

VLR-12/14/82 NRHP-2/10/83

OMB NO. 1024-0018
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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date entered _____

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Robert Sitlington House

and/or common Old Stone House (Preferred)

2. Location

street & number Route 664 N/A not for publication

city, town Millboro Springs vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Virginia code 51 county Bath code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Robert C. Hilton

street & number 218 Deer Park Drive

city, town Nashville N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37205

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bath County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Warm Springs state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Robert Sitlington House is a late-eighteenth-century stone house located at the termination of Virginia Secondary Route 664, approximately one third of a mile from its intersection with State Route 42, in the Cowpasture River Valley of southeastern Bath County, Virginia. It is a two-story stone dwelling situated upon a hill overlooking a bend in the Cowpasture River. Cleared farmland stretches from the house to the Cowpasture River. Several mature trees surround the house and huge boxwood at the front (east) screen the house from the road. Consisting mostly of river bottomland, the 125-acre farm is almost completely surrounded by the Allegheny Mountains.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The building is a two-story stone dwelling situated upon a half basement. Believed to have been built in the 1790s, it is a simple rectangular structure with a three-bay facade (east) sheltered by a double-story frame gallery. Added in the late nineteenth century, the gallery features chamfered wood posts and a simple balustrade. The house is constructed of coursed fieldstone and mortar consisting of local clay and animal hair. According to local residents, the stone is not native to the area, but is more typical of stone found in the Shenandoah Valley to the east. The stone could possibly have been transported over the Allegheny Mountains to the house site at considerable expense and trouble. Understandably, this inconvenience explains the scarcity of stone dwellings in Bath County. The Robert Sitlington House is believed to be the oldest known stone house in the county, and it is one of the few examples of stone architecture of any period in the area.

Not only is the stone construction of the house atypical of late-eighteenth-century architecture in Bath County, but the original three-room plan with its central passage and corner fireplaces is more reminiscent of similar farmhouses of the period in the well-settled Shenandoah Valley to the east. The architectural elements and general character of the Robert Sitlington House seem to have been derived from the Germanic-influenced architectural traditions of the Shenandoah Valley. The Allegheny Mountains served as an effective cultural barrier to the spread of such architectural traditions to Bath County.

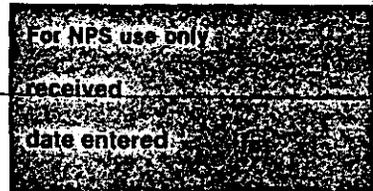
The house is balanced by an interior end brick chimney at each gable end. The corbel-capped brick chimneys date from the Victorian era and probably replaced the original stone chimneys. A single-story stone ell was built to the rear (west) probably during the early nineteenth century. It served as a service wing with a cooking fireplace in the basement. The interior end stone chimney of the rear ell is original. Fenestration throughout the house consists of late-nineteenth-century 2/2 hung-sash windows which replaced the original 6/6 hung-sash windows. Each window is framed in plain trim. One rear window has a crude stone jack arch above it. A single-story frame porch with a shed roof extends along the south and west sides of the rear ell. Both the porch and the standing seam metal roofing were added in the late nineteenth century.

The central front (east) entrance leads into a central passage which extends the width of the house. A smaller hall, parallel to the front facade, extends to the south and leads to an enclosed dog-leg stair with winders situated in the southeast corner of the building. The stair runs from the basement to the attic. A large room, featuring a fireplace with a segmental stone arch, is located south of the central passage. It served as the main room in the house. Two small equal-sized rooms, each with a corner stone fireplace, are located

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Robert Sitlington House, Bath County
Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7, 8, 10

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7. DESCRIPTION

north of the central passage. A door in the northwest corner room leads to the rear ell room which has a small stone fireplace located at its west wall. The entire interior woodwork was replaced in the 1920s and the first-floor plan was somewhat altered with the addition of the front stair hall. Basically, the original floor plan was retained. The original mantels were removed and window and door trim were replaced with dark-stained wood trim with simple bull's-eye corner blocks. Sliding five-panel doors were added leading into the main room from the hall. Altogether, the interior is representative of the popular bungalow of the 1920s. The second-floor plan basically follows the first-floor plan. Hewn rafters are seen in the attic secured at the apex by locust pegs. Hewn collar beams are mortised into the rafters. The basement has whitewashed stone walls with a hewn summer beam extending between the gable ends of the house.

The Robert Sitlington House remains in a good state of preservation. It has survived without major exterior alterations and additions. Although not original, the interior woodwork dating from the 1920s is a good example of the architectural taste of that period. The house is presently vacant. Current restoration plans include the preservation of both the exterior and interior of the house with few modifications.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Footnotes

- 1 James Robert Sitlington Sterrett, "The Sitlington History," 1902-1912, Amherst, Mass. (copy in possession of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission)
- 2 Bath County Deed Books - Deed Book I, p.38.
- 3 Bath County Will Books - Will Book I, p.95.
- 4 Sterrett, "The Sitlington History."
- 5 Bath County Will Books - Will Book 4, p.186.
- 6 Bath County Deed Books - Deed Book 33, p.367.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the Robert Sitlington House have been drawn to provide a sufficient amount of open space to protect the rural setting of the original homestead. The boundaries coincide with the modern 125-acre tract on which the house is situated. Furthermore, the boundaries along the Cowpasture River are those of the original eighteenth-century tract.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bath County Deed Books.
 Bath County Will Books.
 Richmond, Va. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives. Bath County File #08-105.
 Sterrett, James R. Sitlington. The Sitlington History. Unpublished manuscript written by Sterrett between the years 1902 and 1912. (copy in possession of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 125
 Quadrangle name Nimrod Hall Quadrangle scale 1:24000
 UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>
E	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on the S side of VA 664 about 1600' NW of its intersection with VA 42; thence extending about 1000' SW to a point on the north bank of the Cowpasture River; thence following the north bank of the river for about 5000' NNE; thence extending about 1900' SE; thence extending about 1200' SW to point of origin

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See continuation Sheet #

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff
 organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date November 1982
 street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3143
 city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

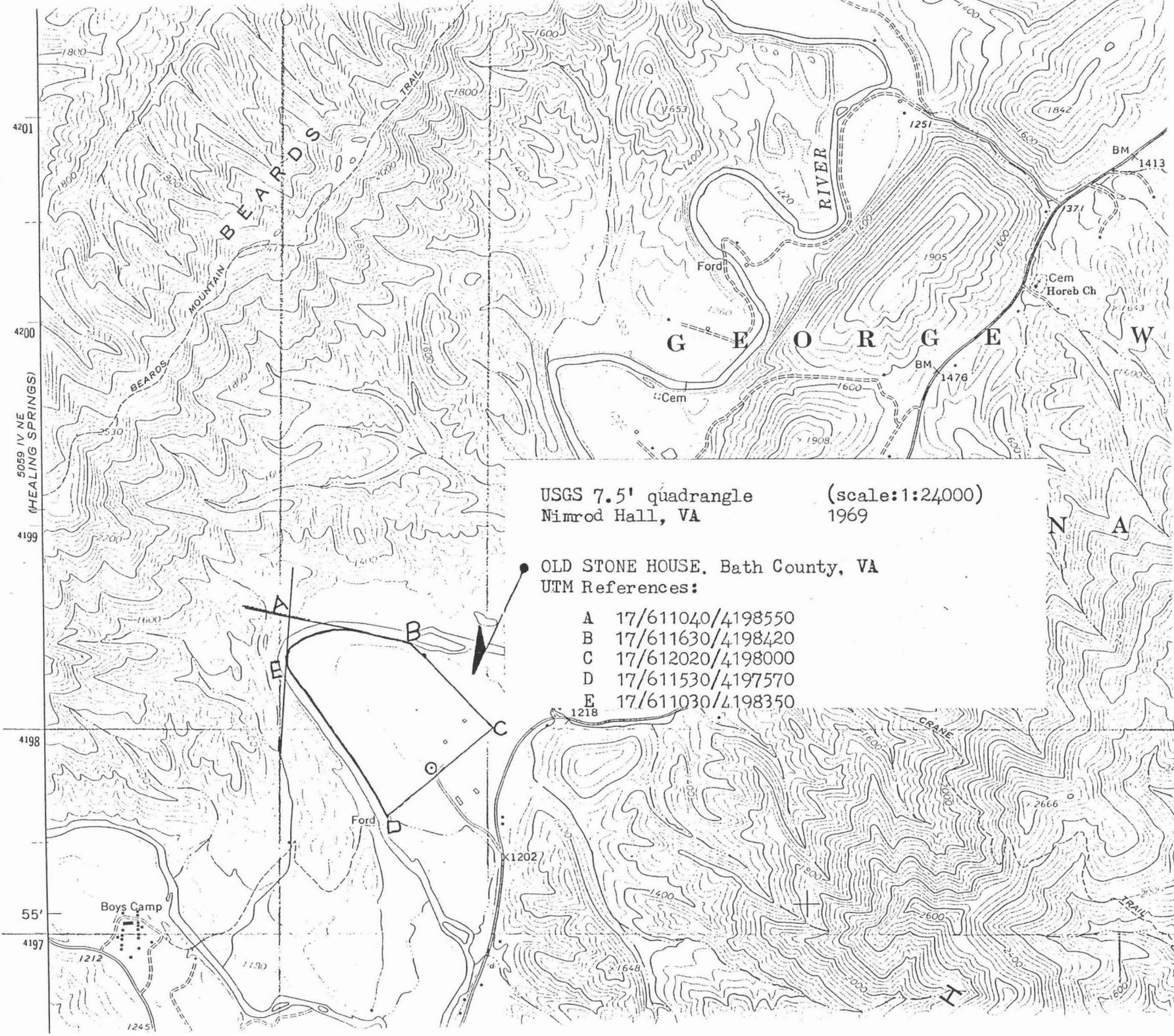
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell
 H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director
 title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date DEC 14 1982

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 date
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: date
 Chief of Registration



008-0105

4201
4200
4199
4198
55'
4197

5059 IV NE
(HEALING SPRINGS)

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Nimrod Hall, VA 1969

● OLD STONE HOUSE, Bath County, VA
UTM References:

- A 17/611040/4198550
- B 17/611630/4198420
- C 17/612020/4198000
- D 17/611530/4197570
- E 17/611030/4198350

N A

H