

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: Clarkton  
Other names/site number: Rosebank, Hoveloak, Ardross, VDHR 041-0048  
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: 1216 Hogwallow Road  
City or town: Nathalie State: VA County: Halifax  
Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  X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:

   A    B   X   C    D

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| <br>Signature of certifying official/Title: | <u>3/23/23</u><br>Date |
| <u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u><br>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government                         |                        |

|  |      |
|--|------|
| In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register<br>criteria. |      |
| Signature of commenting official:  | Date |
| Title : <span style="float: right;">State or Federal agency/bureau<br/>or Tribal Government</span>       |      |

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>17</u>    | <u>1</u>        | buildings  |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | sites      |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | structures |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | objects    |
| <u>17</u>    | <u>1</u>        | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling; secondary structures: detached kitchen/laundry, ash house, dairy, smokehouse, pump house, carriage house, chicken house, store house, privy, and icehouse

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: three granaries, stable, storage barn, tobacco packing barn, and equipment barn

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

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

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

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; STUCCO; WOOD; STONE; Slate;  
METAL

### Narrative Description

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

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### Summary Paragraph

The imposing 5,500 square foot Greek Revival primary dwelling, a two-story, five-bedroom mansion, stands atop a high promontory .75 miles west of the Staunton River, and 100 yards east of Highway 632 in rural Halifax County, Virginia. The brick exterior is rough coated and scored to simulate granite blocks, with a monumental two-story, double-paired Doric column portico in front, and a wide frieze displaying metopes and triglyphs wrapping the entire second story of the house. Built for Charles A. Clark between 1844 and 1848 by Dabney Cosby and Dabney Cosby, Jr., the house includes 17 contributing resources: detached kitchen/laundry, ash house, dairy, smokehouse, pump house, carriage house, chicken house, storage building, privy, three granaries, stables, storage barn, tobacco packing barn, equipment barn, and icehouse. The estate was originally called "Rosebank" in 1752 by the first owner, Thomas Yuille, but Charles Clark chose the name "Hovelock" (an Indian name for "high promontory") when he purchased the property in 1842. "Clarkton" became the common name for the plantation during the time of his son, Thomas Clark, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The original 2,052-acre tract, purchased by Charles Clark for the sum of \$25,000, grew to over 6,000 acres during Thomas's ownership. The original house on the property, built by Thomas Yuille sometime after he purchased the property in 1752, was replaced by the current house built in the 1840's. Still in

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a remarkably good state of preservation, the Clark house, with only one addition circa 1920, retains historical integrity in its setting, architectural styles, and original contributing resources of the 1840s Greek Revival dwelling, and represents a significant architectural contribution to this community and region.

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## Narrative Description

### *Setting:*

The six-acre landscaped area surrounding the house, adjoining the east side of State Highway 632, was originally encompassed by farmland that is now planted in pines. Directly in front of the house is an alley of large English boxwoods extending from the front portico to an iron-gated entrance by the highway. To the north and south of the alley are two parallel rows of large Osage Orange trees, American Holly trees, and oak trees on each side that help to define the circular drive approaching the house. To the north side of the house at the rear, extending northward about 75 yards, is an alley of tall western cedars (now mostly dead standing trunks) called the "cedar walk" or "cemetery walk" leading in the general direction of the Clark cemetery. The remainder of the lawn around the house is dotted with large oak, cedar, dogwood, redbud, walnut, magnolia, and ornamental spruce trees, along with crepe myrtles, azaleas, day lilies, and other perennials.

### *House Exterior:*

The main house is constructed of brick, the exterior walls stuccoed and scored to simulate large granite blocks, capped with a slate-covered hip roof, and decorated with a wide frieze including triglyphs, metopes, and wide dentil blocks along the eaves. The west-facing central front double doors with side lights and lighted transom are flanked by a large six-over-six window on each side, and three six-over-six windows directly above the downstairs windows and doorway. The monumental two-story portico with closed pediment is supported by two pairs of double Doric columns and features five imposing concrete steps that rise from the ground to the portico. The south entrance features a square single-story porch, covered with a seamed tin roof, and decorated with a white trellis on three sides. The southeast corner of the house features a covered porch with south-facing concrete steps that lead directly from the detached kitchen to the indoor kitchen entrance. The stuccoed walls on this porch, as well as the remaining exterior walls on the east side of the main house, are not scored to simulate large blocks, as is the rest of the house exterior. On the northeast corner of the house facing east there is a 10' x 25' uncovered raised veranda with an outside entrance to the rear central hall. Twenty-two of the thirty-nine windows of the house are fitted with hardware for louvered shutters, the majority still functional.

### *House Interior: First Floor*

The main entrance of the house, facing west, opens through a pair of double doors with a granite threshold, leading into the front foyer between the parlor in the northwest corner of the house, and the library in the southwest corner. Both rooms feature a matching eight-panel door cased with unadorned flat plinths, corner blocks, and wide, flat casing. The circular staircase, with a raised-panel spandrel, smooth balusters, and delicately turned newel post and round railing,

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begins by the doorway to the library and spirals to the left, extending upward to the second level front hall between two west-facing bedrooms.

The parlor includes a grand plaster ceiling medallion with large flower pedals emanating from the center, surrounded by rectangular coffers, and trimmed with acanthus leaves and a patterned border. The two large six-over-six windows, resting on granite sills, have weighted cords for both sashes. The walls are decorated with a simple, rectangular-configured applied molding, and the entire ceiling border is decorated with a graceful plaster crown molding. The wide plank pine floors, still in excellent condition, retain remnants of the original dark finish. The door and window casings in the parlor feature a very unusual three-sided geometric shape (like a bisection of a hexagon) rising from the plain plinth to the unadorned corner blocks.

The library (so designated by the blueprints for the 1920s addition), to the right of the foyer, also features an unusual two-sided casing pattern, like a horizontal quadrilateral triangle, that surrounds the two windows, foyer door, and double passage doors to the south hall. The interior-built fireplace on the south wall is flanked by a built-in bookcase with decorated glass doors on the right, and a six-over-six window on the left. The library, as well as the dining room on the east side of the house, and the south hall, also features rectangular-configured applied molding decoration on the walls and above the mantelpiece. Between the library and the dining room is the south entrance hall, which was the original location for the service staircase to the upstairs (that was relocated to the rear central hall during the 1920s addition). Today this hall features three pairs of French doors, one pair to the library, one pair to the dining room, and one pair between the south hall and the rear central hall, and the south entrance exterior door, with a six-over-six window to the right of it.

The dining room, with an interior-built fireplace on the east wall, features an original wooden mantel with two stately octagonal columns and Doric capitals supporting an undecorated shelf, and to the right of the mantel, a passageway to the indoor kitchen. The north and south walls of the dining room have opposing six-over-six windows, and all the door and window casings in the south hall and dining room feature contoured casings with decorated corner blocks and flat plinth blocks. The small indoor kitchen features two six-over-six windows, a half-French outside entrance door facing south, and a storage pantry with open shelving on two walls and one six-over-six window facing east.

The doorway from the south hall to the rear central hall leads to the service staircase for the second floor, to an outside entrance that opens onto a raised veranda on the east side of the house, and to a double French door connecting the front foyer to the rear hall. Directly past the service staircase, in the northeast corner of the house is a bedroom that features two six-over-six windows, one centered on the north wall of the bedroom, and one flanking the fireplace on the east wall of the bedroom, with a small six-over-six window on the east wall of the of the small adjoining bathroom.

*House Interior: Second Floor*

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Upstairs, at the front of the house facing west, are two equal-sized bedrooms (24' x 25') with a fireplace on the north and south walls, respectively, each featuring an unadorned wooden mantel with flat columns, and two large six-over-six windows. Both bedrooms have a secondary entrance to the rear central hall, but only the south bedroom has a built-in closet. The walls are decorated with a simple picture rail at the top, and the windows and vertical tri-paneled doors are surrounded with simple flat casing and corner blocks that show evidence of wood graining, simulating pine, in the original dark varnish finish. All the doors and trim upstairs are painted beige, applied presumably during the 1920s renovation. The upstairs hall directly above the foyer features a six-over-six window overlooking the front entrance, and two opposing primary entrances to the west-facing bedrooms. The third original upstairs bedroom, on the east side of the house (directly above the dining room), features a centered fireplace on the east wall, an enclosed closet on the interior (west) wall, and two opposing windows facing north and south. The added fourth bedroom upstairs features the same floorplan as the bedroom beneath it on the first floor, with the only difference being the entrance to the second-floor bathroom opens into the rear central hall, whereas the downstairs bath opens into the bedroom.

#### *House Addition (circa 1920)*

Grace Clark, recently widowed wife of Thomas (who died in 1919), Charles' only son, undertook the task of bringing the house into the twentieth century, without major alterations to the existing floorplan or period character of the house. As included in the description above, she approved the addition of one bedroom and bath to each floor in the northeast corner of the house, essentially creating a square house from an L-shaped one. The newly created rear central halls, one on each floor, connected by the service staircase, adjoin the bedrooms on each floor for easy access to the public rooms on the first floor. A separate linen closet was also created on the second floor where the original service staircase was located. At this time gas lighting (carbide gas) was also introduced to the house by way of galvanized pipes running under the floors from the pump house. What Grace accomplished was a practical but attractive addition to the house that sustained the architectural integrity of the original rooms, while providing a better access between the floors, better amenities, and discreet access to the kitchen. The outside appearance was enhanced by the monumental portico at the front entrance, the triglyphs and metopes added along the wide frieze, and large dentils under the eaves. The south side entrance, once covered by the porch extending the full length of the south elevation, and the only service entrance from the outdoor kitchen, was modified to a simple 16' x 16' covered concrete porch with a trellis on each side. The result was not an addition of conflicting styles, but an amplified version of the Greek Revival style, with all the necessities of twentieth-century life included. The rough coating to the exterior of the house was extended to the additions, and the interior doors and casings duplicated the original simple style in design and dimension. Grace was certainly a well-traveled woman with a keen eye, born and educated in New Orleans, who knew exactly what would make this house an elegant and unified example of this grand style. With the assistance of an unknown architect, she accomplished the impressive transformation.

#### *Outbuilding Inventory:*

To the east (rear) of the house stands a set of dependencies flanking the main house which are significant for both their age and architectural interest. The largest secondary resource, the

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detached kitchen and laundry, is on the south side of the house at the rear, with three other contributing resources, the dairy, smokehouse, and pump house, just east of the main house. These buildings represent the most essential services needed for day-to-day living in the nineteenth century: fresh water, food preparation, and food preservation. But they also demonstrate an architectural harmony among the buildings that is anything but vernacular. Each resource is keyed by number to the attached Sketch Map/ Photo Key.

1. The 30' x 18' *kitchen/laundry*, is a two-room brick building with a large central chimney that serviced an open stone hearth for cooking and food preparation on the west side, and a small firebox with mantel on the east side. The exterior, now stuccoed, is painted white, with three six-over-six windows in the kitchen and two in the laundry. The interior brick walls are brown-coated, the ceilings are covered with painted pine tongue-and-groove boards, and the floor, except for the raised stone hearth, is earthen. Some documents describe a large crane that was attached to the hearth to move large cooking pots on and off the fire (which is now missing). The single entrance from the main house to the detached kitchen is directly accessed by the steps to the 1920s indoor kitchen addition at the rear of the house. The laundry room, on the east end of the kitchen/laundry building, is slightly smaller than the kitchen, and shows evidence of a wood floor, although now missing, and has a small mantel attached to the firebox fitted with an eyelet for a free-standing wood stove. A single door, made of pine planks, and matching the kitchen door, is the only entrance to the laundry. Some accounts refer to this room as the cook's quarters, and it may have served both purposes at various times.
2. The *ash house*, one of only two known remaining in Halifax County (the other being at Berry Hill), is a small brick structure (6' x 6') located 20' from the kitchen/laundry. Its purpose was to hold the ashes from the household fireplaces until they were used to manufacture soap. The A-frame tin roof is supported by hand-hewn and notched rafters, and the open gables allow the ashes to burn out and cool, away from the house, but kept dry and clean. A small 2' x 3' opening facing the laundry allows for easy access.
3. The third of the brick dependencies, the *dairy*, is a single-roomed, west-facing building measuring 12' x 16', with an earthen floor, brown-coated interior walls, and a plaster ceiling over split lath. The hand-hewn rafters (with sawn timbers married to some rafters for added strength) support a low-pitched A-frame tin roof extending the full length of the building. The only access to the dairy is a wooden paneled door on the west side under the porch, supported by a door frame with pegged lintel and threshold. The east side features a 3' x 4' pegged frame window with mortised horizontal louvered slats (an exact copy of the original). The porch is supported by two massive L-shaped columns made of brick and stuccoed, with wood trim around the front and two sides including crown molding and narrow eaves. The exterior brick, also stuccoed with residual marks of scoring to resemble granite blocks, resembles a remarkable miniature of the main house. It is likely that the Yuille house had access to a dairy, but it is unknown whether this dairy was from the Yuille estate, or perhaps adapted by the Clarks from an existing building.
4. The *smokehouse*, directly beside the dairy on the north side, is a tall post-and-beam frame building, 16' x' 16' covered with pine weatherboard and supporting an A-frame tin roof. The architectural style, with mortise and tenon sill joints, pegged cross bracing, built on



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stacked-stone pillars, may suggest a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century origin. The interior floor, once earthen or other material, is now covered with roughly poured concrete. The cross poles for hanging cured meats remain, and the interior walls are covered with stiff wire mesh to protect the contents of the building from rodents. The small west-facing entrance is protected by a plank door.

5. Directly in front of the smokehouse is the 8' x 12' *pump house*, a late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century building built over a well casing and a large metal tank set 10' below grade. It features frame construction built over a poured-concrete foundation with a raised plank floor, originally covered with weatherboard showing significant weathering, but now covered with wire mesh and stuccoed. What may have been a repurposed well house, or new construction in the 1920s renovation, the pump house was outfitted to hold the carbide gas lighting generator installed at this time by the J. B. Colt Company. There are a few remaining pressure gages still attached to the blackened interior walls, and even a brick-lined channel on the ground leading away from the building remains visible (the acceptable practice at that time for diverting waste from the gas-producing process). It must have been a remarkable sight during that period in rural southern Virginia to see a house illuminated by gas lighting. Since Grace Clark traveled back to New Orleans to give birth to her children in the early 1880's, she certainly appreciated the benefits of gas lighting in that sophisticated city.
6. Approximately 40 yards to the south of the dairy is the *carriage house*, a 13' x 20' post-and-beam building with 10" x 10" sill beams and 4" x 10" floor joists, all had hewn, with mortise-and-tenon corners, pegged corner braces, and even pegged ridge joints at the top of the rafters, standing on stacked-stone pillars. The eaves have notched trim boards to expose the ends of the rafter cross braces (now missing), creating a true dentil decoration. Some of the roof sheathing boards under the tin are 18"-wide pine boards. In 1848 Dabney Cosby's Account Book included an item in the list for the Clark house, "work done to the carriage house," which may be a reference to this building. The current building remained in use, even as a car garage, until the mid-twentieth century.
7. The building standing on the north side of the carriage house is a single-roomed, 10' x 16' *storage building* with one entrance facing west. The exterior is covered with a tin roof and sided with pine weatherboarding, without windows. The interior features a simple wood floor with unfinished open-stud walls. Because of its proximity to the chicken house, it may have been used for storing chicken feed and other supplies.
8. The *chicken house* stands on the north side of the storage building, creating a tight cluster of three buildings including the carriage house and storage building. It is 10' x 20', covered with pine weatherboarding, a tin roof, and has a short entrance door facing west. Inside there are three roosting poles on each side running the full length of the building, with a rear door opening into a large caged lot completely covered by a tin roof.
9. The *privy*, located about 50' northeast of the chicken house, is a simple 3' x 3' building with a slanted tin roof and plank door.
10. Approximately 25' south of the carriage house is one of three log *granaries*, each with a rough plank floor, tin roof, and two hinged access doors of 2' x 2' plank construction, one above the other. There is no evidence of chinking material between the logs, indicating that air circulation was expected, and a stiff wire mess covers the interior to

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protect against rodents. This granary, slightly smaller than the other two, measures 14' x 20'.

11. The second *granary*, about 10 yards further south, is slightly larger than the first, about 18' x 25', but with all other features being the same.
12. The third *granary*, directly beside the second, is identical to it in every detail.
13. East of the privy are the *stables*, a large A-frame building with an open room (presumably for hay, feed, and tack) on the west side, and three stalls for livestock on the east side. Sheep, which were used to keep the lawn trimmed, were kept here, as were the horses. This building was severely damaged by a falling tree in 2019. (The classified advertisement shown in Figure 1 included a description of a large brick stable that could house 20 horses, but its location and the reason for its disappearance have not been discovered. The current wooden stable may have been the replacement for that original stable.)
14. One other frame *storage building*, a barn approximately 75 yards west of the third granary, is a 25' x 30' building with an elevated plank floor without steps. This single doorway provides easy access as a loading dock, and indicates this barn was probably used for farm storage.
15. The *tobacco packing barn*, located at the edge of Highway 632 on the property boundary, is a tall building, one room 15' x 20', with plank floor, adjoined to a deep cinderblock basement covered with a tin roof (now collapsed). The basement area, cool and moist in the summer, was used to keep the tobacco moist and pliable during the packing process just prior to taking it to market.
16. A large two-story log *barn* with single-story sheds attached on three sides is referred to in some documents as the tractor shed. It stands approximately 30 yards southwest of the granaries. Unfortunately, the main roof has long been collapsed, leaving no way to determine the barn's layout or use.
17. The remaining building, isolated on the northeast side of the property, approximately 75 yards from the house, is the *icehouse*, constructed of stone, and built 15' below grade. The stone wall on the east side reaches slightly above ground level, but the wall on the west side rises to about six feet above ground, creating a wedged-shaped building. The Clarks later repurposed the building to create a flower house, where they could store flower bulbs and seeds over the winter. They added a bank of windows on the east side of the building and pitched the almost flat tin roof down to the west. If the original roofline followed the wedge shape towards the east, without windows, the building would resemble illustrations of icehouses of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. That appears to be the original purpose for the building.

*Integrity Statement:*

Still in a remarkably good state of preservation, the 1840s Clark House, with only one addition circa 1920, retains an exceptionally high level of historical integrity in its overall context, design, feeling, materials, setting, and location; and numerous contributing secondary resources that have not been altered or only minimally altered since their construction. Clarkton ranks among the best preserved historic domestic and agricultural properties in Halifax County and Southside Virginia.

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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**

1844-1930

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

**Significant Dates**

circa 1920

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

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

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

**Architect/Builder**

Dabney Cosby, Sr.

Dabney Cosby, Jr.

\_\_\_\_\_

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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 as applicable criteria considerations.)

Clarkton is a locally significant example of Greek Revival architecture, popular in the middle nineteenth century, in rural Halifax County, complemented by 17 unaltered outbuildings from the same period. Two other frame outbuildings, the smokehouse and the carriage house, feature post-and-beam construction, which may suggest an earlier origin. The stone icehouse may also belong to this category. The main house, built by Dabney Cosby, Sr. and Dabney Cosby, Jr., between 1844 and 1848, features the original floor plan and finishes from the nineteenth century. The circa 1820 modest additions of a small bedroom and bath on each floor, connected to the public rooms by a rear central hall and service staircase, a small indoor kitchen at the east end of the house for better access to the detached kitchen, and central gas lighting (carbide) provided modern conveniences to the house without altering its character-defining features. Doors, windows, hardware, and woodwork are original to the house, except for two mantels, one in the parlor and one in the library, that replace the originals (stolen circa 1970). A particularly fine plaster ceiling medallion in the parlor demonstrates the work of an enslaved skilled craftsman, perhaps Thomas or Shaw, or even Albert, another of Cosby's skillful plasterers, who was commended by Cosby in an 1848 letter to the president of the University of North Carolina, David Swain, for his plastering and "rough coating" technique of the highest quality.<sup>1</sup> The original design of the house, the exterior brickwork and rough coating, along with the original interior woodwork and plaster decorations, stand together to represent one of the finest examples of Cosby's Greek Revival style of architecture in Halifax County from the mid-nineteenth century.

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

*Historical Context:*

Thomas Yuille (1723–1792), born in Cardross, Scotland, came to Halifax County, Virginia, in 1752, and purchased 500 acres of land from William Oliver.<sup>2</sup> Along with his brother, George Yuille, shipmaster of the merchant ship, Snow Pelham, he established the business, "Thomas Yuille and Company, Merchants of Glasgow,"<sup>3</sup> and began to raise corn and tobacco for shipment to Scotland. Although George remained a citizen of Scotland, Thomas resided in Virginia to build a house and establish a plantation which he called "Rosebank."<sup>4</sup> At the time of his death, according to the Probate Will of April 21, 1792, Thomas left his estate to Sarah, his wife, and to

<sup>1</sup>Marshall J. Bullock, "Albert and Osborne (fl. 1820s-1850s)," 2009, <https://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/POOOO19>, May 21, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Yuille, April 24, 1791, Last Will and Testament, Halifax County, Virginia courthouse, Will Book 2, p. 507.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Yuille (1723-1792), Geneologytrails.com. In 1776, Thomas refused to declare allegiance to America, and was represented by Patrick Henry in the proceedings. Apparently, the outcome was favorable, since he was listed as a justice for Halifax County in 1787.

<sup>4</sup> Yuille, Will Book 2, p.507.

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Thomas, Jr., which included Rosebank, the livestock, and slaves.<sup>5</sup> Thomas, Jr., married Lucy Fletcher of England sometime after 1787 and together they raised seven children. At the time of Thomas' death around 1830, his two sons, Alexander and George, each inherited one-half interest in Rosebank. George, who already had purchased property in another county, sold his half interest to Alexander, who sold the entire plantation, now 2,052 acres, to Charles A. Clark in June of 1842 for the sum of \$25,000.<sup>6</sup>

Charles was the youngest son of John Clark, who at his death in 1827, deeded his 3,000-acre plantation, "Banister," to his eldest son, William (by his second wife), and set aside funds for the purchase of a river plantation for his youngest son, Charles, when he came of age.<sup>7</sup> The purchase took place when Charles, a gifted student, graduated from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville with a law degree in 1842.<sup>8</sup> His prospects for a productive career, however, were hampered by tuberculosis, contracted in his youth, which forced him to spend most of the cold winter months in warmer climates.<sup>9</sup> It was during one of his trips to Florida that he heard the abolitionist, Henry Ward Beecher, speak about the ending of slavery. As Charles returned home to Virginia that year, 1855, he came to the conviction that he must prepare for that eventuality. For the next four years Charles began building brick houses on each 300-acre tract of land, which were, as he described them, "comfortable and convenient" dwellings for tenants, along with "all necessary outhouses, barns, granaries, etc." Charles must have struggled more intensely with his health at this time, because on May 6, 1859, he placed a classified advertisement in the Richmond Enquirer, beginning with "A bad cough compels me . . .," and following with a thorough description of the property, including the interior of the main house, the list of dependencies, and even the annual income from the farm for 1858, \$7,200 (see Figure 1 below). Unfortunately, he completed only six houses before his untimely death at age 39, seven months after he placed the advertisement, and two years before the start of the Civil War.

Charles's widow, Eliza Sims Clark, managed the farm until Thomas, Charles's only son (who was eight years old at the time of his father's death), came of age to take on the responsibility of managing the plantation. After graduating from Virginia Military Institute in 1873, Thomas managed the estate (along with his mother until her death in 1897). Thomas also became a Commission Merchant in Baltimore, Maryland, an occupation that required him to spend periods of time away from home. In 1878, he married Grace Willis Thomson, daughter of a prominent Irish businessman and sugar planter in New Orleans. She arrived at the Clover, Virginia train station with several train cars full of fine furniture, quite unprepared for the transition from the

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Alexander Yuille, June, 1842, Halifax County, Virginia courthouse, Deed Book 47, p. 677.

<sup>7</sup> John Clark, December, 1849, Halifax County, Virginia courthouse, Deed Book 53, p. 402. John Clark died in 1827, so apparently the deed was recorded long after the Rosebank property was purchased for Charles in 1842.

<sup>8</sup> Charles Clark, license to practice law, July 14, 1842 (parchment), Museum of History and Culture, Richmond, Virginia, Mss/sp717 b 957.

<sup>9</sup> "Clarkton Plantation," Staunton Scenic River Tour, May, 2021, <http://www.oldhalifax.com/county/stauntonrivertour.htm>

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**THREE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE ACRES OF STAUNTON RIVER LAND FOR SALE.**

**A** BAD COUGH compels me to settle in the South, therefore, I will sell out of the best Landed Estates in Virginia, situated on Staunton River, Halifax county, not far above where the Richmond and Danville Rail Road crosses the River, which gives the best facilities possible to the markets of Richmond, Baltimore and New York; it is also convenient to Lynchburg, only thirty-five miles. Boats are passing daily to Roanoke Station, where they arrive in less than a day from my plantation, and the whole crop can be shipped at once. No estate is more pleasantly or beautifully situated in a high and healthy country.

There are three thousand one hundred and fifty-five (3,155) acres in the tract, between six hundred and seven hundred acres in Staunton river, and creek low lands equal in fertility and the production of tobacco and wheat to any lands on the river; sixteen hundred (1,600) acres in wood, most of it heavily timbered, with some of the best plant land on it in Virginia. Four years ago I divided my plantation into ten (10) farms, of three hundred (300) acres each, for the purpose of renting them out, and built most comfortable and convenient brick dwellings, and all necessary out-houses, including barns, granaries, &c., and notwithstanding Halifax is a large and wealthy county, not fifty families in the county live in better houses, or have their farms better or more conveniently fixed. My own house is a large brick dwelling, handsomely and elegantly finished, with marble mantel pieces, brick kitchen, laundry and dairy, and a large brick stable, capable of holding twenty horses, with a large storage room attached.

The farms are amply and conveniently supplied with good springs, and my net income last year (1858) from the farms was seven thousand two hundred (\$7,200) dollars. My terms will be accommodating as to time, with the purchase money perfectly secured. My post office is Whitesville, Halifax county, Virginia.

March 22—c2m

**CHARLES A. CLARK**

Figure 1. May 6, 1859, Announcement of Property Sale by Charles A. Clark for Clarkton

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public social life she knew in New Orleans, to the solitary and isolated rural one at Hoveloak in Halifax County.<sup>10</sup> During his tenure at Hoveloak, Thomas doubled the acreage of the farm to over 6,000 acres, including land on the Charlotte County side of the Staunton River, making it one of the largest bright leaf tobacco plantations in Halifax County.<sup>11</sup> In 1889, Thomas agreed to allow the Lynchburg and Durham Railroad to cross his land near the Staunton River if the company would permit him to establish a station and express office on his land. The railroad company named the station “Clarkton,” and by the early twentieth century, the entire plantation and mansion were generally known by that name.

Since opportunities to socialize with other prominent southern families were limited at Clarkton, Grace and Thomas planned a special gathering of friends to introduce their two daughters, Elise and Anita, to young ladies and eligible young men of equal social standing. This important social event, called “The Clark’s House Party” by the Richmond Times Dispatch, took place at Clarkton in July of 1903. All the guests, from the Virginia localities of Richmond, Arlington, Lynchburg, South Boston, the Bruce Estate, “Staunton Hill” near Brookneal, and from Macon, Georgia, were young single ladies and gentlemen who came to Clarkton for ten days to enjoy outdoor activities and indoor socializing. A two-story annex was erected in front of the main house which featured a dance floor on the first level, and additional accommodations on the second level for all the guests. Lawn tennis, archery, swimming, scenic walks and drives around the countryside, as well as indoor games and musical events were scheduled for the Clarks and their guests.

Except for the occasional visits from family and friends, or church related gatherings at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, the Clarks were often isolated from community interaction due to poor road conditions, especially during wet seasons. St. Thomas Episcopal, established for the Clarks by special sanction from the Virginia Diocese to serve families on the estate,<sup>12</sup> provided one of the few opportunities to gather with the community on a regular basis. Thomas, whose health also began to decline during these years, suffered from long bouts of painful leg and feet swelling, which left him bedridden for weeks at a time, with Grace as his only caregiver. Upon his death in 1919, Thomas left Clarkton to Grace, who assumed the responsibility of overseeing the operations of the estate. One of her first tasks was to update the manor house with long overdue conveniences: the addition of two full bathrooms, a central rear hall connecting all the upstairs bedrooms to the downstairs by way of a service staircase, the addition of a small indoor kitchen at the east end of the house for better access to the detached kitchen, and central gas lighting (carbide). According to the architectural blueprints found in the house, she also made provision on the exterior for a monumental front portico, with two pairs of double columns, enhanced Greek Revival frieze decorations under the second-story eaves, and a covered screen porch beside the new kitchen. In every detail, the addition enhanced the original design of the house, while making it as grand as it was practical.

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<sup>10</sup> Clark Family Papers, 1841-1934, Museum of History and Culture, Mss/Sp716 b 597. Letters to her daughters in the early twentieth century speak of her deep loneliness and discomfort, especially during the winter months.

<sup>11</sup> “Clarkton Plantation,” *ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> Grace W. Clark, “History of St. Thomas Sunday School and Church, Clarkton, Virginia,” manuscript, n.d.



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On September ninth, 1938, Grace Clark participated in the fourth annual National Tobacco Festival by opening Clarkton to the public as part of the “old plantation tours” which included Berry Hill, Seaton, Green’s Folly, and others. Elise, Grace’s eldest daughter, provided a marionette show for the guests in attendance. This was the first time Clarkton was opened to the general public since its construction nearly a century earlier. Grace died in 1940, leaving the estate to her two daughters. Both daughters eventually returned to live in the house, and during their time there, they added electric service to the house when it was made available to rural communities (circa 1940s) and installed a central boiler for heating the downstairs rooms (except the parlor), and the upstairs bathroom. Remarkably, the original interior finishes, plaster over brick, and the exterior stucco scored to simulate granite blocks, although showing some areas of deterioration and repairs over time, nevertheless retain the essential integrity of the scored block design. To this present day, the entire house, including the addition, exhibits the unified and coherent character of a grand nineteenth-century home that is worthy of commendation.

An admirable trait of the Clark family, especially the women, was showing care and compassion for the families who they enslaved over the course of three generations. Charles began by making provision for his enslaved workers to transition to a sharecropping operation. Grace was instrumental in organizing the Sunday school at St. Thomas Episcopal for all the families, Black and White, at Clarkton. Over the course of the early twentieth century, she was successful in having land donated (by her husband) for the church building, in helping the community raise funds to build the church and fellowship building, and in helping the church establish a church library for the parishioners. Elise, her eldest daughter, was concerned for the medical needs of the poorest residents of Halifax County, and upon her death in 1950, created a medical fund, in honor of her parents, for the poor and indigent in the county. Still available today, needy individuals in Halifax County may apply to Wells Fargo Bank for grants from \$3,000 to \$5,000 to cover medical expenses. Anita, the youngest, upon her death in 1970, created a scholarship fund called The Clark Scholarship Fund for graduating high school seniors in Halifax County. Scholarships vary from year to year, based on the number of applicants and investment returns, but the average annual funding tops \$19,000. The Clarks were deeply involved with their community, and even in death gave generously back to the people they loved.

*Architectural Discussion:*

According to his Account Book, Dabney Cosby (1779–1862) designed and built at least six large homes and a church in Halifax County between 1837 and 1848: Woodside, his own home (1837), Magnolia Hill (1840), Grand Oaks (1840), Creekside (1841), St. John’s Rectory (1841), Springfield (1842), and St. John’s Episcopal Church (1844). His son, Dabney, Jr. (1813–1898), also joined his father’s business and worked on numerous projects with him, sharing the labor force wherever the workers were needed. Woodside, the house Cosby built for his family, became the home of Dabney, Jr., when his father moved to North Carolina in 1839. It was during

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this period of productivity when, in 1844, Charles A. Clark contracted to have his new house built at Rosebank.<sup>13</sup>

The architectural design, workmanship, rough coating, and plastering decorations in the new house, typical Cosby trademarks, represents work that was completed by a skilled and efficient crew. Charles Clark must have been acquainted with Cosby's work during the construction of St. John's, because in the accounting list for construction materials ordered for the Clark house in Cosby's *Account Book*, page 63, there was an interesting addition: "Tinning Steeple of Church \$150" was among the items billed to Charles Clark. This was one of the last items to complete the construction of St. John's Episcopal Church in 1844. The entry later confirmed that payment was made for the work: "Paid J. B. Tilden for tinning steeple and board \$94.50."<sup>14</sup>

While the starting date for Clarkton's construction was not spelled out definitively, Cosby's contract for the building was, with the itemized inventory mentioned above, dated January 1848." The entry heading began, "Thomas and Shaw Cr [credit]" followed by "Bg. [Begin] work to Charles A. Clark building as per contract with Major Lewellyn \$1400." The itemized list follows: Sawing 57.50 yards lumber, 17,800 shingles on my land at 2\$, Half hire of Negro woman at Clarks, 1 day hire of Man Bob, Tinning of Steeple to church, work done to Carriage house, my note taken in from C.A. Clark due J. Scott." Next is the statement: "This sum paid as per changes in little book \$1578.40, paid J. B. Tilden for tinning steeple and board \$94.50, hire of hand per changes in small book."<sup>15</sup> The heading in this entry is significant for several reasons: first, Thomas and Shaw, with no recorded surnames, and therefore presumably enslaved laborers, were Cosby's workers completing the work; second, Major Lewellyn, a Halifax businessman and owner of Bell Tavern, a lodging house near the Halifax Courthouse, secured the initial contract with Charles Clark for the construction of his house.

What was not clearly stated, but presumed, is that Lewellyn, an acquaintance of the Clark family since the time of Charles' father, John,<sup>16</sup> and a frequent customer of Cosby (Lewellyn was mentioned frequently in Cosby's *Account Book*.) contracted with Clark to oversee the construction of his house using Cosby's laborers. What is clear is that Cosby was responsible for the construction of the house, confirmed by the inventory of materials, and the statement, "Begin. work to Charles A. Clark building." A possible explanation for the contract with Lewellyn is that Charles, who suffered with tuberculosis since his youth, was in poor health, and often travelled south for the winter months to ease his suffering. Lewellyn would be available in Halifax County to check on progress and make sure the construction was carried out according to Charles' wishes. It is also possible that Lewellyn made the contract with Charles, and then subcontracted the work to Cosby, a common practice of the time. Numerous entries in Cosby's *Account Book* list Lewellyn purchasing brick, lime, and other materials for various renovation

<sup>13</sup> Cosby, *Account Book*, entry June 26, 1844. The entry refers to "Thomas and Shaw," two of Cosby's laborers, and John S. Lewellyn, but does not indicate the location. It is the later reference to a contract previously made between Charles and Major Lewellyn for \$1,400 that connects the June 26, 1844 to the January, 1848 entry.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, Cosby entry January, 1848.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, Cosby entry January, 1848.

<sup>16</sup> John Clark, Last Will and Testament, Will Book 14, p. 258.

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projects, repairs, or additions to a named house or business in Halifax County. The total amount for the job was listed, as well as whether it was paid in full (usually with a double “X” across the entry or “paid” written). Cosby’s workforce, however, was not mentioned in the account book for these projects, but his workers were mentioned in the Clark project. Obviously, the exact arrangement between Lewellyn and Cosby was not clearly spelled out. It was evident that these two men cooperated on numerous construction projects in Halifax County during this time, and the house for Charles Clark seemed to fit well into this arrangement. The important fact that Cosby accounted for the materials and construction of the finished house, including the final payment from Charles Clark, \$1,578.40, indicated that Cosby was responsible for the execution of the contract. Thomas and Shaw were Cosby’s laborers in charge of the daily work schedule and crew, but they must have answered to Cosby, Jr., who oversaw the workers in Halifax County.

One anomaly that should be noted is in the statement, “Begin work to Charles A. Clark building.” That was not the usual way Cosby recorded the beginning of a project.<sup>17</sup> The most common way was to write, “[names of the laborers in charge] set into work on [month and year, even sometimes the day].” Another issue that should be noticed is the list of materials in the January 1848 entry, which included only finishing construction materials, framing lumber and shingles. The entry before this list of items was for John Lewellyn: “246 yds. Plastering and part of laths found, 4 casks lime,” and then in the same pen stroke and ink was the entry for Thomas and Shaw and following. All this material was used for the final stages of construction, and then there was, of course, the final payment to Cosby, \$1,578.40. These entries indicated that the site preparation, laying of foundation, brickwork, millwork, etc., must have been ongoing long before the lumber, shingles, plaster and lath were needed. Final payment was never made until the job was complete. A search of the pages prior to this entry in the *Account Book* showed no mention of Major Lewellyn, except for the fall of 1847: the entry for November 19 reads, “Brick chimney [sic] pulling down old one.” However, looking further back in the *Account Book* to the summer of 1844, the next mention of Lewellyn, reads: “John Lewellen [sic] to 300 bricks at 60/c [unclear, since the price was usually about \$5/100], and then in the same ink and pen stroke was this entry: “Shaw and Thomas set into work with their horses to board Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> June 1844.” St. John’s Episcopal was nearly completed by 1844, according to the *Account Book*. This entry must have indicated the beginning of a new project. On the next page another entry reads: “16<sup>th</sup> September [1844] Shaw, Thomas, and Allen to 268 lbs. bacon at 8 [cents] \$21.44.” That quantity of bacon indicated a large workforce to feed. If Thomas, Shaw, and Allen boarded their horses, they would have remained in that location for an extended period. To be “set into work” in June and needing 268 pounds of bacon in September (presumably to feed them for several months), indicated that they were working on a large project at some distance from town.

One more fact should be noted that may shed light on the chronology of this building project: the Yuille house, which Charles purchased with Rosebank in 1842, was somewhere in the vicinity of the current house. The purchase price for Rosebank was \$25,000, which must have included a substantial house on the property. The Last Will and Testament of Thomas Yuille confirms that

<sup>17</sup> J. Marshall Bullock, “Albert and Osbourne (fl. 1820s-1850s), 2009.  
<https://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P0000147>, May 21, 2021.

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the house and property were left to his wife and son.<sup>18</sup> When Charles decided to build another house, he had to consider what to do with the Yuille house, especially if the new house would be built on the same site as the old one. If it were dismantled, framing timbers could possibly have been reused in the new construction. That possibility is supported by what was found during an inspection of the current house: several large hand-hewn timbers were found in the support structure under the house, and every other ceiling joist in the attic was hand-hewn, but not the exact dimensions as its sawn counterpart. By no means conclusive, this evidence would explain what happened to the Yuille house. The alternatives to this plan, hauling the saved materials to another location, or destroying the old house, would not provide a satisfactory answer to how the mixed lumber came to be used in the Clark house construction.

A plausible explanation for these discoveries, as well as the chronology for the construction of the new house could be set forth as follows: Thomas, Shaw and their crew set into work in June 1844 to dismantle the old building, as well as to begin making the quantity of brick needed for the new house. That would take many months to complete, a fact that might explain why Cosby did not indicate this entry was for building the Charles Clark house, since, at this point, it was the deconstruction of the Yuille house. Once that phase was finished, then the brickwork would commence on the new house. One source stated that Charles wanted the house completed by his marriage to Eliza Spragins in 1846.<sup>19</sup> That seems plausible until an unforeseen weather pattern occurred. An isolated note near the end of Cosby's *Account Book* records this weather observation: "Memorable drought 1845 beginning in early April and ending 4<sup>th</sup> August." Such a catastrophic drought could account for the lapse in time between June 1844 and January 1848. The deconstruction phase would have begun, but eventually a slow-down in productivity must have occurred. Charles would also have no crops to sell in the fall of 1845. The marriage to Eliza took place as planned, but the house was not completed until late 1848.

An interesting entry in Cosby's *Account Book*, dated February 1849, reads: "Dabbs Thomas and Shaw DR [debt receivable]." That is the last mention of Thomas and Shaw in the Cosby book. The first was the entry in June 1844. Could the Dabbs reference mean Josiah Dabbs, the contractor who built Berry Hill? It would be unusual for Cosby to use only his surname, but on the same page is the entry "1849 Kitchen at Mr. Bruces [sic] 116.902 [?] at \$8 [illegible, presumably "brick at \$8] \$935.21, by cash of Mr. Dabbs 5<sup>th</sup> man \$700, \$235.21 bal. due." It is possible that Thomas and Shaw were assigned to Josiah Dabbs (purchased or hired out) to complete the Bruce kitchen at Berry Hill. Such arrangement between contractors was not unusual, since keeping the laborers productive was always a high priority.

No apparent changes were made to the Clark house until circa 1920, when Grace Clark authorized the addition of one small bedroom and bath on each floor of the northeast corner of the house. Interior changes to the existing house were restricted to moving the service staircase from the south hall to the rear hall connecting the new bedrooms and baths to the rest of the house, and repositioning the doorway between the side hall and the library to the middle of the

<sup>18</sup> Thomas Yuille, Last Will and Testament, Will Book 2, p.507.

<sup>19</sup> John Wirt Carrington, "Families: Clark," *A History of Halifax County*, Richmond, Virginia: Appeals Press, Inc., 1924. Retrieved from: [geneologytrails.com/vir/halifax/historyhalifaxbook-families.html](http://geneologytrails.com/vir/halifax/historyhalifaxbook-families.html).

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wall, mirroring the entrance to the dining room on the other side of the hall. These two doorways feature double French doors for each room, replacing the two pairs of paneled doors, which were reused as closet doors in the new bedrooms. Another original exterior door was reused to create a rear entrance connecting the back hall to a 10' x 25' uncovered veranda. These simple changes, along with the addition of carbide lighting supplied to each room by way of galvanized pipes hidden under the flooring, provided the most modern conveniences available. The additions to the exterior, a two-story monumental portico over the front entrance, a one-story covered porch over the south entrance, triglyphs, guttae, and metopes added to the existing wide frieze, and dentil blocks to decorate the eaves, embellished the existing architecture to create a grander version of the Greek Revival style. Nothing was added to the exterior that did not harmonize with the original design. Berry Hill, another prominent Greek Revival style house in Halifax County, featured similar decorations at the time of its construction, 1842–1844. The two periods of construction at Clarkton, 1844–1848 and 1920, taken together, accomplished one uniform statement of the Greek Revival style by simply amplifying the original features with appropriate and well-executed balance.

After the death of Elise Clark (1950) and Anita Clark White (1970), the personal property was dispersed in a public auction on the grounds in 1971. Each tenant at Clarkton was given 100 acres of their occupied farm, with the option to purchase more. The remaining land was sold at auction. The house and 100 acres was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Vern Holman of Portsmouth, Virginia, and 1984 the property was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Reid F. Ross. After their deaths, the property was sold at public auction in March, 2019, and the house was purchased by Dr. and Mrs. Timothy Duncan, the current owners.

#### Architectural Comparative Analysis

Compared to other Greek Revival dwellings of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century in southwestern Halifax County, Clarkton shares a highly significant common feature with only two other stately brick houses that has as much to do with the presentation of the house as it does with the detail of construction. Woodside (within Mountain Road Historic District 2015 Boundary Increase [NRHP 2015], built in 1837), Berry Hill (NHL 1971, NRHP 1969, built by Josiah Dabbs circa 1839), and Clarkton (1848) are Greek Revival-style brick houses that feature a stucco-over-brick exterior called rough-coating. Berry Hill and Clarkton include a scored pattern on the surface to simulate large cut stones. Each of the three houses is situated on a natural promontory at some distance from the state highway, emphasizing its grand, temple-like presence surrounded by a balanced green space with trees and ornamental shrubs. This presentation provides an almost mythical quality to the approach of the home, accentuating the perfect balance and proportion inspired by ancient Greek temples. The portico and centered front entrance on each house draws the eye upward first to the grand scale of the facade, and then downward to the detail of architectural elements along the eaves, windows, and surfaces. Each architectural decoration, both simple and understated, reveals careful attention to the proportion of each element in relation to the whole.

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It is interesting that only these three examples, as well as St. John's Episcopal Church (contributing to the Mountain Road Historic District [NRHP 1983], 1844, also built by Dabney Cosby, Jr.) in Halifax, all constructed within an eleven-year period, featured the rough-coated exterior that mimicked the iconic ancient Greek stonework. While Dabney Cosby and Dabney Cosby, Jr., built other stately brick dwellings during this period in Halifax County that shared the modest decoration and emphasis on proportion, such as Creekside (1841; demolished 2012) and Springfield (1842), none attempted to reproduce the impressive exterior finishing touches captured at Woodside, Berry Hill, and Clarkton. It is worth noting, however, that Springfield is known to have exterior and interior finishes completed by Thomas Day, a free Black native Virginian whose highly successful shop in Milton, North Carolina, was widely known in southern Virginia for their craftsmanship and execution of complex, idiosyncratic works.

Through the significance of its architectural design, coupled with its high integrity of overall context, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association, Clarkton satisfies Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance. Still in a remarkably good state of preservation, the main dwelling has had only one addition, circa 1920, and the larger property features numerous contributing secondary resources that offer study potential in their own right for adding to understanding of the property's historic functions and uses and how those changed over time. The generally undisturbed character of the dwelling's curtilage and around Clarkton's outbuilding also suggest potential for archaeological deposits that can provide further insight into the property's history.

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

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** VDHR 041-0048

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** approximately six acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates



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**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

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

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 36.995320 | Longitude: -78.921140 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

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

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

Clarkton is bounded on the west-northwest by Virginia Highway 632. Both the north and south boundaries are coterminous with the property lines as recorded in the Halifax County Records Office, and the east boundary has been chosen to delineate where the open landscape changes to timber land to the east-southeast property line. The historic boundary encompasses the main house, contributing resources, and the domestic curtilage. Beyond this boundary is planted timber, beyond which there are no known historic resources associated with the property's significance.

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

The property's historic setting and all known associated contributing resources have been included within the boundary.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Timothy Paul Duncan  
organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number: 1147 Daniels Trail  
city or town: Halifax state: Virginia zip code: 24558  
e-mail: timduncan2@comcast.net

Clarkton  
Name of Property

Halifax County, Virginia  
County and State

telephone: (434) 222-7767

date: February 2023

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### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

### **Photographs**

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

### **Photo Log**

Name of Property: Clarkton

City or Vicinity: Nathalie

County: Halifax

State: Virginia

Photographer: Timothy Paul Duncan, except where noted

Date Photographed: June 1, 2022, except where noted

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

1 of 27. main house: view facing east (VDHR, 2019)

2 of 27. main house: view facing east, closeup

3 of 27. main house: view facing north

4 of 27. main house: view facing south

Clarkton

Name of Property

Halifax County, Virginia

County and State

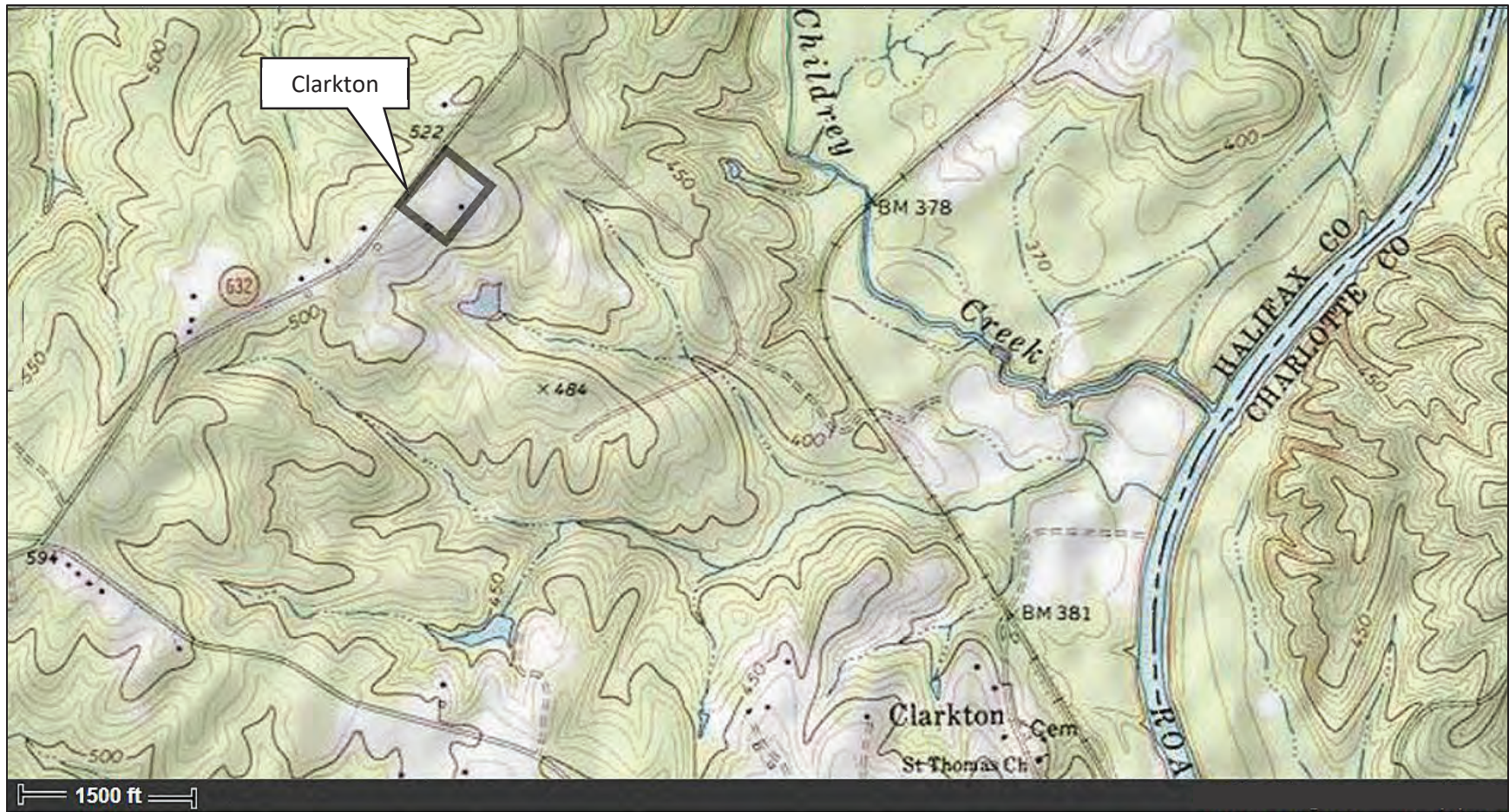
- 5 of 27. main house: view facing west
- 6 of 27. kitchen/laundry: view facing north
- 7 of 27. front foyer staircase
- 8 of 27. library door casing
- 9 of 27. parlor door casing
- 10 of 27. parlor ceiling medallion
- 11 of 27. dining room original mantel
- 12 of 27. dairy: view facing east
- 13 of 27. smoke house: view facing east
- 14 of 27. pump house: view facing north
- 15 of 27. ash house: view facing south
- 16 of 27. stone icehouse: view facing north
- 17 of 27. carriage house: view facing east
- 18 of 27. storage building: view facing east
- 19 of 27. chicken house: view facing east
- 20 of 27. privy: view facing west
- 21 of 27. stables: view facing east
- 22 of 27. granary 1: view facing south
- 23 of 27. granary 2: view facing east
- 24 of 27. granary 3: view facing east
- 25 of 27. farm storage building: view facing west
- 26 of 27. tobacco packing building: view facing east
- 27 of 27. log equipment building: view facing south

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



**TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**  
**Clarkton**  
**Halifax County, Virginia**  
**DHR No. 041-0048**



**Legend**

 County Boundaries

**AERIAL VIEW - VICINITY**

**Clarkton**

**Halifax County, VA**

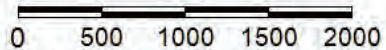
**DHR No. 041-0048**



 **Historic Boundary**



Feet



1:18,056 / 1"=1,505 Feet

**Title:**

**Date: 1/25/2023**

*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.*



**Legend**

- Individual Historic District Properties
- County Boundaries

**LOCATION MAP**

**Clarkton**  
**Halifax County, VA**  
**DHR No. 041-0048**

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

- Latitude: 36.995320**  
**Longitude: -78.921140**

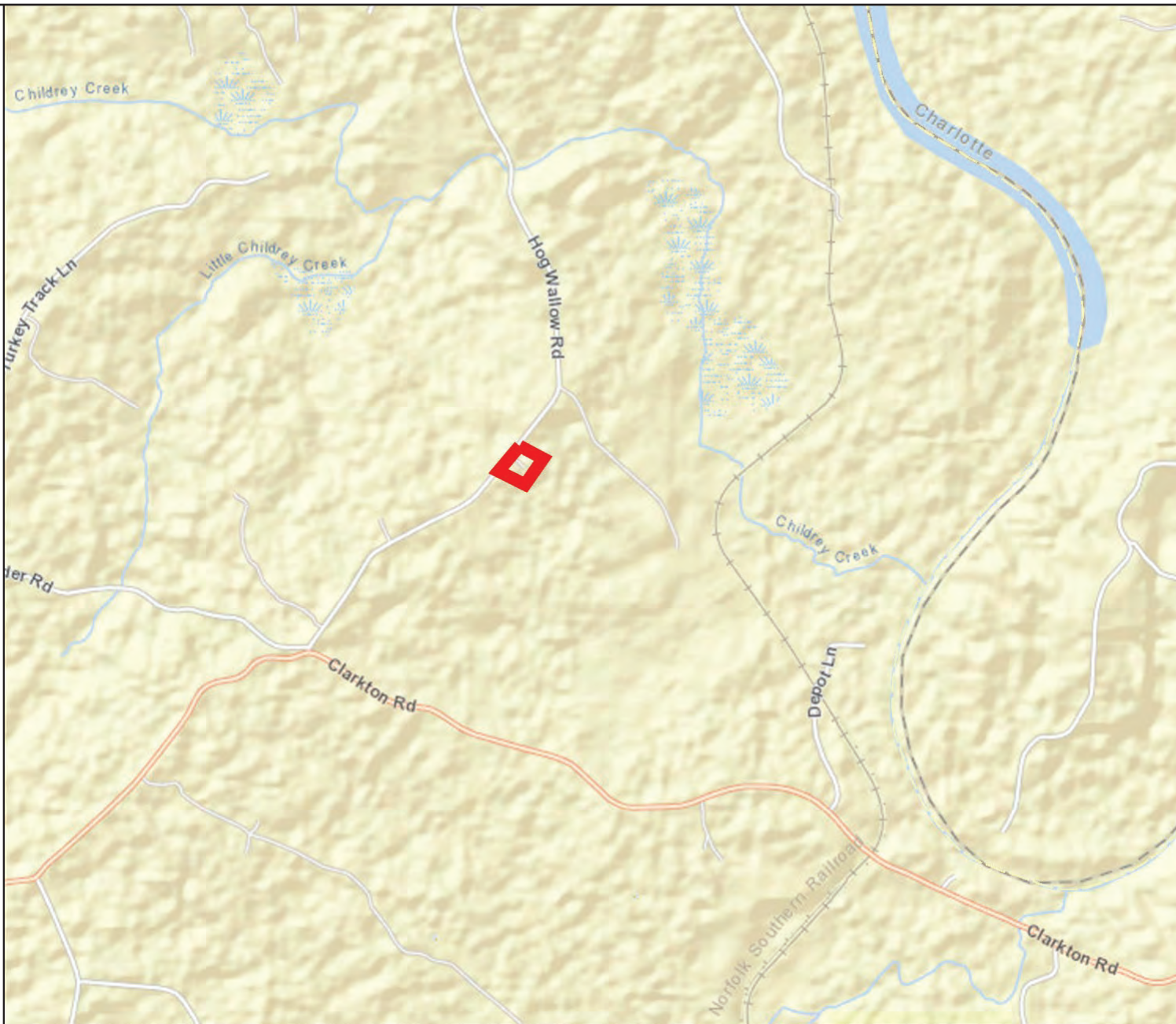
**Historic Boundary**



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400

1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet



**Title:**

**Date: 2/13/2023**

*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.*

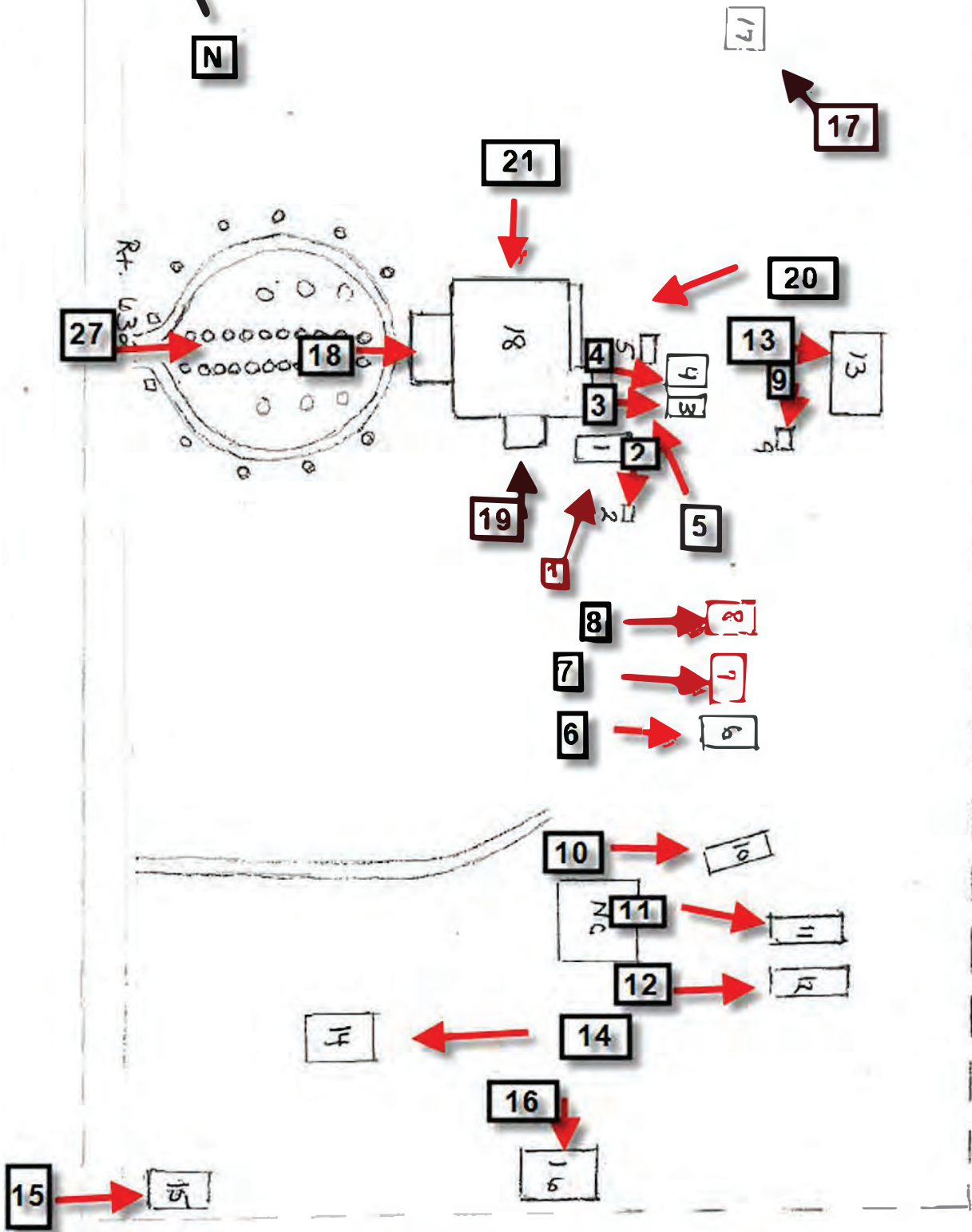
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**Clarkton  
Halifax County, Virginia  
NRHP Boundary, 2023**

Not to Scale

N



**SKETCH MAP/ PHOTO KEY**  
 Clarkton  
 Halifax County, VA  
 DHR No. 041-0048

**1**   
 Photo Locations