

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: Riverside

Other names/site number: DHR ID# 041-0089

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: 11161 River Road

City or town: Sutherland State: Virginia 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Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: X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 XC ___D

Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _N/A_

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Federal Style _____

Greek Revival Style _____

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD, BRICK, STONE, METAL, GLASS

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

Riverside, located at 11161 River Road near the Dan River in southeast Halifax County, Virginia, was constructed in several phases in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The core section of the house is a one-story-with-garret frame dwelling with weatherboard siding, wood sash windows, a metal-sheathed gable roof, a gable-end brick chimney, and a stone foundation (these treatments are typical of later sections of the house as well). The use of wrought nails in construction contexts suggests the original section was built in the eighteenth century. To the core were added two-story east and rear additions, the former probably added in the late 1820s, the latter connected by a one-story hyphen. There are also one-story additions and a one-story front entry porch. The interior has Federal and Greek Revival features and vibrant decorative painting in the first-floor parlor of the east addition. Floors are wood; walls and ceilings are a mix of historic-period plaster and modern gypsum board added in a rehabilitation that began in the 1970s; door and window trim have either symmetrical or asymmetrical moldings; and the first floor of the core dwelling and both floors of the east addition have wood wainscots. Behind the house are a historic-period smokehouse and a modern wellhouse. The nominated area of approximately 1.75 acres is surrounded by farm fields and woods.

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Narrative Description

Inventory

1. Riverside (house). Late 18th century; early/mid-19th century. Contributing building.
2. Smokehouse. 19th century. Contributing building.
3. Wellhouse. Ca. 2000. Non-contributing structure.

House: Exterior

The front elevation of Riverside, embracing the core section in the middle, the east addition on the left, and a one-story shed-roofed kitchen wing on the right, is clad in beaded weatherboard siding. On the core section the weatherboards are attached with nails that appear to have, under the paint, large irregular heads that may indicate they are wrought-headed, however there is evidence visible on the interior (an early stud with modern sistered lumber to attach it to the sill) that suggests some of the weatherboards were removed and reattached in the late-twentieth-century rehabilitation. Beaded weatherboard siding appears on other elevations but the two-story rear addition, which appears to date to the late antebellum period, has plain weatherboard siding.

The three brick chimneys vary in construction, indicating their different periods of construction, although all have stepped shoulders. The chimney on the west gable end of the one-story-with-garret core section is laid in Flemish bond with small closer bricks at the corners. The kitchen wing covers the bottom of this chimney, and its upper stack, above the shoulders, is constructed of lighter-hued brick which suggests it is reconstructed. The chimneys on the east and rear gable ends are laid in 1:3 common bond although some 1:4 coursing is evident. The coursed rubble stone foundation has vents across the front which were cut with a diamond saw during the late-twentieth-century rehabilitation.

The core section and the first story of the east addition have nine-over-nine sash windows. The second story of the east addition, and the first story of the rear addition, have six-over-nine sash windows, and the second story of the rear addition has six-over-six windows. There are small square four-pane windows in the west gable of the core section, flanking the chimney stack, and narrow four-over-four sash windows in the shed-roofed kitchen. Many of the house's windows have louvered shutters which were refurbished in the late-twentieth-century rehabilitation and new wrought iron shutter dogs were made for them by craftsman Ned Strange based on a surviving historic shutter dog.

The deep one-story front entry porch has pilasters of halved round column form which appear in a 1930s photo. The round columns across the front of the porch were replaced by turned posts in the late twentieth century and the porch floor and foundation were replaced with poured concrete at the same time. Exterior details of the house include rake board ends with decorative scalloped or cyma recta cutouts; a seam in the weatherboards of the west end of the shed kitchen indicating an addition between the earlier front part of the kitchen and the enclosed porch at the back; and diminutive decorative triangular brackets in the kitchen eaves.

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House: Interior

The front entry opens into a space that now serves as a stair hall but may originally have been the parlor. The primary feature of the space is a two-run corner stair with square newels, rectangular balusters, winders, and decorative tread brackets with a cyma recta profile. The bottom newel has a simple cap. The under-stair closet has a six-panel door hung on butt hinges (all the doors of the house, with the exception of the batten door in the garret, are hung on butt hinges). The back of the door has panels with arched beveling. The closet inside affords glimpses of the original section wall construction such as studs and a diagonal corner brace with what appears to be pit saw marks. The stair structure is a mix of cut-nailed lumber, which appears fresh though it dates to the nineteenth century, and reused older lumber which is darker and is studded with leftover wrought nails. The reused lumber includes members which may formerly have been studs—one has a row of nail holes from the attachment of what may have been laths—and a board, beaded at both edges and painted black. Written in pencil on the back of a riser are the words “opened sugar Nov 17 1891.” Visible at the top of the upper run is a ceiling joist, inside the cavity of the stair, with plaster key stains—possible evidence that this is not the original location of the stair, or that an earlier stair at the location had a different configuration than the current one. However, one of several sheathing boards inside the closet is attached with wrought nails, and since it appears too rough to be a remnant of a room finish, and is more like a finish that would be found inside an under-stair closet, it suggests a stair has stood at the location since the early nineteenth century, if not before; in other words, that the corner stair location is original. The door surrounds in the stair hall and in some other rooms of the house are asymmetrically molded and beaded.

The highlight of the interior is the east addition parlor which has a paneled wainscot decorated with vibrant faux painting. The panels are painted with diffuse blue, green, and white marbling with red and blue veining, framed by yellow moldings and mahogany-grained rails and stiles. The baseboard has the same colors in a slashing pattern, and the reeded chair rail is painted a dusky pink. The focal point of the room is a tripartite Federal mantel with paired half-colonettes for pilasters, a covered urn or kylix carving in the center frieze tablet, and stylized palmette or leaf carvings in the end tablets. The mantel shelf, which has a molded edge that steps out over the center and end tablets, rests on a stacked bed molding. The fireplace has a surround with modern parging and a brick hearth with the bricks, which were scooped out from wear, relaid face down. The room’s door and window surrounds are symmetrically molded with a pronounced rounded center rib and blank corner blocks. The window trim preserves traces of pink paint, the same shade as the chair rail, although the window trim had been painted white prior to the modern rehabilitation. The door shows evidence of three generations of butt hinges; perhaps there was some structural weakness in the jamb that necessitated the door’s rehunging. This would explain another peculiarity: the scar of a former middle butt hinge between the top and bottom hinge marks.

In the dining room is a Federal mantel with reeded pilasters that are continued as narrow plain tablets at the ends of the frieze. The mantel, which lacks a center tablet, has a molded shelf edge and its stacked bed molding is similar to the one on the parlor mantel. The dining room

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wainscots preserves traces of green paint on the chair rail, as does the window trim in the room. A third Federal mantel appears in the upstairs room of the two-story side addition. It is nearly identical to the mantel in the dining room except that its pilasters are not reeded. The kitchen in the shed wing has modern finishes. The lower part of the west end chimney, painted white, rises inside it. Behind the kitchen is a formerly open back porch which was enclosed in the modern rehabilitation and has served variously as an art studio and a bedroom. The once-exterior weatherboards of the house wall are visible inside it.

The garret has cut-nailed board sheathing on the walls and ceiling and the newel at the top of the stair is also cut-nailed. The garret is divided in two by a vertical board partition with a batten door. The door is hung on square strap-like hinges that are fastened to the door and the frame with what appear to be wrought nails with leather washers. In the west garret room the wall boards are painted green and the ceiling boards are painted a bluish hue. The room's small fireplace has a segmental-arched opening and a brick hearth. The board that spans the opening has a segmental-arched cutout. The mantel shelf above, which has curved corners and brackets, is constructed with wire nails. Shelves in a corner of the room are cut-nailed.

Hatches in the knee walls of the east garret room open into triangular storage spaces. The narrow studs behind the knee walls have an irregular, whittled appearance that suggests they were shaped with a draw knife rather than sawn or hewn. The studs are wrought-nailed to the floor boards. Some of the knee wall studs at the west end of the garret may be more substantial. One of the floor boards in the south space projects above the others and is hewn, suggesting it may be the top a wall plate (a similar projecting board is visible in the north space). The rafters appear to have hewn and pit-sawn faces. Among the nails that project through the roof boards are numerous wrought nails with spade tips (these nails, and the more numerous cut nails that survive, formerly attached wood shingles). At the east end of the south space is visible brick nogging in the wall of the two-story east addition (see architectural discussion in Section 7 for additional discussion). Access to the space above the garret ceiling was limited but photographs suggest the rafters may be joined with large wrought nails.

The two-story rear wing, which was called the "camber ell" in the early twentieth century, is Greek Revival in character with two, four, and six-panel doors, simple post-and-lintel-form mantels, and molded apron panels under the windows. The doors are typically grained with darker wood tones on the rails and stiles and lighter tones in the panels. The moldings that trim the panels of the two-panel and six-panel doors in the upstairs are painted a cream color. A pane in the second-story north window is scratched with the initials NRC and the date 1889. The initials stand for Nathaniel Ragsdale Coleman who acquired the property in 1889. The initials and date are upside-down, indicating that the pane they are on was reset in its frame. The hyphen which connects the rear addition to the front part of the house was called the "water porch" in the early twentieth century. Water for domestic use was delivered to it from a spring located near the small creek which flows to the west of the nominated area. The term "porch" suggests the hyphen once had an open breezeway-like character. A 1930s photo suggests the small six-over-six window on the east wall of the space occupies the location of a former doorway.

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Other Resources

Behind the house stands the **smokehouse** (inventory no. 2), a one-story frame building of standard smokehouse form with a coursed rubble foundation and a side-gable roof now sheathed with corrugated metal but originally sheathed with wood shingles. The composition shingle siding is also a twentieth-century finish. Other exterior features include a batten door on the west side and steps made from cinder blocks. The interior is sheathed with paper board and the building is currently used as a tack room. In the southwest corner of the back yard is a modern **wellhouse** (inventory no. 3) or pumphouse of frame construction with weatherboard siding and a corrugated metal-sheathed gable roof. Between the wellhouse and the main house formerly stood a one-story kitchen.

The yard around the house, which is partially enclosed by a wire fence, has mature maples and other deciduous trees. A boxwood garden formerly existed behind the house, to the east side, an area where daffodils come up in the spring. The yard slopes to the southwest where it is bounded by a farm lane that leads to the Dan River. Beyond the lane are the ruins of a building identified as a former slave dwelling. The deteriorated scraps of lumber that are the visible remnants of the dwelling were covered in poison ivy at the time they were observed in April 2017 and were not investigated close-up, but the dwelling had a metal-sheathed roof and it may have had a stone chimney. To the east of the nominated area is a modern pond. The farm lane leads north from the nominated area, bordered by cedars, to a mostly modern dairy farm complex which includes at least one early farm building (a log barn of possible nineteenth-century date). The lane continues to River Road.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Ca. 1775-ca. 1900

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Riverside, an early house in southern Halifax County, Virginia, is named for its proximity to the Dan River. The house developed around a possibly eighteenth-century story-and-a-half frame dwelling acquired by planter Nathaniel Ragsdale and his wife, Ann Ragsdale, in 1809. The Ragsdales made Federal and Greek Revival additions to the house including a side wing with wainscots and baseboards decorated with vibrant painting and a mantel inspired by William Pain's pattern book *The Practical House Carpenter*. Riverside is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C in the architecture area of significance for its complex accretive form, extensive and well-preserved decorative painting, and pattern book-inspired Federal detail. The period of significance extends from ca. 1775, a date that acknowledges the possible late-eighteenth-century construction of the core section of the house, to ca. 1900, an end date that reflects the architectural evolution of the house during the nineteenth century and the construction of an adjacent smokehouse during the same period. Riverside is eligible at the local level of significance.

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

Historic Context

Halifax County historian Kenneth H. Cook traced the land on which Riverside stands to Robert Waters who acquired 285 acres from the Crown in 1751. The next owner was Henry Hopson Sr., who was thought by Cook to have acquired the land in 1772, though Hopson also acquired land on the north side of the Dan River from John Lewis in 1771. In 1786 Hopson gave to his son Samuel a 540-acre tract on the north side of the Dan River, thereby establishing the 540-acre dimension which was to remain intact into the nineteenth century. The 1786 deed noted that the tract was land "whereon the said Henry Hopson the elder late did dwell." In 1800 Samuel Hopson sold the property to Charles Barker for 693 pounds Virginia money. Cook wrote, "Charles Barker and his wife lived here and they may or may not have built the original portion of Riverside. Tradition holds that the oldest part, the story-and-a-half center portion with the shed room on the end, was built prior to the American Revolution." Cook ultimately concluded that Samuel Hopson built the original section of the house, which would date it to the 1786-1800 period, although the fact Henry Hopson Sr. earlier lived on the tract may be significant. Architectural evidence for an eighteenth-century date of construction is presented in the architectural discussion at the end of this section.¹

Charles Barker may be the Charles Barker Jr. who married Barbara Ann Walton in 1791 and who was described as living in Nottoway County in 1797 but who soon afterward moved to Halifax County. The Barkers relocated to the Tennessee-Kentucky border in 1809. If Charles and

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Barbara lived in the original section of Riverside in the first decade of the nineteenth century, then their oldest five or six children, born during the period 1793 to 1806, presumably lived there with them. Cook writes that Charles Barker was appointed a surveyor of roads and that he was responsible for the construction of the original bridge over Birch Creek, which flows into the Dan River just east of Riverside.²

In 1809, for 850 pounds Virginia money, Barker sold the 540-acre Riverside tract to Mecklenburg County native Nathaniel Ragsdale (1783-1859). Ragsdale married Ann C. Boswell (1792 -1870) the same year. Cook described Nathaniel Ragsdale's public career as "meager," although as a farmer Ragsdale was successful. The 1850 census lists him as a planter and owner of \$18,000 in real estate and forty-two slaves. Nathaniel and Ann had one child, Martha Frances Ragsdale (1822- 98), who married Dr. Ethelbert Algernon Coleman (1812-92) in 1839 and moved to a nearby property. The 1850 census shows a fifty-year-old woman named Susan Chafin, possibly a housekeeper, living with the Ragsdales. The 1860 census lists the recently widowed Ann with the occupation of farmer. With her lived Partheny W. Strange, identified as a thirty-five-year-old housekeeper. (A woman named Parthenia Strange Rickman was born in Halifax County in 1810 and died in Missouri in 1877.) Ann owned \$24,000 in real estate and \$38,000 in personal estate, the latter an indication of a large number of slaves. In 1861 and 1865 Ann was ordered to provide slaves to the Confederate government for work on the public defenses. On each occasion she furnished two slaves.³

Kenneth Cook documented two increases in the value of buildings on the Riverside property during the period 1814 to 1846 which he proposed as possibly relating to the construction of the house's two additions. The first increase, from \$608 to \$1,148 in 1829, was accompanied by the marginal note "improvements" in the tax records. In 1840 the value of buildings increased again, to \$1,527, and there was also an increase between 1846 and 1851, to \$2,100. The 1829 increase may reflect the construction of the east addition, as will be explained more fully in the architectural discussion at the end of the section, but identification of building value increases with work on the house is complicated by the presence of other buildings on the property. In the 1850s a barn, stable, and warehouse complex stood on the property. The latter, which presumably served for the storage of tobacco, was located (in Cook's words) at "Reedy Bottom, a river crossing on the western edge of the plantation, at the mouth of Little Toby Creek"—a location about a half mile from Riverside house on the Dan River. The construction of warehouses or other buildings could account for some of the building value increases noted in the tax records.⁴

Riverside passed to Martha Coleman upon the death of her mother Ann in 1870. Martha and her husband lived at the time at Creekside, which they had improved with a large Greek Revival addition in 1841 (Creekside, located near Riverside, burned in 2012). In 1889 Riverside was given to Martha and E. A. Coleman's oldest child, Nathaniel Ragsdale Coleman (1843-1917). Nathaniel, who attended the Virginia Military Institute in the early 1860s, served in the Confederate army, was captured and became a prisoner of war in 1864, and was released in 1865. He married Anne Nelson Page (1855-1936) in 1875. Anne worked as a tutor before marrying.⁵

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Nathaniel and Anne had two daughters, Frances Page Coleman (b. 1876) and Nathalie Coleman (b. 1878). In the mid-1890s Frances and Nathalie attended the Episcopal Female Institute in Winchester; their mother accompanied them and taught at the school in return for her daughters' education. Nathalie married the Rev. Dr. George McLaren Brydon, an Episcopal minister, in 1901. Frances married Roger Henry Williams (1874-1950) in 1901. Williams, who was active in the affairs of Cornell University, established a connection between the school and Riverside. According to Anne Coleman's granddaughter, Anne Page Brydon, Roger Williams "arranged for a while to have graduates of Cornell's School of Agriculture come to live at Riverside as farm managers. One of these, Miss Brydon recalls, was named Attride. He and his wife lived in the house, and she, though pregnant, helped with the meals and housework. She thinks the experiment probably was not successful likely because Mr. Attride knew all the latest farming theories but not how to get along with the farmhands."⁶

The Mr. Attride in Brydon's account was George Raiset Attride (1892-1965), a native New Yorker who graduated from Cornell in 1914. As an undergraduate, Attride published an article in a nationally-distributed farm journal entitled "The Box-Packing of Apples," but despite his specialty in apple cultivation his first post-graduate experience was the job at Riverside. According to Attride family historian David Attride, George's first job was on a plantation in Paces, Halifax County, and the *Cornell Countryman* reported in its October 1914 alumni notes that Attride was "managing a farm in West [*sic*] Virginia. Tobacco is his most important crop."⁷

The wife in Brydon's account was Beatrice Williams Attride (1888-1976; no known relation to Roger H. Williams). Beatrice and her husband did not remain long at Riverside. In October 1915 they were in Tallulah Falls, Georgia, where George superintended the Appalachian Apple Orchard. In 1917 he took a job as county agricultural agent for Bath County, Virginia, and in 1920 he was managing the Blue Springs Farm in Siluria, Alabama. According to David Attride, Beatrice Attride, who was originally from Pennsylvania, did not want to raise her children in the rural south, and the family eventually settled in California.⁸

Anne and Nathaniel Coleman's granddaughter Anne Page Brydon (b. 1904) spent summers at Riverside as a young girl. She later recalled, "There were a number of mulberry trees at the kitchen door, with a wooden block made from a tree trunk where Isabella [the cook] used to beat the biscuits. The 'old kitchen' at the edge of the yard was then used as a storage house, and later for tenants. There were some very old, large box bushes in the garden, which almost met across the path. In the early morning when they were wet with dew, I would follow my grandfather through the garden to the stable to watch the milking." The rear addition was called by the family the "chamber ell" and Anne Brydon slept in its upstairs room. She recalled watching adult family members play whist in the evening through the parlor windows below.⁹

In 1922 Anne Page Coleman and her two married daughters sold Riverside, then consisting of 760 acres, to J. Edward and Thomas T. Traynham. The property passed from owner to owner over the following decades. In the late 1930s Lizzie B. Ragland, a researcher with the Works Progress Administration-funded Virginia Historical Inventory, photographed the house. The "old kitchen" appears in one of the views, with a side-gable roof and a chimney on its north gable end. The smokehouse also appears, with what appears to be weatherboard siding which is either

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unpainted or painted a dark color. The boxwood garden apparently no longer existed in the late 1930s but shade trees dotted the yard, as at present. The house in Ragland's views, which has white-painted weatherboard siding and metal roofing, appeared much as it does now. Paul C. Edmunds Jr. and his wife, Jane Edmunds, acquired the property in 1974 and Jane set about rehabilitating the house as a retreat. Jane was elected the first president of the Halifax County Historical Society at its charter meeting in October 1972. An early presentation to the society was Kenneth Cook's history of Riverside, given in Riverside's front yard and a source for this report.¹⁰

Architectural Discussion

Architectural evidence lends support to the traditional eighteenth-century date of construction for the core section of Riverside, although an early nineteenth-century date is also possible. The early dating relies on the abundance of wrought nails used in construction contexts in the garret. The earliest stylistic fabric is Federal, however, which suggests the core section was remodeled, since Federal detail was not common in the region until after about 1820. Remodeling is also hinted at by the ceiling joist with what appears to be plaster key stains encapsulated by the current stair, and by the use of what appear to be cut nails to attach the sheathing boards to the knee walls in the garret, which are otherwise constructed with wrought nails.

The Federal remodeling dates to the period of Nathaniel and Ann Ragsdale's ownership, which began in 1809 and extended to 1859 (Nathaniel's death) and 1870 (Ann's death). This was also the period of the two-story east and rear additions. Through his examination of tax records Kenneth Cook suggested the east addition was added first, in 1829 according to an increase in the value of buildings on the farm, followed by the rear addition in 1840, the date of another increase. Comparative stylistic and tax record evidence presented below supports Cook's ca. 1829 date for Riverside's east addition.¹¹

The style of the east addition first-floor parlor window and door surrounds has a bearing on the wing's date. The surrounds are symmetrically molded, a hallmark of Greek Revival influence which rarely dates to before 1830, although it is possible that the moldings with their colonnette-like center ribs were meant as a pilaster effect and are therefore not, technically, symmetrical in the typical Greek Revival sense. If this is the case then the east addition could plausibly date to the late 1820s and be reflected in the 1829 increase. The other possible date—1840—would be late for Federal influence, although not inconceivable, especially if it belatedly dated work done in the late 1830s.

Another stylistic feature with a bearing on dating is the double-colonnetted form of the parlor mantel. One of the region's earliest occurrences of paired mantel pilaster colonnettes is Montmorenci, a now-demolished house which stood several counties to the east in Warren County, North Carolina (Warren County was linked to Halifax County, Virginia, via the Dan/Roanoke river system). Montmorenci was probably built in 1819 or 1820, and its double-colonnetted mantel was exceptionally fine, with molded composition ornament thought to have been supplied by Philadelphia ornament manufacturer Robert Wellford. Another dated Warren County house with a double-colonnette mantel is Elgin (1827-32). Kentland, in Montgomery

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County, Virginia, which appears to date to the first half of the 1830s, also has a double-colonnette mantel. In Kentucky, colonnetted mantels are dated to the 1810-1835 period by architectural historian Clay Lancaster. The mantel evidence therefore suggests construction of Riverside's east addition during the late 1810s to mid-1830s period, a period which agrees well with a ca. 1829 date.¹²

Another potentially datable feature was the small pedimented porch that sheltered Riverside's front entry in the nineteenth century but was replaced in the early twentieth century. Such porches were especially popular in the county in the 1830s. The rear addition, for which Cook proposed a date of 1840, may actually be later, based on the mature Greek Revival style of its mantels. It was presumably built before Nathaniel Ragsdale's death in 1859.¹³

The finish carpenter who fashioned Riverside's parlor mantel modeled it on designs in British architect William Pain's pattern book *The Practical House Carpenter*. Pain's book, first published in England in the 1780s, was republished in America in the 1790s and served as a popular source of inspiration into the nineteenth century. The 1792 edition illustrates "chimney piece" ornamentation that is a relatively close match for the urn and leaf designs on the Riverside mantel. Plate 113 shows a center frieze tablet covered urn with a finial knob and doubly concave lid like the Riverside urn but with more gracile proportions, festoons, and an absence of handles which the Riverside urn has. Center urns are a recurring theme in Pain's mantel designs, appearing also in plates 66 and 68, and as end tablet ornaments in plate 117. Plate 65 shows upright leaf figures used as end tablet ornaments. The leaves in Pain's design appear to be simplified acanthus leaves, whereas the Riverside leaves have a more stylized, frond-like appearance. The stylistic differences between the illustrated versions of the motifs and their execution is to be expected, owing to the skill level and intent of the carver, but the underlying similarities point to Pain's book as the principal source. Details like the scrolled urn handles would have come from another source or were the carpenter's invention. Slender double mantel colonnettes are rare or lacking in Pain's pattern books, and they too would have derived from another source.¹⁴

Riverside is not the only Halifax County house with the mantel design. The nearby house Elm Hill has a mantel with a virtually identical center urn, flanking frond-like leaf ornaments, and paired colonnettes. Tax record evidence indicates Elm Hill was built between 1824 and 1829, and the close similarity of the Elm Hill and Riverside mantels is the strongest evidence for a late 1820s date of construction for Riverside's east addition. A third Halifax County house with stylistic affinities to Riverside and Elm Hill is Collins Ferry, located at the north end of the county on the Staunton (Roanoke) River, which has a tripartite Federal mantel with a center urn and flanking frond-like leaves. Other aspects of the Collins Ferry mantel differ, however. Its urn is bowl-like with boldly curved ribs that accentuate the perspective, and its leaves lack the short stems of the Riverside and Elm Hill leaves, although they are otherwise very similar. Collins Ferry may date to ca. 1820.¹⁵

Riverside's decorative painting is described in a 2008 report on the county's architecture as follows:

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The marbling consists of irregular diamond-shaped splotches of blue, green, and white in a latticework of veinous blue and red lines. As was often the case with marbling done by country and itinerant painters during the period, the work bears only a superficial likeness to true marble colors and veining. The bright colors and eye-popping patterns appear to have been more important than realism, although the painter achieved a soft naturalistic effect by blurring the colors, probably by rubbing them with a rag before the paint had completely dried.

Virtually identical painting survives on a wainscot inside a closet at Elm Hill, although the painting uses a different color palette: the splotches are blue, pink, and olive drab and the veining is blue. The Elm Hill wainscoting is similar to Riverside's in that it has molded panels framed by rails and stiles and surmounted by a reeded chair rail. The Elm Hill chair rail is green instead of rose. The streaked effect that decorates the Riverside baseboard is used at Elm Hill on the rails and stiles of the wainscot (whereas the Riverside rails and stiles are grained) and the Elm Hill streaking is blue on a light stone color. Despite these differences, the decorative painting at Riverside and Elm Hill was undoubtedly executed by the same artist, just as the urn and leaf mantels were made by the same carver. The painted effects at Riverside and Elm Hill are consistent with techniques documented by architectural historian Laura Phillips in North Carolina's decorative painting tradition, where colors and patterns often bear little resemblance to the natural materials that the painting ostensibly mimics.¹⁶

Riverside has other architectural features of note. Its extensive graining, much of it in imitation of mahogany, is well preserved. The brick nogging in the west wall of the east addition is reported to be more extensive. Anne Page Brydon stated that the nogging is in the walls of the original section, however the wall cavities visible inside the under-stair closet do not have bricks (it is possible bricks were once present there but were removed during repairs). The graffiti in the under-stair closet, which reads "opened sugar Nov 17 1891," suggests use of the space for storing valuable foodstuffs (the closet door had a lock) as well as frugality in their use. Similar graffiti, dating to the 1860s, survives in the under-stair closet at Dewberry Hill, located nearby in the Mt. Carmel area of the county. Lastly, the square hinges on the garret door are a non-standard and potentially early feature, possibly one of the few vestiges of the house's original finishes.¹⁷

Endnotes

¹ Cook, "Riverside," 1-2; Halifax County Deed Book 8, p. 159; Deed Book 13, p. 472; Deed Book 18, p. 576. A number of individuals assisted with the preparation of the report, foremost among them Riverside's owner and the sponsor of the nomination, Jane Edmunds. Assistance was also provided by Donna Strange, Cary Perkins with the Halifax Public Library, and Michael Pulice and Lena Sweeten McDonald at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

² Cook, "Riverside," 3; Boddie, *Southside Virginia Families* (vol. 2), 40-41. There was also a Charles Barker Sr. in the county, whose 1801 will described a slaveholding of fifteen individuals (Halifax County Will Book 6, p. 496).

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³ Cook, "Riverside," 3, 9; Halifax County Deed Book 22, p. 163; US census; Find A Grave website.

⁴ Cook, "Riverside," 5, 7, and 8, and Cook's loose notes in the Riverside file; Halifax County tax records.

⁵ Cook, "Riverside," 6, 9-12, 16; Halifax County Historical Society Architectural Committee, *Architectural History of Halifax County*, 461.

⁶ Cook, "Riverside," 19, 21.

⁷ David Attride personal communication; Attride, "Box-Packing of Apples," 578-579; *Cornell Countryman* 12:1 (October 1914), 134.

⁸ David Attride personal communication; *Cornell Alumni News* 18:4 (October 21, 1915), 52, and 20:2 (October 4, 1917), 94; *Cornell Countryman* 18:1 (1920), 146; *Cornell Daily Sun*, February 6, 1943.

⁹ Riverside file. Anne Brydon's memories apparently predate the latter part of 1914 when George and Beatrice Attride replaced her family as residents of the house.

¹⁰ Jane Edmunds personal communication; Halifax County Deed Book 131, p. 207; Ragland, "Unidentified house;" Cook, "Riverside," 22; October 12, 1972, newspaper clipping in the subject files of the Halifax Public Library.

¹¹ Tax record dating for Riverside is complicated by several factors. One is the possibility of other construction on the farm which could account for increases; another the fact that construction activity was not always promptly reflected in county tax records; and lastly, the frame construction and relative small size of the additions (compared to, for example, a large brick house), which would result in a weaker signal in the tax records.

¹² Bishir, "Montmorenci-Prospect Hill School," 88; Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture*, 94-95; Lancaster, *Antebellum Architecture of Kentucky*, 57.

¹³ Cook, "Riverside," 5.

¹⁴ Pain, *Practical House Carpenter*; Hafertepe, "The Country Builder's Assistant: Text and Context," 131. Mantels are also pictured in William Pain's *Pain's British Palladio* (1788) but are not similar to those at Riverside.

¹⁵ Halifax County Historical Society Architectural Committee, *Architectural History of Halifax County*, 104-107; Smith, "Collins Ferry Historic District," 14-15.

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¹⁶ Pezzoni, "Architectural History of Halifax County;" Phillips, "Grand Illusions," 155-162. The streaked effects at Riverside and Elm Hill may have been produced by sweeping freshly applied paint with a dry brush.

¹⁷ Riverside file; Pezzoni, "Dewberry Hill."

Riverside
Name of Property

Halifax County, Virginia
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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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 # _____

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County and State

_____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR ID# 041-0089

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approximately 1.75 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 36.661820 Longitude: -79.073950

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:

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

The boundaries encompass a small area of approximately 1.75 acres around the house, as shown on the approximately 1:100-scale sketch map that accompanies the nomination.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are drawn to encompass the house and associated smokehouse (and incidentally a non-contributing modern wellhouse) and to exclude a large complex of mostly modern farm buildings also located on the parcel.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: J. Daniel Pezzoni
organization: Landmark Preservation Associates
street & number: 6 Houston St.
city or town: Lexington state: Virginia zip code: 24450
e-mail: gilespezzoni@rockbridge.net
telephone: (540) 464-5315
date: May 18, 2017

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.)

Riverside
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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

Information common to all photos:

Name of Property: Riverside
City or Vicinity: Sutherlin
County: Halifax
State: Virginia
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni

Specific information:

Photo 1 of 12
VA_HalifaxCounty_Riverside_0001
Date Photographed: April 2017
House, east and north (front) elevations, view facing southwest.

Photo 2 of 12
VA_HalifaxCounty_Riverside_0002
Date Photographed: December 2016
House, west and south elevations, view facing northeast.

Photo 3 of 12
VA_HalifaxCounty_Riverside_0003
Date Photographed: December 2016
House, south and east elevations with smokehouse and wellhouse to left, view facing west.

Photo 4 of 12
VA_HalifaxCounty_Riverside_0004
Date Photographed: December 2016
Stair in entry hall.

Photo 5 of 12
VA_HalifaxCounty_Riverside_0005
Date Photographed: December 2016

Riverside

Name of Property

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Parlor in first floor of east addition.

Photo 6 of 12

VA_HalifaxCounty_Riverside_0006

Date Photographed: December 2016

Decorative painting on wainscot in parlor in first floor of east addition.

Photo 7 of 12

VA_HalifaxCounty_Riverside_0007

Date Photographed: December 2016

Decorative painting on baseboard in parlor in first floor of east addition.

Photo 8 of 12

VA_HalifaxCounty_Riverside_0008

Date Photographed: December 2016

First floor of rear addition,

Photo 9 of 12

VA_HalifaxCounty_Riverside_0009

Date Photographed: December 2016

View from first floor of rear addition through water porch to entry hall with detail of grained door.

Photo 10 of 12

VA_HalifaxCounty_Riverside_0010

Date Photographed: April 2016

Garret.

Photo 11 of 12

VA_HalifaxCounty_Riverside_0011

Date Photographed: April 2016

Grained doors in second floor of rear addition.

Photo 12 of 12

VA_HalifaxCounty_Riverside_0012

Date Photographed: December 2016

Smokehouse, view facing southeast.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

LOCATION MAP

Riverside

Halifax County, VA

DHR No. 041-0089

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Latitude: 36.661820

Longitude: -79.073950



Feet

0 200 400 600 800

1:9,028 / 1"=752 Feet

Title:

Date: 8/25/2017

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

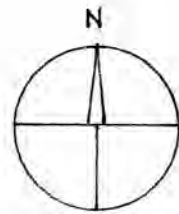
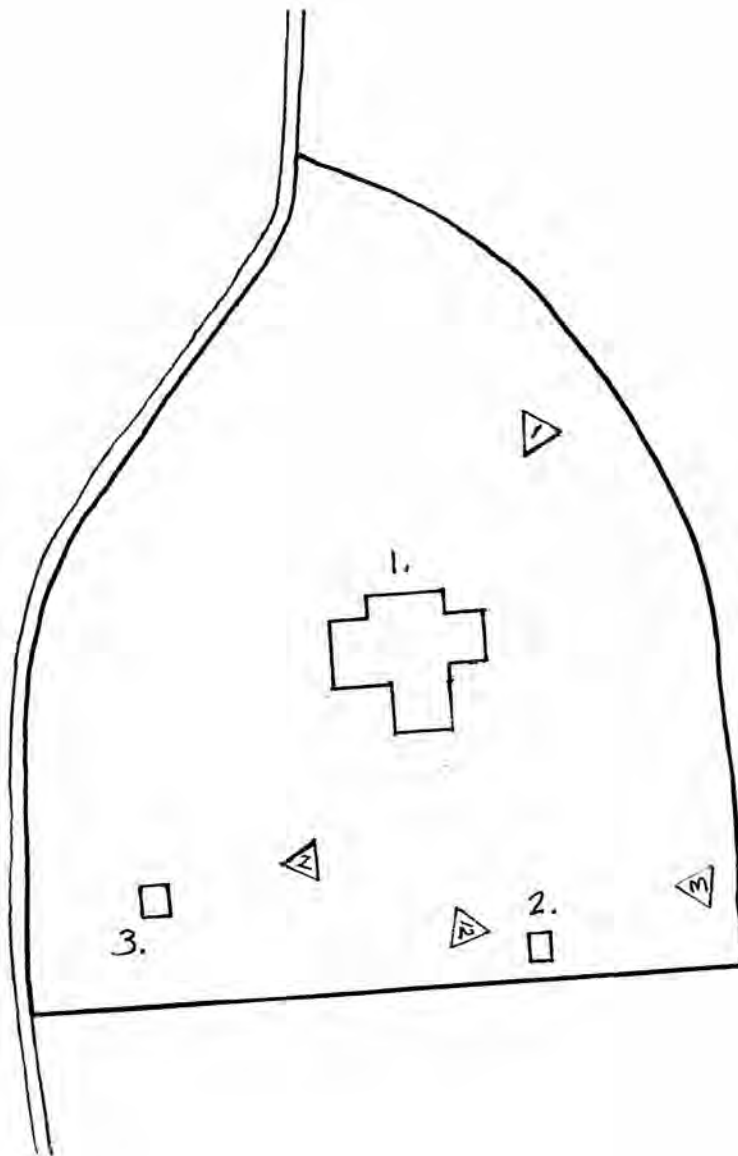
Sketch Map/Photo Key

Riverside

Halifax County, Virginia. Resources keyed to inventory. Number and direction of view of nomination photos indicated by triangular markers. Location and size of resources approximate.

Inventory

1. Riverside. Contributing building.
2. Smokehouse. Contributing building.
3. Wellhouse. Non-contributing structure.



0 100
feet
(approx.)

2013 Aerial Image



Riverside
Halifax County, 041-0089

Sources: VDRR 2017, ESRI 2017
Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years and the representation depicted is based on the field observation date and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general illustration purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. The map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". Contact DHR for the most recent information as data is updated continually.

1 in = 100 feet

  **DHR**
Department of Historic Resources

Created by: D. Bascone July 14, 2017