

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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Parr, Royster C., House
Other names/site number: Woodlawn; Oak Valley; VDHR # 005-0165
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: 156 Parrtown Rd
City or town: Amherst State: VA County: Amherst
Not For Publication: N/ Vicinity: x

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

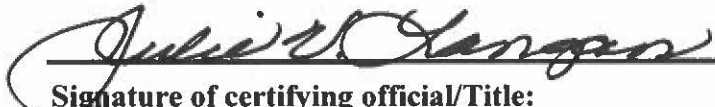
I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

		<u>9/27/2021</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	
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

Number of Resources within Property

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(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>0</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

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

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

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

The Royster C. Parr House is the centerpiece of a 5.28-acre farmstead with five contributing outbuildings. The farmstead is located in a rural area of northern Amherst County between the communities of Lowesville and Clifford. It straddles Parrtown Road (State Route 753) which is the primary road in the community of Parrtown. Historically, the property was originally part of the Woodlawn tract that was owned by the Carter family. The tract was subdivided, and Dr. Samuel C. Gibson (1811-1874) purchased a tract and erected his home, Oak Valley, in 1843. It passed into the Royster-Parr family in the late nineteenth century and this family has further divided the surrounding farmland. The frame, two-story, single-pile house is known today as the Royster C. Parr House. It exhibits elements of both the Federal and Greek Revival styles of architecture. The house was expanded in 1860 with a story-and-a-half rear ell, and it was last altered by small additions and renovations in 1935. The remaining farmstead consists of five frame outbuildings dating from the late nineteenth century to 1935: a kitchen, smokehouse, woodshed, machine shop, and tobacco barn.

Narrative Description

The Royster C. Parr House is the central feature of a 5.28-acre farmstead that includes five frame outbuildings. This parcel of land was once part of a larger tract that was divided, and the descendants of Royster C. Parr (1884–1955) have since created a community called Parrtown. This community lies between Clifford and Lowesville in Amherst County. Parrtown Road connects the community and separates the main house from its farmland. There is a family cemetery on an adjoining property where Royster Parr is buried. The main house and three outbuildings occupy

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the lawn, which consists of maturing trees and shrubs that were planted in the 1980s. The house and outbuildings are joined by a 1935 sidewalk from the east side of the house. There is a circular driveway at the northern edge of the property. The machine shop is on the northeast corner of the property where the driveway meets Parrtown Road. From the house to the driveway there is a 1935 sidewalk, and, where it meets the driveway, there is a set of concrete block piers topped with lanterns. The property straddles Parrtown Road, and the tobacco barn stands in the field across the road from the main house.

Main House, 1843, 1860, 1935, contributing building

Exterior

The earliest section of the Royster Parr House was constructed in 1843 as a frame, two-story, single-pile building with a three-bay symmetrical façade. In 1860, a frame one-and-a-half-story rear ell was added. In 1935, the house was renovated, and one-story bathroom and kitchen additions were built on the east and west sides of the rear ell. The house is an example of a transitional vernacular style of architecture exhibiting both Federal and Greek Revival stylistic traits.

The foundation of the main block of the house is parged brick. The 1860 addition was built on piers. In 1935, the 1860 piers were replaced with concrete and random rubble in-fill was placed between the piers. A cellar was dug beneath the western corner of the house during the same period. The cellar is accessed through a bulkhead door and a set of poured concrete steps. It has a batten-type single-leaf entry door at the foundation. The interior of the cellar has poured concrete walls beneath the original brick foundation walls except on the east side, which is an interior wall. The entire wall to the exposed floor joists is poured concrete. The floor joists are vertically sawn.

The exterior of the house has weatherboard siding; this sheathing replaced the original weatherboards in 1935. The house has multiple roofs that are sheathed in standing-seam metal. The main block has a gable roof that intersects with the gable roof of the rear ell. The additions to either side of the 1860 addition have shed roofs, and the front porch has a hip roof. There are three gable-end brick exterior chimneys. Two are located at the gable ends of the 1843 section. The east chimney appears to have been rebuilt with the original bricks in 1935. The west chimney is original but bears some poor repointing. The largely undisturbed gable-end chimney of the 1860 section has a coursed fieldstone stone base and bricks laid in five-course common bond. Near the shoulder, on the western side of the chimney, the date 1860 is painted on a brick with now-faded, but easily legible whitewash.

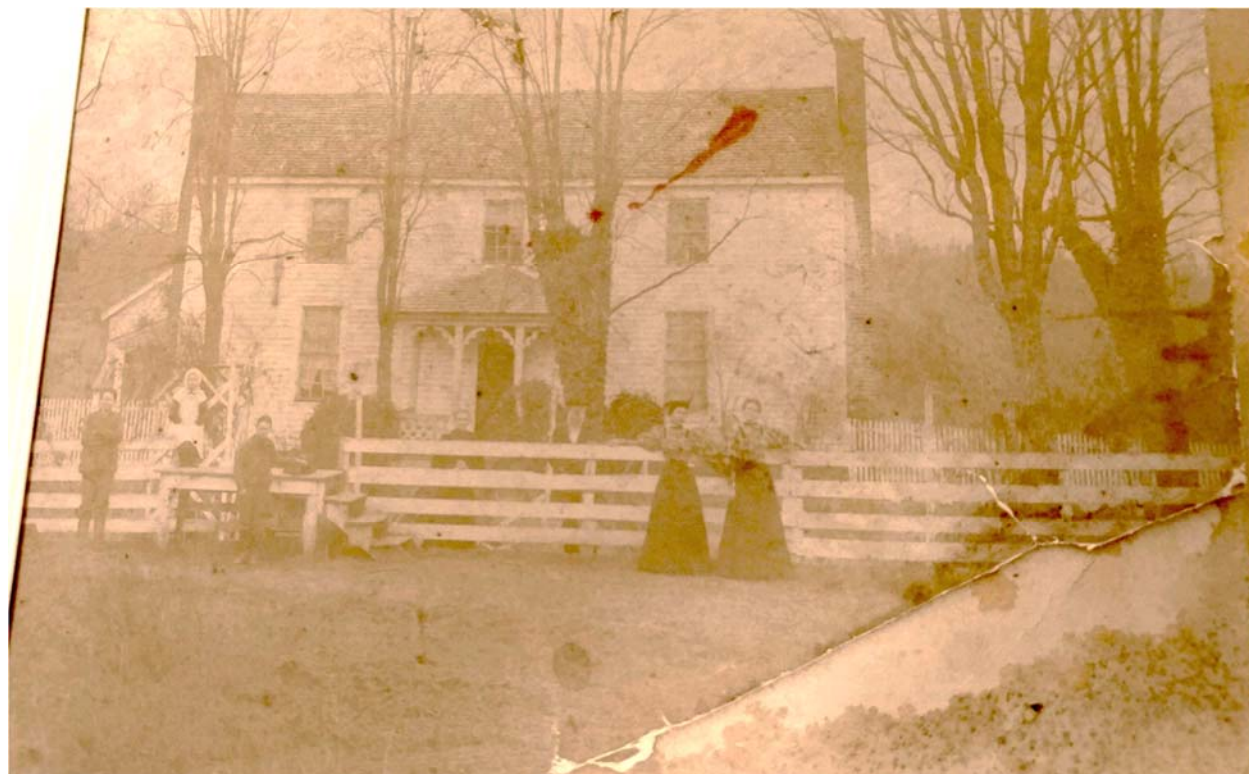
The original windows are 9/9 double-hung sash on the first story and 6/6 double-hung sash windows on the second story. The original exterior window and door trim is reeded. The windows of the first story of the remainder of the house are 6/6 double-hung sash windows with simple trim. The half-story windows are six-light fixed-sash windows.

The primary elevation faces north and has a symmetrical three-bay façade. The entrance is centered and topped by a four-light transom. The single-leaf ten-panel door is an unusual

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architectural feature in Amherst County and the surrounding region. The entrance is sheltered by a one-story, three-bay porch with a hipped roof, concrete deck, and brick piers supporting battered Craftsman-style columns. Constructed in 1935, it replaced an earlier wooden porch.¹



C. 1890 photo of the Royster C. Parr House showing the earlier wood porch (original photo in possession of property owner)

The east (side) elevation features a one-story, three-bay concrete porch that joins the 1843 section and the 1935 addition. Square posts support the shed roof. The 1843 section has a single bay on both stories located south of the gable end chimney. There were likely two windows here that were moved from the rear or south wall when the 1860 ell was constructed. The first-story window was replaced by a single-leaf entry in 1935. The door has three horizontal panels below a window of four lights. There is another single-leaf entry on the 1935 addition; it faces north. This door has four solid vertical panels.

The south elevation of the main block of the house retains two of its original windows on the west side of the elevation, as well as a four-light fixed-sash window in the basement. The south elevation of the 1860 rear ell has a single window flanking each side of the chimney.

¹ The owner, Edward B. Saunders, Jr., has a c. 1890 photograph of the house. This shows the earlier wood porch which was proportionally smaller than the current concrete porch. It was three bays wide and had a steep, hip shingled roof. The roof was supported by square posts and decorative brackets. At this time, there were no shutters on the windows and the kitchen outbuilding is visible behind the house.

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The only feature of the 1843 block's west gable-end elevation is the chimney of brick laid in seven-course common bond on a parged, stepped base. The west elevation of the rear ell has a six-light fixed-sash window south of the entry. The entry is centered and consists of a single-leaf aluminum storm door with 1/1 aluminum storm sashes. Flanking the door are a narrow sash on the north and a wider sash on the south. Access to the door is via a set of wood steps consisting of five risers.

Interior

The intact interior plan has a center passage with a single room to either side of the hall on both floor levels. The 1860 rear ell, one room deep and one-and-a-half stories high, joins the east room on the south side of the house. The 1935 additions were added onto both sides of the 1860 addition, with the 1935 kitchen on the east side and the bathroom on the west. The bathroom is accessed from the center hall. The original wood flooring remains, but in 1935 it was covered by medium-gauge flooring in the south and east rooms and in the center passage; the west room's original flooring remains intact. The treads of the open dog-leg stair were replaced, and the house was electrified in 1935. The original light fixtures remain.

1843 Main Block

This area of the house retains much of its original woodwork and architectural features. These features display transitional decorative elements attributed to both the (then) dated Federal style of architecture and the (then) popular Greek Revival style. Elements that contain typical Federal style traits include the wide baseboard, the chair rail, and the architrave door and window trim. Other features include the ten-panel entry door and the main stair's scrolled stringers, round rail, square balusters and turned posts and newel post, as well as the reeding used in the band beneath the chair rail of the passage and the reeded elements of the mantels.

Greek Revival style features of the house include the five-panel doors throughout the interior of the house. These doors are copies of Plate XXXIX of Asher Benjamin's *The Builder's Companion or Practical House Carpenter*.² Three of the four mantels in the oldest section of the house have reeding in the centerpiece, but each differs from the other while showing both the influence of the Federal and Greek Revival styles. All four mantels have fluted pilasters. The east room mantel has an undecorated center tablet. The west room mantel has reeded capitals and reeding in the tablet. The east bedroom and west bedroom mantels have reeded centerpieces, but the east bedroom mantel has scrollwork on each side of the pilasters.

The 1860 rear ell addition

This dining room addition was built behind the east room of the house and had a half-story room above, all simpler in decoration than the main block. There is a wide baseboard and simple molding around the five-panel east door and the windows on the south wall. The molding of the north entry differs from that of the rest of the room and has a door with four vertical panels. The

² Asher Benjamin, *The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter* (Boston: Sanborn, Carter, & Bazin, 1856), 153, accessed October 30, 2020, babel.hathitrust.org. This work was originally published in 1830.

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door on the west dates from 1935 and has two vertical panels below a sash with nine lights. The fireplace mantel in this addition differs significantly from those of the 1843 section. It has a simple design with a double convex curve, undecorated centerpiece, and a narrow over-mantel mirror. The boxed stair to the half-story is in the northwest corner of the room and has a vertical-board (batten type) single-leaf door. The half-story of the addition has only a wide baseboard for decoration.

The 1935 Kitchen and Bathroom

The kitchen has intact original 1935-era fixtures, cabinetry, and appliances. There is a built-in corner cabinet in the northwest corner of the room. The room is simple in its decoration.

The bathroom retains its original sink and toilet. The footed tub was removed and replaced with an enclosed shower in the 1980s. The tub was saved and is stored in the kitchen outbuilding.

Outbuildings

The kitchen, smokehouse, and woodshed are connected to the main house by a series of narrow c. 1935 concrete sidewalks from the entrance of each building to a sidewalk from the east (side) porch of the main house. All of the outbuildings are contributing resources as they illustrate improvements made to the property during the late 19th century and coincide with renovations to the main house during the mid-1930s. The mid-1930s improvements marked the last significant architectural changes to the property.

Kitchen, c. 1890, contributing building

The detached kitchen stands close to the southwest corner of the main house. It is a 15 x 12 ½-foot, one-and-one-half-story frame building with a standing-seam metal gable roof. It is built on stone piers. Evidence in the half-story suggests that the building was constructed c. 1890. This evidence includes the presence of a ridgeboard as part of the roof construction, the bird's mouth joinery at the ceiling plate, the uprights mortised to the plate, and circular sawn lumber. The gable front of the building faces north. There is a single stone riser into the building. The main elevation has a single-leaf vertical-board door, and a six-light fixed-sash window in the gable. There is a visual demarcation between the window and door that suggests some type of covering was above the door. According to the owner, there was a breezeway between the kitchen and house at one time. The east and west elevations each contain a two-light fixed-sash window. The south (rear) elevation has a brick chimney flue near the southeast corner and centered on the elevation is a 6/6 double-hung sash window. Above it, in the gable, is a six-light fixed-sash window. The interior has a single room on each floor. The main room has a wood floor with remnants of linoleum that was placed at the entry. The door and window trim are simple. In the northwest corner is a boxed stair to the half-story. It has a batten door. The building is used for storage, and the original footed tub from the bathroom is stored here.

Smokehouse, c. 1890, contributing building

This a one-story log building sitting directly on the ground, east of the main house. It has board and batten siding and a standing-seam metal front-gable roof. The interior logs are hewn and have wood chinking. The interior construction of the building suggests it dates from the late

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nineteenth century. The building measures 10 x13 feet. The front faces west, and it has a centered entrance. The door is missing, but the hardware remains. The building contains a single room and is used for storage.

Woodshed, c. 1935, contributing building

The woodshed is built of frame with vertical-board siding. It sits on the ground, and the gable front building has a standing-seam metal roof and faces west. It measures 10 x 12 ½ feet in plan. The entry is off-center, and no evidence suggests that it ever had a door. Construction materials and techniques suggest the building was built c. 1935. The interior has a single room, currently used for storage.

Machine Shop, c. 1935, contributing building

The machine shop is in the northern part of the yard, on the north side of the driveway, where the driveway meets the main road. The building faces south and is a simple one-story frame building with board-and-batten siding, expanded with a shed-roofed board-and-batten sided extension to the north and a vertical-board addition to the east. The building has a partial pier foundation on the rear. The multiple roofs are all standing-seam metal. It measures 10 ½ x 13 feet in plan and the materials and construction of the building suggest it was built c. 1935. The gable front of the original building has a centered single-leaf vertical-board entry door. West of the door is a six-light fixed-sash window. East of the main section is the east addition. It has a large entry and is in disrepair. The west elevation has two six-light sashes in the main block. The entry to the north addition has a single-leaf vertical-board entry door on the west side. The north elevation has a nine-light fixed-sash window on the east elevation. The building is currently used for storage.

Tobacco Barn, c. 1890, contributing building

The tobacco barn stands in the field across Parrtown Road from the Parr House. It is a frame, two-story building with vertical-board cladding and a standing-seam metal gable roof, built on stone piers. It is a typical tobacco flue-curing barn of the late nineteenth to early twentieth century. It has a small single-leaf vertical-board door and a flue on the lower portion of the south elevation. The west elevation is all wood. The north elevation has a large opening with lower rails located in the northeast corner. There are two small narrow openings in the center area of the east elevation. The tobacco barn is currently used for hay storage. Historic-age tobacco barns are an increasingly rare resource type in Virginia as farmers now rely on other cash crops.

Integrity Assessment

The Royster C. Parr House and its collection of outbuildings possess integrity of location, setting and feeling. The house and outbuildings remain on their original sites and the property remains in its rural setting surrounded by farmland, and there are no non-contributing resources. These characteristics are central to the property's integrity of feeling. The house and outbuildings retain integrity of workmanship, design, and materials. Though the 1843 house has undergone alterations in 1860 and again in 1935, it retains the character-defining features from its original construction, including idiosyncratic commingling of Federal and Greek Revival stylistic attributes, and original features of the later additions also remain intact. The dwelling's preserved

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character-defining features include the original floor plan, staircase, exterior and interior window and door trim, moldings, mantels, baseboards, and kitchen cabinetry and appliances. None of the buildings have been significantly altered since 1935. The property has high integrity of association as an excellent example of an intact early twentieth century farmstead, incorporating an antebellum-era house and dating to a period when tobacco farming was still part of the farm's overall operation.

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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

1843-1935

Significant Dates

1860

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.)

The Royster C. Parr farmstead is a well-preserved example of a rural Amherst County farmstead with an antebellum farmhouse and nearly complete set of later extant outbuildings. This property is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The main house was constructed in 1843, a rear ell was added in 1860, and the last significant alterations to the original building occurred in 1935. The extant outbuildings date to c. 1890 - c. 1935. Thus the period of significance spans from 1843 to 1935, with the significant date of 1860 associated with the house's rear ell. This complex retains much of its historic design, material and workmanship. The house is an important example of vernacular, transitional architecture with multiple original stylistic elements of both the Federal style and Greek Revival style, found particularly in the original main block of the house. The later additions were harmonious in scale, with simpler decorative elements, and preserve the original workmanship. The five outbuildings are examples of farm buildings of the late nineteenth to early twentieth century, illustrating the property's continued use as a working farmstead, and the locations of these buildings in relation to the house exemplify the spatial relationships and interconnected functions of smaller farmsteads of the period.

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

Criterion C Justification

The Royster C. Parr farmstead is significant from 1843 to 1935. The main house was constructed in 1843, a rear ell followed in 1860, and the last significant alterations to the dwelling occurred in 1935. The outbuildings were constructed between c. 1890 and c. 1935. This property is locally significant under Criterion C for Architecture, as conveyed by the property's high level of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The property historically has been known as Woodlawn and Oak Valley. The house exhibits traits associated with both the Federal and Greek Revival styles of architecture. Although the date of 1843 is late in terms of commingling of the two styles, this late example of a transitional style building may be explained as the preference of the owner, or because it was built in a rural area where newer styles were later to become fashionable, or the carpenter was trained and familiar with the Federal style.

The Federal features of the house include the use of reeding on the exterior window and door trim. The reeding is found on the interior chair rail decoration of the hall and on several of the original mantels. Other Federal features include a rare example of a ten-panel single-leaf entry door, as well as the scrolled stringer, handrail, balusters, posts and the newel post of the main stair. The architrave interior window and door trim is also characteristic of the Federal style. The extensive use of reeding resembles work seen in houses of the early nineteenth century in the nearby New Glasgow/Clifford area of Amherst County; work believed to have been created by a

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carpenter named Peyton Keith (1778-1842). The stair and decoration of scrolled stringers and a reeded band beneath the chair rail are similar to those found in the 1812 Peyton Keith house (DHR # 005-0099). Reeded elements, such as mantels, are also seen in the Glebe (1762, NRHP 2008, DHR # 005-0010), Winton (1772, NRHP 1974, DHR# 005-0024), and Brick House (1803, NRHP 2006, DHR# 005-0002). The work in the Parr House is so similar to Keith's work that it appears plausible the unknown carpenter was trained by Keith. It is known that he acquired an apprentice in 1810. Very few of the workmen in this area are known, but the reeding seems to link this house with those of the Keith house and the three largest and oldest documented houses of the New Glasgow/Clifford area.³

The Greek Revival detail includes the three-bay façade on the exterior, and the five-panel doors on the interior. Depictions of the interior door patterns are featured on Plate XXXIX of Asher Benjamin's *The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter*.⁴

The house was expanded by a one-room story-and-a-half addition in 1860. The addition is simple in its decoration and retains much of its historic fabric. The windows originally in the location where the new addition was added were moved to the main block's eastern gable end; in 1935, the first-story window was replaced by a door as the house also underwent remodeling and modernization. The exterior was covered with new weatherboards, the west gable-end chimney was repointed and the east chimney rebuilt, and kitchen and bath additions were built on the east and west sides of the rear ell. This 1935 work was the last time significant renovation or change occurred to the house. The kitchen and bathroom retain their original fixtures, and the kitchen retains its appliances and cabinetry. The house was electrified in 1935, and many of the original lighting fixtures remain in the house. Each time the house was updated, the new work did not require significant change to the existing finishes so character-defining features were preserved. What few changes occurred often resulted in thrifty reuse of pieces such as window sash and doors.

The outbuildings are dated according to their construction techniques. The oldest are the c. 1890 log smokehouse and c. 1890 kitchen, the latter of which has a ridgeboard as part of the roof construction, bird's mouth joinery at the ceiling plate, and uprights mortised to the plate. Such techniques suggest a late-nineteenth-century period of construction. The c. 1890 tobacco barn is a typical example of the area's tobacco barns that date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Featuring closely spaced vertical board siding and small openings on the upper level, this type of barn was used for flue-curing bright-leaf tobacco, a tobacco crop and processing practice common to the Piedmont of Virginia. Within the barn, tobacco typically was hung from horizontal poles or rafters. The curing process required heat and darkness and resulted in a distinctive tobacco leaf that was light in color and lower in nicotine content when compared to burley (air-dried) tobacco.

The framing of the c. 1935 woodshed and c. 1935 machine shop and use of standardized dimensional lumber suggest these resources date to the second quarter of the twentieth century. Construction of these two outbuildings coincided with the last significant alterations to the main

³ Sandra Esposito, *The Peyton Keith House*, 2018; and *Amherst County Deed Book L*, p.365.

⁴ Asher Benjamin, *The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter*.

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house, a year after the 1934 sale of the property to Royster and Mary Parr. The woodshed and machine shop are indicative of area construction techniques and materials during the 1930s.

Other historic farmsteads in Amherst County retain their original houses but many of the outbuildings have been lost as agricultural activities, crops, livestock, and machinery changed over time. A comparable collection of outbuildings remains part of the Athlone complex (NRHP 1992, delisted 2001, DHR # 005-0119) a neighboring farm in the larger surrounding area of New Glasgow. Athlone was delisted from the National Register in 2001 because the main house burned, yet the outbuildings are still preserved. When last surveyed, Athlone's outbuildings included a brick kitchen, a fieldstone ash house, three frame hay barns, a corncrib, and a smokehouse, all of which dated to the nineteenth century. Three 1940s barns were described as having simple brace framing, poured concrete foundations, and gable roofs covered with standing-seam metal.

Property History

The land on which the farmstead is located was once part of a larger plantation, Woodlawn, that was occupied by the Edward H. Carter (1769-1825) family. After Carter's death, the lands were divided. This particular area was given to one of his sons, and the dower received the mansion house. The land remained farmland, sold to the man who married Carter's widow in 1836; he sold it in 1843.⁵

Dr. Samuel C. Gibson (1811-1874) bought the land and built his house, called Oak Valley, on the property in 1843. Dr. Gibson was a physician who worked in the Temperance, or Waller's Mill area of Amherst County. He was also active in the local community and politics from 1842 to 1860. He was appointed as one of the supervisors for the construction of a road running from New Market to Buffalo Springs and as a local election official. He served the county twice in the Virginia House of Delegates (1849-50 and 1857-58). He was described by his peers as staunch, reliable, beloved, and a forcible and fluent speaker.⁶

Gibson's first wife died in 1855, and he remarried in 1857. His new wife was a widow with children, and they moved into the house. Gibson and his second wife also had children together. The 1860 addition to the house was necessary to accommodate the growing family. Dr. Gibson

⁵ *Amherst County Deed Book W*, p. 157; Y, p. 458; z, p. 159; and BB, p. 40; and *Amherst County Will Book* 6, p. 657; 7, p. 139; and 8, p. 313.

⁶ "Samuel C. Gibson," House History, accessed October 30, 2020, <https://history.house.virginia.gov/members/7163>; *Acts of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia 1847-1848 Session*, (Richmond: Samuel Shepherd, 1848), accessed October 30, 2020, [Books.google.com](https://books.google.com); *Acts of General Assembly of Commonwealth of Virginia 1851-1852 Session*, (Richmond: William F. Ritchie, 1852), 38, accessed July 3, 2020, books.google.com; *Report of the Virginia State Library*, Vol 13-14, (Richmond: Davis Bottom, 1916), 167, accessed July 3, 2020, books.google.com; William Thomson, *Thomson's Mercantile and Professional Directory 1851-1852*, (Baltimore: William Thomson, 1851), accessed July 3, 2020, books.google.com; "Local Leaders Met to Urge Secession in 1861," *News and Advance*, 28 April 2011, accessed July 3, 2020, newsadvance.com; *Alexandria Gazette*, 24 April 1874, 2, accessed July 3, 2020, newspapers.com; *Richmond Enquirer*, 27 January 1842, accessed July 3, 2020, newspapers.com; *Richmond Enquirer*, 4 March 1846, accessed July 3, 2020, newspapers.com; *Richmond Enquirer*, 16 June 1857, accessed July 3, 2020, newspapers.com; and *Richmond Enquirer*, 31 January 1860, accessed July 3, 2020, newspapers.com.

Parr, Royster C., House
Name of Property

Amherst County, Virginia
County and State

died in 1874, and his wife remained in the house until about 1880. Patrick Gibson, the eldest son, later sold the property to Stephen Landrum (1860–1905). Landrum apparently had financial difficulties as evidenced by an 1882 deed of trust to Thomas B. Royster (1801–1894). The property was part of several court cases until 1888.⁷

In 1888, Royster became the sole owner of the property. In 1891, he divided the property between his three children: Ann (1845–1905), Betty (1847–1905) and William T. (1850–1917). He gave joint ownership of the house to his unmarried daughter, Ann, and son, William. Ann invited her sister, Betty, and her husband, James H. Parr (1853–1903) together with their nine children to move into the house. After Ann's and their parents' deaths, the Parr siblings' estates were divided between the nine children and settlement took from 1910 to 1915. The youngest sons, Royster C. Parr (1884–1955) and H. L. Parr (1881–1942), shared ownership of the house until 1934. Royster Parr and his wife, Mary (1897–1988), became the owners in 1934, and immediately they began renovations and updating the house. Royster and Mary Parr had two daughters, Cecil (1924–2001) and Mary (1920–2013). The girls shared ownership of the house after their mother's death. Cecil gradually deeded part of her interest in the house to Mary beginning in 1993. During the same time, Mary deeded her interest in the house to her son, Edward B. Saunders, Jr. He became sole owner of the house in 2003. He maintains the house and grounds and hopes to fully restore the house.⁸

⁷ *Virginia Marriage Records*, accessed July 3, 2020, ancestry.com; *1860 U.S. Federal Census*, accessed July 3, 2020, ancestry.com; and *Amherst County Deed Book* MM, p. 444; NN, p. 293; and SS, p.144.

⁸ *Amherst County Chancery Book* 11, pp. 23, 125, 127, 331; *Amherst County Deed Book* SS, p. 144; TT, p. 345; 63, pp.179, and 255; 66, p. 445; 67, p. 262; 72, p. 325; 77, p. 373; 106, p. 39; 590, p. 682; 669, p. 724; 675, p. 350; 703, p. 308; 794, p. 696; and 933, p. 501; Current owner, Edward B. Saunders, Jr. related information that his grandmother, Mary Parr, told him; and Mrs. R. C. Parr, *PIF for Woodlawn (Royster C. Parr House, DHR #005-0165)*, July 22, 1982, Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources Archives.

Parr, Royster C., House
Name of Property

Amherst County, Virginia
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Acts of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia 1847-1848 Session. Richmond: Samuel Shepherd, 1848. Accessed October 30, 2020. Books.google.com.

Acts of General Assembly of Commonwealth of Virginia 1851-1852 Session. Richmond: William F. Ritchie, 1852. Accessed July 3, 2020. books.google.com.

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Daily Dispatch. 9 June 1857. Accessed October 30, 2020. newspapers.com.

“Local Leaders Met to Urge Secession in 1861.” *News and Advance.* 28 April 2011. Accessed July 3, 2020. newsadvance.com.

Parr, Mrs. R.C. *Preliminary Information Form for Woodlawn (Royster C. Parr House, DHR #005-0165).* 22 July 1982. Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources Archives.

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Parr, Royster C., House
Name of Property

Amherst County, Virginia
County and State

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Richmond Enquirer. 30 April 1850. Accessed October 30, 2020. newspapers.com.

Richmond Enquirer. 5 August 1851. Accessed October 30, 2020. newspapers.com.

Richmond Enquirer. 29 April 1853. Accessed October 30, 2020. newspapers.com.

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Scott, Gloria E. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey Form for *Woodlawn (Royster C. Parr House, DHR #005-0165)*. June 1980. Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources Archives.

Thomson, William. *Thomson’s Mercantile and Professional Directory 1851-1852*. Baltimore: William Thomson, 1851. Accessed July 3, 2020. books.google.com.

U.S. Federal Census Records. Various years. Accessed July 3, 2020. ancestry.com.

Virginia Marriage Records. Accessed July 3, 2020. ancestry.com.

Virginia Death Records. Accessed July 3, 2020. ancestry.com.

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 # _____

Parr, Royster C., House
Name of Property

Amherst County, Virginia
County and State

_____ 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: Amherst County Museum & Historical Society, Amherst, VA;
Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #005-0165

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.28 a

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: 37.679470

Longitude: 79.0761200

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

The historic boundaries of this property are coterminous with the tax parcel perimeter lines as described in Amherst County Tax Map #39 A 114A. This map is available from the Amherst County Government and online at countyofamherst.com. The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Tax Parcel Map and Sketch Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the same parcel as described in Amherst County Deed Book 933, page 501. The boundaries include the contributing building and structures as well as the historic setting.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sandra F. Esposito

organization: _____

street & number: 140 Cradon Hill Ln

city or town: Amherst state: VA zip code: 24521

e-mail: sandiesposito@icloud.com

telephone: 540-529-0205

date: _____

Parr, Royster C., House
Name of Property

Amherst County, Virginia
County and State

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: Royster C. Parr House
City or Vicinity: Amherst
County: Amherst County State: VA
Photographer: Sandra F. Esposito
Date Photographed: June and December 2020

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

1 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0001
View: North Elevation, camera facing south

2 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0002
View: North & East Elevations, camera facing southwest

3 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0003
View: East Elevation, camera facing west

4 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0004
View: East Elevation & Smokehouse, camera facing west

Parr, Royster C., House
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County and State

5 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0005

View: South Elevation, camera facing northeast

6 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0006

View: South Elevation Chimney Detail, camera facing east

7 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0007

View: South Elevation, camera facing northeast

8 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0008

View: West Elevation, camera facing east

9 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0009

View: Outbuildings in yard near main house, camera facing southwest

10 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0010

View: Kitchen, North Elevation, camera facing southwest

11 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0011

View: Smokehouse, West & North Elevations, camera facing southeast

12 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0012

View: Woodshed, West & North Elevations, camera facing south

13 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0013

View: Machine Shop, South & West Elevations, camera facing northeast

14 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0014

View: Tobacco Barn, West & North Elevations, camera facing southeast

15 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0015

View: Interior, Center Hall & Main Stair, camera facing southwest

16 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0016

View: Interior, Main Stair Detail, camera facing west

17 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0017

View: Interior, Entry Detail, camera facing northwest

18 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0018

View: Interior, West Room, camera facing north

19 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0019

Parr, Royster C., House
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View: Interior, West Room, camera facing southwest

20 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0020

View: Interior, West Room Mantel, camera facing northwest

21 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0021

View: Interior, East Room, camera facing southwest

22 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0022

View: Interior, East Room, camera facing northwest

23 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0023

View: Interior, East Room Mantel, camera facing east

24 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0024

View: Interior, Dining Room, camera facing southeast

25 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0025

View: Interior, Dining Room Boxed Stair, camera facing north

26 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0026

View: Interior, Dining Room Mantel, camera facing southwest

27 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0027

View: Interior, Kitchen, camera facing south

28 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0028

View: Interior, Second Floor Stair Hall, camera facing north

29 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0029

View: Interior, East Bedroom, camera facing southeast

30 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0030

View: Interior, East Bedroom Mantel, camera facing southeast

31 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0031

View: Interior, West Bedroom, camera facing northeast

32 of 32: VA_AmherstCounty_ParrRoysterCHouse_0032

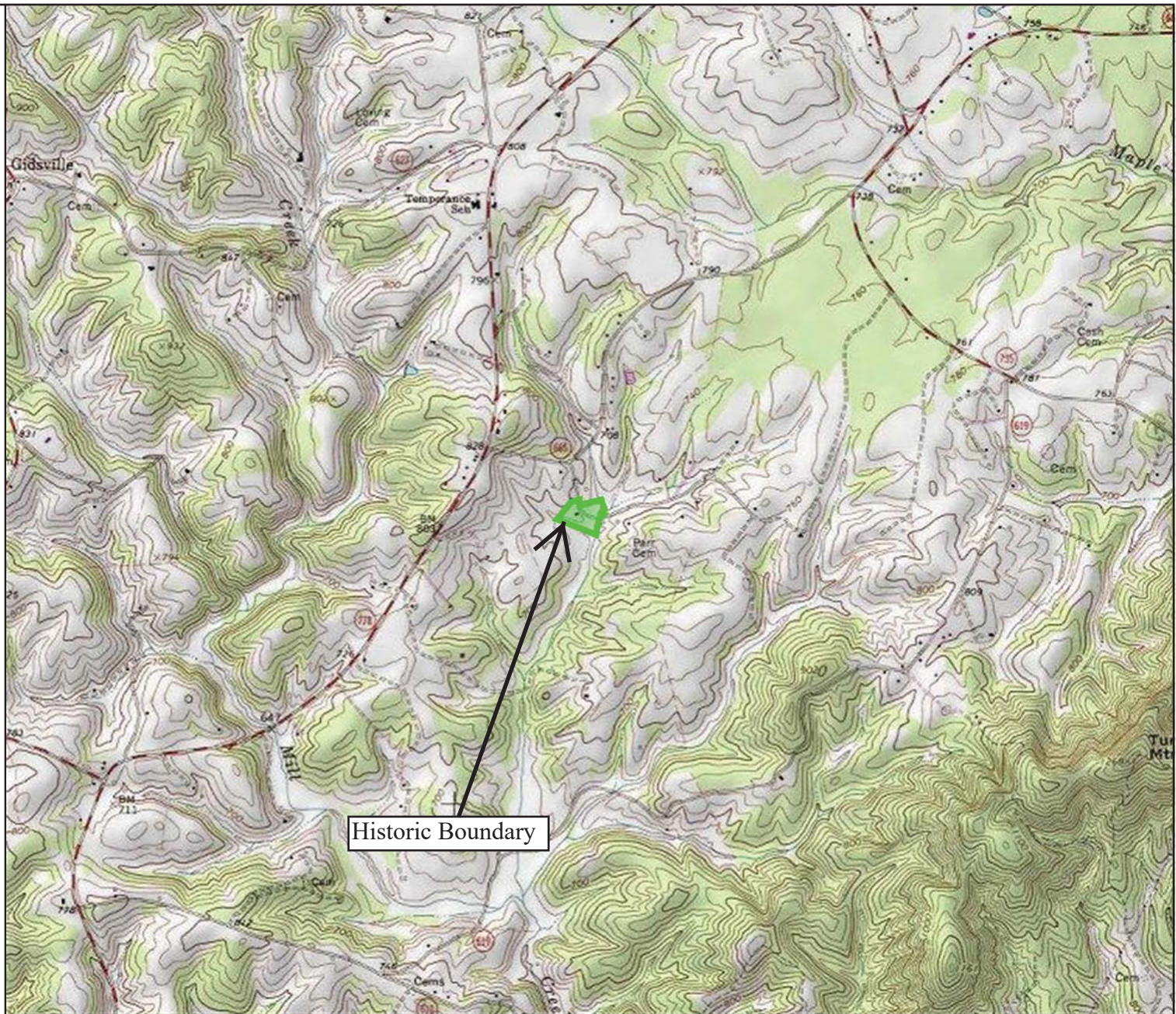
View: Interior, West Room Mantel, camera facing southwest

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.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Parr, Royster C., House
Amherst County, VA
DHR #005-0165



Historic Boundary



Feet



0 600 1200 1800 2400
1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet

Title:

Date: 8/9/2021

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

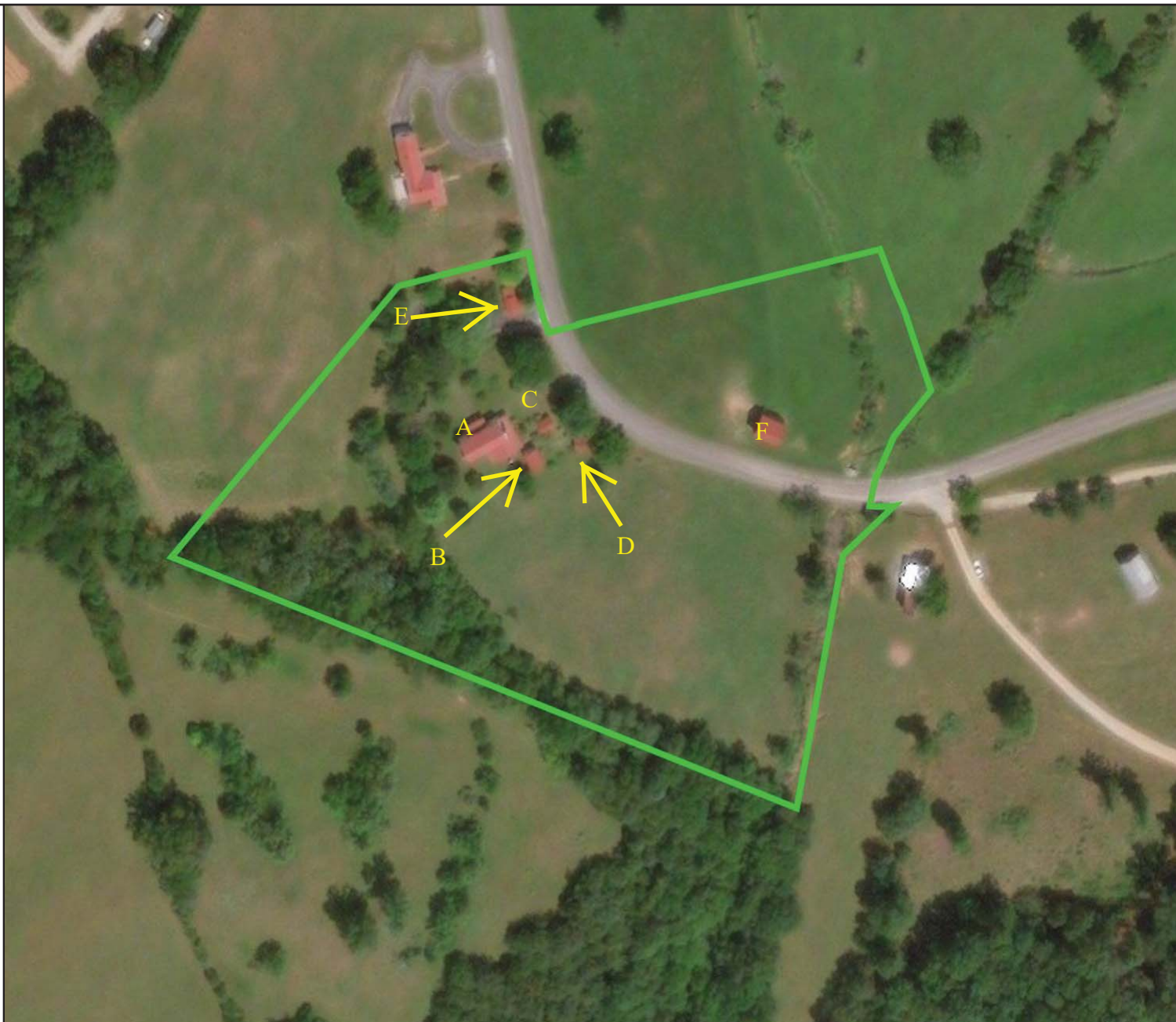
Parr, Royster C., House

Amherst County, VA

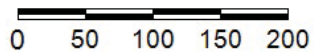
DHR #005-0165

List of Resources (all contributing)

- A. Main House
- B. Kitchen
- C. Smokehouse
- D. Wood Shed
- E. Machine Shop
- F. Tobacco Barn



Feet



1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet

Title:

Date: 8/9/2021

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 to 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.

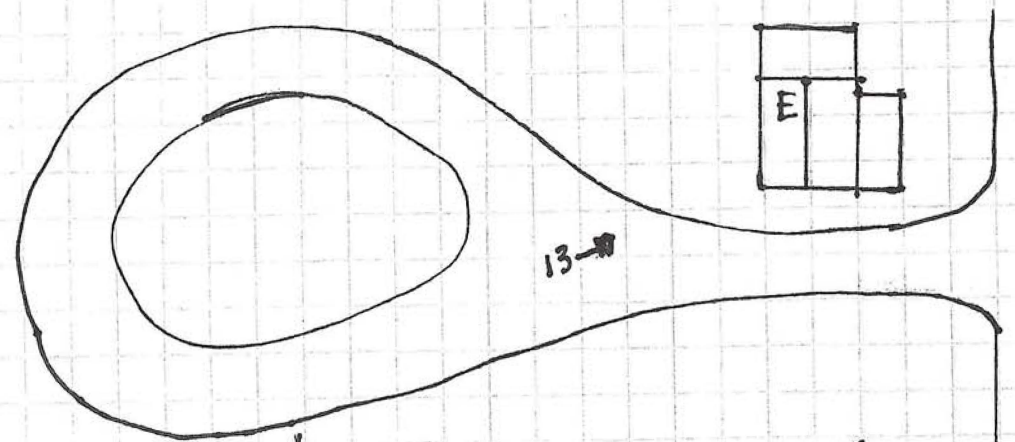


NOT TO SCALE

Photo Key (exterior views)
Parr, Royster C. House
Amherst County, VA
DHR No. 005-0165

1 → = PHOTO LOCATION

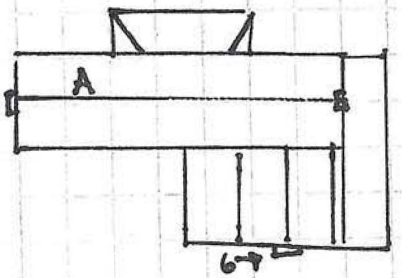
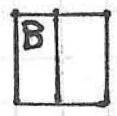
- A. MAIN HOUSE
- B. SUMMER KITCHEN
- C. SMOKEHOUSE
- D. WOOD SHED
- E. MACHINE SHOP
- F. TOBACCO BARN



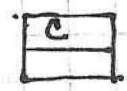
8 →

7 →

5 →



10 ↓



12 ↓

2 ↙

← 3, 4

↘ 9

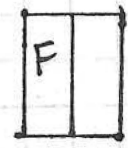
14 ↘

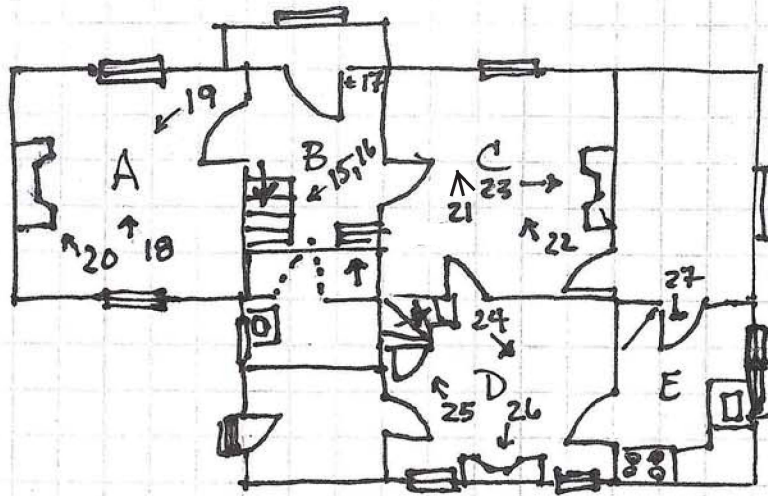
13 →

1 ↓

11 ↓

PARRTOWN ROAD





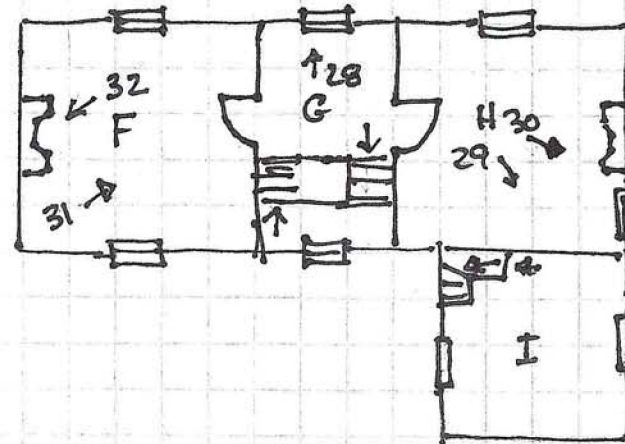
FIRST FLOOR

N
↑ NOT TO SCALE
1 → PHOTO LOCATION

Photo Key (interior views)

Parr, Royster C. House
Amherst County, VA
DHR No. 005-0165

- A WEST ROOM
- B MAIN HALL
- C EAST ROOM
- D 1860 ADDITION - DINING ROOM
- E KITCHEN
- F WEST BED ROOM
- G STAIR HALL
- H EAST BED ROOM
- I HALF-STORY ROOM

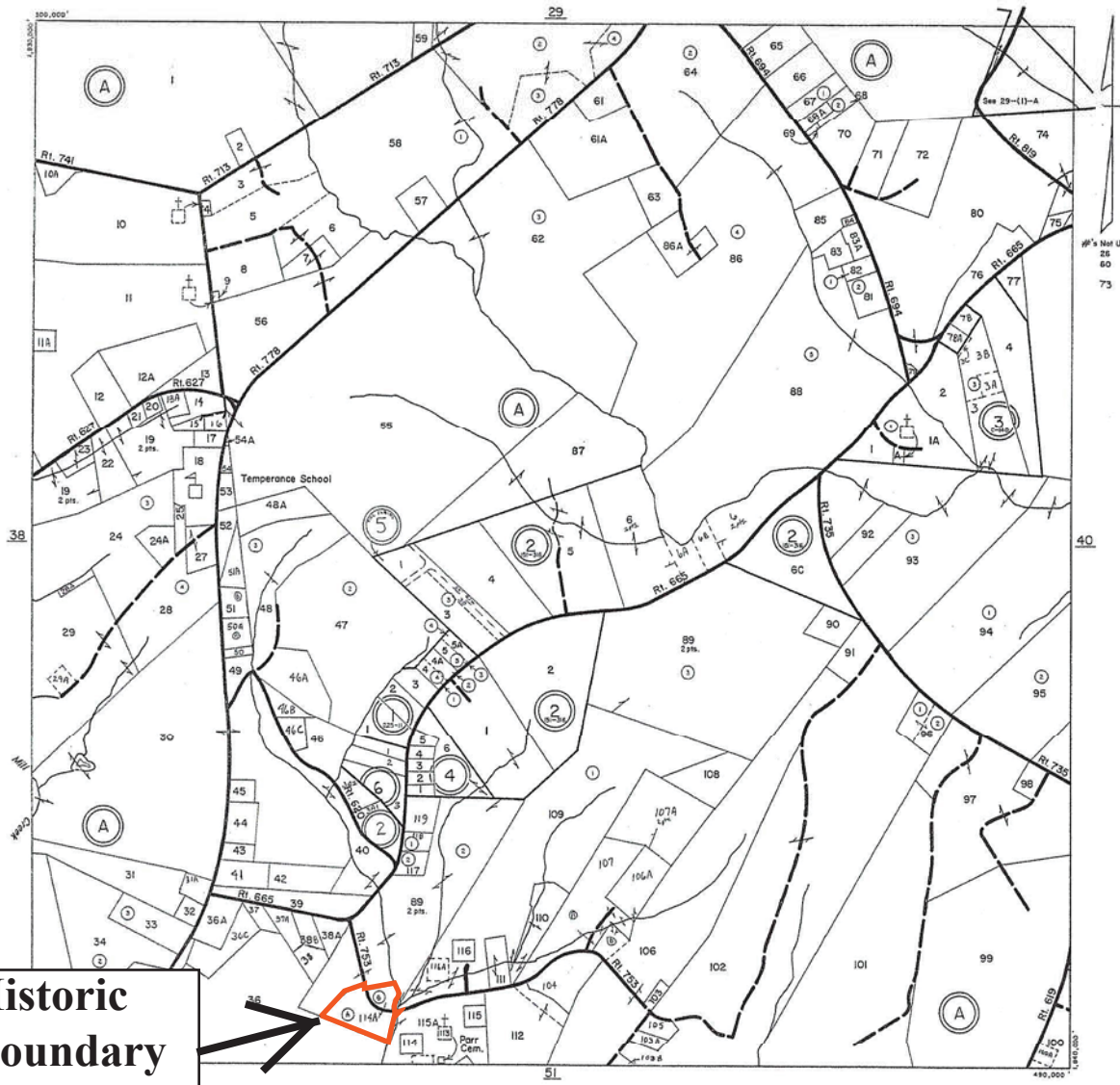


SECOND FLOOR

Tax Parcel Map

Parr, Royster C. House
Amherst County, VA
DHR #005-0165
Tax Map Parcel 39 A 114A

AMHERST COUNTY



Historic Boundary



TEMPERANCE DISTRICT

SECTION 39

REVISED: DECEMBER 31, 1988

PROPERTY TAX DIV. - VIRGINIA DEPT. OF TAXATION

Parcel map obtained 7/5/2021 from Amherst County Commissioner of the Revenue office, 100 Goodwin St., Amherst, VA 24521.