

VLR 319103  
NR 5100103

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**

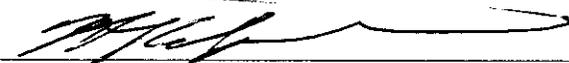
historic name Pleasant Grove  
other names/site number Joseph Deyerle House, Deyerle Homeplace, Glenvar, VDHR# 80-25

**2. Location**

street & number 4377 West Main Street not for publication   
city or town Salem vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state Virginia code VA county Roanoke code 161 Zip 24153

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this \_\_\_\_\_ 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  meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide  locally. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 \_\_\_\_\_ Date 4/4/03  
Signature of certifying official  
**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official 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  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper  
Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Classification**

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**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>  6  </u>	<u>  1  </u>	buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	objects
<u>  6  </u>	<u>  1  </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  

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**6. Function or Use**

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

Cat: <u>      </u> domestic	Sub: <u>  </u> single dwelling
<u>      </u> domestic	<u>      </u> kitchen
<u>      </u> domestic	<u>      </u> springhouse
<u>      </u> domestic	<u>      </u> smokehouse
<u>      </u> domestic	<u>      </u> carriage house
<u>      </u> domestic	<u>      </u> multiple dwelling
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

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

Cat: <u>      </u> domestic	Sub: <u>  </u> single dwelling
<u>      </u> domestic	<u>      </u> family room
<u>      </u> domestic	<u>      </u> springhouse
<u>      </u> domestic	<u>      </u> storage
<u>      </u> domestic	<u>      </u> shop and storage
<u>      </u> domestic	<u>      </u> garage
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

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**7. Description**

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

Greek Revival

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**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

roof metal: standing seam

walls brick

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other \_\_\_\_\_

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**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)

- X 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.
- X 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, agriculture

Period of Significance 1853-1953

Significant Dates 1853

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder Deyerle, Joseph  
Deyerle, James Crawford  
Sedon, Gustavus

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(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: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 7.87 acres

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

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17</u> <u>576070</u>	2 <u>4125011</u> _____
3 _____	4 _____
_____ See continuation sheet.	

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**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.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Michael J. Pulice, Architectural Historian

Organization: VA Department of Historic Resources, Roanoke Regional Office date November 30, 2002

street & number: 1030 Penmar Ave. SE telephone 540-857-7586

city or town Roanoke state VA zip code 24013

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit 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)

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**Property Owner**

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

name Aileen Layne and Thomas Beason

street & number 4377 West Main Street telephone 540-380-3033

city or town Salem state VA zip code 24153

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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.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## 7. Narrative Description

### Summary

The Joseph Deyerle House, now called Pleasant Grove, was the heart of a mid-nineteenth-century 1150-acre plantation located on the Roanoke River in Roanoke County, Virginia, a few miles west of the town of Salem and east of the Montgomery County line. The site is located on the north side of the Great Valley Road, known today as US Highway 11/460. Although the vast majority of the land is no longer part of Pleasant Grove, the house and its immediate environs, including several dependencies, survive in remarkable condition and are included in the nominated parcel. The collection of buildings constitutes one of the finest and most intact examples of historic domestic architecture in the region. Interstate 81, completed in the 1970s, runs through the original tract behind the house and surviving dependencies, and now delineates the northern border of the 7.87-acre property.

### House Exterior

The red brick mansion at Pleasant Grove consists of a large, two-story, square, four-over-four Georgian plan edifice, designed in the provincial Valley of Virginia Greek Revival style.<sup>1</sup> Its three-bay principal façade is highlighted by a well-proportioned Ionic portico with slender, tapered, fluted columns, connected by a unique Chinese-Chippendale-inspired railing with cruciform-pattern balusters that resembles designs from plate 33 of Asher Benjamin's *Practical House Carpenter* (1830). The Ionic columns support a simplified classical entablature, an intricate iron balustrade, and a deck roof with its own hidden gutter system. The portico shelters an exemplary Greek Revival entrance consisting of a six-panel single-leaf door with sidelights and transom light, with panes divided by delicate muntins. The overlight muntins form a curvilinear guilloche pattern, in-filled with elliptical panes of wavy glass. Each sidelight is divided into numerous small panes, with the top muntins forming gothic arches. Extraordinarily large six-over-six sash windows with 16 x 24-inch panes, narrow muntins, prominent wooden lintels and sills, and louvered shutters flank the portico. French doors above the portico provide access to the roof deck.

The brick walls are laid up in light tan-colored lime and sand mortar in a 1:5 American bond with Flemish variant on the front elevation, and a 1:4 American common bond on the side and rear elevations. A common bond brick foundation continues below grade. The large, well-made bricks are neatly aligned between fine, struck, and penciled joints. The joint profile tapers inward toward the bottom of the joint, which is often referred to as a weathered joint. Near the northeast corner of the principal façade, at about eye level, are two bricks inscribed with "JS Deyerle" and

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“1853.” At the southwest corner, again at about eye level, is a brick inscribed with “Pleasant Grove 1853.” The inscriptions are all carefully done and clearly legible.

Four tightly grouped, tall and narrow, four-over-four, double-hung sash windows pierce the east elevation at the vertical center of the wall. The rear elevation fenestration reiterates that of the front, with three bays of six-over-six light windows at the second-floor level and a central doorway flanked by windows at the ground-floor level. Except for some variability in width, all of the house windows are identical to the windows on the front façade, and retain their sash cords, weights, much of their original glass and louvered shutters, which are still operable. In a 1942 paragraph on the history of Pleasant Grove done for the Works Progress Administration Writer’s Project, Charlotte Temple wrote: “The back of the house has no windows, this probably a precautionary measure against attacks by Indians.” Besides the fact that there were no Indians in a position to attack Pleasant Grove in the nineteenth century, a recent investigation of the rear elevation windows leaves little doubt that they were part of the original house construction.

Just off-center on the west elevation, towards the rear of the house, is an original sunroom consisting of a 7 x 14-foot-plan one-story projecting bay on a brick foundation, that is covered by a deck-on-hip standing-seam metal roof. Like the entrance portico, the sunroom roof possesses its own hidden gutter system. Two large, closely-spaced, eight-over-eight, double-hung windows on the west side of the bay, and single six-over-six windows on both the north and south sides—56 panes in all—light the interior and provide largely unobstructed views to the west. The bay’s cornice approximates the main block cornice above. The sunroom helps light the first-floor rooms on the west side of the house and is the only wall piercing in the west elevation. Windows at the second-floor level would have allowed the rooms with western exposure to overheat during the summer months.

At the roofline a molded wood cornice lines the broad eaves, which contain hidden gutters. The low-pitched hipped roof is covered with red-painted, hand-crimped, standing-seam sheet metal and is pierced by four tall, interior end chimneys on the east and west walls, each accommodating two flues.

### House Interior

The interior plan consists of wide, 12 x 41-foot, central halls on the first and second floors that are created by two massive, parallel, brick bearing walls. The halls on each level are flanked by four large, 20 x 20-foot rooms on each side. The ceiling height in each room is eleven feet. Each room has a fireplace and carved wood mantels. This plan, with all eight rooms opening into the unheated stair halls, may be described as a double-pile, “closed” plan. The dog-leg staircase at

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the rear of the central hall consists of two parallel flights of open stringers connected by a landing. The sleek, curving, molded walnut handrail, supported by delicate turned balusters, terminates at the bottom in a spiral around a slender central newel. The lower flight of stairs is treated with a paneled skirt, while the upper flight is dramatically cantilevered from the partition wall. On the east side of the first-floor hall are two adjacent parlors that can be treated as one room by opening the superbly crafted, paneled pocket doors between the rooms. The side-by-side vertical door panels were apparently modeled after the "parlour sliding doors" found on plate 70 of Minard Lafever's *Modern Building Guide* (1833).

All of the doorways and windows are similarly treated with a variety of wide, molded architraves and one of several uniquely designed corner blocks that appear throughout the house. In the front parlor are moldings adapted from Asher's *Practical House Carpenter*, plates 46 and 47, and faceted corner blocks based on plate 48. Many interior doorways have operable transom windows or vents above, with trim matching the doorways. The transom apertures were constructed separately from the doorways, with about eight inches of wall surface between. The interior doors are all identical, consisting of five panels in a configuration of two wide, vertical rectangles in the top half, a narrow horizontal panel just below the knob, and two square panels at the bottom. This configuration is faithfully derived from Benjamin's *Practical House Carpenter*, plate 39, figure 4. All of the doors retain their original, diminutive, brass knobs. The parlor toward the front of the house has a unique, open-worked carving above the doorway leading out into the hall [photograph 8]. The piece was probably designed as a window covering. It is very much like the "window guards" depicted in Asher Benjamin's *The Builder's Guide* (1839), plate 53.<sup>2</sup> The rooms all have the usual molded baseboards, but surprisingly, none have chair rails. Virtually all of the original wall plaster in the house has survived and is covered with wallpaper. All of the rooms retain their original, random-width, tongue-and-groove, yellow pine floorboards.

The eight mantels in the house are each distinctively designed and carved in a simple yet elegant regional Greek Revival style that feature various combinations of Ionic half-columns resembling those of the front portico, fluted pilasters, peaked overmantel bands, and quirked ovolo, ogee, astragal, and bead moldings.

Most, if not all, of the mantels in the house were carved by a local carpenter and German immigrant, Gustavus Sedon. According to a surviving journal kept by Sedon, Joseph Deyerle kept him fairly busy during the early 1850s. It was also Sedon who created the front entrance and portico. Sedon worked seven months and twenty-four days for Deyerle in 1853, at a wage of \$40 per month, for a total of \$316.75. He charged Deyerle only \$6 extra for carving thirty-four feet of egg and dart molding around the portico, and it was he who installed the iron balustrade,

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produced by an unknown manufacturer, in 1855. Sedon's entries naming Joseph Deyerle as his patron appeared sporadically in his journal thereafter, through 1868.<sup>3</sup>

### Outbuildings

A late-twentieth-century frame hyphen connects the rear door of the main house to the early-period, gable-roofed, brick detached kitchen. The 18 x 26-foot kitchen retains its original form, with the hearth and chimney intact, although the north elevation, which faces the rear of the property, was modified in the twentieth century and finally removed altogether and replaced by a wood stud wall with a door and large window.

Not far to the west of the kitchen stands an early-period brick building, now a springhouse, with a front-overhanging gable roof. Both gable ends are sheathed with vertical boards and battens. The roof is covered with early-twentieth-century hand-crimped "box tin" in approximately 5-foot lengths. The interior was once divided into two small, narrow rooms accessed by separate doors below the 5-foot cantilevered overhang. However, the interior partition was removed many years ago. The south room was lighted by four-over-four, double-hung sash on its south elevation. The former north room, now used for cold storage, was about twice the size of the south room and is ventilated by unglazed apertures on its north and west sides, with vertical wooden bars (west elevation), fixed louvers (north elevation), and interior shutters. Gravity-fed spring water runs through modern piping and pours out from a spigot into concrete troughs just in front of the springhouse and along the rear wall on the interior. The entire interior of the building is coated with layers of whitewash.

Although it cannot be proved, there is evidence to suggest that the springhouse was once a divided, multiple-seat privy. While it is more spacious, it closely resembles an extant, original-period privy at Benjamin Deyerle's house in Roanoke, completed a year or two before Pleasant Grove.<sup>4</sup> Both buildings are of brick with cantilevered front overhangs; both are square in plan and are whitewashed inside; and both have a brick, chimney-like flue about 2 x 2 feet in width. At Benjamin's privy it is clear that the flue's purpose was to vent the privy shaft. At Pleasant Grove, however, the flue cannot be investigated since it was truncated at the ceiling level and undercut some two-and-one-half feet above the floor many years ago when the roof was rebuilt and the concrete water troughs were installed. The floor is now fully covered with concrete.

To the southwest of the springhouse stands a brick garage with an asphalt-shingled hip roof built in the early twentieth century. It appears in photographs from the era.

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Twenty-five feet to the east of the kitchen stands an early-period smokehouse. It is tall and square in plan, with a steeply pitched gable roof and brick walls laid up in four-course common bond. The brick walls extend up to the ridgeline on the gable ends. The other two walls feature a single corbeled brick course as a cornice, now hidden by modern gutters. Each wall is perforated by tall, narrow, 2 x 26-inch vents. White paint on the east and west walls and the lower portions of the north and south walls was applied relatively recently to hide sloppy repointing and the remnants of parging that once covered the bottom 5-or-so feet of each elevation.<sup>5</sup> Modern 2V sheet metal roofing replaced early box tin in one-foot sections, visible in early photographs. As with all the buildings at Pleasant Grove, the roof was once covered with shingles, most likely of chestnut, white oak, or cedar. The original entrance door on the west side survives with its hand-forged latch, although a window was cut into it sometime in the twentieth century. Inside the smokehouse, the hardwood cross beams, roof structure, and early brick floor remain intact.

To the rear of the present-day site, 75-feet behind the main house, is a one-and-one-half-story, single-pile, side-gabled, brick servant's house, divided evenly into two separate 15 x 17-foot units, each with its own entrance and gable-end chimney with large hearth. The building was clearly part of the antebellum farm complex. The dwelling is very well built and relatively commodious. The bricks are neatly laid in four-course common bond. The chimneys have asymmetrical shoulders, with the bulk of the chimney standing closer to the rear of the building than the front, although the stacks nearly bisect the gable ends, almost in alignment with the roof peak. Each unit has a six-light, fixed-sash wood replacement window on the front (south) elevation, an early six-over-six double-hung sash window on the rear elevation, and small, fixed-sash windows with two side-by-side panes flanking each chimney at the loft level. An early-period staircase leads to the loft. All interior walls are heavily whitewashed. Both dwelling units now have concrete floors, and the building is used as shop/ storage space. The original mortised roof rafters survive, but the sheet metal covering dates from the early to mid-twentieth century. The batten entrance doors are virtually identical and appear to be original.

In the census of 1860 it was noted that Joseph Deyerle had five slave dwellings on his property, which housed twenty-five slaves.

East of the extant servant's house is a four-bay frame garage that was erected in the late twentieth century. The garage is the only *noncontributing* building on the site.

A brick wall made up of a checkerboard design of bricks and voids, with end pillars and concrete coping, runs close to the highway at the front edge of the property. It is reportedly built of bricks from one of the dependencies, probably in the early twentieth century. Sections of the wall have

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been rebuilt with new bricks due to vehicle collisions, but original bricks that match those of the extant outbuildings are also present.

### **8. Statement of Significance**

Pleasant Grove is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of Architecture and Agriculture because of the contributions of Joseph Deyerle (1799-1877) and his son James Crawford Deyerle (1825-1897) to the fields of architecture and building in southwestern Virginia, and because of Joseph's success and prominence as a farmer and distiller of whiskey. Joseph and James built Pleasant Grove after fulfilling a contract for the brickwork of the Main Building at Roanoke College in Salem in 1847.<sup>6</sup> These two buildings are among the finest mid-nineteenth-century survivals in the region. James resided at Pleasant Grove from the time it was built until at least the 1860s, and Pleasant Grove is currently the property most closely associated with him. The property is also nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture because of its high degree of integrity as an intact farmstead and its importance and distinction as a mid-nineteenth-century landmark that exemplifies the regional Greek Revival style— a style that several Deyerle family members were largely responsible for bringing to the Roanoke region.<sup>7</sup>

### **Acknowledgements**

The author wishes to thank Aileen and Cabel Layne and Thomas Beason, present owners of Pleasant Grove, for providing access and information on several occasions. Mr. Beason supplied measurements of buildings, rooms, windows, etc., and the sketch map contained in this nomination. Others who provided valuable assistance include Howard R. Hammond, Karolyn Sink, Dr. John Kern, Susan Zorn, Elaine Powers, Kent Chrisman, John Long, J. Daniel Pezzoni, and Tracy Hall.

### **Historical Context**

Joseph Deyerle came to Roanoke County sometime between 1840 and 1850 from adjacent Montgomery County to the west. The Deyerle family established itself in Montgomery County prior to the American Revolution beginning with Peter Deyerle (ca. 1732-1812), a German immigrant who came to America around 1748 as an indentured servant. According to Peter's last will and testament, dated August 1808, he was the owner of vast acreage and many slaves. [Montgomery County Clerk's Office, Will Book 2] Peter and his wife Regina Anna Bowman had many children, the first of whom was a son named Charles. Charles remained in Montgomery County, where he and his first wife, Mary Poage, gave birth to Joseph, their first born, in 1799.

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Joseph married Anna Crawford (1800-1871) in 1820. They had twelve children, ten of whom survived into adulthood. Of the six boys, Charles Poage Deyerle (1820-1853) was the oldest. He was among the first graduates of Virginia Military Institute in 1842. He studied at Jefferson Medical College to become a physician in 1846 and enlisted in the US Army. During the Mexican War he was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Artillery, 1<sup>st</sup> Division under General North, at Vera Cruz. He was with General Scott's army when it took Mexico City, ending the war. As a surgeon, he attained the rank of major and was sent to California in 1849, first to Benicia Barracks, and later to Fort Humboldt on the northern coast. During his tenure in California he sent many letters to his mother, brothers, and sisters and often enclosed hundreds of dollars specified for use in completing and furnishing the new family home and for educating his younger siblings. His last few letters indicated his failing health, and he died on October 30, 1853, before he could return to Virginia. Soon thereafter his younger brother, James Crawford Deyerle (1825-1897), left home for northern California and returned with his brother's body. Major Charles P. Deyerle's body is buried among those of his family members in Salem's East Hill Cemetery.<sup>8</sup>

James Crawford Deyerle, also known as J. C., returned from California to resume a promising career as a builder who specialized in brickwork. He went on to build many more outstanding brick structures in the Roanoke Valley and surrounding counties, including the remarkable David McGavock House known as Spring Dale in Pulaski County, and Bittle Memorial Hall at Roanoke College in the 1870s.<sup>9</sup> He is listed in the 1850 and 1870 census as a brickmason, in the 1860 census as a speculator, and again in the 1880 census as a brick maker. On November 16, 1854, J. C. advertised in the Salem Register that he wished to "employ some 3 or 4 good journeyman carpenters." Roanoke County deed books document numerous land transactions in which J. C. was involved. On June 5, 1857, he advertised "Land Warrants Wanted." In an 1871-72 Classified Business Directory he was the only local brick maker listed. An 1883 map of Salem shows a brickyard and several properties under his ownership.<sup>10</sup>

Other important Deyerle builders who built within the regional Greek Revival tradition include Benjamin Deyerle (1806-1883) and his brother David (1813-1898), both of whom were Joseph's half-brothers. Charles Deyerle, Jr., who was another of Joseph's half-brothers, and Walter C. Deyerle, Joseph's first cousin, are more obscure, but archival documents confirm that they too were local builders.

Little more is known about Joseph and J. C.'s involvement in the building trades, but their lives and careers are fully deserving of further research. The importance of the Deyerle family in the architectural history of the region has yet to be fully realized, although since the 1930s Benjamin Deyerle has been considered the foremost nineteenth-century builder in the Roanoke Valley, and has routinely been credited for building Pleasant Grove as well as numerous other buildings. Recent

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research, however, has indicated that he did not play an important role in the construction of Pleasant Grove. How and where each Deyerle builder made contributions to the region's architecture has not been completely sorted out, yet new evidence has confirmed that J.C. factored in much more prominently than was previously thought.

In 1934, Peyton M. Lewis, a former slave who had belonged to Benjamin Deyerle, engaged in a series of correspondence with some Deyerle descendants in Roanoke. He wrote that his father, Charles Lewis, was a "great brick molder and layer, and a great distiller of whiskey." He also stated that Charles Lewis and his brother, Peyton Lewis (Peyton M. Lewis's uncle and namesake), were bought off the auction block in Richmond by Joseph and Benjamin Deyerle. Benjamin retained Charles, and Joseph retained Peyton. This would have occurred sometime between 1834 and 1849; therefore, it is likely that Peyton Lewis was one of the slaves who helped build Roanoke College, Pleasant Grove, and possibly other structures.<sup>11</sup>

Joseph Deyerle's main occupation was farming, and he appears only as a farmer in 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses. He began farming the land around Pleasant Grove in the 1840s, perhaps soon after the birth of his youngest child, Ballard, in 1844. By 1850 he had acquired 1,150 acres, 400 of which were improved. His farm was then worth a cash value of \$16,000. He had 15 horses, 10 milk cows, 50 other cattle, 50 sheep, and 200 swine. He had on hand 970 bushels of wheat, 3,500 bushels of corn, 1,600 bushels of oats, and 1,000 pounds of butter. Within his household were James (J.C.), 25; Susan, 22; Martha, 20; John S., 15; Lewis, 12; Matthew, 10; Sarah, 7; and Ballard, 5. Also on his farm lived Thomas Barnett, 30, farmer; Moses Lee, 26, cooper; and John Scott, 53, distiller, after whom John Scott Deyerle, Joseph's son, is said to have been named.

By 1860 Pleasant Grove had 480 improved acres and 630 unimproved acres, now worth a much inflated value of 43,000 dollars. His dairy business had increased 9-fold, as he now had 90 milk cows, but only 35 other cattle and 120 swine. His crops had changed a great deal— he now had 22,600 pounds of tobacco on hand and 3,157 bushels of wheat, along with 2,000 bushels of corn, 100 bushels of potatoes, 940 pounds of butter, and 132 gallons of wine. He also owned twenty male slaves ranging in age from 1 year to 55 years, and five female slaves ranging in age from 1 year to 20 years, living in five slave houses.

When the Civil War broke out, another son of Joseph and Anna's, Madison Pitzer Deyerle (1839-1862), quit his law studies to lead Salem's first unit, the Roanoke Grays. When the unit later became Company I, 28<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Virginia Volunteer Infantry, Army of Northern Virginia, Captain Deyerle refused a promotion to colonel to stay with his men. They fought under General Pickett at the First Battle of Manassas in 1861, but Deyerle was cut down at the Battle of Williamsburg, the opening battle of McClellan's Peninsula Campaign, on May 5, 1862.<sup>12</sup>

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Another son, John Scott Deyerle (1835-1890), studied at the Mott School in New York to become a physician. After he graduated in 1861 he joined the war effort, rose to the rank of major, and commanded the Roanoke Guard of the 54<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry at the battle at Chicamauga, Tennessee. John's younger brother, G. Lewis Deyerle (1838-1907), also joined the 54<sup>th</sup> regiment, but was assigned to the quartermaster corps because of physical disabilities. The youngest surviving son, Ballard P. Deyerle (1844-1872), joined his brothers in the 54<sup>th</sup> Infantry at the age of 16, and later enlisted in a cavalry unit. In October 1863 he sent a letter to a brother proudly telling in colorful detail how the unit had ridden circuit around General Rosecrans' Union army on the Tennessee River and then surprised and defeated them in an engagement.<sup>13</sup>

Joseph's first cousin, Andrew Jackson Deyerle (b. 1823), also distinguished himself during the war as a major, and later a colonel who led the Dixie Grays, a unit from Salem, into numerous battles. The Dixie Grays fought with General Stonewall Jackson at Kernstown, McDowell, Seven Pines, Cross Keys, and Port Republic, and were almost wiped out at the pivotal Battle of Cedar Mountain near Culpeper, Virginia, although Colonel Deyerle survived.<sup>14</sup>

Pleasant Grove was not directly affected by the war, but the local economy suffered. In 1870 the farm had dwindled to 850 acres valued at \$26,000. There were now only 26 milk cows, 49 swine, 22 sheep, and 11 horses. On hand were 1,300 bushels of wheat, 1,000 pounds of tobacco, 300 bushels each of corn and oats, and 50 pounds of wool, but still there was 1,000 pounds of butter.

J. C. Deyerle married and built his own residence on Main Street in Salem in the late 1850s. In 1860 he was 35 years old but had no children. His personal estate, estimated at \$25,000, was worth \$1,000 more than his father's. It appears that the Civil War did little to disrupt his success as a speculator, builder, and brick maker. By 1870 he had become a prominent and wealthy businessman. He died at his home in 1897.<sup>15</sup> His house, the other buildings he owned in Salem, and his brickyard, all shown on the O. W. Gray and Son 1880s map, have long since vanished.

Joseph made out his will in 1871, leaving his estate and belongings in the hands of his wife Anna (best known as Annie) and his daughter Martha L. Deyerle. Annie died later that year, but Joseph survived until 1877. The family maintained possession of the estate until 1890. From then until 1929 it was owned by many different families, changing hands ten times. The Jessie Hurt family owned it from 1929 until 1949, when ancestors of the present owners, Thomas Beason and Aileen and Cabel Layne, took possession. The Laynes and Mr. Beason have occupied the house since 1968 and are responsible for the excellent state of preservation of the buildings and grounds.

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## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> The four-over-four plan was much less common in the region in the nineteenth century than was a linear, single-pile form or a single-pile L-plan.

<sup>2</sup> Joseph Deyerle paid Gustavus Sedon extra wages for the carving. See Whitwell & Winborne, 90.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Local historians have often erroneously referred to Benjamin Deyerle's privy as a brick kiln.

<sup>5</sup> The practice of parging the bottom 4-5 feet of smokehouse exterior walls is not uncommon in the region, although its intended purpose is not clear.

<sup>6</sup> See *Roanoke College: the First 100 Years*.

<sup>7</sup> See "Unraveling the Benjamin Deyerle Legend: Mid-19<sup>th</sup>-Century Brickwork in the Roanoke Valley of Virginia."

<sup>8</sup> Letters from Dr. Maj. Charles P. Deyerle, as transcribed by Howard R. Hammond.

<sup>9</sup> An original court document dated November 1858 was found in the Pulaski County Clerk's Office itemizing J. C. Deyerle's costs for building Spring Dale. His costs for making, laying, and hauling 340,000 bricks was \$3,400 (\$100 per 1,000 bricks); for hauling two loads of planks, \$8; for building the smokehouse containing 27,000 bricks—\$135 (\$5 per 1,000 bricks); and for "6,000 press bricks made and left at brick yard at your order, - \$48." See also *Roanoke College: the First 100 Years*.

<sup>10</sup> O. W. Gray and Son, Map entitled "Heart of Salem," 1883.

<sup>11</sup> Letters from Peyton M. Lewis to Corrine (Deyerle) Freeland and Mary Deyerle, May – June 1934, History Museum of Western Virginia archives.

<sup>12</sup> McClung, M. G., *The Four Deyerle Brothers*. Savage, Lon, "Salem's Civil War Told in Time Line," in *A Guide to Historic Salem*, Vol. 7 No. 3 Fall 2001.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Obituary in *Roanoke Times*, September 4, 1897, p. 4.

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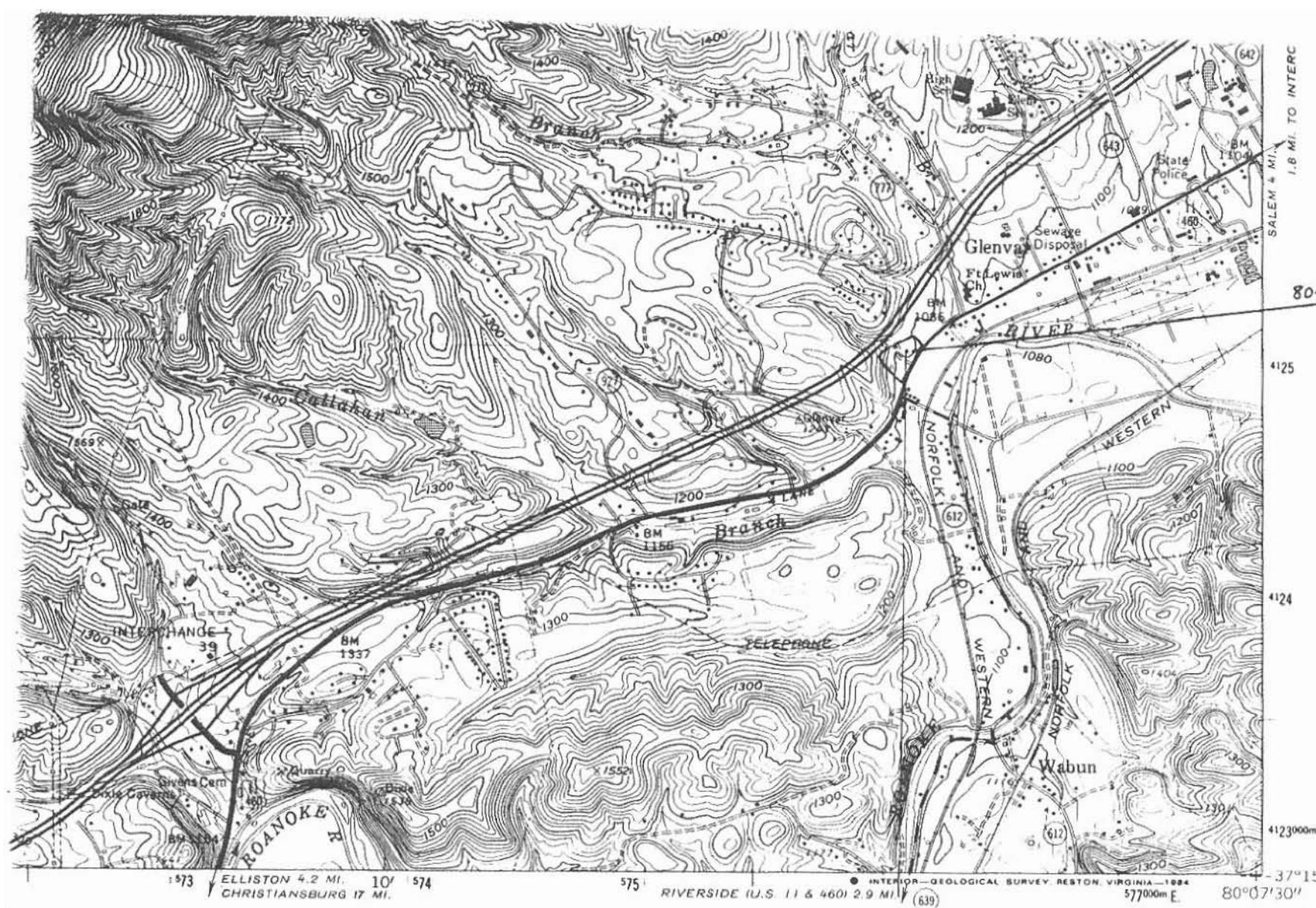
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### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The 7.87-acre nominated parcel (Pleasant Grove property -parcel ID 054.04-02-01.00-000) is bounded on the northwest by Interstate 81, on the southeast side by US Hwy 460/Route 11 (West Main St.), and by adjacent properties to the southwest (054.04-03-03.00-000) and northeast (054.04-03-01.00-000), as shown on Roanoke County tax map 54.

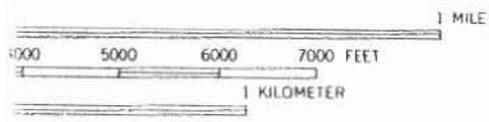
### **Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the nominated parcel were selected because of the boundaries of parcels to the northeast and southwest, highways to the northwest and southeast; and because all extant resources associated with Pleasant Grove are contained within the nominated parcel.



80-25 PLEASANT GROVE  
 ROANOKE COUNTY VA  
 UTM: ZONE 17  
 E 576070  
 N 4125011

DRAFTING & TECHNICAL SUPPLIES, INC.  
 594 ROANOKE STREET P. O. BOX 1598  
 SALEM, VIRGINIA 24153  
 540-387-2200 FAX 540-375-3931



20 FEET  
 DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy duty		Light duty	
Medium duty		Unimproved dirt	
	Interstate Route		U. S. Route
	State Route		



ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 COLORADO 80225

ESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs

GLENVAR, VA.  
 37080-C2-TF-024

1963  
 REPRODUCED 1984

(BENT MOUNTAIN)  
 1:50,000 11 NE