

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff)

1. General Property Information

	Property name:	"The Grove" also known as the "Ewing House"	,
	Property address:	2533 Mt. Clinton Pike	
		Rockingham, VA	
	Zip code:	22802	
	Name of the Independ County	ent City or County where the property is located	Rockingham
		choose only one of the following): Site Structure	Object
2. Phys	sical Aspects Acreage: <u>17 acres</u>		
	Setting (choose only or Urban Suburbar	ne of the following): n Town Village Hamlet	Ruralx

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

Rural farm estate set near the Linville creek with springs and springhouses.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): <u>Colonial Federal</u> Farmhouse

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: $___n/a__$

If the builder is known, please list here:	n/a
Date of construction (can be approximated 1870's	te):1822 Original with series of additions in

Narrative Description:

In the space below, briefly describe the general characteristics of the entire property, 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 architectural style, materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions, remodeling's, or other alterations.

Two story brick house with white picket fence, situated along Mt. Clinton Pike on 5 acres and farm land, (12 acres) with in ground pool, 2 car garage, and 3 sheds. State Road separates the house from the barn (still owned by the Goods) and important link to the settlers west of the county

The present 2 story house was constructed in 1822 by the Ewing's with a double portico porch. Rounded brick columns with cornices unique to the Shenandoah valley. Double porch removed early 1900s. Had 8 chimneys. Frontier federal style. Excellent condition. Solid brick walls. King and Queened pattern of bricks (long short long) includes a red lime wash. Lime stone foundation.

House features Heart Pine floors, high ceilings, 6 panel doors, well preserved milk paint and hand carved fireplaces mantels. Hand hewn beams. Thick solid walls allowed ledges to support the beam construction of each floor. Full attic with cement basement.

House went under numerous alterations and transitions as early pre-civil war, including an addition built post-civil war.

Hand dug well, (75-foot-deep, brick lined) spring, and spring house in pasture.

Presently, the landowners own the 2-story brick house with 17 acres. Bought in 2006. All floors stripped of carpet, linoleum, tile and wood floors preserved. Chair railings and baseboards stripped of 4 layers of paint to the original milk paint and repainted with similar color of milk paint. Two fireplaces recovered in upstairs bedrooms and mantels replaced of similar time frame. Wallpaper removed in most rooms.

Presently, land is being used for residence and farming. Outside buildings, include 2 car garage with 3 sheds.

From 2007 survey"

Architecture Summary: " . . . embellished with brick jack arches, transom-lighted doorways, and frame cornices."

Interior Description: "Federal style woodwork is found throughout the entire main block and the original extension. The central entry leads into a very narrow central passage without a formal stairwell. Instead, an enclosed corner stairwell is hidden along the back, southwestern side of the passage. The most elaborate mantel, a delicate Federal design with carved sunbursts and narrow, projecting pilasters remains in what was used as the parlor--the northeast first-floor room . . . Other interior finish includes wainscoting and a built-in press . . . chair railing . . . Federal architrave trim . . . recessed and raised six-panel doors."

Briefly describe any outbuildings or secondary resources (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

Two car cement garage, good condition, built around 1940s

3 Sheds, wood construction, built aprox 1930's

Inground Pool with pool shed about 1980's,

4. Property's History and Significance

In the space below, briefly describe the history of the property, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property. Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

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

The 2-story house was found and established by a pioneering family, Ewing's, descendants from Scotland. This western most farm claimed, initially 800 acres, centered by fortified log cabin in 1742. William Ewing II, (1780-1857) the builder was a successful farmer, owned a large plantation and "closely identified with the affairs of the county" (Terrll,1970). Speculated to have enslaved persons. House remained with Ewings for 177 years. Oral tradition notes that a cannon ball hit the back of the house. Fireplace mantles noted to be German hessian soldiers.

Owners of property since Ewing family

CW Wampler New York Life Insurance Company Sanford/Ellen Good (1948-2005) Loren Hostetter/Glenda Siegrist (2006-present

Resources: Deeds, letters, newspaper articles.

Book:

Old House in Rockingham County 1750-1850 (1970) by Isaac Long Terrell Old Houses in Rockingham County Revisited 1750-1850 (2000) by Ann Terrell Baker

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

Private: <u>x</u> 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:G	lenda Siegrist and Loren I	Hostetter			
organization:	n/a				_
street & number:	2533 Mt. Clinton Pike				
city or town:	Harrisonburg	state:	VA	zip code: 2280	02
e-mail: <u>Glendal</u>	oren2003@yahoo.com	or Hostet	terla@yahoo.c	com	
telephone: 540.2	<u>08 8041 (GS) OR 540 60</u>	<u>7 3747 (L</u>	.H)		

Legal Owner's Signature: _____ Date: _____

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person. Contact person: _____n/a Daytime Telephone:

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

name/title: <u>n/a</u>		
organization:		
street & number:		
city or town:	state:	zip code:
e-mail:	telephone:	

6. Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator, City Manager, and/or Town Manager

name/title:	Stephen King, Roo	<u> :kingham County</u>	Administrator	
locality:	Harrisonburg	•		
street & number	r: <u>20 East Gay Street</u>			
city or town:	Harrisonburg	state:	VA_zip code:	22802
telephone:	540 564 3000		Ĩ	

[notes from the book published 7/2022]

A Refuge Within the Valley:

An Historic Inventory of "The Grove," also known as the William Ewing Estate, the Nancy Ewing Farmhouse, Brookdale Farm, "Cannonball House" and the Hosteter-Segrist Home

> Compiled from various sources with historical interpretation by E.K. Knappenberger 2022 Harrisonburg, Virginia

The history of the beautiful old brick estate at 2533 Mt. Clinton Pike, Northwest of Harrisonburg Virginia, or 38°28'40.1"N 78°54'02.8"W to be precise, is complicated and mirrors the story of Rockingham County, the South, and the USA. The earliest history of the place has been somewhat documented in several sources appended here, especially in *Clan Ewing of Scotland* Chapter 26. However, there is no history written that captures the scope of the Ewing family adventure in Virginia -- from Indian raids to B.B. Ewing's tragic death in the Civil War, to the death in World War 2 of Willim Woodrow Wampler, and beyond.

To understand the place and its origins, must be understood the very complicated stories of Presbyterianism, Methodism and Mennonism in America between 1720 and 2020. Colonialism, Slavery, War, Reconstruction, Boom, Depression, Bust, (more) War, and Globalization all play a part in the unfolding narrative of "The Grove" (as the Ewing family called it.)

Before we comment on the history any farther, let us present the historical data as we have found it in our investigations between 2016 and 2022. The following documentation has been preserved after considerable expense of time and effort by E.K. Knappenberger and Andrea J. Early, in consultation with the present owners, Loren Hosteter and Glenda Siegrist.

It should be noted that the investigation of this piece of land is complicated by a variety of factors, not the least of which is the way that land surveying was done between 1736 and 1944, which make it impossible to accurately detail the precise locations of boundaries in old deeds. Thus, reconstructing historical land ownership is de facto an act of historical interpretation. It is nearly impossible to relate exactly which in a long series of deeds, conveyances and bills of sale pertain to a particular physical location. This explains also other acts of interpretation, such as the proprietary lineage during the division of the estate between Mary and Nancy Ewing.

Another pertinent consideration of historical interpretation comes from the 1864 burning of Rockingham County records. For this we can thank not the Yankee soldiers, who were carrying out orders in burning wagons laden with supplies at that time; indeed it was a Confederate, a certain Mr. A.M. Newman, who hysterically and unilaterally decided to have his slave package and transport a wagon full of courthouse records to Richmond, for "safekeeping." Subsequently, this resulted in being burned by Union troops. Had Newman kept his cool, Rockingham history would be much less complicated and easier today, and much priceless data would not have been senselessly destroyed.

The author has included many of those historical deeds which are clearly relevant, not lost to the flames; but exhaustive survey is both impractical and not possible.

The Augusta Courthouse records begin in the 1740's with the formation of Augusta County from the previous home in Orange County. Because of the nature of the expansion of the American frontier, Orange, and then Augusta Counties extended indefinitely west to the end of the crown land claims, which were ultimately backed by the European political powers. Land was doled out in a constant game of shifting political and economic power, and the three main grants by the king in the area of Western and Northern Virginia served either monetary or political purposes. This was the case with the Fairfax grant in the Northern Neck, which is now more or less the northern border of Rockingham County. The Beverley grant was more or less the area of eastern and central present-day Augusta, and a sizable portion of Rockingham including the area in question for our purposes, was sold to a commercial enterprise led by Jost Hite, a continental who promised to establish communities of settlers west of the Blue Ridge to buffer against Indian attacks. The Indians were being provoked by the French and by insatiable white expansion in the new world. Many of the oldest land grant deeds were recorded on vellum by the colonial government in Williamsburg in the 1720's and 1730's. The earliest record here is Jost Hite's agent and partner, Robert McCoy, who is recorded as selling the land at the headwaters of Linville Creek to a series of farmer-pioneers who were of Scotch-Irish and English descent. These were many of them Presbyterians, with a long and troubled relationship to the British government. There was no love lost on their side when the US broke ties to London.

The native peoples used the area primarily as a hunting ground, although the nearby Sparkling Springs was considered to be a holy site. As you will see in the Ewing family history, there was trouble between them and the Indians. The Ewings were, no doubt, involved in the speculated massacre of natives at War Branch in the early 1740's, as alleged in the 1880's by the founder of Eastern Mennonite, Bishop L.J. Heatwole.

The Augusta Courthouse records show a pattern of land sales and speculation, and the Ewing family likely did not begin accumulating vast tracts of land until the 1770's or 1780's when the economy collapsed during the long slog of the revolution. It was then that Rockingham County was formed.

The Rockingham County Records begin the most storied moment of the Ewing place. There is much to say about this. The Ewing family was deeply involved in the local, regional and national movement of manifest destiny, and spread southward and westward from an early time. The frist several generations that lived in William Ewing's log fort, "the Old House" at "the Grove" -- had a profound religious and traditionalist disposition. This is attested in the attached historical narratives.

What is not said in history is often as important as that which is said, and this is significantly true in our case of the Ewings. The author is at present engaged in a study of the late 18th century and early 19th century Presbyterian revival in the Shenandoah Valley, which has not to date received an historical treatment of any kind. In the 1965 history of Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church, for example -- an enterprise which from 1742 until 2000 had been deeply tied to the Ewing property -- fails to mention the compelling significance of many of the pastors who served in the area, or their personal ties to important figures in American history.

The revolutionary war, which the Ewings participated in along with their allied-through-marriage kin the Harrisons, Moores, Bryans and Hustons, was a long and cruel slog which left the people of the newly-formed country poor and broken. Few thought that the new experimental revolutionary government would last. Financial trouble and the "moral degeneration" of war was in every corner of the land. To answer these troubles and mend an ailing young country beset with fiercely independent frontier ideology, the answer was religious revival -- a movement of moral uplift, educational benefit, and open to all like-minded citizens.

Of course, our history excludes the agency of the enslaved people of Rockingham, who made up a significant portion of the population, likely including in the Ewing family. Though Francis Asbury, Bishop and founder of Methodism in Harrisonburg, fought for the equal treatment of slaves, the pervading attitude towards African slavery in the area was typified by the neighboring allied Gray and Ruffner families: slavery was a moral curse and the best thing to do was to send blacks to Africa. The more liberal elements of the Ewing family no doubt fell into this category, while the traditionalists likely defended the morality of slaveholding.

Several of the forgotten moments of the past which have not been treated by historians include the 1800-1830 series of Presbyterian pastors serving the Ewings. This includes Rev. Daniel Baker, who became a close friend of Presidents John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson, and who is considered an early founder of the State of Texas. A thorough history must explore the connections between the Ewings, Sam Houston, Andrew Jackson and the establishment of an Independent Texas, which is alluded to in the Ewing family history. Other important personages involved in the Ewing family religious circles include Rev. Joseph S. Smith, Rev. Andrew Baker Davidson, Francis McFarland, Samuel Schmucker (of Lutheran and Gettysburg fame), Ananias Davisson the famed music printer and patriarch of the Southern musical tradition (who married into the Ewings), George A. Baxter, and Nash Le Grand. Each of these figures had connection to the house and the occupants, and each has special place in the 19th century record. Other important figures are detailed in *Settlers by the Long Grey Trail* or in writings by descendent Giles Devier, publisher in the 1870's in the *Rockingham Register*.

The following history is given by Giles Devier, civil war veteran and publisher of the Rockingham Register, who was also a descendant of the Ewings. This insider information has not been available or known outside of the original publication: 12 Mar 1885, Page 1.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY.

CHAPTER VI.

At the time Rockingham was made a county the colonies were in the midst of the contest with England, the turning point had just been reached, the battles of Saratoga had just been fought, and the first rays of a victorious end were seen, but it was yet four years until the surrender of Cornwallis, and six years until the defini tive treaty of peace was signed, (Sept. 3rd, 1783). The Indians too were still on all sides, and every possible means of defense was necessary on the part of our forefathers to protect their families and property from the savage, while many of them were called away from their homes to fight for their rights, and to secure that government 1 t and that freedom which we now enjoy.

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The Malitia, which the Declaration of Rights unamimously adopted by the Con vention of representative of the good people of Virginia, June 12th, 1776, declares to be "the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free people," was therefore kept in an organized condition, and each county was provided with a county Lieutenant, a Colonel. Lieutenant Colon-1 and Major, while all free male persons, hired servants and apprentices above sixteen years of age and under fifty years, were enlisted in companies of not less than 32, nor more than 68, rank and file, and organized under the command of a Captain, one Lieutenant and an Ensign, and were required to meet at such place as the Captain should fix once a fortnight, except in the months of December, January and February, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, and every man was required to furnish himself with a good rifle, if it was to be had, otherwise with a tomahawk, common firelock, bayonet, pouch, or cartouch box, three charges t st of powder and balls; also to keep by him FS. one pound of powder and four pounds of Fo ball, to be produced whenever called for by his commanding officer.

We find, therefore, as we have before stated, that upon the organizing of the county a county Lieutenant, a Colorel, Licutenant-Colonel and Major was appoint ed, and that eleven companies were organ. ized under the following persons as Captains, viz: Gawvin Hamilton, Thomas Hewit, Thomas Bragg, William Rader Reuben Harrison, Daniel Smith, John Hopkins, Michael Coger, James Frazier, John Pence and Robert Craven, and at March term, 1779, Robert Davis, Andrew Johnston and John Rush, who were nominated by the county court and commissioned by the Governor.

What companies of volunteers, and un-

Gi What companies of volunteers, and untor der what commanders, were engaged at this time in the war with Great Britain, col Ki we can not now state with any accuracy, nic but we know enough however to say that Ne there were men from the Valley in the battles of Cowpens, in the battles with the Ra die forces under Cornwallis, on the Dan River ers and at Wilmington, N. C., and have no Ste doubt there were many from Roskingham under Gen. Morgan, Col. Washington and 35 W others, who were actively engaged in fighting for "their homes, their liberties and ret their sacred honor," from engaging in Re which the sons of Rockingham have never m shrunk.

era The organized millitia was officered by the very best men of the new State, and it m bu was this reason that accounts for the fact that the very first mention of those who WE \$1 were prominent in the affairs of the county, on is their appointment to office in the mili-(T tary, which was then considered positions of high trust, and very honorable, while he they seem always to have been stepping 10 pe stones to higher positions and greater trusts. Our forefathers being men of acgo tion, judging everything by its merits, bu taking few things upon mere theory, but siz of testind everything, knew full well the lin truth, "He that is faithful in the least, is also faithful in much," and were heartily tw fo in favor of civil service reform, in the matter of advancing those who were faithful. pe

In February, 1782, Mr. Peter Hog, the bl first clerk of Rockinghame county, died .--EO 2 Of his history we can gather nothing. The family was numerous in Augusta county 2 at one time and there are still some of the name living there, but the descendants of CC Peter Hog are said to have removed long al since to the western portion of Virginia, fe now West Virginia, perhaps Monongahela h county, where Peter Hog had patented several large tracts of land on the Monongath 31 hela River. Peter Hog lived in the Southeastern portion of Rockingham county, w th near what is now Port Republic, and it is jı probable that the old house known in that neighborhood as the "old clerk's office" is a b the house used by Mr. Hog as his office, as t he did not live to see the county buildings h completed.

When the court met, February 18, 1782, 0 they appointed Thomas Lewis temporary C clerk of the county, and on the same day they elected Benjamin Harrison, Brewer 8 Reeves and John Fitzwaters the first land d

commissioners, to fix the first valuation on a the lands of this county, and also appointed Wm. McDowell and Josiah Davison to s fix the value of the lands owned by the n generation who were elected commission- if ers.

On February 25th, 1782, the court by ballot proceeded to elect a clerk ; the candidat-s were Andrew Lewis, Henry Ewin, and George Huston, and upon the vote being canvassed, Henry Ewin was declared elected and wass worn as clerk of the county.

Henry Ewin, the second clerk of this r county, and one of the justices commissioned March 24th, 1778, was the eldest son of William Ewing, who was a native of Glass- h gow, Scotland, as well as a strong cal- 1vanist. Owing to the persecution in Scot land he fied to Londenderry, Ireland, and Y from thence under the permission given by Queen Mary he came to America and locat ed in Berk's county, Pa., where he married a Miss Shannon. In 1742 William Ewing, (the name is spelled Ewing in the patents, and by the old family, but several of the decendants spelled their name Ewin,) came to the Valley of the Shenandoah and located his patents for some 3,000 acres of land, about 3 miles Northwest of Harrisonburg, as well as on other large tracts in west Rockingham and Augusta county. William Ewing brought with him three sons, Henry, Andrew and John, and two daughters, Elizabeth, who married Hugh Devier, and Nancy, who married ---- Hogshead. William Ewing gave to Henry Ewin (the it clerk), what is now the John Eversole and et the Harvey Liskey lands; to his son An-D drew Ewin he gave the land now known as the Fielding Ralston and the Curistian Bowers lands to his son John Ewing he 19 gave the land now owned by the Misses 10 Ewing and the Hartman land; to his 2 daughter Elizabeth Devier the old Hugh BT. Devicr land, and to his daughter Nancy C. Hogshead his lands in Augusta county. nt

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Henry Ewing was educated at the "Log Cabin," afterwards Neshanock Colloge in Berk's county, Pa. He lived on the Eversole land and built a log house, which, until lately stood on that land near the spring, was used by him as his office, and was known as the "old Clerks office." He took a prominent and active part in all the affairs of the county and continued as clerk of this county until July, 1792, when he removed to Harden county, Kentucky, where he died about 1799. John Ewing married Phoebe Davison, daughter of Ananias Davison, and sister of Josiah Davison, who was the 5th justice and 2nd Sheriff of Rockingham county. William Ewing, son of John, married Elizabeth Bryan, daughter of Major William Bryan, who was a very prominent man in Rockingham, and was also the father of Daniel Bryan, Postmaster for many years at Alexandria, Va., Benjamin Bryan, who moved to Missouri, of Allen C. Bayan, who was so highly respect ed as a lawyer of Harrisonburg, of Hannah Moffett, mother of our esteemed friend, Dr. S. H. Moffett, and Nancy Steele, wife of David Steele, late of Hagerstown, Md.

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Wm. Ewing was the father of ten

Wm. Ewing was the father of ten to children, Jesse Ewing, of Missouri, Hrs. to-Hannah Sitlington, late of Highland counbo ty, George W. Ewing, deceased, Nancy Bthe Ewing, Pheebe A. Ewing, Rebecca D. the Ewing, Mary Eliza Ewing and Mrs. Elizacla beth A. Brown, who reside on the old he home farm, Benjamin B. Ewing, who died IDS at Richmond while serving his country, sav Rev. Daniel B. Ewing, D. D., of Wincheslin ter, Ky., and Dr. Wm. D. Ewing, of Augus ab ta county. tw

The commissioners who valued the lands COL of Rockingham in 1782, &c., found some 860 land owners in the county, and assessed an the lands from 10 shillings to £3 per acre.

wł Among the largest land owners found at me that time are Birds, Bears, Bakers, Bowan mans, Crawford, Conrads, Coales, Coffmans, ha Chrismans, Cravens, Clicks, Crotzer, Dater vises, Deviers, Dundores, Erwins, Ewins, IV Fultons, Fishers, Fitzwaters, Gordons, fra Gilmers, Grattans, Hopkins, Hustons, Hinsis tons, Herrings, Harnsbergers, Hooks, Lin fire colns, Longs, Lewis', Lokeys, Kites, Kisers, dr Kislings, Kooglers, Kaylors, Millers, Minma nichs, Michaels, Messicks, Nalles, Nolls, to Newmans, Prices, Perkeys, Pences, Peterfishs-CLI Ralstons, Rollers, Rimels, Robinsons, Rudtit dieys, Rutherfords, Runkles, Sheets, Shumakus ers, Shavers, Smiths, Sellers, Shanklans, 100 Stephensons, Sangers, Scotts, Shanks, Thoman as's, Trouts, Trumbos, Taylors, Vanpelts, TI Wines, Whites, Whitmores, Wengers, Warle r rens, Wises, Williams, Weavers and Wolfs. .

At this date, 1784, the best lands in ng Rockingham county were rating in good ca money (Continental money, like Confeder-TH erate money at the close of 1864, was alit. most worthless; it took a barrel full to I I buy a paper of nuedles or a spool of thread) th was selling at from £1 or \$3.331 to £3 or be \$10.00 per acre, and the other lands at from w one shilling, 10% cents to ten shillings fo er \$1.66%, fut cattle from £5 to £8 per bs head, horses from £8 to £20, hogs from bi 10 s. to £2, on foot, butter sold at six w pence or 81 cents, musiin or ladies dress YC goods from 3 shillings to six shillings, an bunch of thread nine pence, glass tumblers be six pence, punch bowls one shilling, saack be of salt one pound, playing cards one shilar ling, sugar nine pence per pounds, alspice 21 two shillings per pound, iron three and he four pence per pound, 8d nails nine pence B per 100, gum camphor 25 cents per ounce, blue kersey 12 shillings per yard; meat sold at the market or butcher shop, at from lo 2 pence to 6 pence per pound for beef, and fu 2 pence per pound for pork. The court house seems not to have been be

B completed until 1784. It was situated 1 3 about where the front of the present court n house stands. It was 36 feet long by 26 fect in width, was a story and a half in 82 heighth, was built of stone and fronted to 81 C the South. The gables were to the east and west; the judges scat was against the western wall, the jury box in front of the judges stand, and the bar east of 50 b jury box, and the benches for suitors and other persons was all around the According to the original 11 bar. plan 88 two jury rooms 12 feet square were to gs C have been cut off of the western portion of the house, but it was afterwards change ed and the jury rooms were made of the "loft" or half story above the court room, and lighted by dormer windows. The winver nd dows of the court room were small,

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, VA., MAR(H 12, 1885.

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and the doors were double door, and 1 centre were situated at the of the North and south sides. The clerks clerks office was a small one story story stone building, about 40 feet to the west of C the court house, 30 feet long, facing the d South, and 15 feet wide; it had a narrow n hall running through the centre, about five a feet wide, dividing the house into two it rooms, one of which, the room next to the 80 court house, was the clerks' office, and I d the other was occupied as the Sheriffs' d office.

it The jayle was a two story stone building 18 feet square on the inside, built of cl tł logs, and walled with stone, which made is it 24 feet square on the outside, beside the chimneys. Vť It was situated directly south of and in front of the court house, with a k th wagon-way between them, some 30 feet wide. ty

Between the clerks' office and court ot house stood the market house, the north-W di ern end of which was the fire engine house, and directly back or north, stood in a walnut tree which was used as a whipbr ping post, and to it many a poor fellow bi it who now sleeps quietly in some unknown and forgotten spot, has clung and bit his bi tongue and ground his teeth while his in bare back was being well warmed. yo

TO BE CONTINUED.]

The Civil War was devastating to the Ewing family for a number of reasons. The loss of equity in slaves was one. Most of the Ewing men participated in the Confederate army, and several lost their lives. Benjamin B. Ewing refused a medical exemption to the army, and joined with JEB Stuart's showy cavalry, which liked to operate behind enemy lines. Unfortunately, B.B. had rheumatism and fell behind on one of the famous Stuart rides-around-the-Union-army maneuvers and was captured. Already ill, he was released, and died shortly after the episode.

This threw the Ewing family into a legal nightmare. Several of B.B.'s sisters stood to inherit the house, and more siblings and cousins were living in other areas on both sides of the confederate lines. Because the legislature had passed a law invalidating all inheritance *outside* of the Confederate territory, confiscating all property for the war effort that might have stood to be inherited by non-confederates, many families were forced into complicated legal maneuvers to preserve their property lineages. If B.B. Ewing had survived the war, it might have saved more of the Ewing estate, which by 1860 had grown into several thousands of acres and stretched from the headwaters of Linville Creek to the headwaters of Cooks Creek.

Nancy B. Ewing, who took charge with her sister Mary of the Ewing estate from 1864 until her death decades later, spent a good deal of time and money litigating these costly questions of inheritance and validity of property rights. She was forced to sell off pieces of the farm to raise funds to pay relatives and legal debts. This era saw the rise of the neighborhood which has continued through the 20th century along Mount Clinton Pike for several miles.

Isaac Ewing, the last of the original estate Ewings to build a personal heritage in Rockingham County, gave a personal interview and helped to source a 1930's Works Progress Administration historical report on the Ewing House, which is appended here.

HOUSES

1 SUBJECT: The Grove

- LOCATION: Three miles northwest of Harrisonburg, Virginia.
- 3. DATE:

1742 and 1822.

4. OWNER:

- William Ewing, the immigrant, by patent, 1742
- John Ewing, son of William, by mheritance, 1796.
- William Ewing, son of John Ewing, by inheritance, June 1822.
- Mary Elizabeth Ewing, by inheritance and division, 1890 and 1894.
- W.N. Deputy, by deed from H.W. Wyant, special commissioner, November 1, 1919.
- William C. Wampler, by deed from W.N. Deputy, November 24, 1919.
- The New York Life Insurance Company of New York City, New York, from trustee, May 1, 1933.

5 DESCRIPTION:

The house is colonial with a two column double portico. The present house is of brick. The hall is rather narrow with stairway at the rear. Originally there were eleven rooms and now there are twelve.

See form 3686, attached

5. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

William Ewing, the emigrant, (1694-1796), youngest son of Baron William Ewing of Tellichewan Castle, Loch Lomend, Scotland, was born in Scotland and came to America about 1718, landing at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, then a small village, and settled in Bucks County, where he remained for sometime, going to school and later marrying his reacher, Ann Shannon. At an early date, he owned property in Philadelphia. Some of his living descendants have a tradition that he came to America direct from Scotland in 1713, at the age of thirteen years. There is another tradition, which seems the more reliable, that he came from Ulster, Ireland, where he at least paused after leaving Scotland.

William undoubtedly had close relatives in Ulste, and at that day much of the immigrant movement was from Scotland to the Province of Ulster and out of Ulster, Londonderry being an important port to America. It seems evident that this young man came direct to America from some point in North Ireland and that 1718 is the generally accepted date of his arrival. The statement by some that this William was a strong Calvinist is misleading. In common with the Clan from which he descended, it seems certain that he was a Covenanter Presbyterian. There was almost a continuous quarrel between the Presbyterians and the Catholics during the era in which this Ewing left Scotland. He "fled" evidently in the broader sense of seeking opportunity to worship God after Presbyterian teaching, in greater peace. Moreover, it is tradition that his father said to him "My lad, your brother inherits the patrimony and the title. Go to America and seek an honest fortune in the greater opportunities of the new country. Aye, remember lad, you are a worthy son of a worthy Scotlish baron." Another tradition has it this way; "My son you know your eldest brother will inherit the title and the estate. I am but a poor baron and can give you only three hundred and twenty pounds sterling. Take it and go to the New World to seek your fortune." William took the suggestions, came to America, prospered, and became one of the early pioneers in the building of an empire.

It seems certain that William Ewing came to the Valley of Virginia in 1742, and in that year made his first land purchase of a tract of two hundred acres, locating about three miles northwest of Harrisonburg the home place, and now known as The Grove, Just why it was so called is not known. To this place was subsequently added many more acres until it became one of the many larger estates of this section,

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HOUSES

The Grove Page Two

embracing something like a thousand acres. The place was in the Ewing family for one hundred and seventyseven years

The first home built on this place was of logs, of the early pioneer type, cut from large trees, hewn on two sides, and seems to have been of rather larger size than many of the early pioneer houses. Portholes were provided, so that it was, in effect, an outpost blockhouse, one of the old blockhouse forts of that day. Near by, and probably built sometime later, was a smaller stone structure, having it is said a subterraneous connection with the spring and used as a retreat for the women and children when the frequent Indian alarms spread along the frontier and more than once besieged by them.

The records of Augusta County disclose that the first deed to William for land was recorded November 17, 1761, conveying, in consideration of one hundred and forty-eight pounds, seven hundred and eight acres on "easternmost branch of Linville's Creek, conveyed by Hite, et al, 3rd October, 1769, Delivered: Andrew Ewing 1769 (Andrew was his son).

William Ewing was strong in his convictions, both political and religious, as well as in habits and costume. He wore a long queue, tied at the end with black ribbon; short breeches, fastened at the knees with knee-buckles; silk stockings, and dress. He was strong in his Presbyerianism and yet withal, one of several witnesses against "Alexander Miller, M.A., formerly a Presbyterian Minister," charged with, "siding and giving intelligence to the enemy." Yet he would not vote for President, resisting all efforts of persuasion, saying "God made Kings and Queens but never made a President."

William, as said before, married Ann Shannon about 1733, and while hers seems to have been the dominating spirit, they lived happily together and both lie buried in the church yard of the New Erection Church on Cook's Creek, he in 1796 and she in 1801 at the age of ninety years. To their union were born: Henry, Andrew, John, Elizabeth, and Nancy.

Upon the formation of Rockingham County in 1778, Henry became one of its first justices and its second clerk, succeeding Peter Hogg, who was the first clerk. Henry served as clerk of the court until 1792.

John Ewing son of William Ewing the immigrant and inheritor of the homeplace, married Phoebe Davison, granddaughter of Daniel and Phoebe Davison, nee Harrison, in 1768. It was to her that her mother handed the old water bottle, the trophy of her great grandfather's voyage to America, which is now in the possession of Mr. 1.S. Ewing of Harrisonburg.

In 1786 during his father's term as clerk, he took oath of deputy clerk, and soon afterwards qualified as a "Gentleman Justice," which office he held continuously until his death in 1822.

William Ewing, second (1780-1857) was son of John Ewing and wife nee Davison and inheritor of the homeplace from his father, was the builder of the present brick house about 1822 or a little later. In 1807 he married Elizabeth Bryan. Th original log house stood about two hundred yards from the present house, south and a little to the east, and the old stone structure spoken of was immediately in front and just outside the present yard fence.

Like his father and grandfather, William was closely identified with the interest and affairs of the community, both crvil, business, and military. He was a captain of one of the cavalry companies in the 116th Regiment, Virginia Militia, in 1812. He was a successful farmer, with a large plantation of many acres of excellent land, both farming, meadow, and grazing. Slight changes have been made in recent years to the present house, the original two column, double portico, has been replaced with a more modern porch, running full length with the rooms. Otherwise the house stands today as it was when built, about one hundred and fourteen years ago, and no doubt will continue to stand for many more unless purposely torn away by some succeeding owner.

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7. ART: Photograph.

 SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Informant: 1.S. Ewing, Harrisonburg, Virginia Rockingham County Court Records, Harrisonburg, Virginia. Clan Ewing by B.W.R. Ewing Settlers by the Long Grey Trail, J. Houston Harrison.

August 13, 1936

Geo. W. Fetzer Harrisonburg, VA **Mary Ewing, last of the Ewings to own "the Grove"**, assumed ownership along with Nancy. Upon her death ca. 1918, heirs had to be bought out and the property was sold with certain interests, to Walter N. Deputy. Deputy quickly sold the property to W.C. Wampler.

W.C. Wampler went bankrupt and sold the house and part of the land in 1926 and in 1933 to the New York Life Insurance Company, to settle his debts. Presumably he continued to live and work in the place while it was owned by NYLIC under the trusteeship of Andrew Todd.

W.C. was part of a strong family of educators from rural Rockingham, and is the first to call his farm "Brook Dale" -- presumably after he sold some of the land from the estate he continued his farming. It is unclear what kind of legal maneuvers W.C. was pulling with debt and ownership of the land -- he had transferred at least some of the property to his son, Carl, who sold portion to Stanford Good in 1944, who then consolidated the property somewhat.

W.C. was brought up in the Church of the Brethren by his uncle Michael Good, an elder. Was there a family or a church connection between S.C. Good and W.C. Wampler's maternal Good's?

W.C. Wampler was involved in a sizable social and professional circle of people through his connection with late 19th-century education in Rockingham county. He and his brother, I.S. Wampler, were famous as teachers at a time when that was quite important. They were also collegiate friends and peers of people like A. Paul Funkhouser, founder of Shenandoah University; C.J. Heatwole, a founder of James Madison University; and Emmanuel Suter, L.J. Heatwole, C.H. Brunk and P.S. Hartman -- founders of Eastern Mennonite.

William Charles Wampler, 78, retired educator and farmer, and father of Everett N. Wampler, principal of the Main Street School, died at 8,45 Tuesday night, at his home, 38 Lawn Avenue. Mr. Wampler had been in failing health since July 21, 1946, but his condition did not become serious until last Thursday. Little hope had been held for his recovery in recent days. A son of the late Samuel and Mary Good Wampler, he was born on March 12, 1871 in the Penn Laird community. He moved to the New Market section at the age of 6 years, upon the death of his father, where he made his home for eleven years and was reared by his uncle, Mr. Mike Good. He then came to Harrisonburg where he attended school. Following his graduation from Peabody College, Nashville, Tenn. he became associated with his brother, I. S. Wampler, at the West Central Academy at Mt. Clinton the forerunner of the public school there. He later operated a store in Mt. Clinton for ten years, prior to moving to West Rockingham where he owned and operated Brook Dale Dairy. Upon his retirement from farm life in 1939. He later moved to the Pleasant Hill section, where he resided for five years. For the past five years, he had been making his home in Harrisonburg. Mr. Wampler was twice married. On September 12, 1893, he was married to Miss Ida Elizabeth Miller, who died on January 12. 1932. In February 1933, he was united in marriage to Mrs. Bertha Miller Argenbright, a sister of his first wife. Mr. Wampler was a member of the Antioch Congregational Christian Church, near Greenmount. Besides his wife, Mrs. Berta Argenbright Wampler, he is survived by six children, Mrs. Jessie Myers, at home; Mrs. Eula Whitmore, Mt. Clinton; Carlton M. Wampler, Harrisonburg; R. Jennings Wampler, Chattanooga, Tenn., Harold B. Wampler, Greensboro, N.C. and Everett N. Wampler, Harrisonburg. Seventeen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. A son; Woodrow Wampler, was killed on November

22, 1944 in Germany while in the service of his country. Funeral services will probably be held from the Antioch Congregational Christian Church near Greenmount. The body now rests at the Lindsey Funeral Home on South Main Street pending final funeral arrangements which will be announced later. Daily News Record, Harrisonburg, Va. Wed Jun 15, 1949.

Stanford C. Good purchased the place from R.W. Weaver, presumably trustee of Carl Wampler, perhaps alternatively of the NYLIC arrangement with the W.C. Wampler estate. This leaves a question of trusteeship: did Carl Wampler become insolvent or otherwise incapacitated? Carl did not die until 1988.

S.C. Good was involved in several business ventures, owning land in Harrisonburg, mostly poor and minority areas of town, as well as "Melrose Place and Service Station" on North Rte. 11 which became "Good's Transfer.". He was involved in industrial business in Linville area. He also farmed more than 300 acres at the Ewing house, mostly cattle breeding. He was married twice, first to Glenna Morris, and then to Ellen Huffman. He bought the estate in 1944 after the death of his father, and called it "Brookdale Farms." Students at Eastern Mennonite College, according to Lois Bowman Kreider, would go ice skating at the pond above the Good house. According to her, Stanford decided to put in the road back to the pond for access that did not ruin the cattle field.

Stanford Charles Good, 79, of Harrisonburg, died unexpectedly August 19, 1985. Mr. Good owned, operated and was president of Good's Transfer, Inc., a refrigerated trucking firm which he founded in 1929. This is the oldest operated trucking firm in Rockingham County. He was also owner of Brookdale Farms in West Rockingham County where he raised Hereford Cattle. An entrepreneur, he owned and financed various local businesses including a taxi company, auto parts store, and bottling company. Mr. Good also owned significant real estate in the city and county. He is survived by his wife, Ellen Belcher Good, three sons, Charles Stanford (Sonny) Good, and Joseph Winfield Good, both of Harrisonburg, and Glen Franklin Good of Staunton, one daughter, Charlotte Good Clark, of Harrisonburg, two step children, Sharon Belcher Sprinkel of Harrisonburg, and Dennis Irl Belcher of Richmond, also surviving are ten grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and five step grandchildren, one brother F. Ellsworth Good of Harrisonburg, and five sisters, Murrell Good Tutwiler, of Keezletown, Henrietta Good Tutwiler and Zovada Good Williams, both of Harrisonburg, Ruby Good McMichens of Grottoes, and Letha Good Liskey, of Elkton. Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. Thursday. His body now rests at the Lindsey Harrisonburg Funeral Home where members of the family will receive friends from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday. Those desiring can make contributions to Hose Company No. 4 or the Harrisonburg Rescue Squad. Richmond Times Dispatch. Tuesday, August 20, 1985.

Ellen Huffman Good was also married twice. She had children with a country music star named Belcher, (Dennis, who died around 2018 unexpectedly). Ellen was given a reduced portion of the estate of S.C. Good upon his death in 1985. The children of Stanford divided up his estate and Ellen remained in the house. She made substantial improvements to the grounds, and remodeled the interior of the house. Among the improvements were a swimming pool and removal of hedge rows along the old lane in front of the house. The person hired to do the excavating is a friend of the author's, Paul Foltz, now of Timberville.

Mrs. Ellen Jane Huffman Belcher Good, 88, a resident of White Birch Community in Harrisonburg, died Monday, Jan. 26, 2015. A daughter of the late Phillip Irl Huffman Jr. and Isabelle Halterman Huffman, she was born on Nov. 21, 1926, in Collierstown. Mrs. Good graduated from Effinger High School near Lexington where she was first in her class. She was a quick learner who recognized the necessity and value of education and pursued various business classes in her adult years. After graduation, she married Finley Duncan "Red" Belcher who preceded her in death in 1952. She and Red resided in Wheeling, WVa., when they weren't traveling to Red's performances throughout the U.S. and Canada. Her love of travel never waned and she enjoyed many trips throughout her life. After Red's death, she returned to her family's home in Alphin with their two children. In 1955, she married Stanford Charles Good, and moved to his farm, "Brookdale" west of Harrisonburg. After Mr. Good passed away in 1985, Mrs. Good maintained their home ("The Grove") and farm, until she moved to White Birch Community. Mrs. Good was full of energy and known as a generous hostess who always welcomed family and friends into their home. After moving to Harrisonburg, Mrs. Good worked for Sears, Roebuck & Company in both retail and the service department. Later, she worked at James Madison University in the Admissions and Financial Aid Offices. While at JMU, she tirelessly assisted many students who saw her as a friend and maintained contact with her long after their graduation. Mrs. Good was an avid supporter of JMU sports and traveled to many games. She was a longtime member of Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church. Surviving her is a son, Dennis Irl Belcher and wife, Vickie, of Richmond, and a daughter, Sharon Belcher Sprinkel (Don Morris) of Harrisonburg; five grandchildren, Sarah Belcher O'Keiff and husband Conor, of Arlington, Matthew I. Belcher (Julie Hannah) of Wivenhoe, UK, and Benjamin S. Belcher (Erica Creasey) of Richmond, VA; Jonathan Sprinkel of Herndon and William Sprinkel Jr., and wife, Laura Crowe of Middle River, Md.; five great-grandchildren, Conor J. O'Keiff, Jr. of Arlington and Sarah, Natalie, Abigail Ellen and Bailey Sprinkel-Crowe of Middle River, Md. She also is survived by three step-children, Joseph W. Good and wife, Joyce of Harrisonburg, Charlotte G. Clark and husband, Robert, of Harrisonburg, and Glen Good of Harrisonburg and is preceded in death by a stepson, Charles S. Good. She is survived by numerous step-grandchildren; and numerous step-great-grandchildren. Mrs. Good is survived by sisters, Rosemary Heilmeier of St. Clairsville, Ohio, and Caroline Mace of Collierstown, and a brother, John Roller Huffman of Yorktown. She was preceded in death by brothers Frank and Palmer Irl Huffman and sister Phyllis Grow. Her body will be cremated at Lindsey Funeral Home & Crematory in Harrisonburg. There will be no viewing. A memorial service will be conducted on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2015, at 11 a.m. at Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church by Pastor George Evans.

Loren Hosteter and Glenda Siegrist are the current owners of the home, which is known by some as "The Cannonball House" due to damage thought to have been done during the civil war. Loren is currently in the process of restoring the house during the bicentennial anniversary of its building. This report was a gift to Loren and Glenda and family from E.K. Knappenberger, who lived in the side apartment four years from January of 2016 until the end of 2019 while he attended Eastern Mennonite Seminary. All future history of the Ewing Estate must proceed from this point forward, and is for others to pursue. Let the current owners decide how they would like to write their chapter of the story after this.

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Virginia Cultural Resource Information System

Legend

- Architecture Resources Architecture Labels
- Individual Historic District Properties И
- 0 Archaeological Resources Archaeology Labels
- **DHR** Easements
- **County Boundaries**



Title:

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Virginia Cultural Resource Information System

Legend

DHR Easements

County Boundaries



Title:

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Virginia Cultural Resource Information System

Legend

- DHR Easements
- County Boundaries



Title:

Date: 2/22/2023

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