

VLR - 3/19/09  
NRHP - 6/3/09

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fairview  
other names/site number 005-0006

2. Location

street & number 2416 Lowesville Rd not for publication N/A  
city or town Amherst vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state VA code VA county Amherst code 005 zip code 24521

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    nationally    statewide X locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date 3/19/09  
Signature of certifying official  
**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
   entered in the National Register    See continuation sheet.  
   determined eligible for the National Register Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
   See continuation sheet.  
   determined not eligible for the National Register  
   removed from the National Register Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_  
   other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register  
 \_\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Fairview Amherst County, VA

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply) **Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** 0

**Name of related multiple property listing** (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) n/a

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single dwelling  
Agriculture/Subsistence Processing  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single dwelling  
Agriculture/Subsistence Animal facility  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century-Italian Villa

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**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
roof standing-seam metal  
walls brick  
other N/A

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance** 1867-1920

**Significant Dates** 1867

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** Nathan C. Taliaferro

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**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

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 5.9

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing									
1	17	570515E	4	17	570515E	2			3		
											4

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Sandra F. Esposito  
 organization The Antiquaries date 7/19/2008  
 street & number 140 Cradon Hill Ln telephone 434-946-7496  
 city or town Amherst state VA zip code 24521

**Additional Documentation**

SuB.M.it the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Jennifer Kilgore  
 street & number 2416 Lowesville Rd telephone 434-946-7496  
 city or town Amherst state VA zip code 24521

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**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. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the 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 National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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**7. Narrative Description**

Fairview is a 2 ½-story Italian Villa-style house located near the village of Lowesville in Amherst County, Virginia. The brick house was built in 1867 by Nathan C. Taliaferro. The distinctive characteristics of the house are the complex massing and roofline of the main block and its three-story tower set at a 45-degree angle to the primary, or east, elevation. The house displays many defining characteristics of the Italian Villa style such as a low-pitched roof with overhanging eaves, wide frieze with decorative brackets, arched windows, and a bay window. The main elevation has a one-story, three-bay porch and a one-story, seven-bay porch spans the west, or rear, elevation. There is a one-story, c. 1920 kitchen addition built onto the southwest corner. The interior plan is double pile with a vestibule and center hall; the second story of the house is divided into two levels with the rear section two risers lower than the front. The house is located on a knoll that overlooks open farmland and immediately surrounding the house are a late 19<sup>th</sup> century smokehouse, a c. 1920 tenant house and two mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century barns.

**EXTERIOR**

Fairview is an unusual interpretation of the Italian Villa style, yet it contains many defining traits of the style. The principle elevation is constructed of pressed brick laid in six courses of stretchers separated by a single course of Flemish bond; the remaining elevations are handmade brick laid in four-course American bond. The foundation is parged to the first story windowsills on all elevations, except below the jib windows on the main elevation. Typical fenestration of the house is 4/4, double-hung, wooden sash windows with decorative wooden lintels. However, the half story contains a six-light oculus window on the south elevation and paired, arched, casement windows on the east. Two jib windows open onto the porch on the main elevation and there are arched casement windows in the tower. All windows are wooden sashes and retain their shutter hardware; the jib windows also retain their shutters. The roofs of the main block and the tower are low-pitched hip roofs made of standing-seam metal with overhanging eaves. The eaves of the tower and the main block of the house feature scrolled cornice brackets on a wide fascia board. There are two, interior brick chimneys centrally located between the main block and the rear section of the house.

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The facade features the off-set, three-story tower, the two-bay, two-and-a-half story main block of the house south of the tower; and a one bay, two-story section with a half-hipped roof north of the tower. The square tower features one window on each story of each elevation with the exception of the first story southern bay, which contains a single-leaf entry and a three light transom. The windows in the third story of the tower are arched double-leaf casement windows; each leaf has three lights. There is a decorative wooden belt course between the second and third stories and similar decoration is found beneath the fascia board of the tower. The second story of the main block has typical fenestration and the half story has two sets of paired, arched, single-leaf casement windows; each leaf has two lights. A one-story, three-bay porch shelters the primary entrance and the two jib windows. It spans the width of the elevation south of the tower. The porch has a wooden floor and beveled posts with brackets supporting the standing-seam shed roof. The two-story section north of the tower has one window on each story.

The north and south side elevations are complicated and are sectioned due to the complex massing of the house. The front sections of both elevations have bracketed fascia board beneath the eaves; the rear sections have only undecorated fascia board. The north elevation is two stories and has four windows. The south elevation has a two and one-half story front section. It features a three-sided bay with three 4/4 windows on the first story. The second story has a typical window and the half story has a six-light, oculus window. The southern rear section includes the one-story, c. 1920 kitchen addition and the second story of the section has one window.

The rear elevation is two stories with a dormer. There is a seven bay porch across the first story of the elevation. This c. 1920 porch replaced an earlier porch when the kitchen addition was built. The porch supports are Craftsman-style tapered, wooden columns atop parged piers. The porch floor is poured concrete. Beneath the porch overhang are five windows; four are typical and one is a smaller 6/6 double-hung sash window. There are also two single-leaf entries with the top half of the door glazed and the lower section paneled. The northern door has vertical panels and the southern has horizontal panels. The second story has three typical windows set in an asymmetrical pattern and a dormer with a 1/1 double-hung sash window pierces the roof in the center of the elevation. This window lights the attic section of the house.

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**INTERIOR**

The interior plan is double pile with a vestibule and a central hall. The house retains most of its original heart pine floors, trimwork, and mantels. The woodwork throughout was likely the work of a carpenter named William Burch. A door beneath the stair contains the inscription "William Burch made this door/it is a very good one." Little is known of Burch, as it was a common name in the area. The second floor of the house has two levels; the eastern half of the house is higher by two stair risers than the western half.

The central passage is divided into a stair hall and a rear hall. A doorway divides the front stair hall and rear hall separating the public and private areas of the house. At one time it is likely that floor-to-ceiling, double-leaf, bi-fold doors separated these areas as there is door hardware that remains in the floor and the molding has evidence there were once hinges attached to the wood. These likely resembled the floor-to-ceiling, double-leaf, bi-fold doors currently found in the parlor alcove; this bi-fold door was used because of the limited amount of space these doors required when open; this same type of door was also used to hide the half-story stair. The hall doors were removed at some unknown time. The stair is an open quarter-turn stair with decorative stair-end brackets, square balusters and a simple tapered, square-shaped newel post without a finial. There is paneled wainscot beneath the stair. The wide trim work around the doors is molded double architrave; this trim is similar to the doors and windows of the parlor.

The parlor, south of the vestibule, is the most ornate room. The room has two jib windows on the east wall and an alcove created by the bay window on the south wall. The alcove is separated from the parlor by floor-to-ceiling, double-leaf, bi-fold doors. The trim of the windows in the alcove is wide and plain. The alcove floor is brick and was installed by the current owner over subflooring; the original floor was removed before 2000. The flooring bricks were recycled from an old Lynchburg warehouse. The wooden mantel on the west wall has beveled pilasters, an undecorated frieze and scroll-sawn brackets supporting the mantelshelf. This is the same type of mantel used throughout the house. On the east wall, next to the mantel, is a 20<sup>th</sup> century door to the dining room.

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The room north of the vestibule was likely used as a library. However, the space was reconfigured in the 1980s. The room became smaller and the fireplace was removed when the bathroom was created. The room is currently used as a laundry room.<sup>1</sup>

The rear portion of the central passage allows entry to the dining room on the south and a bedroom on the north. There is a single-leaf exterior entrance on the west wall. The area is decorated with wide, flat trim similar to the rooms of the first story, western section of the house.

The dining room has a built-in cabinet and mantel on the east wall. This cabinet is a later addition to the room but may replace an earlier type of cabinet. The current cabinet likely dates to c. 1920. On the south wall, a window was replaced by a single-leaf swinging door into the kitchen around 1920. The top panel of the door has etched glass. The west wall has two windows; the northern window has an etching in the top sash that reads, "This house was built in 1867/Fairview July 22 B.M. '87."<sup>2</sup> The trimwork on the windows is wide and flat, like the rear hall.

The northwest room is a bedroom, original use unknown. There have been several alterations to this room in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A 1979 survey drawing showed a rear staircase that was removed in the 1980s. In addition, the fireplace and mantel were removed. A doorway to the new bathroom was created in the east wall.<sup>3</sup>

There are four bedrooms and a tower room on the second story. The three east rooms are two risers higher than the landing for the rooms on the western end of the house. The door and window trimwork is similar to that of the western rooms of the first floor. The northeast room has been altered and no longer has its fireplace. The tower room was converted to a bathroom sometime in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is connected to the southeast room by a closet that is located beneath the third story stair. The southeast room is intact and retains its mantel. Next to the door of the southeast room is the stair and door to the third story.

The two west rooms on the second story are located on either side of a hall. Both rooms are similar; they both retain their mantels and closets with batten doors. The northwest room was likely a servant's room due to the location of the no longer existing rear stair in the northwest corner. There is a modern bathroom adjacent to the room and it is possible that this space has always been used for a bathroom such as the one seen in Sloan's plan of the Italian Villa.<sup>4</sup>

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The third floor is accessed by an enclosed stair hidden behind a single-leaf bi-fold door on the second floor. The stair to the third floor is steep and narrow. The third floor is comprised of three rooms on the front end of the house; this area has its original plastered walls and a ceiling light in the stair hall. The third story also has access to the attic area above the rear section of the house that is used for storage and HVAC systems. The third story north room is plain and does not have any windows. The tower room has its original plaster and lath and two arched double-leaf casement windows with three lights in each leaf. The window trim is wide and plain. The south room mantel is missing. The room has two paired single casement windows on the east wall. These casements have two lights in each window. On the south wall is the oculus window with six lights. The area is currently undergoing restoration.

**ADDITION**

The one-story masonry addition to the southwest corner contains the kitchen. This addition dates c. 1920; it was created, according to local tradition, by reuse of the handmade bricks from the original detached kitchen. The foundation is concrete and the bricks are laid in running bond. The eastern elevation has a 6/6 double-hung sash window. The southern elevation has a small exterior chimney. The hip roof is standing-seam metal.

The kitchen floor is brick and replaced an earlier vinyl floor. The owner replaced the floor in 2001 with bricks from an old Lynchburg warehouse. The kitchen has been updated with modern appliances.

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**SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE AND OUTBUILDINGS**

The house is currently sited on a knoll surrounded by open farmland just as it was historically. The surrounding farmland of 544 acres has been sold off and six acres remain immediately surrounding the house. The original drive to the house was changed; it originally approached the house from the east where evidence of an old roadbed can be seen. Currently, the house is approached from the west or rear of the house. Just outside of the current yard east of the house are four 20<sup>th</sup> century barns that once belonged to the house. In the immediate surrounding yard are a c. 1867 smokehouse with a 20<sup>th</sup> century extension, two 20<sup>th</sup> century barns and a c. 1920 tenant house. There are also many mature trees including oaks and other deciduous trees.

**SMOKEHOUSE--C. 1867-CONTRIBUTING**

The c. 1867 frame smokehouse is located immediately south of the main house. The building is one-story and has a concrete foundation indicating that the building may have been moved closer to the main house to be used for storage. The sides are covered with weatherboard and the gable roof is standing-seam metal. The single-leaf batten door is located on the gable side and atop the door, spanning the elevation, is a section of decorative cut scrollwork. The wooden frame interior of the building is pegged and the exposed rafters show evidence of smoke. A wide wooden threshold at the door is hand planed. The building is currently used for storage. At some point in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a shed addition was constructed on the west elevation. It was built on a concrete pad. It is frame with vertical board siding and a metal shed roof. This shed is currently used as a peacock pen.<sup>5</sup>

**BARN--c.1980-NONCONTRIBUTING**

The two 20<sup>th</sup>-century barns are located southwest of the house. Both barns are frame with vertical board siding. The closer barn is one story and built on a concrete pad. It has an asbestos shingle, shed roof. The building has a sliding vertical board door and an arched Dutch door on the east elevation. The other barn is enclosed within a two-rail fence and is used as a horse barn. It is possible that this was once used as a garage due to the two wide openings on the north elevation. This building was built on a concrete pad and has a gable roof of asbestos shingle with overhanging eaves and a central cupola/vent at the roof peak.

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**TENANT HOUSE-C.1920-CONTRIBUTING**

The c. 1920 tenant house is a vernacular style two-story frame building with a later one-story addition to the rear; it is located northwest of the main house. The earliest section has a brick foundation, weatherboard siding, a central brick chimney and a standing-seam metal gable roof. The house has a variety of window types. On the first floor the windows are 3/1 double-hung sash windows. The windows of the second story are 6/6 double-hung sash windows. The main elevation faces south. Spanning the first floor is a porch with a concrete floor and square posts supporting a standing-seam metal shed roof. There are two typical windows and a single-leaf entry with horizontal panels on the bottom of the door; the top panel is a single glazed light.

There is a later one-story frame addition with a basement on the north end of the house. It is of an unknown date, possibly added soon after the original section was completed. The foundation is concrete and the siding is asbestos on the north and east, the west has weatherboard siding. The windows are similar 3/1 double-hung sashes. The shed roof is sheathed in standing-seam metal with a brick chimney flue and an additional brick chimney flue in the center of the roof. On the east elevation is a porch built on wood piers with a wooden floor and a standing-seam metal shed roof supported with square posts.

The interior of the earliest section of the house had only two rooms on each floor. An enclosed, narrow stair in the southeast corner accesses the second floor. The rear addition contained a single room, a kitchen and bathroom. The owner has completely renovated the interior due to its deteriorated condition. The renovations include new wood flooring and beadboard for the walls. The interior plan is more open than its earlier hall/parlor plan.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

Fairview is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a well-preserved and unique example of the Italian Villa Style. It features many defining characteristics of the style that were found in period pattern books such as Victorian Cottage Residences by A.J. Downing and Sloan's Victorian Buildings by Samuel Sloan. These include the use of a tower, the low-pitched roof, the overhanging eaves, the fascia board, brackets, bay window and arched windows. However, the most prominent features of the house are the unusual complex massing and varied roofline of the main block and the three-story tower set at a 45-degree angle to the main block on the primary elevation. The interior plan is double pile and the second floor has two levels. Fairview is one of only two examples of the Italian Villa style known to exist in Amherst County; Sweet Briar House (005-0018; individually listed in the Virginia and National registers) is the other example and it was originally built as a Federal-style house and later renovated in the Italian Villa style. The unique interpretation of the Italian Villa style indicates that Fairview was designed rather than copied from a period pattern book; the architect remains unknown but Fairview may have been the work of Lynchburg architect, Robert C. Burkholder. The period of significance is from its construction in 1867 until 1920 when the kitchen addition was made. The house retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, workmanship, and association.

**PROPERTY HISTORY**

Fairview was built by Nathan C. Taliaferro (1823-1887) who moved to Amherst County from Lynchburg. In 1863, he purchased the farm of 544 acres that had an existing farmhouse on the property. Today, the earlier farmhouse remains and is located southwest of Fairview. That year he also purchased the Piney River Mill (Woodson's Mill 062-0058-listed VLR 10/21/1992, NRHP 12/17/1992) and became a farmer and businessman in the Lowesville area. Taliaferro began construction on Fairview in 1867. The house was built in a style popular in Lynchburg just prior to the Civil War. Taliaferro was wealthy and the construction of such a stylish house and its location on a prominent knoll may have been intended to display his prosperity to his neighbors. The house and land were valued at \$6528 for the years 1867- 1875. Taliaferro constructed Fairview the same year he built a general store in Lowesville with his partner, Henry Loving. The store is now known as Hite's Store (005-0058-listed VLR 03/19/1997, NHRP 06/06/1997) and is individually listed in the Virginia and National registers. He remained in Amherst until 1875 when he obtained the

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position of Storekeeper and General Merchant for the Penitentiary of Virginia. He sold his properties in the Lowesville area and moved to Richmond.<sup>6</sup> Taliaferro was able to construct a house such as Fairview in post-war, economically depressed Amherst County because of personal wealth. He was partners with J.V. Musgrove (Musgrove and Taliaferro) operating a merchantile in Lynchburg. The 1860 census record lists his occupation as speculator. In 1865, his personal request for a presidential pardon listed his taxable property at \$20,000. After the war, he continued to prosper and he died in 1887 in Louisa County.<sup>7</sup>

Bennett Marion Davidson (1857-1897) succeeded Taliaferro as the owner of Fairview in 1875. Davidson inherited the property as part of a settlement of the estate of Samuel Miller, Davidson's father; it is not known how the property became part of that estate. Davidson was a farmer and grocer in Lowesville and he also ran a nearby mill on Beaver Creek. In 1887, B. M. Davidson inscribed the following in one of the dining room windows, "This house was built in 1867/Fairview July 22 B. M. '87" which confirms the property tax records for the age of the house. Davidson died in 1897; he was buried on a ¼-acre plot of the Fairview grounds next to his brother; the location of the burials is unknown.<sup>8</sup>

In 1910, Davidson's family sold the house and farm to R. H. Woodrum and the same year he sold the farm to M. L. Bruster.<sup>9</sup>

Bruster sold the 420-acre farm and house to Benjamin Franklin Camden (1874-1961) in 1916. The Camden family resided in the house for the longest period. Many changes occurred under their ownership, such as a shift in agricultural crops from tobacco toward orchards and later livestock, and the discovery of ilminite, a mineral vein running through the property, though there is no evidence of mining on the property. The Camden family also made changes to the house itself. Most of these changes date to ca. 1920.. The house was electrified and plumbed, a one-story kitchen was added to the southwest corner and a full-length porch was created across the rear elevation. The family also constructed a tenant house, north of the main house, as well as several barns that remain just outside of the current property lines. The Camden family divided the property in 1961 and retained only the remaining 5.9 acres around the house. In 1984, the family sold the house to the Wolvern family.<sup>10</sup>

The Wolverns were most likely responsible for the many interior changes that occurred after the last known

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survey of the house in 1979. A local newspaper article in 1986 detailed a restoration underway at the house. Changes that occurred include the introduction of a doorway between the parlor and dining room, the elimination of the rear stair, as well as the elimination of three fireplaces: two on the first floor and one on the second. The northeast room was reconfigured and reused as a laundry room; the remaining space became a bathroom that was accessible only from the northwest room.<sup>11</sup>

The Wolverns sold the house to the Noons in the 1990s. The Noons operated the house as a bed and breakfast inn until they sold the house in 2000 to current owner, Jennifer Kilgore. Until recently, the house was used as a private residence and Ms. Kilgore is in the process of reopening the house as a bed and breakfast.<sup>12</sup>

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Fairview is an unusual example of the Italian Villa style of architecture popularized by A. J. Downing in the 1840s. The style was also featured in period pattern books by Downing, Samuel Sloan and William Ranlett. The house contains many defining characteristics of the style such as a tower, arched windows, bay window, decorative lintels, low-pitched roofs with overhanging eaves, and fascia board with brackets. Unique features of the house include the 45-degree orientation of the tower to the main block and the complex massing and roofline of the main block of the house. In the immediate area, there are no other comparable houses. The design of the house was likely influenced by period pattern books, but the unusual aspects of the design suggest that the architect was creative and not bound to the regularity of the published designs. Although no documentation has been located that specifies the architect, a known local architect, Robert C. Burkholder, may have been involved.<sup>13</sup>

The Italian Villa style, featuring a central tower, was popular in the Lynchburg area in the 1850s. Following the Civil War the Italianate style, without the tower, was a popular design for houses in the city. The earliest known example of an Italian Villa in the area was the renovated farmhouse, Sweet Briar House (005-0018) in Amherst County. In Lynchburg during the 1850s, two Italian Villa houses were designed by Thomas Eastlack of Philadelphia; by 1940, these no longer existed. Once his Lynchburg commissions were complete, Eastlack left Lynchburg and no evidence suggests that he ever returned. During the Civil War, little to no construction occurred in the Lynchburg area due to the economic devastation of the state and area; recovery after the war was slow.<sup>14</sup>

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Given its complex design, there is some thought that Fairview represents the work of an architect. Lynchburg architectural historian S. Allen Chambers suggests that Robert C. Burkholder (1826 – 1914) may have been responsible for Fairview’s design. Burkholder had a series of commissions in Lynchburg City and Bedford County between 1854 and 1886; these included residences, stores, churches, tenements, factories and public buildings. However, no evidence has been found to link Burkholder with the house.<sup>15</sup>

Fairview is a well preserved example of post-war construction in Amherst County. Other post war construction in the county includes Edgewood (Boulder Springs, 005-0158) and Hite’s Store (005-0058). Amherst, like most of the area was economically depressed following the Civil War. Taliaferro moved from the city of Lynchburg and began to invest in the local economy by purchasing property in the village of Lowesville. He owned, but did not operate Woodson’s Mill. He and his partner built Hite’s Store. This store is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is described as an unusual interpretation of the Greek Revival style.<sup>16</sup> It is interesting that both Fairview and the store, were built in popular architectural styles with the same masonry bond patterns. They have unusual plans and are unique, landmark buildings in the area. It is possible that they were designed by the same person. Fairview is a creative variation of a popular architectural style and, in Amherst County, it is the only known house built in the Italian Villa style.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Amherst County Land Tax Records 1823-34, and 1863-1886 available on microfilm from Library of Virginia.

Amherst County Land Tax Records 1936-64 available at the Amherst County Courthouse, Amherst, Virginia.

Amherst County Deed Book G, pp. 685, 682.

Amherst County Deed Book V, p. 232.

Amherst County Deed Book FF, pp. 276, 279.

Amherst County Deed Book H, p. 47.

Amherst County Deed Book KK, pp. 58, 107.

Amherst County Deed Book MM, p. 48.

Amherst County Deed Book 64, pp. 4, 285.

Amherst County Deed Book 75, p. 245.

Amherst County Deed Book 236, p. 284.

Amherst County Deed Book 483, p. 120.

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Amherst County Deed Book 816, p. 66.

Amherst County Will Book 4, p. 473.

Amherst County Will Book 17, p. 6.

Amherst County Will Book 23, p. 43.

*Chataigne's Business Directory 1888-1889*, available online from <http://www.ls.net/~newriver/va/amher88.htm>.

Grattan, Peachy R., *Reports of the Cases Decided in the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia*, Vol. XXX from January 31 to November 1, 1878, Case No. 255 available online from [www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com).

Mosby, Charles L., *Samuel Miller's Executor vs. Board of the Literary Fund and Others, Original Bill, and Robert W. Davidson and others vs. Miller's Executor and Others on a Cross Bill. Argument by Counsel for the Davidsons*, Lynchburg, Va.: Bryan & Browne, 1872.

US Federal Non-population Census for Industry, 1880 available on microfilm from Library of Virginia.

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US Federal Census Records 1850-1910 available online from [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

Fairview File available from Amherst County Museum and Historical Society, Amherst, Virginia.

Chambers, S. Allen, *Lynchburg: An Architectural History*, Charlottesville, Va.: Univ. of Virginia Press, 1981.

Ryan, Richard H., *Robert C. Burkholder of Lynchburg, Virginia: A Typical Victorian Architect*, a master's thesis 1981  
University of Virginia.

**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property being nominated is identified as # 86A on tax parcel map 39 for Amherst County, Virginia.

**Boundary Justification**

This is the same property deeded to Jennifer Kilgore recorded in Amherst County Deed Book 816, page 66 dated 7 September 2000. The 5.9 acres are the remainder of the original 544 acre-farm on which Taliaferro built his house and the property includes all of the significant buildings associated with the historic house.

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Fairview, Amherst County, Virginia  
DHR file no. 005-0006  
Photos taken by Sandra Esposito, December 2007 and June 2008.

1. Facing Southeast—Main House and Outbuildings
2. Facing West—Main or East Elevation
3. Facing Northwest—South and East Elevations
4. Facing Southeast—North and West Elevations
5. Facing West—Interior Center Hall
6. Facing Southeast—Parlor Jib Windows
7. Facing West—Parlor Mantel
8. Facing Northeast—2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Northwest Bedroom
9. Facing East—3<sup>rd</sup> Floor South Room Window & Door Detail
10. Facing Northeast—3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Tower Window Detail
11. Facing Southeast—Smokehouse
12. Facing Northwest—Tenant House

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**Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup> Evidence for the alterations to the original floor plan are taken from the Fleming McMullin, Jr., 1957 HABS survey; David W. Baber, 1979 VA Historic Landmarks Commission survey and a 1986 Amherst New-Era Progress article, all found in the files of the Amherst County Museum and Historical Society.

<sup>2</sup> Coincidentally this inscription was made about two months after Nathan C. Taliaferro died.

<sup>3</sup> David W. Baber, 1979 VA Historic Landmarks Commission survey.

<sup>4</sup> Samuel Sloan, "Sloan's Victorian Building," (New York: Dover, 1980), reprint of 1852 ed., Design VI Plate XXIII.

<sup>5</sup> This building is on a concrete pad and most outbuildings seen in this area were originally built upon rock foundations, also the building is located very near the house. It is closer than most observed and it sits directly in view of the house. Most smokehouses in the area are built off a corner of the house not in direct line of the house.

<sup>6</sup> Amherst County Deed Book FF, p. 276; Susan E. Smead, Hite's Store-National Register Nomination, (DHR # 005-0058) available online from [www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov); Marc C. Wagner and Susan E. Smead, Woodson's Mill-National Register Nomination, (DHR #062-0093) available online from [www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov); Amherst County Deed Book 75, p. 245; Amherst County Deed Book 506, p. 147, 152; and Amherst County Deed Book 816, p. 66. The land on which Fairview was built was part of a land grant to Edward Carter in 1794. The grant was divided and 842 acres were sold to Joel Franklin who built a home on the land that is believed to still survive and can be seen from Fairview. Franklin's widow sold 544 acres to James F. Taliaferro; who sold the same to his nephew Nathan C. Taliaferro in 1863 (Amherst County Deed Book G, p. 655; Amherst County Will Book 4, p. 473; Amherst County Deed Book V, p. 232.); Amherst County Deed Book MM, p. 48; U.S. Federal Census Records for 1850 and 1860 available online from [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); and Amherst County Land Tax Records 1863-1882, available on microfilm from Library of Virginia.

<sup>7</sup> Peachy R. Grattan, *Reports of the Cases Decided in the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia*, Vol. XXX from January 31 to November 1, 1878, Case No. 255 available online from [www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com); 1860 US Federal Census Record; and Confederate Applications for Presidential Pardons 1865-1867, available online from [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>8</sup> Amherst County Deed Book KK, p. 58; 1870 and 1880 U. S. Federal Census, both available on line at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); Chataigne's Business Directory 1888-1889, available online from [www.newriversnotes.com/va/amher88.htm](http://www.newriversnotes.com/va/amher88.htm); Sherrie and William McLeRoy, *More Passages: A New History of Amherst County*, (Bowie, MD.: Heritage Press, 1995) pp. 108; Amherst County Will Book 23, p. 43; Amherst County Deed Book 64, p. 285; and Amherst County Deed Book 64, p.4. Amherst County Deed Book KK, p. 58; 1870 and 1880 U. S. Federal Census, both available on line at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); Chataigne's Business Directory 1888-1889, available online from [www.newriversnotes.com/va/amher88.htm](http://www.newriversnotes.com/va/amher88.htm); Sherrie and William McLeRoy, *More Passages: A New History of Amherst County*, (Bowie, MD.: Heritage Press, 1995) pp. 108; Amherst County Will Book 23, p. 43; Amherst County Deed Book 64, p. 285; Amherst County Deed Book 64, p.4; and 1880 Non-population Census Schedule for Industry available on microfilm at the Library of Virginia. B.M. Davidson was the youngest illegitimate son of Samuel Miller, a wealthy man in Lynchburg who left money to begin the Miller School in Albemarle and the Miller Home and Miller Park in Lynchburg. The settlement of his estate took from his death in 1869 until 1875 and it was a case that eventually was settled in the Va. Supreme Court a reference can be found: Charles L. Mosby "Samuel Miller's executor vs. Board of the Literary Fund and others, original bill, and Robert W. Davidson and others vs. Miller's executor and others on a cross bill. Argument by Counsel for the Davidsons," (Lynchburg, Va.: Bryan & Browne, 1872) and it is interesting to note that another house in Amherst County was also involved in this case, Mountain View (005-0011).

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<sup>9</sup> Amherst County Deed Book 64, p. 4; Amherst County Deed Book 64, p. 285 and Amherst County Deed Book 75, p. 245. Both of the Davidson women moved to Roanoke after the house was sold.

<sup>10</sup> Amherst County Deed Book 75, p. 245; Amherst County Deed Book 143, p.482; Amherst County Plat Book F, p. 226; Amherst County Deed Book 236, p. 284, 286, 288, 290; Amherst County Deed Book 359, p. 224; Amherst County Deed Book 483, p. 120; Amherst County Deed Book 495, p. 167; Amherst County Deed Book 496, p. 398-400; and Amherst County Deed Book 506, p. 147, 152. Ilmenite is an ore used in making titanium no records indicate mining of the ore but it is known that the nearby Piney River Plant manufactured titanium dioxide from 1931 to 1971.

<sup>11</sup> Evidence for the alterations to the original floor plan are taken from the Fleming McMullin, Jr., 1957 HABS survey; David W. Baber, 1979 VA Historic Landmarks Commission survey and a 1986 Amherst New-Era Progress article, all found in the files of the Amherst County Museum and Historical Society.

<sup>12</sup> Amherst County Deed Book 749, p. 155; and Amherst County Deed Book 816, p. 66.

<sup>13</sup> Norman Tyler, "Historic Preservation: An Introduction to Its History, Principles & Practice," (N. Y.: W. W. Norton, 2000), p. 118; and Marcus Whiffen and Frederick Koeper, "American Architecture: 1607-1976," (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1980), p. 186.

<sup>14</sup> S. Allen Chambers, "Lynchburg: An Architectural History," (Charlottesville, Va.: Univ. of Virginia Press, 1981), pp. 130-216. Elijah Fletcher mentioned workers at the house but a specific architect for the house design remains unknown.

<sup>15</sup> Burkholder was known to have had in his collection pattern books by A. J. Downing, Samuel Sloan, and William H. Ranlett; the influences from these can be seen in his various Lynchburg works. Burkholder's earliest houses were demolished; his earliest surviving work is the Court Street Baptist Church (118-0156). He also designed other local commercial and residential structures and was the contracted builder for the Miller Home. If Fairview is indeed a work by Burkholder than it would be the earliest known surviving work since the majority of his Lynchburg work began about 1854. I spoke with Allen Chambers, Architectural Historian, (by email dated May 2008) concerning the possibility of this house being a Burkholder design and his opinion was that Burkholder was likely the only person that could design such an unusual house. Richard Ryan, in his thesis, states several traits of Burkholder such as his preference for brick houses and his willingness to work with each owner and his willing attitude to be creative with forms like his house at 203 Cabell St. in Lynchburg, Va. Ryan, "Burkholder"; Chambers, "Lynchburg," pp. 198-253.;A. J. Downing, "The Architecture of Country Houses," (New York : Dover, 1969), reprint of the 1850 ed., Design XVII; Samuel Sloan, "Sloan's Victorian Building," (New York: Dover, 1980), reprint of 1852 ed., Designs 1 & 53; William H. Ranlett, , "Early Victorian Designs," (Mineola, N. Y.: Dover Publications, 1996) reprint of the 1847 ed., Design X, Plate 32; S. Allen Chambers, "Lynchburg: An Architectural History," (Charlottesville, Va.: Univ. of Virginia Press, 1981), pp. 198-253; Richard H. Ryan, "Robert C. Burkholder of Lynchburg, Virginia: A Typical Victorian Architect," a master's thesis 1981 University of Virginia; Peachy R. Grattan, "Reports of the Cases Decided in the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia," Vol. XXX from January 31 to November 1, 1878 Case No. 255, p. 91 available online from [www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com); Burkholder was the local builder of the Miller House or Female Orphan Asylum designed by Col. John Ellicott; it was located in Lynchburg and funded by Samuel Miller; according to [The Virginia Architects](#), Burkholder's work was concentrated in the Lynchburg and Bedford area from 1852-1886 with the exception of one house, Bell Residence, in Pulaski County in 1874; John E. Wells, [The Virginia Architects: 1835-1955](#), (Richmond, Va.: New Southern Architects Press, 1987), pp. 55-57.

<sup>16</sup> Susan E. Smead, Hite's Store-National Register Nomination, (DHR # 005-0058) available online from [www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov).



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