includes single double-hung-sash, wood-frame windows in a nine-over-nine or six-over-nine configuration. Operable wood, louvered shutters with S-shaped metal shutter dogs bound windows on the first floor and brick jack arches are set above the four first-floor windows located on the façade of the main block of the house. The rear (northwest) elevation has a front-gabled entry porch sheathed in slate shingle and wood siding in the gabled end, supported by Tuscan columns. This secondary entrance is also filled with a single-leaf, paneled wood door with six-light wood storm door and sidelights; however, this door has paneling above instead of a transom. A large bluestone patio lines a majority of the rear elevation.

In 1993, a detached one-and-a-half-story garage was built to the northwest of the primary resource, and interior modifications to the kitchen and former garage were executed. In 2005, a one-and-a-half-story, two-bay Pine Room was added to the northeast elevation of the house, connecting to the breakfast room. At this time, wood bay windows were also added to the living and dining rooms on the northwest elevation to provide more light. A one-story, two-bay mud room and second master bathroom were added to the southwest elevation in 2005, with a secondary entrance under a recessed porch on the northwest elevation. This addition to the southwest elevation features a side-gabled roof with dramatically flared eaves. Both renovations were designed by Jack Rinehart, a well-known Charlottesville-area architect. Fixed multi-light wood and vinyl windows were added on these additions in 1993 and 2005.

### **Dwelling: Interior**

Periwinkle Cottage is a center-hall plan house with flanking wings, a common plan for Colonial Revival-style houses (McAlester 2013:411). The primary entrance located on the southeast wall leads to the central hall with the stairwell to the second floor running perpendicular to the door. Across from the primary entrance is a secondary entrance on the rear elevation that leads to the

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bluestone patio and gardens. Original plaster walls and hardwood floors are found throughout the first floor, with tile floors in the bathrooms and mud room. The stairwell and central hall are lined with a chair rail, wainscoting, and crown molding. The newel post, handrail, turned balusters, and scroll brackets of the stairwell were all designed by Wells and original, full-size drawings of them are on file at the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library (Wells n.d.). To the southwest of the central hall is the living room that connects to a hallway with built-in cabinets and lighted vanity designed by Wells on the southeast side, with a full bathroom to the northwest. The living room has chair rail and deep crown molding, and a wood fireplace mantel with dentils, reeded pilasters, and wheat emblems designed by Wells (Wells n.d.). Beyond the living room to the southwest is the master bedroom, which contains a simple fireplace mantel with a delft-tile surround, and beyond that to the southwest is the 2005 one-story, two-bay addition with a mud room and second bathroom designed by Jack Rinehart. To the northeast of the central hall is the dining room with a built-in corner china cabinet designed by Wells, and a hallway with a mechanical closet and wet bar, leading to the kitchen (Wells n.d.). The dining room also features crown molding and a chair rail.

The kitchen, originally constructed as a galley kitchen, was expanded when the original one-car attached garage was converted into a breakfast room and small office with a wood bay window in 1993 by Jack Rinehart. The kitchen was also renovated at this time from a galley kitchen to an open plan connected to the breakfast room. The only indication that the current breakfast room and office room was not originally an interior space are the two steps down from the kitchen into the room. Beyond the kitchen and breakfast room to the northeast is the 2005 Pine Room addition, another addition designed by Rinehart, which connects the main house to the 1993 garage with a breezeway on the rear (northwest) elevation. The 1993 one-story, shed-roof breezeway is sheathed in standing seam metal with skylights, supported by square wood posts with a chamfered edge. The breakfast room renovation has new hardwood floors that match in color to the original hardwood floors, but run in the opposite direction. The Pine Room has a bluestone floor.

The main stairwell leads northwest and then turns back southeast at landing with a curved balustrade and small hallway on the second floor. Directly southeast is a bathroom, with identical bedrooms flanking to the southwest and northeast. The dormers include cabinets along the northwest and southeast walls that provide additional storage space, serving as a vanity and cabinet in the bathroom and display shelving in the bedrooms. The chair rail, wainscoting, and wood floors continue on the second floor, with tile in the bathroom. There is no crown molding on the second floor, likely as this was private, not public space, reflecting the general tradition seen in Colonial period houses with the lack of crown molding in private spaces (these were used as children's bedrooms when the house was built).

### **Secondary Resources**

All of the secondary resources at Periwinkle Cottage are non-contributing as each one postdates the property's period of significance. A non-contributing circa-1830, one-story, two-bay log cabin was moved from Fauquier County, Virginia and reassembled on the property in 1995. Architect Jack Rinehart helped to site the cabin to the south of the primary resource. According to the homeowner, the cabin was a slave quarter originally, and now serves as an art studio and office

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space (Donna Ernest, personal communication 2016). The log cabin's structural system is V-notched, with chinking covered in a lime-based mortar, and replacement wood siding in the gable ends. The side-gabled, standing-seam metal roof has exposed rafter tails and an exterior-end stone chimney is located on the south elevation. A one-story, shed-roof porch lines the west elevation providing access to the primary entrance that is filled with a replacement, wood screen door. Two wood steps with metal railings lead to the entry porch from the north elevation. Other fenestration includes six-over-six, double-hung-sash, wood windows, one each on the north and west elevations.

A non-contributing circa 1993, one-and-a-half-story, two-bay garage is located northwest of the primary resource. This building was designed by Rinehart to blend in with the architectural style of the primary resource. In 2005, when the Pine Room was added to the northeast elevation of the primary resource, the garage was then connected to the primary resource via the 1993 breezeway along the northwest (rear) elevation. The structural system is clad in vertical wood siding while the steeply-pitched side-gabled roof pierced with shed dormers with flared eaves is sheathed in standing-seam metal. On the northeast end of the roof is a small side-gabled cupola sheathed in standing-seam metal with a six-light fixed wood window on the northwest and southeast elevations topped by a weathervane. The façade (southeast elevation) has two garage doors. Other fenestration includes six-over-six, double-hung-sash, wood-frame windows, four-light fixed windows, and a tripartite wood-frame window with arched fanlight transom on the northeast elevation. Some windows are flanked by board-and-batten shutters. The garage features an apartment on the second floor.

A non-contributing one-story, open, hexagonal, stone and wood-timbered garden chapel was built in 2000 in memory of the owner's daughter who passed away. The garden chapel was modeled after the Bishop's Garden gazebo on the grounds of the Washington National Cathedral. The concept was chosen by homeowner Donna Ernest, and stonemasons and carpenters employed by contractor Larry Ryalls were hired to execute the design.

Formal gardens surround the primary resource. The current owner is an avid gardener, but it was begun by the first owner, her mother, Irene Sims, who gave the house its name when she moved periwinkle from the woods to her own garden (Erler 2011:68). Surrounding the house are a series of garden rooms, some meandering and others very formal (Erler 2011:68). The garden also features a small dog cemetery and the previously described Garden Chapel. When the current owners had Rinehart design the garage and interior renovations of the primary resource in 1993, they also sought the help of Francois Goffinet, a world-renowned landscape architect based in Belgium (Erler 2011:69) to adjust the garden around this new building. More recently, when the Pine Room and bay windows were added to the primary resource in 2005, Charlottesville-area landscape architect Charles Stick assisted in redesigning the garden around the additions. He also helped make the park court and primary entrance more open and welcoming (Erler 2011:70). A mix of brick pathways, mulched paths, and stepping stones are found throughout the garden. A small circular iron fence surrounds the dog cemetery. A partial-length, wood, split-rail fence lines the northwest side of the parcel along the golf course. There is also a partial-length, stepped brick wall with an iron gate along the golf course side, directly across from the entrance on the rear

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elevation. The gardens of Periwinkle Cottage are well known throughout Farmington and in Virginia, featured in numerous house and garden tours, including those of the Garden Club of Virginia, and an article in *Virginia Living* magazine in 2011 (Erler 2011:68–71). In 2017, the garden was included in the Smithsonian Institute’s Archives of America Gardens, Garden Club of America Collection (Ernest 2017).

### **Integrity Analysis**

Overall, the house at 2245 Blue Ridge Lane maintains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The building has not been moved and the lot size has not changed since construction in the 1938–1939. The eligible Farmington Historic District has sustained its feeling and association as a residential neighborhood designed around a golf course and historic clubhouse building and the house at 2245 Blue Ridge Lane maintains its relationship to and setting within the district. The integrity of materials and workmanship of the building have been retained, maintaining the design by architect Marshall Swain Wells. The house has only had two owners (from the same family) since construction and both have been very diligent in maintaining the materials of the house and the surrounding gardens.

While there have been two additions to the house and a renovation of the kitchen, these modifications are sympathetic in design and materials to the original core of the house, and do not detract from it. In 1993, interior modifications to the kitchen and former one-car attached garage were executed, opening up the galley kitchen to a more workable space and converting the garage into a breakfast room and small office. In 2005, a one-and-a-half-story, two-bay Pine Room was added to the northeast elevation of the house, connecting to the breakfast room. At this time, wood bay windows were added to the living and dining rooms on the northwest elevation to provide more light. A one-story, two-bay mud room and second master bathroom addition was also added to the southwest elevation in 2005, with a secondary rear entrance under a recessed porch on the northwest elevation. The additions are clad in horizontal wood siding, so as to differentiate them from the historic brick core, but to also not detract from its design. A slate roof was also used on the additions, but their side-gabled roofs have flared eaves.

The gardens surrounding the house were begun by the original owner, Irene Sims, when she transplanted periwinkle from a nearby wooded area to the house. The garden has always been a series of garden rooms, some meandering and others more formal. Over the years, landscape architects Francois Goffinet (1993) and Charles Stick (2005) have helped to update the gardens around the newly built garage and Pine Room addition, while maintaining the simple design that Irene Sims created herself. The garden chapel (2000) and log cabin (1995) accompaniments to the garden do not detract from the design, and instead continue the idea that the garden is a series of outdoor rooms where one can enjoy the views of the golf course and Blue Ridge Mountains. Periwinkle still grows in the garden today, providing a visible reference to the eponymous house. Overall, the additions and alterations to the house and gardens at 2245 Blue Ridge Lane do not detract from its high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.



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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.)

ARCHITECTURE

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

**Period of Significance**

1938-1939

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

**Significant Dates**

N/A

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

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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

**Architect/Builder**

Wells, Marshall Swain

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

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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.)

Periwinkle Cottage is a one-and-a-half-story, five-bay, Colonial Revival-style dwelling built in 1938–39. The house was designed by architect Marshall Swain Wells, whose work has been documented in a Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) form, “The Work of Marshall Swain Wells, Architect, #104-5154.” The property also is within the proposed Farmington Historic District (DHR # 002-5153). Wells was known as a residential architect who could prudently renovate historic properties, such as the Farmington Clubhouse, as well as design newly built houses that respect historic architectural styles for the discerning client. Periwinkle Cottage is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style with its exterior and interior decoration and center hall plan. It is also an example of Wells’ great skill at adapting to clients’ wants and needs, by modeling the house after the outbuildings at the Governor’s Palace in Colonial Williamsburg, as well as siting the house to take advantage of golf course and Blue Ridge Mountain views. Although a few alterations and additions have been made to the house, they are of congruous design, materials, and workmanship to the original building. Overall, the dwelling maintains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. For these reasons, Periwinkle Cottage meets the requirements of the Wells MPD and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture with a period of significance is from 1938 to 1939, representing the construction of the primary resource.

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

### **Historical Context**

The lot on which Periwinkle Cottage was constructed was subdivided as part of the Farmington Country Club residential neighborhood, which has been recommended eligible for the NRHP as a historic district by DHR staff as the Farmington Historic District (DHR# 002-5153). The neighborhood and country club were created from an 805.5-acre property known as Farmington. The land that would eventually become Farmington Country Club and the eligible Historic District was part of a land grant to Michael Holland from King George II in 1735 for a tract of land of more than 4,700 acres, located on both sides of Ivy Creek (Woods 1901:5). The first house on the property was a two-story, side-hall plan brick farmhouse built by owner Francis Jerdone prior to 1785 (Kraybill 1987:6, Wilson 2002:164). During George Divers’ ownership (1785–1830) the house received the Thomas Jefferson-drawn octagonal addition on the east elevation and was called Farmington for the first time (Farmington Country Club 2003). The property changed hands several more times in the nineteenth century.

When one such owner, Mary Anne Harper, died her will, which was probated in 1877, ensured that the land went jointly to her son, Robert “Warner” Wood, and her daughter, Lucille Wood. Lucille Wood died intestate, so her brother, Warner, was the sole heir to the property (Farmington Country Club 2003). Warner made the property his home with wife, Margaret Lynn

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Wood, known as “Maggie,” and their children. In his will, written in 1901 and probated September 2, 1902, Warner Wood left his property to his wife, so long as she remained a widow, then to be dividedly equally among their children upon her death (Albemarle County Will Book [ACWB] 31:73–74). Warner died in 1902 and Maggie remained at Farmington for more than two decades. In 1927, Maggie Wood and John W. Fishburne, the surviving executor of Warner Wood’s will, sold the 805.5-acre property to Farmington, Inc., a group of local businessmen interested in starting a private golf and recreation club and residential neighborhood on the property (Albemarle County Deed Book [ACDB] 198:250–252; Farmington Country Club 2003).

This group of about 50 men contributed \$5,000 each for a life membership and began the process of converting the former plantation into a club (Seemeyer 1958:30). They first hired Edmund S. Campbell, Dean of the University of Virginia School of Architecture, to serve as the restoration architect for the clubhouse. He was shortly thereafter succeeded by newly graduated architect, Marshall Swain Wells in 1929 (Seemeyer 1958:30). Wells was responsible for renovating the eighteenth-century farmhouse into a clubhouse for the Farmington Country Club by enlarging the existing house to the west, providing a dining room, ballroom, and additional guest bedrooms (Kraybill 1987:6). Wells, like with many of his projects, had a series of designs in mind with multiple drawings made before deciding on the addition that stands today at Farmington (Kraybill 1987:7). He also continued to work with Farmington Country Club over the years to add a tennis house, guest cottages, two swimming pools, and a gallery on the south side of the building, mimicking the older one facing east (Kraybill 1987:8).

Planner Earle Sumner Draper from Charlotte, North Carolina, was hired to create the residential subdivision, with input from local engineer, Lee H. Williamson, and Richmond “golf architect” Fred Findlay (Spencer 2009:1). In Draper’s plan, curvilinear streets would branch off of a north-south access road, today known as Farmington Drive, some looping back or ending in cul-de-sacs. The golf fairways would be intermingled among the streets and house lots, following the natural slope of the land as much as possible. Draper’s plan also accounted for a 1.5-mile steeplechase course (no longer extant), bridle and walking paths, and the various recreational amenities for the club. Draper’s plan was not fully realized, as the streets were not all laid out exactly as he had drawn, but it did provide an initial plan for subdivision (Spencer 2009:1). Farmington Country Club officially opened on May 15, 1929 (Seemeyer 1958:25).

Will and Ann Walter, one of the initial investors of Farmington neighborhood, bought lots 5 and 7 in block I from Farmington, Inc. in 1929 (ACDB 207:196). In 1932, the Walters sold those lots to David Burnet (ACDB 217:361). On November 8, 1938, Birney Sims, and his wife, Irene, purchased lot 7 from Burnet (ACDB 241:408). Birney and Irene Sims hired Marshall Swain Wells, a known and respected architect who was already living in his own house in Farmington that he also designed (a French Provincial-style house at 2020 Dogwood Lane) at the time and had already completed renovations of the clubhouse. Wells designed a house that was reminiscent of the outbuildings of the Governor’s Palace at Colonial Williamsburg, with a focus on key elements such as the large corbeled chimneys and steeply sloping slate roofs (Donna Ernest, personal communication 2016). Like many of his other projects, Wells had several

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drawings prepared before settling on a design that would please his clients and meet their needs (Kraybill 1987:4; Wells n.d.).

Marshall Swain Wells was an early graduate of the newly formed University of Virginia School of Architecture, studying under Deans Fiske Kimball and Joseph Hudnut (Kraybill 1987:3). His work has been previously lauded in a NRHP Multiple Property Documentation Form (DHR#104-5154). Wells, like other architects coming of age in the 1930s, and his clients were influenced by the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg (Kraybill 1987:5). Wells became known for large Colonial Revival-style estate houses, several churches, and commercial buildings in the central Virginia area, in addition to renovations of the Farmington Clubhouse (Kraybill 1987:4).

Characteristics of a Wells house include large front entrance halls allowing for lateral movement, framing views of the landscape through windows and doors to provide a connection to nature, and siting houses on lots to take advantage of Blue Ridge Mountain views (Sadler et al. 2010:8). Physical characteristics include slate roofs, Flemish-bond brick exteriors, hardwood floors, and great attention to detail on cornices, mantels, and staircases (Sadler et al. 2010:8). While Periwinkle Cottage is one of his smaller houses, it very much adheres to the typical Wells design. Impeccably detailed, full-scale drawings for the newel post, corner china cabinet, and living room fireplace mantel survive at the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia (Wells n.d.). Wells had a great emphasis on quality materials and woodwork, requiring his clients to consult him on any proposed changes during the construction process (Kraybill 1987:5). The result at Periwinkle Cottage is an immaculate Colonial Revival-style house.

Periwinkle Cottage became the family home around 1940–1941, as the 1940 Charlottesville City Directory still had the Sims family living at 701 Preston Place, Apartment 207 (Charlottesville, Virginia City Directory 1940). According to the 1940 federal census, Birney and Irene had two children, Donna and John, aged seven and 14, respectively, and the family had recently moved from Atlanta, Georgia (United States Federal Population Census 1940). Birney, who served in the Naval Reserve Flying Corps during World War I, was a traveling shoe salesman with the Forest Park Shoe Company of St. Louis, Missouri (The Lima Daily News 1917:6; United States Selective Service Registration Cards 1942). Birney and Irene Sims made Periwinkle Cottage their home for more than four decades.

In 1973, the property was acquired by the Sims' daughter and son-in-law, Donna and Albert Ernest, while retaining a life estate interest; in 1985 the property was transferred to Donna alone (ACDB 537:379, 826:271). Irene Sims passed away in the gardens of Periwinkle Cottage in 1987, predeceased by her husband, Birney, in 1983 (Virginia Death Records 1983, 1987).

Donna and Albert Ernest made their home in Jacksonville, Florida after their wedding at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Ivy, Virginia in 1954 (Virginia Marriage Records 1954). Albert worked in the forest products and banking industries for many years, but retired at the age of 60 to spend time with their daughter who was ill (Ernest n.d.). Donna worked in the antiques business. Albert and Donna had two children, a son and a daughter, however their daughter

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passed away in 1997 after a courageous battle with brain tumors (Ernest n.d., Find A Grave 2013). The house was historically known as 7 Blue Ridge Lane, likely after its lot number, but in 2002, Farmington was renumbered to meet Albemarle County standards and for emergency services purposes (Elise Kiewra, personal communication 2019). After Donna's parents' deaths, and their own retirement, Donna and Albert returned to Virginia to live at Periwinkle Cottage full time in 2010 (Donna Ernest, personal communication 2019).

### **Architectural Analysis**

Periwinkle Cottage is significant for its Marshall Swain Wells-designed Colonial Revival-style architecture. The side-gabled one-and-a-half story form, symmetrical façade, and center-hall plan are typical of the Colonial Revival style. On the exterior, stylistic details such as the Flemish-bonded brick veneer, denticulated cornice, slate roof, large corbeled brick chimneys, brick jack arches above the windows on the façade, operable louvered wood shutters, and the primary entrance door surround are all notable characteristics of the Colonial Revival style and other examples in Wells' repertoire. Interior elements including the six-paneled wood doors, plaster walls, and the various decorative elements such as the chair rail, wainscoting, crown molding, and mantelpieces, are all hallmarks of the Colonial Revival style.

As described by architectural historian and noted author Virginia McAlester, "The term 'Colonial Revival,' as used here, refers to the entire rebirth of interest in the early English and Dutch houses of the Atlantic seaboard" (McAlester 2013:414). Virginia's buildings, especially, served as the source for the Colonial Revival nationwide, which, in turn, helped Virginians appreciate their value (Wilson 2002:33). The Colonial Revival architectural style is typically seen as beginning in the 1870s and 1880s, but actually started much earlier in Virginia with Bremo Recess (1834–1836) in Fluvanna County, which was built to look like seventeenth-century Bacon's Castle in Surry, Virginia. While Virginians, at first, lacked confidence in their role in Colonial Revival architecture, once famous firms like McKim, Mead and White adopted and validated the architecture of Virginia, local architects became wholehearted participants in the revival (Wilson 2002:31). Native Virginia architects did design in other idioms, but Colonial Revival was the most common, usually appearing in three forms: the red brick with white trim house, the white clapboard house, or the Jeffersonian Roman temple (Wilson 2002:33). And while architects came from elsewhere around the nation to study Virginia architecture and take it back to other places, native Virginia architects rarely appeared on a national level, the majority remaining local in their work and fame (Wilson 2002:33–34). Marshall Swain Wells, although born in Tennessee, spent the majority of his life in Virginia, and was certainly one of those Colonial Revival practitioners who stayed local, mostly working in central Virginia. The restoration of Colonial Williamsburg in the 1930s certainly influenced many Virginia architects and homeowners alike. Fiske Kimball, one of the Deans under whom Wells studied, served on the restoration committee at Colonial Williamsburg and Monticello (Sadler et al. 2010:2). Kimball and contemporaries of Wells, such as Milton Grigg, who was also involved at Colonial Williamsburg, encouraged the Colonial Revival in central Virginia (Sadler et al. 2010:6). The Colonial Revival trend began to slow down by the late 1950s, but elements of the style continue to be built to this day (McAlester 2013:432).

Periwinkle Cottage  
Name of Property

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### *Registration Requirements*

The Marshall Swain Wells multiple property documentation (MPD) form (DHR # 104-5154) outlines registration requirements for properties designed by Wells in order to be considered eligible for the NRHP and Virginia Landmarks Register (Sadler et al. 2010:9–10). Periwinkle Cottage meets these requirements as originally designed and in its current configuration. The dwelling is documented as one of Wells' projects and is more than fifty years old. Its character-defining materials include a landscaped forecourt, asymmetrical massing, brick exterior walls, slate roofing, multiple-light wood sash with larger nine-over-nine sash on the first story and smaller six-over-six sash on the second story, original interior wood baseboards, molded stair railing, door and window casing, paneling, and cornices, paneled doors, and Colonial Revival mantels. Design of the interior finishes is documented with full-detail drawings. The 2005 additions to the dwelling were designed to blend with the original architecture without mimicking the original materials, nor do they obstruct the façade. The original roof form and major interior spaces are intact and retain their historic finishes.

### *Comparative Analysis*

There are 122 other Colonial Revival houses constructed during the World War I to World War II era (1917–1945) in Albemarle County that are recorded with the DHR, of which two are listed in the NRHP, one is eligible for the NRHP, and two are potentially eligible. Within the neighboring City of Charlottesville, there are 114 Colonial Revival houses from the World War I to World War II era (1917–1945) that are recorded in DHR records, of which one is listed in the NRHP and two are eligible. While this style was very prevalent in Virginia during the interwar period, not all of these houses were architect-designed or maintain the same high degree of integrity that Periwinkle Cottage does. Periwinkle Cottage's location within the proposed Farmington Historic District (DHR # 002-5153) and its design by architect Marshall Swain Wells make it especially distinctive, part of a small group of exceptional quality Colonial Revival houses.

Of the at least 13 known houses designed by Wells within the proposed Farmington Historic District (DHR # 002-5153), there are only two others (besides Periwinkle Cottage) that have been individually recorded with DHR (Kraybill 1987:1). These two properties are single-family houses at 2115 Dogwood Lane (DHR # 002-5148) and 2065 Dogwood Lane (DHR # 002-5035). While Wells was quite prolific during his career of four decades (1929–1970), he has only been publicly recognized for his talents and robust career in the past two decades. Wells completed more than 90 commissions in those 40 years, without ever having taken on a partner in his practice (Kraybill 1987:4). Overall, Periwinkle Cottage is an excellent example of high quality Colonial Revival-style architecture designed by Marshall Swain Wells.

Periwinkle Cottage  
Name of Property

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County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### **Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Sadler, Mary Harding, Madison Spencer, and Llewellyn Hensley



Periwinkle Cottage

Name of Property

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2002 *Buildings of Virginia: Tidewater and Piedmont*. Oxford University Press, New York, New York.

Woods, Edgar

Periwinkle Cottage  
Name of Property

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County and State

1901 *Albemarle County in Virginia: Giving some account of what it was by nature, of what it was made by man, and of some of the men who made it.* The Michie Company, Charlottesville, Virginia.

**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
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: University of Virginia Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, Albemarle County Circuit Court; Department of Historic Resources Richmond

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR #002-5311

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 1.3

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: 38.068056                      Longitude: - 78.541945
2. Latitude:                                      Longitude:
3. Latitude:                                      Longitude:
4. Latitude:                                      Longitude:

Periwinkle Cottage  
Name of Property

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

The NRHP property boundaries are coterminous with the current tax parcel where the resources sits, which is recorded as parcel number 060E3-00-0I-00700 in Albemarle County land records. The true and correct historic boundary is depicted on the attached Tax Parcel Map.

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

The boundaries as deeded to the current owners, Donna and Albert Ernest, by Birney and Irene Sims on August 21, 1973, encompass 1.3 acres and the property is known as Lot 7 in Block I of Farmington Estate (ACDB 537: 379). This is the lot that has been historically associated with the historic building since the 1930s. The lot has not changed in size since the 1930s. All known historic resources and the property's historic setting are encompassed in the historic boundaries.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Katherine M. Watts, Architectural Historian/Field Director  
organization: Dovetail Cultural Resource Group  
street & number: 11905 Bowman Drive, Suite 502  
city or town: Fredericksburg state: VA zip code: 22408  
e-mail kwatts@dovetailcrg.com  
telephone: 540-899-9170 ext. 6784  
date: June 26, 2019

---

**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

Periwinkle Cottage  
Name of Property

Albemarle County, VA  
County and State

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: Periwinkle Cottage, 2245 Blue Ridge Lane (DHR# 002-5311)

City or Vicinity: Charlottesville

County: Albemarle State: Virginia

Photographer: Katherine M. Watts

Date Photographed: June 11, 2019

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

1 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Southeast Elevation, Looking Northwest  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0001

2 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Southeast Elevation, Looking Southwest  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0002

3 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Entrance Detail, Southeast Elevation, Looking Northwest  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0003

4 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Entrance Door Detail, Southeast Elevation, Looking Northwest  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0004

5 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Dormer Detail, Southeast Elevation, Looking Southwest  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0005

6 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Shutter Detail, Southeast Elevation, Looking Southwest  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0006

7 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Window Detail, Southeast Elevation, Looking Northwest  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0007

8 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, South Oblique, Looking North  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0008

Periwinkle Cottage  
Name of Property

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9 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Entrance on Addition, Northwest Elevation, Looking Northeast  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0009

10 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Northwest Elevation, Looking Southeast  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0010

11 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Entrance Detail, Northwest Elevation, Looking Southeast  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0011

12 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Northwest Elevation, Looking Southeast  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0012

13 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Chimney Detail, Northwest Elevation, Looking Southeast  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0013

14 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Breezeway, Northwest Elevation, Looking Southeast  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0014

15 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Garage, Southwest Elevation, Looking Northeast  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0015

16 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Breezeway Interior, Looking Northeast  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0016

17 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Garage, North Oblique, Looking South  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0017

18 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Garage, North Oblique, Looking South  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0018

19 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Garage, Southeast Elevation, Looking Northwest  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0019

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Name of Property

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County and State

20 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Northeast Elevation, Looking Southwest  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0020

21 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Interior, Entry Hall, Looking West  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0021

22 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Interior, Scroll Bracket Detail, Looking Southwest  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0022

23 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Interior, Living Room, Looking Southwest  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0023

24 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Interior, Living Room, Looking West  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0024

25 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Interior, Living Room, Mantel Detail, Looking Southwest  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0025

26 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Interior, Hall and Cabinet Detail, Looking Southwest  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0026

27 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Interior, Master Bedroom, Looking Southwest  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0027

28 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Interior, Dining Room, Looking Northeast  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0028

29 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Interior, Dining Room, Corner Cabinet Detail, Looking Southeast  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0029

30 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Interior, Hallway from Kitchen, Looking Southwest  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0030

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Name of Property

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31 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Interior, Kitchen, Looking West  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0031

32 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Interior, Breakfast Room, Looking West  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0032

33 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Interior, Office, Looking Northeast  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0033

34 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Interior, Pine Room Addition, Looking North  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0034

35 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Garden Chapel, Looking East  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0035

36 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Garden Chapel, Interior, Looking Northeast  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0036

37 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Garden, Dog Cemetery, Looking North  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0037

38 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Garden, Looking West  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0038

39 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Garden, Looking Southeast  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0039

40 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Log Cabin, North Oblique, Looking South  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0040

41 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Log Cabin, South Oblique, Looking North  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0041

Periwinkle Cottage  
Name of Property

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42 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Driveway, Looking Southwest from Blue Ridge Lane  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0042

43 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Interior, Stairwell Detail, Looking Southwest  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0043

44 of 44:

Periwinkle Cottage, Interior, Second Floor Bedroom, Looking Northeast  
VA\_AlbemarleCounty\_PeriwinkleCottage\_0044

**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.).

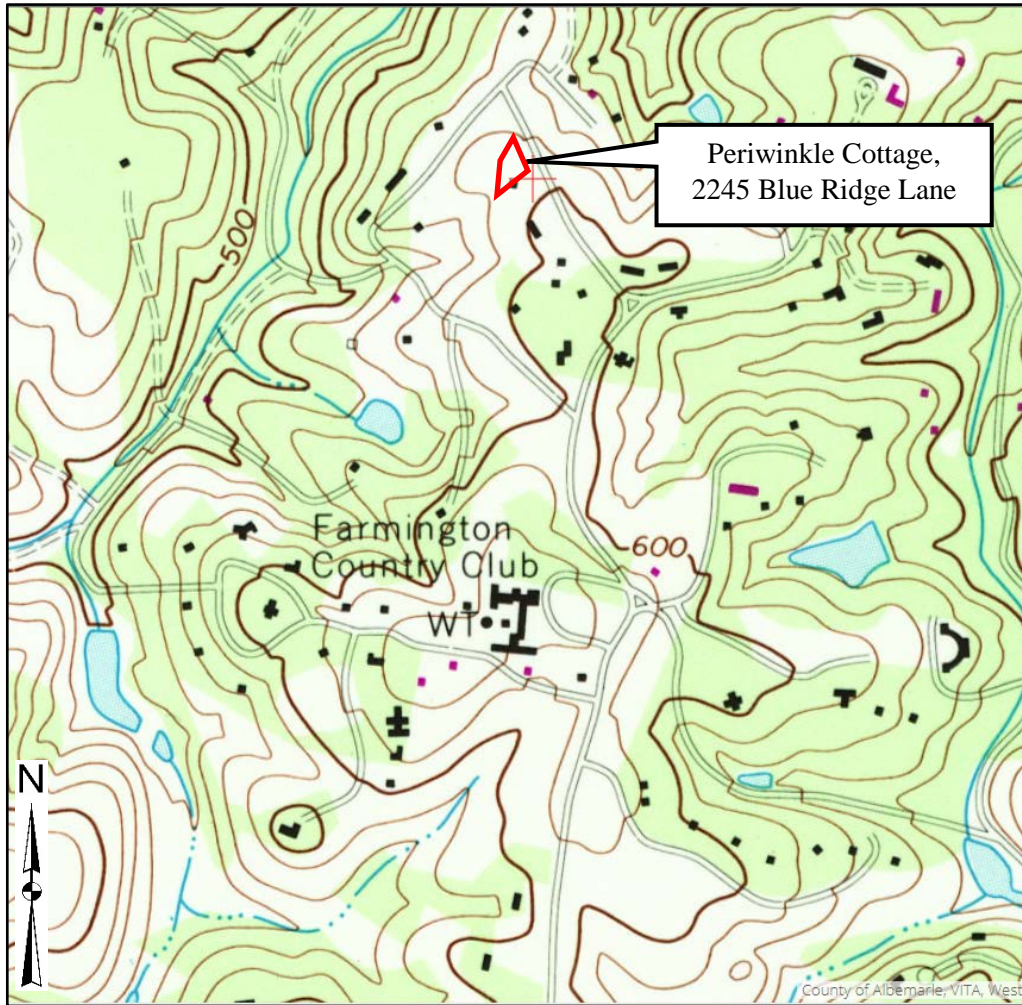
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form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

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<sup>1</sup> The Farmington Historic District (#002-5153) was recommended eligible for the NRHP by DHR staff in 2009, but is not listed in the NRHP.



## LOCATION MAP



Periwinkle Cottage  
Albemarle County, VA  
DHR No. 002-5311

### LOCATION COORDINATES

Latitude: 38.068056

Longitude: - 78.541945

As shown on the 1987 Charlottesville, Virginia 7.5-minute United States Geological Survey Topographic Map.

Sketch Map: *Not to Scale*

Periwinkle Cottage  
Albemarle County, VA

DHR #002-5311  
June 2019

Garage  
(noncontributing  
building)

House  
(contributing  
building)

Log Cabin  
(noncontributing  
building)

Dog Cemetery

Garden Chapel  
(noncontributing  
structure)

Driveway

Park Court

Blue Ridge  
Lane

Historic Boundary

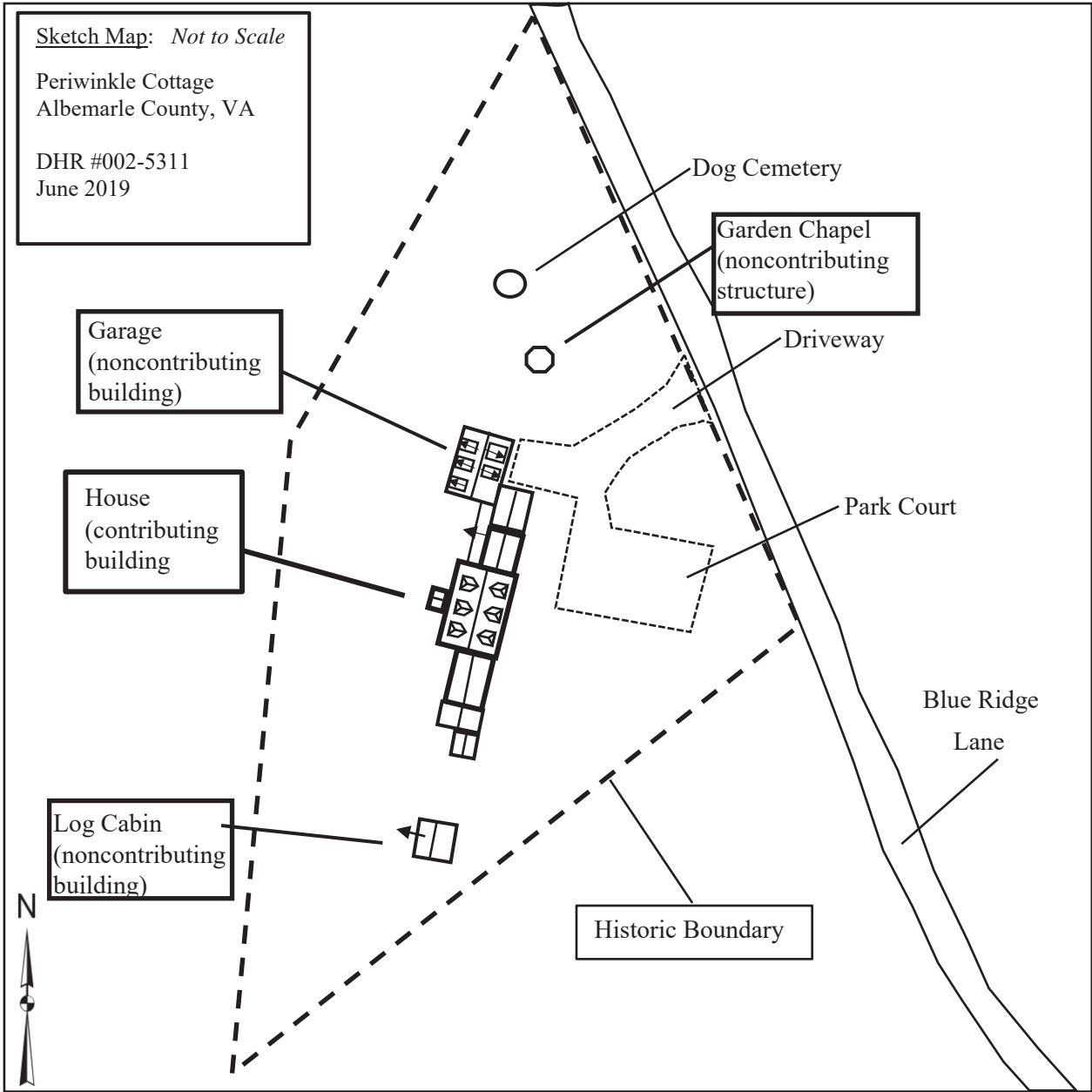


Photo Key:

*Not to Scale*

Periwinkle Cottage

Albemarle County, VA

DHR No. 002-5311

June 2019

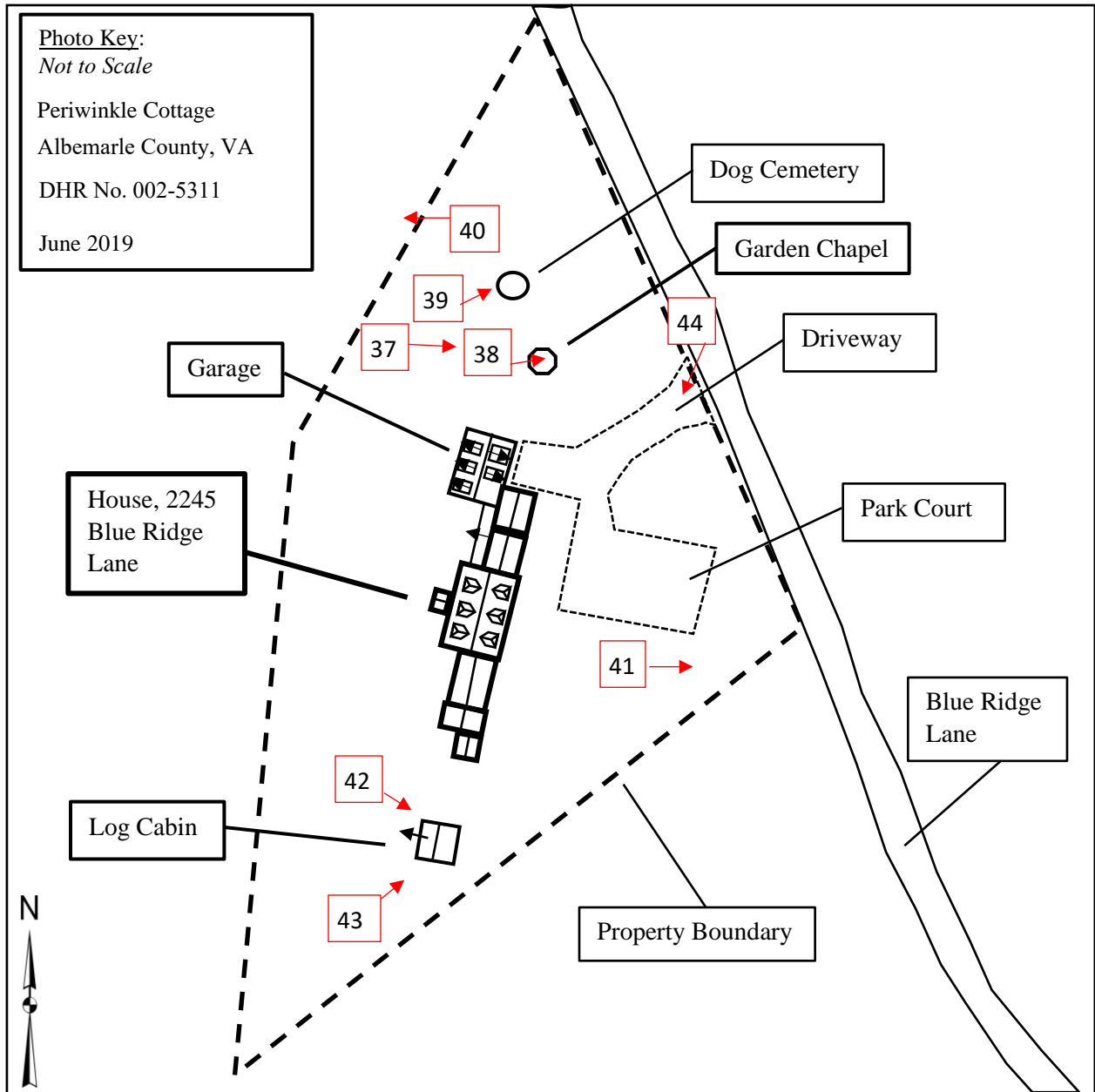


Photo Key:  
*Not to Scale*

Periwinkle Cottage  
Albemarle County, VA

DHR No. 002-5311

June 2019

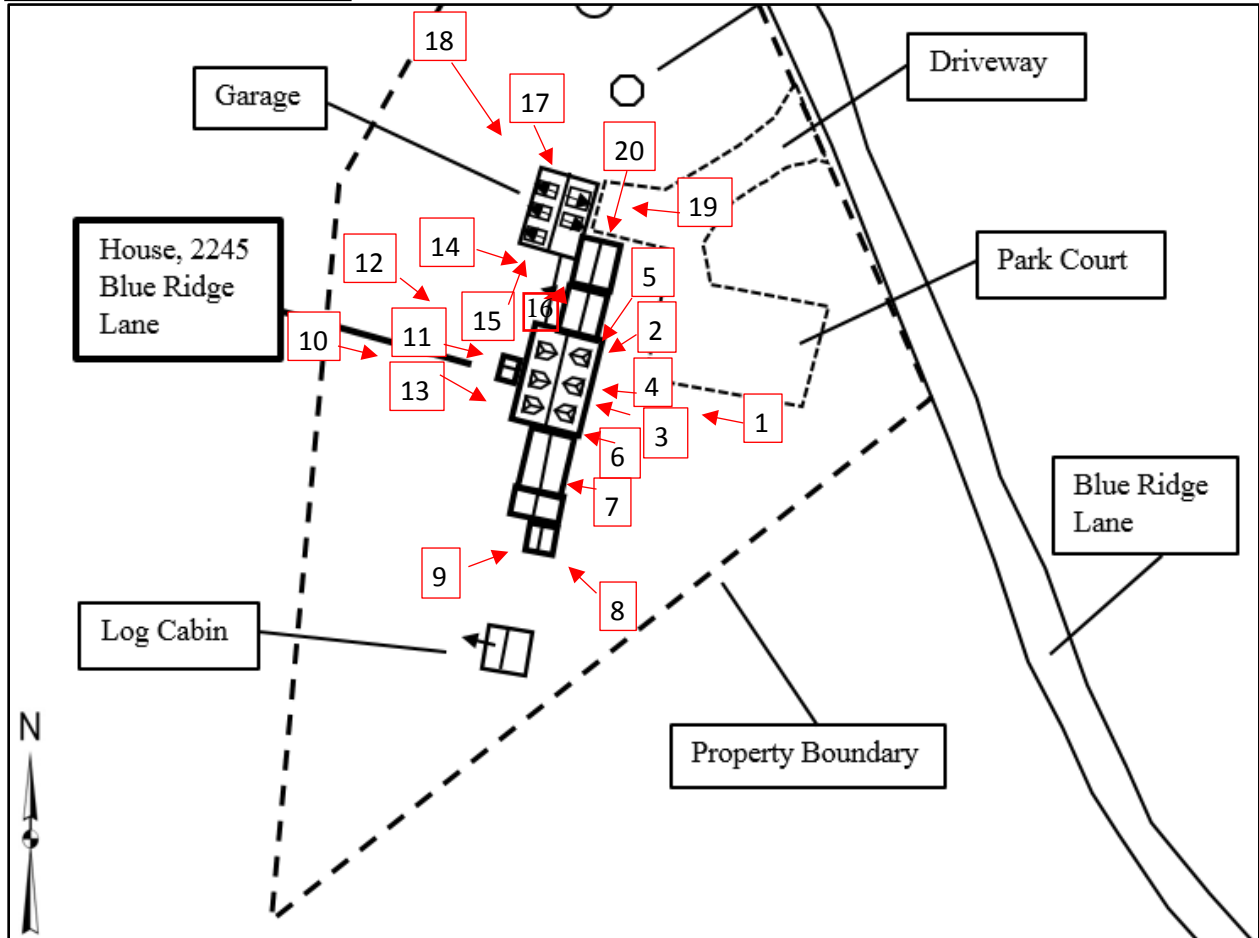


Photo Key: First Floor Plan  
*Not to Scale*  
Periwinkle Cottage  
Albemarle County, VA  
DHR No. 002-5311  
June 2019

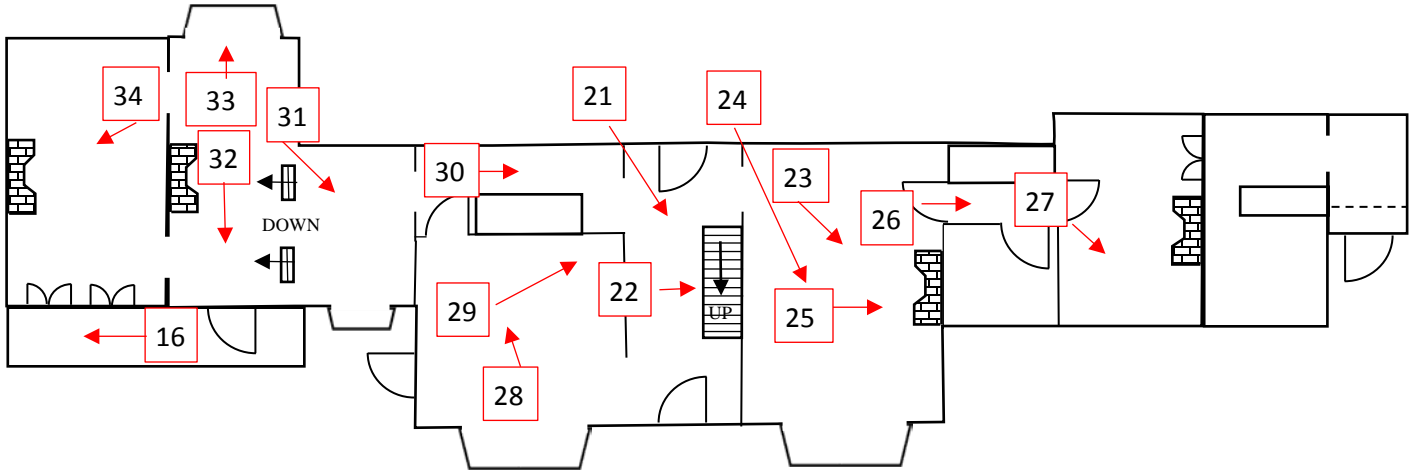


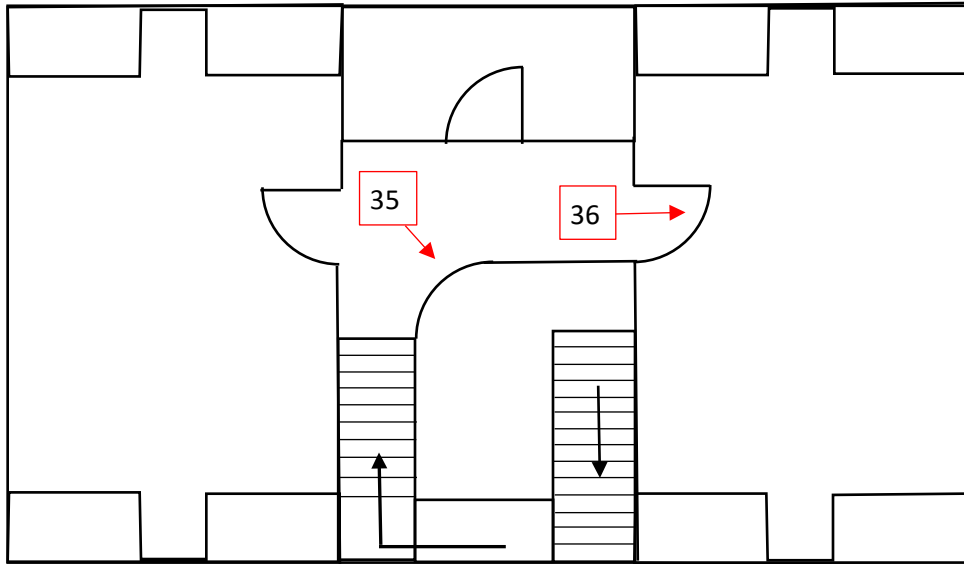
Photo Key: Second Floor Plan

*Not to Scale*

Periwinkle Cottage  
Albemarle County, VA

DHR No. 002-5311

June 2019

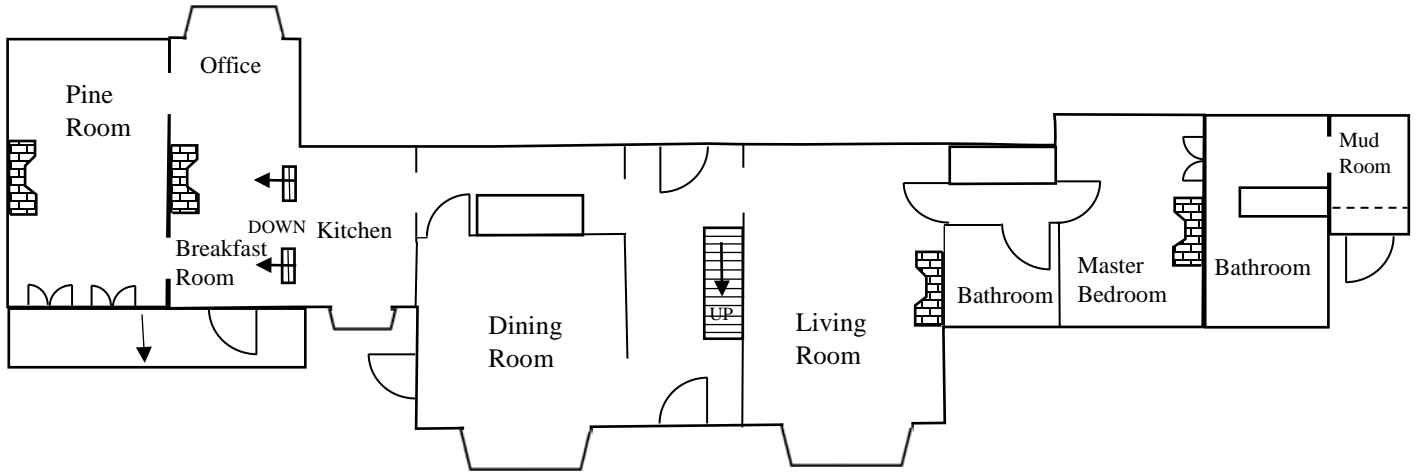




First Floor Plan

*Not to Scale*

Periwinkle Cottage  
Albemarle County, VA  
DHR # 002-5311)  
June 2019





Second Floor Plan

*Not to Scale*

Periwinkle Cottage  
Albemarle County, VA  
DHR # 002-5311)  
June 2019

