



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staff and the State Review Board based on information known at the time of preparation. Recommendations concerning PIFs are subject to change if new information becomes available.

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 005-5600

1. General Property Information

Property name: Mountcastle House

Property address: 361 Sandidges Rd

City or Town: Amherst

Zip code: 24521

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Amherst
County

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 30 acres

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban Suburban Town Village Hamlet Rural

Briefly describe the property's overall location and setting, including any notable landscape features:

The Mountcastle House is located in the community of Sandidges which is located in central Amherst County. The house stands off the main road about a quarter mile on a dirt driveway. The house currently faces southwest and the current driveway. It faces Motts (or Moll/Mole) Creek. The house sits on a hillside above the main driveway. There is an access drive to the rear of the house, connecting to what appears to an earlier drive to the house. Above the access drive is a retaining wall built of river jacks and has a concrete set of steps leading to a concrete sidewalk and a set of stone piers with a decorative metal gate. The walk leads to the porch of the house. The surrounding landscape was overgrown and contained mature boxwoods on either side of the stone piers. Some of the yard has been cleared to work on the house. The yard contains mature evergreens, hardwoods, and Crepe Myrtle's in the yard on either side of the sidewalk. There is a barn further up the hill behind the house. On the northeast side of the house there is a well pump. On three sides the yard is surrounded by woods.

4. **Architectural Description**

Architectural Style(s): _____Greek Revival and Italinate influences_____

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: _____

If the builder is known, please list here: _____

Date of construction (can be approximate): _____c. 1871_____

Narrative Description (Please do not exceed one page in describing the property):

Briefly describe the property’s general characteristics, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions or other major alterations.

The Mountcastle House was built around 1871. It is constructed of hewn logs with a story and a half pen on either side of a central chimney, a saddlebag log house. The logs were covered with weatherboard possibly when constructed. Each pen was separate house. The spaces on either side of the chimney, between the houses, were used as closets. The closets on the southwestern end of the house have been opened to allow passage between the separate houses. The house is currently oriented toward the southwest with a single-leaf entry. Originally, each side of the house had a separate entry on the northeast side on the front of the house which faced an old road. The house has a concrete block foundation and a standing-seam metal gable roof. The main elevation became the rear elevation with a rear ell of frame construction added to the house around 1910. It is one and a half stories with cross gable windows on the northwest and southeast sides. It has a standing-seam metal gable roof, a cinderblock flue on the northeast end of the addition; and a shed roof two bay porch.

The main or southwest elevation has three bays at each story. There is a double window on the first story west side of entry and a single window on the east side. The single-leaf entry is covered by a shallow shed roof porch three bay porch with Folk Victorian detail. There is a concrete stair from the sidewalk to the porch. This elevation became the main elevation around 1910.

There is a porch on the west side of the rear ell. It was originally a three bay porch. Around 1930, the bay at the intersection of the original section and the addition was enclosed and became a bathroom.

On the interior, the pens mirror each other with a boxed stair on the exterior wall opposite the fireplace. There are hardwood medium gauge wood floors throughout. Each of the mantels in the house are different in their decoration with either no décor or a very simple wooden applied decoration to the centerpiece. Most of the window and door trim is very simple. The pens were opened to join the house, around 1910, allowing access to both sides.

In a bullet list, include any outbuildings or secondary resources or major landscape features (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

- Frame, vertical sided barn with standing-seam metal gable roof, c. 1910
- Retaining wall of mortared river jacks, c. 1910
- Well pump, c. 1910

4. Property's History and Significance (Please do not exceed one page)

Briefly explain the property's historic importance, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property.

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

This property is architecturally significant as one of relatively few known extant examples of saddlebag log construction in Virginia and the only known example in Amherst County. Though the house underwent a major renovation between 1910 and 1927, it still retains much of the historic integrity of materials, design, setting, location, workmanship, feeling, and association. This house retains its original floorplan, much of the original materials including the floors, mantels, trim and moldings, and most of the doors.

The land on which the house stands was willed to Tamsey Mountcastle (1790-1873) by her father William Sandidge (1759-1830). He is the man for whom the community of Sandidges was named. The house is located near the Sandidges Mill. Sandidge died in 1830, the same year that Tamsey was widowed by her husband John Gregory Mountcastle (1785-1830). She and her daughters, Sophia (1821-1900) and Rebecca (1824-1900), held the property together in the 1871 when the house was built. These women married brothers, Samuel G. (1813-1859) and John W. (1822-1896) Cash respectively. During their ownership the property was involved in multiple court cases. In the late nineteenth century, the house and land were occupied by renters. Wilkins T. Watson (1845-1909) obtained ownership of the house in 1880 through the settlement of a court case. His estate sold the house after his death. From 1910 until 1941, the house was held by Arthur G. Ware (1873-1949) and family. Ware is responsible for the extensive remodeling that changed the orientation of the house. It was sold to H. G. Snead (1898-1973) and his family sold it in 1988. James Snow owned the house for a short time in 1989 and sold it to Kenneth O Dickerson who allowed the house to become abandoned and neglected. His heir sold the house to the present owners in 2023.

Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property, such as deeds, census and tax records, and/or published articles and books. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

- Amherst County Deed Books
- Amherst County Land Tax Records
- Various databases from Ancestry.com (U.S. Census Records, Birth and Death Records)
- Amherst County Will Books
- Files from the Amherst County Museum and Historical Society
- Amherst Chancery Court Cases

5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: X Public\Local _____ Public\State _____ Public\Federal _____

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: John L Patteson, Jr. and Myrna D Patteson

organization: _____

street & number: P O Box 125

city or town: Amherst state: VA zip code: 24521

e-mail: john.patteson.2015@gmail.com telephone: 434-941-9415

Legal Owner's Signature: 

Date: 5-15-24

•• Signature required for processing all applications. ••

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

name/title: Sandra F. Esposito

organization: _____

street & number: 140 Cradon Hill Ln

city or town: Amherst state: VA zip code: 24521

e-mail: sandiesposito@icloud.com telephone: 540-529-0205

Date: 5-20-24

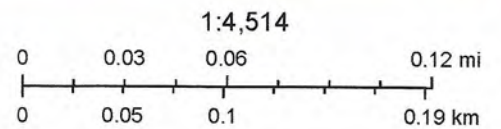
PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH CONTINUATION SHEETS TO THIS FORM. THANK YOU!

Mountcastle Saddlebag House 005-5600



March 9, 2024

Mountcastle Saddlebag House
VDHR # 005-5600
Amherst County
Tax Map Parcel 49 A 26A

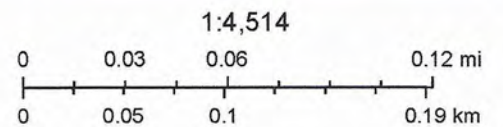


Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN)

005-5600 Mountcastle



May 21, 2024
Mountcastle Saddlebag House
VDHR # 005-5600
Amherst County
Tax Map Parcel 49 A 26B



Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources



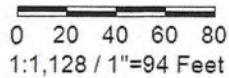
Virginia Cultural Resource Information System

Mountcastle Saddlebag House
VDHR # 005-6500
361 Sandidges Rd
Amherst County

Sketch Map



Feet



Title: Mountcastle Saddlebag House 005-5600

Date: 3/8/2024

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

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









































































