

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: 6/18/2020
NRHP Listed: 8/12/2020

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Almond

Other names/site number: Winslow House; DHR# 069-0050

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: 2620 US Hwy 340 N.

City or town: Luray State: VA County: Page

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A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 ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

| | |
|---|------------------------|
|  Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government | <u>6/26/20</u> Date |
|---|------------------------|

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

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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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>2</u> | <u>2</u> | buildings |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | sites |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | structures |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | objects |
| <u>2</u> | <u>2</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; Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Storage; Animal Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling; Secondary Structure

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID 19th CENTURY: Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE; BRICK; 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.)

Summary Paragraph

Almond is a well-preserved and largely un-altered brick, two-story, Greek Revival residence, fused with elements of the Italianate style. The residence is located in Page County, north of the Town of Luray, Virginia, along the east side of US Route 340. Originally built ca. 1858, the house was constructed on property owned by William Roe Almond on what then was known as "Hope Mills," originally an 800+ acre plantation located along Pass Run. Today, the residence, along with several associated outbuildings (a meat house/summer kitchen, a shed for livestock, and a two-car garage) sit on approximately 5 acres that are evocative of the property's rural setting. Of the outbuildings, the meat house/ summer kitchen is a contributing building, while the livestock shed and garage are noncontributing buildings. The main residence has a central passage, double pile plan, with a hipped roof covered in standing seam metal, and four large interior brick chimneys. The residence exhibits character-defining details on the exterior such as symmetrical fenestration, a wide cornice featuring widely spaced brackets with acorn pendants, 6/6 wood sash with molded sills and lintels, full height brick corner pilasters, a centered entry with molded surround, and a front porch with fluted columns and a bracketed frieze. The interior of the house retains many of its original details, including paneled doors, wood flooring, tall baseboards, molded door and window surrounds with corner blocks, hardware, and fireplace mantels. Some details, such as the double-leaf entry doors with lancet windows and the central staircase's balustrade with round newel post and balusters, reference the Italianate influence on

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the dwelling's design. But for a small enclosure on the west side of the wraparound porch, no exterior alterations have altered the building's original footprint. Overall the property has excellent integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description

Setting

Almond is set among the rolling farmlands of the Springfield District near the Shenandoah River in Page County. Sitting on a little over 5 acres south of Pass Run, the residence is oriented to the north and today is accessed by a gravel driveway, which is lined with dogwoods, that enters the property from Highway 340, a north/south road from Luray to Front Royal, Virginia. Decorative stone walls parallel the driveway. Between the dwelling and Pass Run is a wooded area with native walnut, poplar, sycamore and cedar trees. Sitting just below the top of a gentle rise from the small creek, the house is situated so that the land slopes down from the front and sides.

To the south (rear) of the house are open spaces that include a small apple orchard, a grape vineyard, livestock shed, gardens, and several small paddocks for animals and livestock. Most of the historic domestic complex is no longer extant. The site of an ice house is located west of the primary dwelling near the current entry drive. The structure is gone but subsurface foundations and shallow grade-level indentations still remain. Two sub-surface cisterns flank the house on the east and west sides. These appear to be stone with a mortared surface, are approximately 15 feet deep, and are now capped with removable concrete caps. These are not in use but still retain several feet of water in them. An old well is southeast of the dwelling, near the livestock shed.

Along the east side of the 5-acre property is the roadbed for the original Luray-Front Royal Turnpike. The original entry drive to Almond extends from this old alignment and extends across the property to circle around the dwelling's west side. Portions of an old concrete staircase from the entry drive up to the house have been found. These originally were part of a formal, decorative walk from the driveway up to the main house.

Almond, Primary Residence, ca. 1858, Contributing Building

Exterior

Almond, is a two-story, three-bay, brick, Greek Revival residence with an English basement, covered with a shallow hipped roof, and situated on a limestone foundation. The house features four massive interior brick chimneys and a rectangular cupola. The cupola now resides under the existing roof after the overall roof height was raised as a result of a fire in the attic in the late 19th century. The roof is currently covered with raised rib metal roofing, but likely began its life as a slate-shingled roof as evidenced by the innumerable fragments of slate shingles found around the base of the foundation. Additional features of the residence include a raised front entry porch, decorative cornice line with simply carved "S" brackets with acorn pendants, and brick pilasters on each corner of the house. The walls are laid in stretcher bond on the façade with the only row of headers just above the watertable. Below the watertable, on the raised basement, the brick is

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laid in seven course American Bond. The east, west and rear walls are laid in six- and seven-course American Bond. The fired bricks of all exterior walls are likely of local origin. Typical thickness of the load-bearing walls is 12 inches. On the façade are numerous handwritten signatures on the mortar adjacent to the front and rear entries. These are thought to have been made by travelers and/ or visitors to the property. Some of these notes are dated 1905 or earlier.

The symmetrical three-bay facade features large windows with original 6/6 wood sash, a wide cornice with brackets, brick pilasters at each corner, and a centered, raised, one-bay entry porch accessed via a flight of wood steps. At the basement level, there are two smaller windows with 2/2 sash to either side of the porch. On the first and second stories, the five symmetrically aligned windows feature solid walnut lug sills and are framed by molded casings and lintels. Louvered shutters frame some of the windows. The cornice features simple brackets that include carved acorn pendants. The elevated front porch is covered with a shallow hipped roof supported by four fluted Tuscan columns and two fluted pilasters. The low porch balustrade features simple square balusters and a curved handrail. Like the main cornice, the porch's wide cornice features symmetrically placed "S" brackets. The porch deck is comprised of wooden planks of varying width, painted a light gray. Lattice surrounds the base of the raised porch. The porch shelters the primary entry, which features paneled double-leaf doors with lancet windows and a molded surround with fluted pilasters, 4-light sidelights, and a 2-light transom.

The two-bay east elevation has two windows with original 6/6 wood sash on the first and second stories, as well as two smaller, two-over-two windows at the basement level. Window surrounds match those on the façade, as does the bracketed cornice.

The rear elevation mimics the façade in size, design and proportion. A two-story, hip-roofed porch spans the wall and wraps around to the west elevation. The porch features Tuscan columns, a square balustrade, and round newel posts. On the first and second stories, a centered entry is flanked by windows with original 6/6 sash. All the windows have solid walnut lug sills and molded surrounds as are found on the façade. The first-story entry features a simple surround topped with a transom, while the second-story entry has partial sidelights and a transom. A set of narrow exterior stairs, featuring a decorative balustrade, connects the upper and lower levels. The lower level of the porch extends from the south wall to the west side of the house. The porch's wood flooring, both upper and lower levels, is in need of moderate repair and repainting but is still usable.

The west elevation's north end has a small window with a replacement sash that lights the basement level's kitchen space. On the first story, the rear wraparound porch extends across two-thirds of the wall. The north end of the porch has been enclosed to create a bathroom. The enclosure is clad with weatherboard siding and has a small window with a 2/2 sash. The remaining visible portion of the first story has a window with 6/6 wood sash. The second story has two windows, each with louvered shutters. The window surrounds and cornice are the same as found on the façade.

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Interior

Almond has essentially a four-over-four plan with a center hall that runs north to south. The interior throughout is almost unchanged from the historic period. Originally there were four separate rooms off the center hall on the first floor. Today the east side parlors are open to one another, divided only by a large opening with two columns on low partial walls. The opening features a molded surround with corner blocks. The two rooms on the west side remain separate, with one being used currently as an office. Each of the rooms features fireplaces with simply carved mantels and brick aprons. Some of the fireplace aprons have been covered with wood flooring. Generous, original baseboards grace almost every room in the house. Composed of local walnut, these often 12" tall, decoratively carved interior elements are found in every room except the basement. All rooms retain the original floorboards, but in some rooms there has been pine flooring applied over the top of the original. Perimeter walls still feature plaster over brick, while interior walls feature plaster over lath.

The center hall is dominated by a wide staircase leading to the second floor. The staircase features a large tapered round newel post and rounded balusters, placed two to a tread. Each of the stringers contains decoratively carved scrollwork. The single-flight stair is finished in native walnut and rises along the center hall's east wall. Beneath it is another stairway leading down to the basement.

Like the stairway, most of the interior decorative details are crafted from black walnut. These details, and the floors of the same material, are original. The flooring is wide plank, still stained in the cost-saving manner as other historic houses in the region, where the area intended to be concealed by a is left unstained and in its original finish. Many doors and trim feature the faux wood grain finish applied by the original craftsmen; these are similar to grained door panels from the 1890 farmhouse on the W.E. Burner Farm (DHR# 069-019) near Hamburg. In some spaces, such as the parlors, the woodwork has been painted white.

The second floor's plan mirrors the first floor with a center hall and what were originally four flanking rooms. An upstairs, front-facing (north) room was subdivided and converted into two rooms—one serving as a full bathroom and the other as a closet. Each of the upstairs rooms features fireplaces similar to those found on the first floor with simple carved mantels and brick aprons. Each of the rooms also contain original paneled doors, flooring, and window and door trim.

A door located in the second-floor center hall hides another stairway leading up to the unfinished attic space. The attic is unfinished but for what remains of the cupola, which would have pierced the center of the current roof if left intact. The entirety of the cupola's roof and side walls rose approximately three feet from the top of the hipped roofline. The rectangular cupola is encircled with a band of single-pane lights that once provided natural light for the attic and interior upper stairway.

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The house is built on an English basement that houses the kitchen, a bedroom, and two utility rooms. Beneath the main front porch is an entry to the basement, thought to have been placed here to allow discreet access to the domestic complex.

Outbuildings

Meat House/Summer Kitchen, ca. 1858 Contributing Building

The meat house/ summer kitchen stands a short distance southwest of the main house. The building is composed of two distinct sections. The frame meat house features a stone foundation, weatherboard-clad walls, and a pyramidal roof covered with asphalt shingles. An entry with a flush wood door is on the east wall. Connected to the west side of the meat house is what was likely a summer kitchen. This section is lower in height than the meat house. The kitchen has a stone foundation, weatherboard-clad walls, and a gable roof sheathed with standing-seam metal. A small interior flue rises from the roof. On the north façade are an entry with a flush wood door and a small window with a six-light wood sash.

Garage, ca. 1940, Noncontributing Building

Located just to the west of the meat house/ kitchen is a one-bay gable-front garage. The walls are composed of uncoursed rubble stone. The garage features a wood, paneled garage door sized to accommodate two vehicles. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles. This building postdates the property's period of significance and therefore is noncontributing.

Shed, ca.1940, Noncontributing Building

Southeast of the main house stands a shed for livestock and poultry. Built into the easterly sloping edge of the property, the building features frame construction and a metal-clad roof. This shed historically was used as a workshop and a small poultry breeding house to support the needs of the family. This building postdates the property's period of significance and therefore is noncontributing.

Integrity Analysis

Almond retains a high level of integrity of location and setting. The property's environs continue to be rural and agricultural in character, and all resources associated with Almond are in their original locations. The surrounding landscape continues in active farming use with widely dispersed residential and agricultural buildings. Although considerably reduced from its historic 800 acres, Almond today includes 5 acres that encompass the historic dwelling and domestic complex along with associated landscape features such as a former orchard and vineyard, woodlots, and pastures. These aspects are evocative of the property's historic agricultural character.

The ca. 1858 dwelling retains high integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The dwelling's original form, massing, and plan are largely intact, with the only addition of note a

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small porch enclosure on a side elevation. The dwelling's rectilinear form with tall windows, wide cornice with brackets, and low hipped roof are indicative of a commingling of Italianate influence on the otherwise Greek Revival architecture. The front and rear porches provide ample outdoor spaces often found on antebellum dwellings and, coupled with the house's raised site, likely were designed to take advantage of warm weather breezes. The retention of visitors' signatures in mortar around the front entry is an interesting feature that adds to the historic character. The dwelling's interior is remarkably unchanged, demonstrating the commodious aspects of its original four-over-four plan with a wide central hall. The plan accommodates modern lifestyles as easily as those of earlier periods. Retention of character-defining materials, such as the central staircase, fireplace mantels, baseboards, wood flooring, plaster walls, paneled doors, and molded trim, convey the dwelling's historic architectural influences and the workmanship of the original builders. Although small in scale, the meat house/ summer kitchen is an important part of the property as well, as it illustrates the types of utilitarian spaces that once were necessary to operations of the property. Other landscape features, such as the two cisterns and well, similarly are suggestive of historic practices, in this case for obtaining water for household uses.

Almond has integrity of feeling as a rural dwelling dating to the latter half of the 19th century, as reflected by its melding of Greek Revival and Italianate stylistic influences. The primary dwelling reflects the aspirations and successes of a locally prominent family. In addition to the practical aspects of siting a house on a raised site, the dwelling's imposing position overlooking the surrounding lands is certainly suggestive of a sense of accomplishment and mastery on the part of the original occupants. Almond's integrity of association is similarly high, as the original family's history has been carefully documented. The primary dwelling is directly associated with late 1850s architecture in Page County, representing both construction methods as well as design traditions prevalent at the time.

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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

Ca. 1858

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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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.)

Almond, located in Page County just north of the Town of Luray, was constructed ca. 1858 by Joseph Rhodes Almond, a prominent Page County resident. Due to the length of antebellum occupancy, it is likely the second or third house constructed on the property. The house is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of a vernacular adaptation of the Greek Revival style fused with some Italianate detailing. Greek Revival exterior elements include a wide cornice, classical columns, and corner brick pilasters. Italianate detailing includes symmetrically-placed brackets with drop pendants and a double-leaf entry with lancet arched glazed windows. Additionally, the house represents the interpretation of these popular styles by local craftsmen. The period of significance is ca. 1858, coinciding with the date of construction, and encompasses the construction of the contributing meat house/ summer kitchen. The house retains excellent integrity, with very few changes made to the exterior or interior, maintaining elements that evoke both the Greek Revival and Italianate styles.

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

Architectural Significance

The ca. 1858 Almond House is locally significant as a well-preserved vernacular adaptation of Greek Revival architecture fused with Italianate stylistic elements as found in the Page Valley. The region's earliest settlers, Germans, Scots-Irish, and English, who migrated here from Pennsylvania and eastern Virginia, influenced building traditions of the Page and Shenandoah valleys. The first houses constructed in the area generally were simple dwellings constructed from hewn logs and, later, stone. Eventually, rural Page County started to exhibit a strong tradition of brick construction for dwellings. These early brick residences were constructed using the "I-house" form, typically contained three or four bays, and were single-pile with exterior or interior end chimneys. Most of the dwellings constructed in the Page Valley in the early 19th century were vernacular adaptations of the Federal style, such as the John Beaver House (DHR# 069-0120), a two-story, four-bay brick dwelling with two front doors, prominent segmental arch lintels built with stone, and original 9/6 windows on the first story and smaller 6/6 windows on the second story. One of the best examples of the Federal style constructed of brick in Page County is Locust Grove (NRHP 2015; DHR# 069-0145). Constructed ca. 1830, Locust Grove is still considered a rural adaptation of the popular Federal style, but exhibits, mainly on the interior, detailing that is much more elaborate than its predecessors and mixes the Adamesque with local building traditions. Such detailing can be found on the main entry's surround, decorative mantelpieces, and the moldings and trim found throughout the house. In Virginia, the Federal style was popular from 1790 to about 1830 and continued to be common in rural areas into the mid-19th century. During the latter part of this time period, the Greek Revival style, which had been growing in popularity since the 1820s in the American northeast, began to influence building design in rural areas like Page County. The Strickler-Louderback House (NRHP 2000; DHR #069-0105), built ca 1852, is a brick dwelling that features a five-bay façade

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and center passage plan; its fusion of the Federal and Greek Revival elements is showcased mainly in the mantels.

Like the Strickler-Louderback House, Almond is an example of a fusion of two styles—Greek Revival and Italianate. The Italianate style became popular in the 1850s and continued to be popular until the 1880s, becoming part of the picturesque movement in architecture, which sought to reject some of the classical ideals of architecture that had been so popular in the early 19th century. Italianate-style dwellings and commercial buildings became very popular in cities in the American northeast and Midwest. In rural areas like Page County, the style was slower to take hold and there are not many known examples of Italianate in its purest form.

While most of Almond's details are more indicative of Greek Revival, there are small elements, like the symmetrically placed brackets across the wide cornice under an overhanging eave, the low-hipped roof and the (now-concealed) centered cupola or widows walk, that are more suggestive of the Italianate style. The paired entry doors with arched windows also indicates an influence more suggestive of the picturesque versus Greek Revival. Meanwhile, the house's form, the corner pilasters, and the one-bay porch supported by Tuscan columns are all exterior features that represent the Greek Revival style. Although Almond is one of the best examples of the early transitional Greek Revival to Italianate architecture in the Page Valley, a comparable property is the Welfley-Shuler House (NRHP 1999; DHR#069-50575), which reflects more of the Italianate style with its decorative cornice, hooded window crowns, and hooded main entry.

Almond is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as one of the best-designed and well-preserved examples of a rural adaptation of transitional Greek Revival and Italianate architecture in rural Page County. With the exception of the addition of the bathroom on the west elevation, the dwelling retains a high level of integrity on both the exterior and the interior.

Although most of the dwelling's historic domestic complex is no longer extant, a few elements have been retained. The most significant of these is the meat house/ summer kitchen, which capture the construction methods and materials used on such utilitarian spaces. The site of an ice house, two cisterns, and a well are additional remnants of the historic complex. The ca. 1940 two-car garage on the property is non-contributing but its use of native stone make it an unobtrusive element on the landscape. The livestock shed dates to ca. 1940 and its design and materials reflect its utilitarian function both historically and today.

Historic Background

In 1812, the prosperous farmer William Roe Almond (1787-1862) pioneered the development of the town of Luray, and helped the lay the foundation upon which the settlement was built. W. R. Almond was the son of Edward Almond and was married to Susan Rhodes, daughter of Joseph Rhodes II and granddaughter of the Rev. John Rhodes. The Rhodes family were among the very earliest Euro-American settlers of Page County and Luray.

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W. R. Almond first purchased an originally an 800+ acre tract of land on the north side of Luray then became one of the first purchasers of property in the newly founded town by buying two plots along the main street. Almond also served as one of the first civic leaders of Page County. In *A Short History of Page County, Virginia*, the author notes, "Page County was established on March 30, 1831, and the first court was held on May 23, 1831, in the house of John Williams. William R. Almond was one of the justices in that and subsequent sessions for the court." (Old Homes of Page County, Kerkoff, Jennie Ann. 1962) Becoming one of the first justices and commissioners of the city owed to Almond's involvement as an investor, contributing designer, and "plank owner" of the original city hall. In addition to managing his milling, forestry, farming, and civic development efforts, Almond served as the Postmaster for "Hope Mills, Page County." (US Archives. Appointments of U.S. Postmasters, 1832-1971) This building historically stood a short distance north of the nominated property, as shown on maps of the area. Almond built a house on the 800-acre property, which is often referred to as "Hope Mills" in a local history book, *Old Homes of Page County*. (This house preceded the ca. 1858 Greek Revival dwelling that is the subject of this nomination.) Almond's wealth owed in part to his reliance on an enslaved labor force. Records indicate he owned at least 12 enslaved persons who lived at his rural plantation. Additional information about these individuals, such as names, ages, and skills, has not been found.

William R. Almond died in 1862 and his property entered the probate process to be divided among his sons, eventually being deeded to Joseph Rhoades Almond (1821-1891) after court proceedings in a suit involving his brother Joseph W. Almond (1823-98). Described as a merchant miller who owned 337 acres, son Joseph R. Almond began developing this separate parcel and in 1858 he constructed the Greek Revival dwelling, referred to as Almond, with timber from the property and with bricks likely fired on site. The construction of this house and Almond's subsequent pursuit of commercial and community leadership substantially built upon his father's legacy as an early investor in Luray and the surrounding county. The officiating commissioner in the transfer and sale was Peter Borst, a notable local attorney, businessman, and builder of "Aventine Hall.

Upon assuming ownership of the property, J. R. Almond operated the farm, continued operating his mill, served as the Springfield District Post Master, and eventually became a founding principal in the construction of the "Luray-Front Royal Turnpike" in 1851(VDHR 159-0001, Page County Historic Resources Survey Report, 1998). This turnpike abutted the Almond property on the east side where the road bed can still be seen today. Almond and his family witnessed both Union and Confederate armies march up and down this turnpike as the soldiers sought to secure the "breadbasket" of the Shenandoah Valley, then one of the critical military approaches to Washington, D.C., during the Civil War. Similar to many plantations in the Shenandoah Valley, Almond saw numerous occasions of bivouacs and encampments of soldiers as "in a number of the maneuvers Confederate and Union troops used a series of turnpikes that traversed the county, among them the Blue Ridge Turnpike, the Newmarket and Sperryville Turnpike, and the Luray and Front Royal Turnpike." (Virginia Court Records, March 31, 1851, 98)

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On October 28th, 1871, J. R. Almond sold the property with the Greek Revival house to Horatio T. Wheat (1808-1870) and Elizabeth Wheat (née Buracker, 1816-1892), who married in Page County on the 19th of January, 1837. Horatio was born in Albemarle County, Virginia, and died on June 24th, 1870, while occupying Almond. The Wheats' son, Charles C., was killed in Page County somewhere near the New Market Gap while fighting for the Confederates. According to local histories, the story behind his death is as follows:

There was firing across the river at the White House between pickets while the Federals were in camp at Hamburg in 1863. The old barn on the hill at the south end of the bridge had a hole in its gable made by a cannon ball, it is said. Charles Wheat, a Confederate soldier, was shot and killed near the intersection by advancing Federals on April 19, 1862, under General Shields.

The Wheats' ownership marked a period of numerous property transfers for Almond, over the course of which the property was subdivided as well. On 18 September 1877, Elizabeth Wheat (widow) sold the Almond property to Adonijah and Mary M. Shipe. B. F. Greyson was the officiating commissioner in the transfer of the property. In addition to serving as a Special Commissioner, Greyson was a leading businessman and jurist in Luray. On December 18th, 1890, the Shipes sold the farm to the Farmers Milling Company, which was run by Middleton Warfield Yates (1843-1922), who originally hailed from Rappahannock County, Virginia, and who served in the Confederate army with a locally originated, Page County unit, Co. E 35th Virginia Cavalry Battalion. The company secretary, Dr. Henry Marcellus Keyser, partnered with Yates in the purchase. Members of the locally prominent Keyser family also were tasked by special commission to serve as sheriffs and county agents of law and order.

This period of ownership by the Farmers Milling Company marked the high point of the milling operations started by the Almonds before the Civil War. Contemporaneous accounts highlighted in *Chataigne's Gazette* depict the active and vibrant participation in Page County's growth by Hope Mills area merchants, farmers, and civic leaders:

Post Offices

J. R. Almond Hope Mills;

Justices of Peace

C. M. Keyser, Hope Mills;

Carpenters and Builders

Keyser, J. R., Hope Mills

General Merchandise

*Almond, I. E., & Co., Luray
Keyser, Wm. H., Hope Mills*

Mills--Corn and Flour

*Carter, C. W., Hope Mills
Shipe, A., Hope Mills*

Mills-Saw

*Carter, C. W., Hope Mills
Kibler, John W., Hope Mills
Brumback, D. H., Hope Mills
Brumback, J. B., Hope Mills*

Principal Farmers

A. J. Keyser, Hope Mills

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R. L. Hisey, Hope Mills
Henry Brumback, Hope Mills
Dr. Brumback, Hope Mills
F. J. Kibler, Hope Mills
John A. Brumback, Hope Mills
A. J. Brumback, Hope Mills

Magistrates:
B.F. KEYSER, Hope Mills.

Distillers
Keyser, J.R. Hope Mills

General Merchants
Almond, T.M. & D.E. Luray

Mills - Corn & Flour
Shipe, A. Hope Mills
Zinkel, C.J. Hope Mills

Mills - Saw
Kibler, John W. Hope Mills
Shipe, A. Hope Mills

Millwrights
Fristoe, James H. Hope Mills

Mines – Iron
Randle, A.E. Hope Mills

Physicians
Brumback, D.H. Hope Mills
Brumback, J.B. Hope Mills
Keyser, J.R. Hope Mills

On the 29th of October, 1895, the Farmers Milling Company sold Almond to Frank C. Brumback (1858-1913 [spouse Nannie B Brumback, née Keyser]), who served as the last active miller at Hope Mills. On the 7th of March, 1903, Frank C. Brumback sold the property to Martha A. Kibler (1842-1920). Upon her death, she left the house and land to her daughters, Mary Elizabeth Kibler (1895-1994) and Martha Kibler (b. 1895), who moved into the house and remained there until their deaths. A contemporaneous article regarding the dwelling and environs describes Almond at the time as follows:

The large brick dwelling at the Pass Run bridge on Route 12was built by Rhoades Almond (the name is spelled Rhodes now).... The postmaster tells us that it is finished inside with walnut, all hand-work; that it contains twelve rooms including the four rooms in the basement; that the rooms are 15 by 12 feet, with a hall eight feet, wide. Rhodes Almond was the son of William Almond and Susan Rhodes, the daughter of Joseph of "Mountain View." Rhodes Almond married a daughter of Reuben Bell, father of Solon P. Bell. They certainly built substantially (A Short History of Page County, Virginia, Harry Miller Strickler, 1952).

On the 7th of July, 1978, Elizabeth Kibler transferred the deed of Almond to Frank G. Elizabeth Odell Keihn (née Kibler, mother Mary Brumback and father Bourbon N. Kibler). This deed transfer began the "modern era" of this property and the house changed hands only two more times prior to its current owner.

On the 18th of April, 2014, a parcel of approximately two acres of the original property was gifted by James Keihn to his sister, Susan Finlay (née Keihn) and her husband, who built a new house slightly down the hill and adjacent to the still-extant general store and post office near Pass

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Run. This reduced the total size of the parcel associated with Almond to approximately 5 acres

On the 6th of September, 2016, Major Stephen J. Winslow Jr and his wife Susan M Winslow (née Hinett) purchased Almond and its remaining acreage from James Keihn. This purchase represented the return to Page County and Virginia of the Winslows as Maj. Winslow's direct ancestors helped form the foundation of present day Virginia. Ancestors include Benjamin Winslow (Sr.), born in 1701, a surveyor married to Mary Beverly; while living in Orange County, Virginia, he was responsible for drawing one of the first maps of the upper Potomac River in 1736. This map and his experience would lead him to be called to service for Lord Fairfax in 1747, in order to determine the exact borders of Lord Fairfax's land grant. This line crosses directly through Page County and markers of their progress are still found not far from Almond. Other surveyors around this time were Peter Jefferson, father of President Thomas Jefferson, and Joshua Fry, the commander of the Virginia Militia. After Fry fell from his horse, George Washington succeeded him in command. Benjamin Winslow Jr. (b. 1725), was a contemporary and neighbor of James Madison. In a letter from James Madison before 1793 to his brother Ambrose, he wrote, "I send you by Mr. Winslow \$63.16 in gold a payment..." a substantial sum at the time. Benjamin's son Valentine remained in Orange, Virginia, for his lifetime until he died in 1830.

The Winslows intend to preserve the house in the grandeur it most certainly possessed as it witnessed the monumental events that shaped the surrounding county, and are honored to be the custodians of this significant and majestic piece of Virginia's history.

Almond
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

“Aventine Hall.” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1969.

Chataigne’s Virginia Gazetteer and Classified Business Directory, 1884-1885.

“Establishment of the Luray-Front Royal Turnpike,” Page County Court Records, 1851

Kerkoff, Jennie Ann. *Old Homes of Page County, Virginia.* 1962.

Landmarks Preservation Associates, *Page County Historic Resources Survey Report:* Richmond: Virginia Department of Historic Resources. 1998.

Martin, Joseph. *A New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia and the District of Columbia.* 1835.

Miller-Strickler, Harry. *A Short History of Page County, Virginia.* Berryville, VA: Virginia Book Company. 1952.

Page County Land Records, Page County Courthouse, Luray, VA.

Page County Deed Books, Page County Courthouse, Luray, VA.

Record of Appointments of U.S. Postmaster, 1832-1971. NARA Microfilm Publication, M841. Records of the Post Office Department, Washington, D.C.: National Archives.

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

Almond
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- Local government
- University
- Other

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR No. 069-0050

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.119

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: 38.702700 | Longitude: -78.442000 |
| 2. Latitude: 38.701890 | Longitude: -78.441230 |
| 3. Latitude: 38.700740 | Longitude: -78.441920 |
| 4. Latitude: 38.700270 | Longitude: -78.443750 |

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: |

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

The historic boundary is drawn to encompass the primary dwelling, the contributing meat house /summer kitchen and the noncontributing garage, shed and chicken house, as well as the acreage surrounding the architectural resources. The boundary is coterminous with the perimeter lines of tax parcel 32-A-62 as recorded by Page County, Virginia. The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Tax Parcel Map.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic boundary includes the main dwelling, meat house/summer kitchen, garage, shed and chicken house. The property historically included considerably more acreage than is today present. The remaining 5.119 acres associated with the property, however, conveys a sense of the historic setting during the period of significance as it remains largely rural and undeveloped, consisting of open pastures interspersed with woodlots. All known historic resources, as well as the property's historic setting, are within the boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Maj. Stephen J. Winslow, Jr.
organization: N/A
street & number: 2620 340 Hwy N.
city or town: Luray state: VA zip code: 22835
e-mail: joewinslow@yahoo.com
telephone: (469)363-0651
date: 10/2/2019

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 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: Almond
City or Vicinity: Luray

Almond

Name of Property

Page County, VA

County and State

County: Page County State: VA
Photographer: Stephen J. Winslow Jr.
Date Photographed: October 2018 and January 2019

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

- 1 of 21: Exterior view of front of house from northwest
- 2 of 21: Exterior view of front of house from northeast
- 3 of 21: Exterior view of rear of house from southeast
- 4 of 21: Exterior view of rear of house from south
- 5 of 21: Exterior view of rear of house from southwest
- 6 of 21: View looking south over back of property
- 7 of 21: View from front porch facing northeast
- 8 of 21: View from back porch facing east
- 9 of 21: View from northeast of Meat House and Kitchen Outbuildings
- 10 of 21: View from southwest of Meat House and Kitchen Outbuildings
- 11 of 21: View of Dining Room from Sitting Room
- 12 of 21: View of Sitting Room from Dining Room
- 13 of 21: Overall view of Dining Room
- 14 of 21: Interior View of Front Door (facing north)
- 15 of 21: View of Staircase and Center Hall (facing south)
- 16 of 21: View from second floor looking down to front entry
- 17 of 21: Upstairs Bedroom
- 18 of 21: Downstairs Room
- 19 of 21: Downstairs Bathroom

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20 of 21: "Signed" Brick Mortar, Facade

21 of 21: "Signed" Brick Mortar, Rear Elevation.

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.



Legend

LOCATION MAP

Almond

Page County

DHR File No. 069-0050

Historic Boundary Coordinates

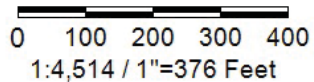
- 1. Latitude: 38.702700 Longitude: -78.442000
- 2. Latitude: 38.701890 Longitude: -78.441230
- 3. Latitude: 38.700740 Longitude: -78.441920
- 4. Latitude: 38.700270 Longitude: -78.443750



Historic Boundary



Feet



Title:

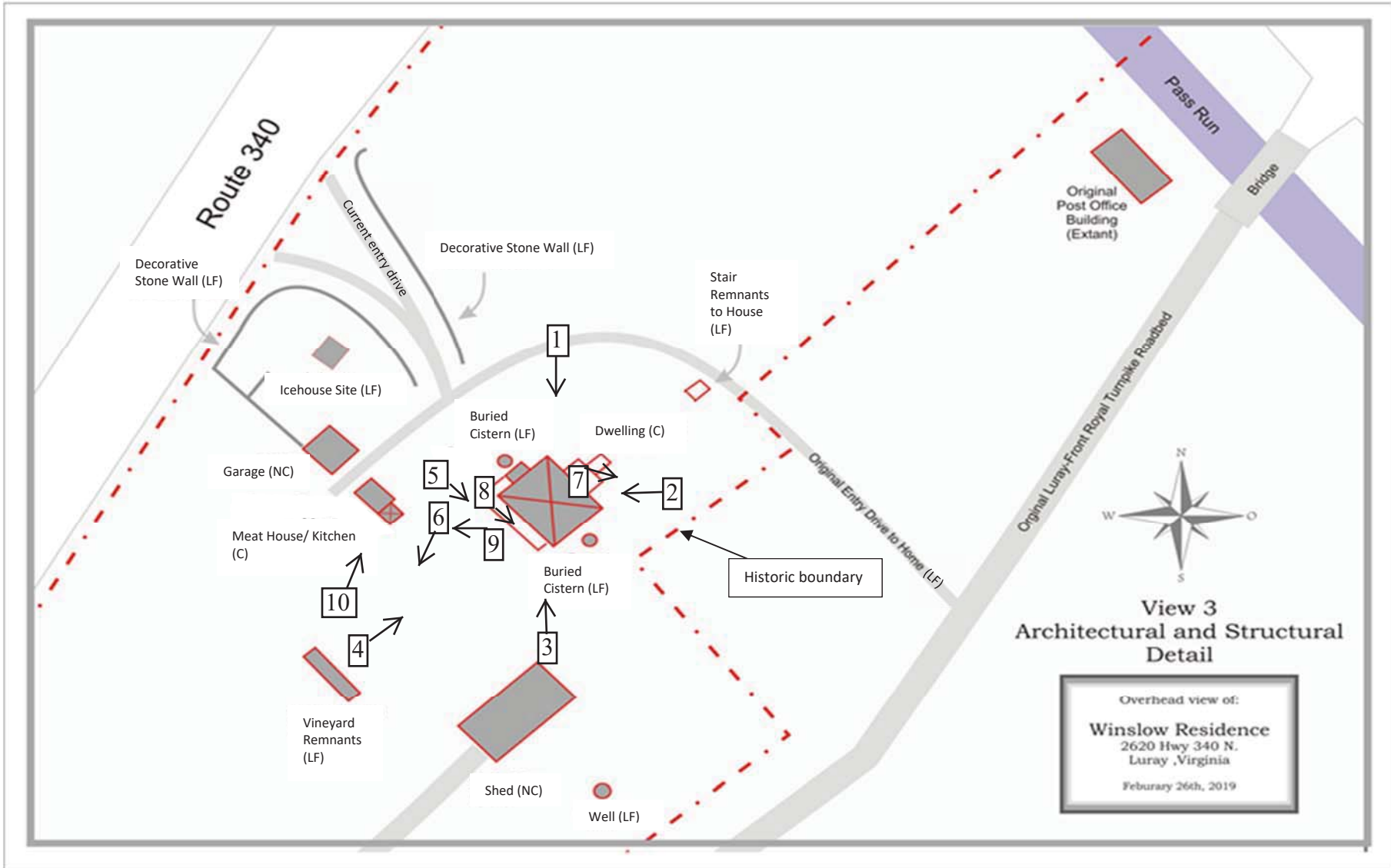
Date: 2/24/2020

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/ PHOTO KEY

Almond
Page County, VA
DHR No. 069-0050



Contributing (C) Buildings

- Dwelling
- Meat House/ Kitchen

Noncontributing (NC) Buildings

- Garage
- Shed

Landscape Features (LF)

- Buried Cistern
- Icehouse Site
- Original Entry Drive
- Stair Remnants to House
- Vineyard Remnants
- Well

1 ↗ Photo Locations



AERIAL VIEW

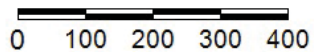
Almond

Page County, VA

DHR No. 069-0050



Feet



1:4,514 / 1"=376 Feet

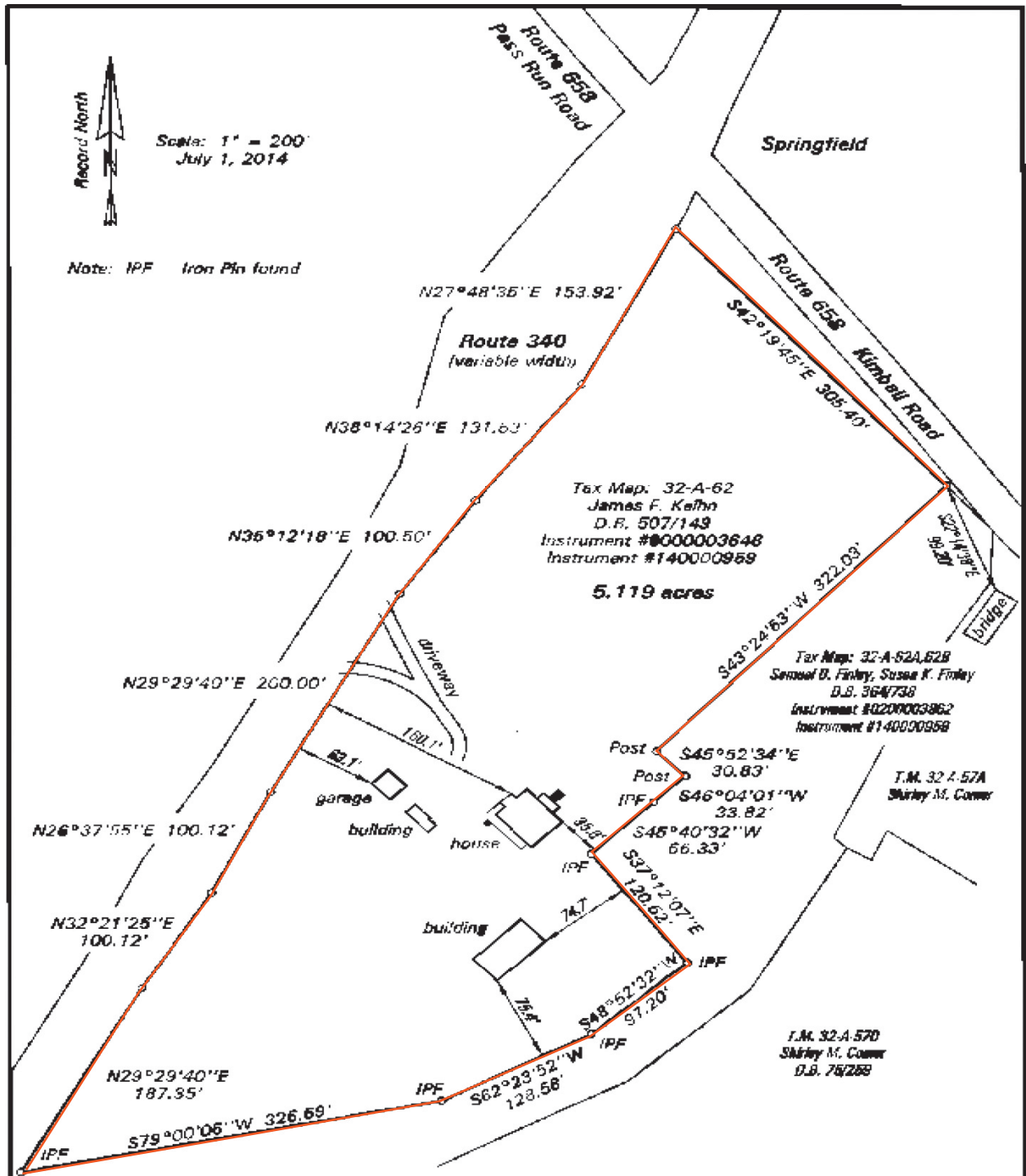
Title:

Date: 3/17/2020

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Tax Parcel Map
 Winslow Residence
 Almond, Page County
 DHR No. 069-0050



**Boundary Survey Of A 5.119 Acre Tract
 Standing In The Name Of James F. Keihn
 Springfield District, Page County, Virginia**

Note: This survey based on a current field survey.
 A current title report was not provided for this survey.

INGRAM - HAGEN & CO., P.L.C.
 Surveyors - Engineers - Planners
 140 OLD BRIDGEWATER ROAD
 MOUNT CRAWFORD, VIRGINIA 22841
 Telephone (540) 828-2778

Job #23220



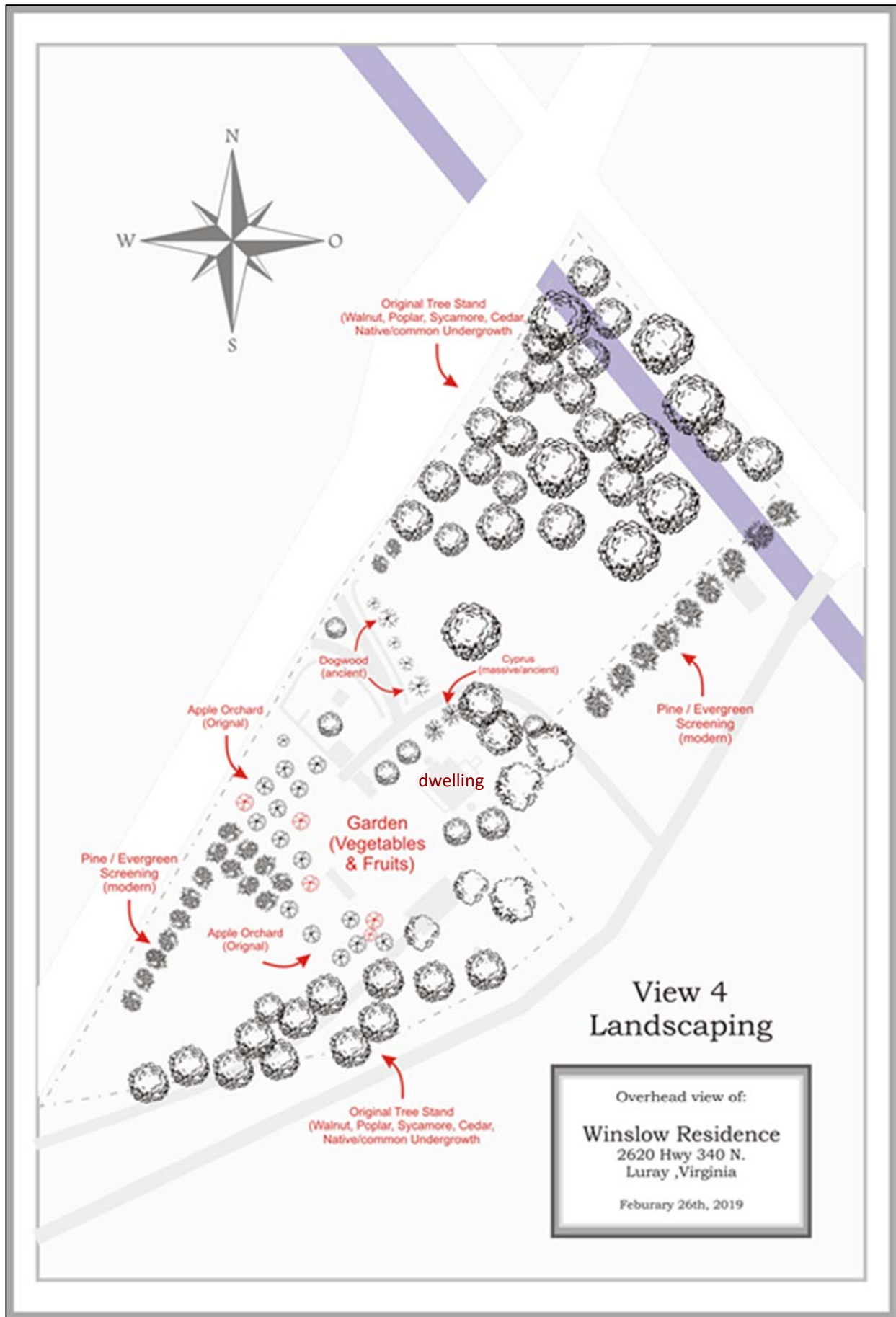
This is not a true, certified copy unless the signature hereon is an original signing.

LANDSCAPE SITE PLAN

Almond

Page County, VA

DHR No. 069-0050



TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Almond
Page County, VA
DHR No. 069-0050

