

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Laurel Hill FarmOther names/site number: DHR ID# 053-6244

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: 16191 Hamilton Station RoadCity or town: Waterford State: VA County: LoudounNot For Publication: N/AVicinity: X**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D_____
Signature of certifying official/Title:_____
DateVirginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:_____
Date_____
Title :_____
State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/storage
AGRICULTURE/animal facility
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
AGRICULTURE/animal facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal
NO STYLE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; STONE; METAL; CONCRETE

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

Laurel Hill Farm is a 30-acre working farm located off Route 704 near the south fork of Catoctin Creek. Situated on the bucolic rolling hills of western Loudoun, the house is out of view from the road, about one-fifth of a mile down a gravel drive. The drive crosses over a perennial stream fed by a complex of springs and passes by a stone springhouse (ca. 1793, contributing building). These springs were an important resource for the homestead throughout the years, as evidenced by the site of an improved spring head with cistern (ca. 1950). The ca. 1793 two-story, three-bay, Federal-style, Flemish-bond brick farmhouse has undergone a series of additions expanding the original 20 x 30-foot rectangular footprint to the currently square five-bay, 46-foot-long footprint. The interior is characterized by restrained Federal-style details, influenced by local Quaker tastes. Much of the interior remains intact including molding and mantel details, as well as flooring and hardware. There have been additions from several periods including the mid- and late 19th century, as well as the late 20th century. Among the additions, the house included a now missing Victorian-era porch, as evidenced by the roof line ghost on the front brickwork and the original boxwoods that once lined a front walk, which was set further from the house than the current walk. Behind the house is a stone masonry portion of a carbide gas generator shed which is now used for garden tools (ca. 1900, contributing building). The mature trees surrounding the area of the house, a few of which may date to when the home was constructed, give a parklike feel to the house, patio, and yard. The gravel drive continues up to a cluster of agricultural outbuildings, including a two-story stone barn from 1824 (contributing building), a ca. 1920 concrete silo (contributing structure), a ca. 1920 concrete waterer (contributing structure), and the wooden second story portion of the gas generator shed. Non-contributing portions of the property include the site of the barnyard and connected foundations from the ca. 1920 barn and

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the ca. 1950 barn that burned down in a ca. 2015 fire, and the site of a concrete foundation for a ca. 1950 grain bin/corncrib. The non-contributing buildings are a ca. 1972 wood and concrete-block barn as well as a concrete block workshop from the same period. There are also two ca. 2016 steel grain bins and a corncrib, that are counted as non-contributing structures.

Except for the trees that line the homesite & fields, the rest of the property is open pastures and agricultural fields. Laurel Hill Farm is a well-preserved example of Loudoun's agricultural roots. Efforts have been made to preserve this house and its setting, including a permanent open space easement with Virginia Land Trust.

Narrative Description

Setting

Laurel Hill Farm is situated in the fertile Loudoun valley, near the western toe of Catoclin Mountain. It is reached by a gravel driveway extending from the western side of Hamilton Station Road. The driveway heads downhill, where trees close in on both sides of the drive until it reaches the bottom of the small valley, where the view opens to pastures and a brick home sitting a short way up the opposite hill. Most resources are oriented in a parallel or perpendicular manner to the house. The drive passes over a perennial spring-fed stream with a springhouse to the left. The drive continues up the hill past the side of the house, where it is once again lined with mature trees, framing a portion of the stone barn. At the top of the hill behind the house is the agricultural outbuilding area where the driveway ends, with expansive views of the surrounding fields.

Inventory

The following inventory lists all the contributing and noncontributing resources for Laurel Hill Farm. Contributing resources were built during the period of significance and convey the story of Laurel Hill Farm. Given their high degree of historic integrity and that their setting, location, and association remain intact, these resources maintain the rural homestead's feeling. All resources still display their original materials and workmanship, and all alterations and additions are faithful to maintaining a cohesive design. The thoughtful considerations of previous owners contribute to the "step back in time" charm that characterizes Laurel Hill Farm.

1. Brick House, ca. 1793, Contributing Building
2. Stone Garden Shed, Mid- to Late 19th century and ca. 1900, partially rebuilt 2014, Contributing Building
3. Stone Barn, 1824 (original construction date), Contributing Building
4. Concrete Silo, ca. 1920, Contributing Structure
5. Gas Generator Shed, ca. 1900, relocated to current location, Contributing Building
6. Concrete Dairy Waterer, ca. 1920, Contributing Object
7. Improved Spring Head and Concrete Cistern, ca. 1940, Contributing Structure
8. Springhouse, ca. 1793, Contributing Building
9. Barnyard and Barn Foundations, ca. 1920, ca. 1950, ca. 1960, Noncontributing Site

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10. Grain Bin/Corncrib Pad, ca. 1950, Noncontributing Site
11. Concrete Block Barn, ca. 1972, Noncontributing Building
12. Concrete Block Shed, ca. 1972, Noncontributing Building
13. Corncrib, ca. 2016, Noncontributing Building
14. Grain Bin #1, ca. 2016, Noncontributing Structure
15. Grain Bin #2, ca. 2016, Noncontributing Structure

Architectural Description

Primary Resource

Brick House, circa 1793, Contributing Building

Exterior:

The Federal-style, two-story, five-bay brick home is set on a field stone foundation that sits three feet off the ground. The facade meets the roof with a molded brick cornice. The roof is side gabled with a moderate pitch, approximately thirty degrees¹. The roof is constructed of standing seam tin. The facade has a total width of forty-six feet and faces east-southeast, roughly oriented parallel to Hamilton Station Road, and perpendicular to the slope of the hill on which it was constructed. Because the house does not sit aligned with the compass rose, absolute cardinal directions are avoided in this nomination, and general cardinal directions are used instead. This applies to described orientation for the architectural details of the house and all following resources.

In the case of the facade, it faces an easterly direction. The house is five bays overall, but two bays are a later addition based on brick coursing and type. The two-bay addition has the same mass and scale and “telescopes” the house in a north-easterly direction. The house has three brick chimney stacks visible from the exterior, with two at either end of the original three bays and one at the end of the two-bay addition. The chimneys have added metal caps. The central chimney has a single flue while the two end chimneys have two flues each. Only two of the five flues are currently used. The chimneys have been parged with masonry where they extend above the roof line.¹

The front door is in the two-bay addition, located at the juncture of the three-bay section and the two-bay addition. The door is misaligned with the above window due to the second-story window being shifted towards the gable end of the addition. This misalignment with the upstairs window is probably due to room layout considerations for the upstairs and the larger windows in the two-bay section compared to the three-bay section. The brick section of the house is 20 feet deep, and the exterior was at one point red washed with white mortar joint penciling. The red wash even extended to the field stone foundation, but it is unclear if it had the same penciling (Figure 1).

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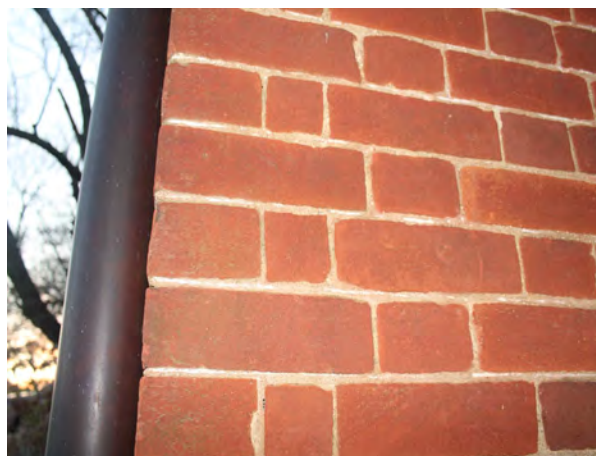


Figure 1: Ca. 1793 section- red wash on mortar joints of the foundation (left), penciling of mortar joints (right) both taken on or about April 7 and 8, 2024, by Greg Blaszc.

The side of the house closest to the drive, has a two-story addition ell addition covered in blue concrete Hardie board. This ell addition is approximately 18 feet deep and 20 feet wide. The final portion of the house is only a single story, also 18 feet deep, extending from the northerly end of the ell addition to the chimney end of the two-bay brick addition. The final six feet of this one-story addition is a covered porch open to the back and side yard. This gives the overall house an approximately square footprint. There are five sections of the house, one original and four additions.

Circa 1793 Section

The oldest section is the three-bay brick section dating to ca. 1793. The detail and brickwork are the finest of any of the brick sections of the house. The overall dimensions are 30 feet long and 20 feet wide. The brick on the facade is Flemish bond with queen closers. The mortar is thinly laid, giving a refined appearance to the residence. This section is three bays wide and at one point had a central door. This door was bricked in at a later period and replaced with a period-appropriate window. Interestingly, there are some minor details that may suggest this window has been altered, including an unusually thick muntin bar below the topmost layer of three lights. This suggests it has been modified from a six-over-six configuration. The other muntin bars on this particular window are also thinner than the rest of the windows in this section.

Overall, the windows are double-hung sash in their construction and have most of their original hand-blown panes intact. Each pane is 10 inches high and 7 ½ inches wide. The window frames are simple with a bead, but other details are obscured by the storm windows. Based on an unobscured rear window, there is a quarter round outside stop band. All the front windows of this section of the house have storm windows for protection.

The first-floor windows have nine-over-six pane windows with brick-and-a-half jack arches and the second-floor windows are six-over-six lights with single brick jack arches. The windows still have hinges for shutters, but none are currently on the building. There are shutters stored in a barn, but it is not clear if these are original. There are two three-paned windows to the basement

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set just into the stone foundation such that they have single brick jack arches over top. Near the metal gutter is a brick soffit with a curvilinear profile made of custom bricks.

There are two flanking chimneys in this section of the house, which were originally on each gable end. The southern-facing wall is a five-course common bond with a broken rake chimney. There is a single two-over-two pane attic window on the side of the chimney closest to the facade. The other end wall, no longer visible from the exterior, has similar treatments. The rear elevation, partially obscured by later additions, keeps the same window treatment and soffit as the front elevation but is constructed of a five-course common bond. There also appears to not be a central rear window, based on the partially visible rear brickwork. The bricks in this section have overall dimensions of 8 ½ inches by 4 ¼ inches by 2 ½ inches.

Mid- to Late 19th Century Addition

Extending the facade in the northerly direction by an additional 16 feet is a two-bay brick section built ca. 1860. It is a single room deep, making the overall dimensions 16 feet by 20 feet. The foundation is a random course field stone foundation. This section of foundation is 8 inches higher than the foundation of the three-bay section. The reason for this is unknown. Overall, the brick is of lower quality with more color variation than the three-bay section. The mortar joints are thicker and more uneven. The brick sizes also vary, with a smaller-sized brick used in the second story, suggesting there may have been two stages of construction. The brick is laid in a five-course common bond.

As the house is currently configured, the front door is immediately to the left of the seam between the older three bay section and two-bay section. This functions as the only front door. The door is plain with embrasure and a panel architrave above. Over the architrave is a broken-pediment decorative wood arch set in relief from the facade. The front door surround appears to be from the Colonial Revival period, while the door is modern. There is a small stone porch and stairs to the door. The windows are all six-over-six double-hung sash windows with larger lights and overall dimensions than the three-bay section. The panes are all still present and original but consist of less distorted glass than the three-bay section. Also present are the shutter hinges. Similar to the three-bay section, the windows have a single brick canted jack arch over all windows.

The windows, as compared to the three-bay section, have thinner muntins. The panes, however, are larger, measuring 12 inches tall and 10 inches wide. The upstairs windows are not as tall as the first floor, and the slightly less detailed frames reflect the reduced importance. As already noted, the second story window over the door is not centered above the door but is instead shifted about two feet closer to the other window and gable end of the two-bay addition. The brick facade meets the roof with a corbeled brick cornice with a sawtooth band just below the gutter.

The north elevation of the 1860s two-bay addition features a single interior chimney and one small four pane garret window. The brick coursing is inconsistent on the gable end and varies between a 7:1 and 4:1 common bond before settling on a consistent 5:1 ratio starting near the

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second-floor level. There is also an outside stair down to the basement on the gable end constructed from random course field stone. Construction date is unknown but predates 1972.² Construction likely occurred in the late 19th century when the Victorian porch was constructed. Before this door was added, the basement entry was from the front. This front facing door was bricked in. There is a section of foundation with a different mortar that gives this change away. Over the current basement stairs, a ca. 2014 wooden frame and metal roof have been added over the top to protect against the elements.

The rear elevation of the addition is partially visible from the outside, especially the second story, where in contrast with the front window above the door, the window opposite it on the rear elevation was placed symmetrically. Additionally, on the front elevation there is a large six-pane basement window with wood lintel partially underneath the front porch and stairs. On the gable end there is also a six-pane basement window, with a mullion bar separating it into two horizontal sets of three lights. This window is smaller than the one on the front.

Late 19th-Century Wood Framed Addition

Situated as a rear “T” addition is a framed section from ca. 1890. It extends in the westerly direction, perpendicular to the rear elevation. The addition is two stories and 13 feet wide by 18 feet deep. The addition sits on a field stone foundation and is sided with ca. 2014 Hardie board siding. The windows are post-1972 with one on the first floor with three lights over three and a second window situated above it with a six-over-six layout. There are also two privacy windows in the bathroom on the northerly side of the addition on the second floor. This wooden framed section was in disrepair until it was renovated ca. 1972.² This section was again renovated ca. 2014. The roof at one time was flat and wood shingled but a ca. 2014 gable standing-seam tin roof has been added. The gable ridge meets perpendicularly with the ridge of the brick section of the house, making the roof layout cross-gabled. The roof has wood soffits and fascia boards.

Circa 1972 Addition

This two-story addition was added in ca. 1972 to extend the ca. 1890 frame section 8 feet to be in line with the southerly wall of the ca. 1793 section, making the overall footprint at the time into an ell. The foundation is made of concrete and extends perpendicularly from the 1790’s brick section 17 feet, stopping short of even with the ca. 1890 section. This was done to avoid damaging the roots of a large white ash tree off the corner of the house, which based on its 12-foot circumference has likely been around since the house was first built.² This side of the house was also landscaped around the same time.³

The southernmost side has three nine-over-six windows on the first floor and two six-over-six on the second floor. Above the door on the second floor is a single six-over-six window. The windows match the front facade in style. There is a door and portico with column supports on the westerly side of the addition that allows access into the combined ca. 1972 and ca. 1890 additions. The siding is the same Hardie board as the ca. 1890 section. There are wood soffits and fascia boards, and the roof is the same roof that covers the ca. 1890 section, but there is a metal chimney pipe as a part of this addition, located on the southwestern corner.

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Circa 1990 Addition

A single story framed addition was added in ca. 1990 that fills the ell in. It extends from the northerly side of the ca. 1890 addition, in the same northerly direction terminating in line with the northernmost gable end of the ca. 1860 brick addition. The final six feet of the structure is a simple covered wood porch that extends the entire side of the addition. The one-story addition has a single-plane shallow pitched standing seam metal roof that slopes away from the rear elevation of the brick section of the house. There are three windows separated by mullions on the rear face of the addition as well as under the covered wood porch and a single skylight. There is also a rear door, as well as a French door that opens to the wood porch. There is a step down from the side of the porch. The step, made of field stone and mortar, is either the original rear step or a mounting block.

Interior:

Circa 1793 Section

The main core of the residence is the ca. 1793 brick section which is laid out in a single room deep, hall-and-parlor plan with the parlor occupying the southernmost bay of the house. The hall (currently used as a dining room) is 18 x 16 feet, and the parlor is 18 x 12 feet, each with their own fireplace. Many original details are still preserved in both rooms, including the original random-width pine floors, original molding and the plugged cut outs for the later gas lighting system. The ceilings are nine feet and plastered with no crown molding. The interior walls are plastered in the downstairs rooms as well as in the upstairs rooms.

This section shares common detailing elements including baseboard and shoe molding, as well as chair rail molding. The baseboard is a flat mold with a simple bead on top, and the shoe mold is a simple ovolo. The chair rail has an underside bead with a bullnose band on top. The window and door casings also share common elements. The casings are stepped with a single field frame with a bead and a mitered composite profile backband. The composite profile is an ovolo into a small ogee.

The parlor has a window in the front and rear elevations, but the window in the rear elevation was removed and replaced with shutters as it now opens to the kitchen via the ca. 1972 frame addition. The window casing detail matches the casings throughout the ca. 1793 section, and the chair rail acts as the window apron and stool trim. The window casement opening is 2 feet 10 inches wide and approximately 8 inches deep. The window frame itself has a simple field with a decorative bead, which is shared with the other windows in this portion of the house. There is a baseboard molding with shoe mold and a chair rail on all walls. The chair rail is slightly higher than the standard for the area.⁴ A later masonry tie can be seen at the ceiling level of the rear wall. The door to enter the room is not centrally located in the dividing wall but is offset toward the facade. The door is original with a four-panel flat design with no sticking and original hinge hardware facing into the room. On the other side, in the hall, the door has a raised four panel with ovolo molding.

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The fireplace has a floor level brick hearth with pine reducer trim around it, and the mantel is 56 inches wide with a four-piece, Federal-style wood surround, painted white. The mantel has plain end block with a decorative quaker cross band with a simple bead.⁴ The fireplace surround has the standard stepped casing but with a short header. The mantel shelf has a complex ogee step-up from the end blocks. The firebox is a shallow Rumford design, but this is a later alteration based on the brick patterning and plaster. This alteration was made because of the improved firebox performance.

The hall once had front and rear entrances, but now only has the rear entrance as the front entrance was replaced with a window and bricked in. This replacement window appears to be original and may have been salvaged from one of the other locations in the house that no longer have a window. The rear window and door are now internal to the house but are intact with the associated hardware. The double-pinned, mortise-and-tenon, butt-joined with long head jamb frame is clearly visible surrounding the rear door, as is the stone threshold. The door itself is decorated with a shallow raised four panel design with ovolo molding on the outside. The inside has a flat four panel design with no molding. The door contains a thumb-latch that no longer functions. The exterior frame shares details with the standard casing design for this section, whereas the interior frame has a plain field with a bead. The inside has the standard casing treatment mirroring the treatment on the exterior frame. The casement depth measures 16 inches for this door.

There is baseboard molding with shoe molding and chair rail molding in the hall room but no crown molding. The fireplace on the northerly wall is 56 inches wide with the same casing, with dentil molding on top of the two end blocks. The mantel has no band and a similar mantel shelf to the parlor. The fireplace has been closed since before 1972 when the brick hearth was removed and replaced with wood flooring; at one point there was a central boiler located here.² On the northerly gable wall, nearest to the rear of the house was a now removed winder staircase that can be seen from a ghost on the wall. This staircase would have been directly beneath the winder staircase to the attic. On the immediate opposite side of the mantel closest to the front elevation are two built-in paneled cabinets, one above the other, each about a foot wide and deep. The cabinets extend from floor to ceiling with a molded surround. Next to the cabinets is a door that opens to the ca. 1860 addition with a step up and a worn granite threshold. The only difference between this door and the rear door is that the frame has only a single pin. The flat panel side of the door faces the interior of the room. This door may be the original front door but any weathering that would show this has been painted over with white paint.

Upstairs the flooring is random width pine flooring and has the same floor and shoe molding, as well as chair rail. The ceilings are about 8 feet with no crown molding or exposed beams. Above the parlor is the 18 x 12-foot master bedroom which has a single window in the front and a doorway to access the second floor of the ca. 1972 and ca. 1890 combined additions. This doorway used to be a window until ca. 2010 when it was opened to make a pass through.⁵ The threshold is stone with a sliding 'barn-style' door to separate the two rooms. There is a bedroom door to the upstairs passage on the northerly wall of the room nearer to the rear elevation. This accesses the transverse-oriented upstairs passage to get to the stairs and the two other bedrooms.

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Around the room is the same chair rail molding and baseboard molding. There is also 3-inch double-beaded picture rail molding on the rear elevation wall and the southerly wall next to the fireplace. The molding is approximately 6 feet from the ground, the same height as the top of the window casing. The fireplace located on the gable end wall has the same general design as the first-floor fireplaces. That is, a wood mantel measuring 58 inches wide. The chimney itself measures 64 inches wide. The mantel has the standard casing and no end blocks but does have a decorative dentil band, with a similar mantel shelf build-up as the other mantels in this section of house. The floor level brick hearth is retained. To the side of the fireplace, nearest the front elevation are built-in shelves that may be original.

The upstairs passage has a roughly square closet that was added ca. 1972, against the back wall in the location that corresponds to the rear center window.³ The floor panels are also noticeably different in part of the passage and could be oak. The passage also has chair rail molding located throughout, and picture rail molding on the wall near the master bedroom door that separates the passage from the second bedroom, opposite the closet.

The doors in this upstairs section are vertical board-and-batten construction with beaded detailing. The master has a butt-joined short head jamb casing with the common treatments. Next to the passage closet is a rear window, six-over-six lights. In the corner of the rear elevation and the northerly gable end is a spiral staircase with a vertical board-and-batten door leading to the attic. Underneath the spiral staircase in the gable end wall is a doorway cut in the masonry that accesses the upstairs of the ca. 1860 section. The doorway measures 27 inches wide by 6 feet tall. There is evidence that there was once a door here based on latch hardware, but it has since been removed.

The second upstairs bedroom in this section of the house occupies the front portion of the space above the downstairs hall room. Shoe, floor, and chair rail molding are exhibited throughout this room. The room also has two front facing windows with a picture rail between them, with casements that are the same width as the downstairs windows but are only 5 inches deep. There are also two built-in closets on the gable end of the room. Both sport full-size doors that are board-and-batten with beads. The closet nearest to the room entry has simple built-in shelves about 3 feet wide but only one foot deep due to the chimney. The other closet is a walk in with a dogleg to enter, again due to the chimney. Inside the walk-in closet there is shelving and another "picture" rail with the original handmade wooden coat hanging pegs still intact.

The attic is used as a storage space, but the original roof rafters with bark still attached and roman numeral markings are visible. The rafters are joined via mortise and tenon. Also visible are the original shingles, suspected to be Florida cypress but positive identification could not be made.⁴ Early cut nails and hand wrought nails can be seen poking through the sheathing, holding the shakes in place. The southerly gable end of the attic has a two-over-two moveable attic window. There used to be a window on the northerly gable on the side of the chimney nearest the rear elevation, but that was removed and opened to serve as a crawl through to access the ca. 1860 attic section.

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The basement section beneath the parlor remains unexcavated. The cellar of the three-bay section of the house is 15 x 15 feet and is beneath the hall. The floor of the basement is poured concrete for $\frac{3}{4}$ of the quadrants, and the final quadrant is gravel. The two, two-pane windows beneath the facade provide natural light to the basement, with a single window in the cellar and the other in the crawl space beneath the parlor. The windows are located centrally in each space. For the parlor, the window is set slightly to the left of the above first floor window and for the hall section the basement window sits roughly centered between the two first floor windows. The glass windows are likely later additions and would have originally been openings covered with wooden louvered vents.

The only access is a door in the rear corner of the north elevation that opens to the basement below the ca. 1860 section. The door leading to the ca. 1793 section is a vertical board and batten door. The hinges are spade-shaped strap hinges with rose headed hand forged nails and are attached to pintles that are driven into the frame.⁴ It is likely the hinges were made in Waterford. The walls of the basement are parged with lime plaster that is crumbling off, and most is missing.

There are no stairs in this section and access was from the front, based on the mortar evidence of a doorway that has since been filled with stone. This filled doorway is partially obscured from the outside by the front steps. There is no fireplace, but there is a stove pipe thimble that was added in ca. 1990 to vent the central boiler.² There is evidence of a 2 x 2-foot section of floor cut out in the ceiling and thus the floor of the above room, near the fireplace. This may have been a trapdoor or was cut later to remove or install central heating equipment. The ceiling of the basement has partially exposed beams spanning 20 feet from the front to the rear of the building. There is a hand-hewn summer beam running perpendicular to the rest, approximately 15 feet from the front wall of the foundation. The flooring is not visible due to spray foam insulation added in ca. 2010, and there are three metal jacks supporting the beams to prevent the floor from sagging further.

1860s Addition

The main floor has random-width, tongue-in-groove flooring. There is baseboard molding with a single bead on top, like the ca. 1793 section, but without the ogee molding. This mold design is common to all rooms of this section of the house. The current front door has a brick threshold and a storm door. Upon entering the front door, to the left is another door to the ca. 1793 section. The straight run bullnose stairs are directly in front of the door. This stair section used to be partitioned with tongue-in-groove bead board plank walls.¹ The visible evidence for this wall's existence is a hole plugged in the floor away from any current wall, where the gas pipe for lighting was routed to the vestibule. The space immediately in front of the door and up the stairs is now open, and the stairs have a handrail with turned newels and balusters with squared bases.

The room, opening to the right, as entering from the front door, has no chair rail. It is currently used as a living room. The walls in this room, as well as the upstairs rooms, are plastered. It also has two windows, directly opposite one another on the front and rear elevation. The window

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casings reach the ceiling and are symmetric in their design with corner blocks, as well as a narrow field with a bead. The window casing matches the door casing in detail, which are shared with the other casings in this section of house. The jambs are notably narrower than the ca. 1793 section. Below the window is a bullnose stool with an apron that has a decorative bottom bead. On the gable end is the chimney with a 75-inch-wide mantel with a mitered single field casing with no bead and a backband that consists of a step between two flat fields. The mantel shelf has a modified ogee support. Overall, this is the simplest fireplace detailing in the house. This fireplace has a brick hearth and is occupied by a franklin stove. This room was the kitchen until ca. 2010 and as such has some high rail molding probably used to hang pots and pans. This molding is in the corner between the rear window and the chimney.

On the opposite side of the room as the chimney are the stairs to the second level. Beneath the stair run is the basement set of stairs with original shallow-raised four panel door with ovolo molding and original thumb-latch hardware. The rear door of the room is now interior and leads into the ca. 1990 addition. The shallow-raised six panel door with ovolo molding has a brick threshold and is likewise original. The door has the same casing details as the window with a plain stop band. The door itself is offset slightly from symmetrically opposing the front door, being closer to the window next to it.

On the second floor to the left at the immediate top of the stairs is the doorway to the upstairs passage of the ca. 1793 section of the house. Directly in front of the top of the stairs is the rear window with a 33-inch-wide frame that overlooks the roof of the single-story addition. Due to being butted against the wall, the mitered window casing has no corner blocks and a narrower field and jambs. The stool is bullnosed and the backband is plain. The rest of the second-floor windows have details matching the first floor, as they do not have the same space constraint. To the right is a short passageway, flanked by a wall and a railing on either side, which leads to the tile-floored bathroom with a tub. In the bathroom is the original window that was previously mentioned as being slightly offset when viewed from the front elevation. The door to the bathroom has five horizontal panels. Also, to the right of the top of the stairs is the original board-and-batten door with beads to the only bedroom in this section of the house. The room measures 8 ½ x 20 feet, with a 3 ½ foot chimney bump out but no fireplace. There is evidence of a chimney thimble, but it has since been sealed. As with the rest of the upstairs excluding the bathroom, the floors of the bedroom are random width pine. The bedroom has two windows, each set in the front and rear walls.

The attic is accessed through the winder stair located in the ca. 1793 section. The frame is a common-rafter roof and is constructed in a similar manner to the older section of attic, except with many more nails. There are also a few collar beams, but these may not be structural. The nails are of a later machine-cut square variety. The original roof shingles can be seen. There is also a small two-over-two window next to the chimney stack on the westerly side of the chimney.

Another interesting detail is this section of the house was used to hang cured or smoked meats as can be seen by the metal hooks and chain hangers. There is also metal flashing on each rafter to prevent rodents from climbing up the wood. The previous owner relayed that there were fat

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imbued wood boards which were moved into the barn for storage but were unfortunately lost in the ca. 2015 barn structure fire.⁵ The rafters in this room also have the appearance of salt damage.⁴

The basement of the ca. 1860 section is unfinished, with a later added cement floor. The walls are lime plastered and decaying, although not nearly as badly as the ca. 1793 basement section. The framing is only partially visible due to the foam insulation, but the ceiling beams are circular sawn. The large rectangular six light window on the facade foundation has a heavy wood lintel. There is again evidence of a front facing stair in the front wall nearest to the northern gable end wall that was removed, and stone masonry was used to fill the wall in the foundation. The current exterior door is placed in the same corner, but on the gable end wall, next to the chimney, exiting to the masonry steps on the gable end.

Also located in the basement along the front wall are the remains of various water systems including the pipes to the exterior. The fireplace is no longer used and is covered by a sheet of metal, but evidence of a stone cooking fireplace with a brick jack arch mantel can be seen by peering behind the metal. A heating and cooking stove were hooked up here ca. 1972.² The amount of natural light in this room also points toward this being used often, as it would if the fireplace were for cooking. To the left of the fireplace is another set of rectangular windows to the outside. On the opposite side of the room from the fireplace is the straight run, interior staircase to the first floor.

Late 19th-Century Addition

This section has a fieldstone foundation, and at one point had a single plane wood shingle roof. There is only a crawl space beneath this addition. This section was in disrepair until it was restored ca. 1972, when the eight foot kitchen and bedroom additions were constructed. The ca. 1890 and ca. 1972 additions function as a single addition in terms of room space on both floors. There is currently no door in the ca. 1890 addition as the only door to the back patio is in the ca. 1972 section. The flooring is linoleum, and the first-floor space is the current kitchen with modern amenities. The rear door to the ca. 1793 section is clearly visible from the kitchen. In the southernmost corner of this section is the partially winding staircase with original board-and-batten door with bead detail. This staircase leads to another bedroom that has three-inch plank wood flooring. There is a closet on the northernmost wall. The rest of the northernmost wall is taken up by a large ca. 2014 tiled bathroom. The ca. 1972 section of the upstairs is where the door that leads to the ca. 1793 master bedroom is located.

Circa 1990 Addition

The ca. 1990 addition carries the kitchen area over to the sunroom-laundry room and first floor bathroom by a short passage. Portions of the rear elevation brick sections now form one of the interior walls of this passage. Also, inside the house is one of the rear windows of the ca. 1793 section. There are also two closets made of beadboard in this section, as well as a French door to the patio and five large windows that give an open feeling to the space.

Secondary Resources - Contributing

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Carbide Gase Generator Shed/Stone Garden Shed, Mid- to Late 19th Century and Circa 1900, Contributing Building

Set back from the house approximately 15 feet from the ca. 1890 addition is a 9 x 9-foot square mass mortar shed made of field stone. The walls are 5 ½ feet high. The shed has a metal gable roof, with the ridge aligned perpendicularly to the house's facade. The easterly facing gable end door is a new board and batten door with strap hinges that fits the period. The building was restored ca. 2010 with lime mortar repointing and the new roof with white wood weatherboard on the gable ends. The floor is made of wood boards on dirt. The building now functions as a garden shed and is surrounded by a patio and a retaining wall. The building was previously two stories and functioned as a carbide gas generator shed for indoor lighting in the early 1900s. The second level was moved to a location at the top of the hill. The piping and distribution equipment for this has been removed from inside the house, but evidence in the form of circular plugs in the floor that have been filled in, and semicircular cutouts on the chair rail molding are still visible in several rooms. This stone portion of the building likely pre-existed its use as a gas generator shed.

Stone Barn, 1824, Contributing Building

At the top of the hill sits a stone barn that measures 32 x 46 feet, constructed out of clay-silt lime mortar and irregularly coursed field stone with large Shorthill mountain quartzite quoins.⁴ A quoin near the peak on the corner of the southerly and easterly faces is carved with "1824 L.M." (Figure 2). The initials are for Lambert Myers, who owned the house at the time of construction. The barn is a three-bay or "English" style barn. The roof is front gabled, and the ridge is oriented roughly east to west, perpendicular to the orientation of the house's facade. The gable ends above the stone are wood planking. There is a single dormer window situated centrally on the northerly roof. The easternmost gable end has three doors all set at slightly different heights. The southern face has three windows, also at different heights, while the northern wall mirrors the window placement of the southern wall, minus the third window that would be in the way of the stairs. The west gable end has three openings, two at the ground level and one on the second floor that once served as a passthrough to get to the no longer existing ca. 1920 barn hayloft. The timber frame structure and roof are ca. 2015 replacements that were constructed after a structure fire destroyed the barnyard complex. Only the barn and silo and a section of an equipment shed remain standing. For having suffered such a fire, the stone barn is in remarkably good shape.

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Figure 2: 1824 stone barn date stone with “LM 1824” engraving. Photo taken on April 7, 2024, by Greg Blaszc.

The barn is unusual in style for the area as it is an at-grade drive through barn with a left and right hay mow.⁴ The central third of the north and south sides of the barn are clearly filled in at a later period and likely post 1940s based on the use of Portland cement.⁴ The drive through doors were likely 8 x 8-foot hinged doors with a wood section above. The original lime mortar sections are in remarkable shape as the walls are very flat. The pointing is holding up well despite some scorching marks on the exterior.

On the inside, the original whitewash is still visible and intact on the west gable end. The interior wood structure is post-and-beam with metal strap connections, and there is an interior loft. In the wall of the loft, the beam pockets for the original hay mow are visible, as are the beam pockets in the central ‘filled-in’ sections. Without being able to visually inspect the previous wooden structure, it is difficult to know for sure if the barn was rebuilt previously following the burning of Loudoun in the Civil War, although it is likely this is the case.

Concrete Silo, circa 1920, Contributing Structure

Next to the barn, eight feet from the northernmost corner of the westerly gable, is a poured concrete silo. The silo measures twelve feet in diameter and is thirty-two feet tall. The silo used to have a two-plane bell roof but that collapsed and fell during the ca. 2015 fire. The silo used to be connected to the 1824 barn via the ca. 1920 barn, but that is no longer the case. As such, the silo interior is open to the elements and is spalling. The spalling is most severe on the exterior of

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the silo, about three quarters the way up. The impressions of the multi-sided wooden mold used to pour the concrete can be seen on the exterior, dating the silo to ca. 1920. A monolithic silo of this age and construction type is rare in this area.

Gas Generator Shed, circa 1900, Contributing Building

The wooden portion of the gas generator shed sits atop an octagonal pad. It was placed here ca. 2014 during the renovation of the stone portion of the generator shed. The roof is a single plane with a shallow slope and is wood framed with corrugated metal on top. The exterior boards are poplar, and posts are circular sawn, suggesting a date from the very early 1900s.⁴ The overall dimensions are roughly 8 feet by 8 feet. The corner posts are failing at the bottom. The shed is currently unused and in need of rehabilitation.

Concrete Dairy Waterer, circa 1920, Contributing Object

Next to the southerly face of the barn, near the corner of the westerly gable in the barnyard, is an early concrete waterer. It likely dates to ca. 1920. There are two sections to the trough, and it measures roughly 2 feet wide, 8 feet long, and 4 feet high. There is stagnant water inside due to the drain being blocked. The waterer has a concrete apron that extends roughly six feet away from the waterer, away from the barn, and two feet in every other direction. The concrete used creek wash as aggregate.⁴

Improved Spring Head and Concrete Cistern, circa 1940, Contributing Site

Under a white oak, approximately 350 feet west of the house and 350 feet northwest of the springhouse, on the other side of the perennial stream is a springhead that has a stone masonry structure around it that is roughly 2 x 2-foot. The mortar is modern, dating to ca. 1940. However, there is an engraving of "1811" in the mortar, possibly pointing to a now missing date that was covered during a later ca. 1940 reconstruction. About 5 feet away is a concrete cistern that is currently unused but was the water supply for the house starting before 1972.³ The water was switched to well water in the late 2000s.⁵ The cistern measures 6 feet deep by 4 x 6 feet. It was installed post electrification due to it being constructed lower than the house. While cisterns were popular in the 1920s and 1930s, this most likely dates later.

Springhouse, circa 1793, Contributing Building

Near the house, at the bottom of the hill sits an early stone springhouse. Constructed out of irregularly coursed field stone in two sections, the main structure is a random course single story measuring 12 x 12 feet with a standing seam tin gable roof with the roof ridge oriented along the roughly east-west axis. The building is oriented perpendicular to the driveway rather than aligning with the house orientation. The east gable end has a wrought iron bar window measuring 2 feet wide and 1 foot tall. The iron bar window is likely not original and would have

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had a wooden louvered or barred window. The doorway is on the west gable end closest to the north corner and measures 6 x 3 feet.

Attached to the west gable end is the additional section that no longer has a roof, but there is still a roof line ghost. This open area has an approximately rectangular footprint that is 5 x 8 feet. On the north side of the open area are two steps down to the floor level of the springhouse. Also visible in the stone wall is a threaded metal bolt with a nut still attached that is sunk into the stone wall, suggesting the roof of this section had later modifications. The floor of the open section is only partially mortared. The southeast corner of the open area has a cistern that is approximately two feet deep and an exposed pipe probably dating to ca. 1935 which was used to provide water to the house.

Inside the springhouse is a six-inch deep and eighteen-inch-wide channel that is fed from the cistern. The channel runs along the west, south, and east facing walls. The water flows out through the east wall. There are a few slate roofing tiles that are stacked inside the house, suggesting the roof was slate shingling at one point. However, it would have originally been wooden shingles. The floor is plastered and has multiple layers. The inside has crumbling wall plaster and some of the stones have fallen out of the walls near the entryway. The roof was replaced ca. 1980, and the outside was repointed at the same time.²

Although the building was repointed in places, the south face has the original lime ash mortar with the unusual detail of having struck joints. Also, of note that despite having the roof replaced and painted, the original pine boards on each gable end are still present. The north wall is bowing outward, likely from water damage as until recently there was over 18 inches of mud accumulated. A new drainage pipe was installed to help lower the water level inside the springhouse. During excavation a board that was likely used as a sluice and a portion of a terra cotta pipe drainpipe from the early 20th century were found.

Secondary Resources – Non-Contributing

Barnyard and Barn Foundations, circa 1920, circa 1950, circa 1960, Noncontributing Site

The noncontributing site consists of a ca. 1960 crushed stone concrete barnyard situated on the south side of the 1824 barn, measuring 100 x 60 feet. It is about two feet lower than the ground floor of the 1824 barn (likely due to excavation of manure and mud during construction) and slopes away from the foundation of the barn. It is surrounded on the west and north by the concrete foundations of the ca. 1950 concrete block loafing barn, measuring 15 x 65 feet, and the field stone and brick foundation of the ca. 1920 barn, measuring 36 x 40 feet. Both no longer stand. Included is the still standing but no longer structurally sound ca. 1950 run-in machine shed, which was once connected to the exterior of the ca. 1920 barn. The foundations are not considered contributing because of the lack of historic integrity stemming from extensive damage attributed to the firefighting efforts and the subsequent exposure to the elements (Figure 3).

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Figure 3: The barnyard ca. 2013 before the fire (left) and ca. 2015 image after the fire (right). Aerial images provided via Loudoun County GIS oblique imagery.

Corncrib/Grain Bin Pad, circa 1950, Noncontributing Site

Another noncontributing site is the octagonal concrete pad that was once the site of a grain bin or corncrib dating to ca. 1950. It is now where the wood portion of the gas generator shed sits. It lacks historic integrity because it is not capable of yielding information about the period.

Concrete Block Barn, circa 1972, Noncontributing Building

A noncontributing concrete block and wood barn, is oriented with its three-bay front in a parallel orientation to the facade of the house (that is, roughly east facing). It has a concrete foundation and a single-plane shallow-pitch sloping roof with corrugated metal. The second floor is made of wood and is a 2x4 frame construction. Its overall dimensions are 42 x 26 feet. The concrete block barn may have been an earlier ca. 1950 construction. Despite this it would still be considered non-contributing given the alterations made in ca. 1972, including the addition of a milk parlor. It also sustained damage during the process of the ca. 2015 fire, from a firetruck that ran into the barn, which damaged a concrete block support pillar on the south end of the barn.

Concrete Block Shed, circa 1972, Noncontributing Building

There is another building from ca. 1972, consisting of a single story. It has a concrete foundation and concrete masonry gable walls with wood sides. This building is currently and historically used as a workshop and shed. It has a gable roof and is oriented perpendicular to the ca. 1972 barn and measures 24 x 16 feet. There is a single sliding door on the easternmost gable end wall.

Corncrib and Two Grain bins, circa 2016, Noncontributing Building

The ca. 2016 corncrib is located south of the ca. 1972 barn.

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Two Grain bins, circa 2016, Noncontributing Building

Two ca. 2016 grain bins that are located southward of the ca. 1972 barn. They are constructed of steel with poured concrete foundations.

Integrity Statement

Overall, the exterior is in good shape, and the original architectural features are immediately apparent when approaching the house from the driveway. The rear additions are tastefully done and tie in well with their matching architectural features. The rear additions only become visible at the point where the driveway brings the viewer nearer to the house. The interior is well preserved with only minor modern amenity alterations outside the period of significance that do not affect the historic fabric of the various additions. The house maintains a cohesive style and preserves its historical character and contributes to the charm. The multiple intact dependencies and agricultural outbuildings demonstrate the local architectural changes a working farm in Loudoun County underwent from the mid-18th century to the mid-20th century. The estimated construction dates for the various additions and associated outbuildings punctuate the period of significance and act as chapter markers in the history of the farm.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1793 – 1959

Significant Dates

ca. 1793

1824,

ca. 1860

ca. 1890

ca. 1900

ca. 1920

ca. 1940

1959

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

Located a mile southwest of Waterford Historic District (VA DHR 401-0123) on VA Route 704, Laurel Hill Farm is locally significant under *Criterion C in the area of Architecture* and is locally significant under *Criterion A in the area of Agriculture*. Laurel Hill's period of significance spans nearly 200 years beginning in 1793 and ending in 1959, when the property was sold to a person not descended from the pioneering families of western Loudoun County. After changing hands a couple of times, in 1793, the original 1762 land patent was transferred to William Myers. William was the first member of the family that predominantly shaped the architectural and agricultural patterns of the property. Tankerville shortly thereafter sold the rights to the land to William Myers. From this point onwards, he owned the property outright. It is likely that at this point the three-bay federal style brick dwelling was constructed, along with the springhouse if it did not already exist. The dwelling's handsome brickwork and fine mortar joints display the modest wealth of its owner, reflecting the success Waterford enjoyed as a mill town. Upon his death, the property passed to William's son, Lambert. Lambert is responsible for the construction of the unusual 1824 stone barn with a drive-through bay that doubled as a threshing floor. The need for a dedicated barn for threshing shows how important wheat was to the development of Waterford and the greater area of Loudoun County which was the breadbasket of the early country.⁷ The house underwent an architectural evolution in ca. 1860 with the two-bay addition completed by Lambert's heirs. This modified the house from a typical hall-and-parlor to a vernacular form of an I-house. The reduced quality in brick of the addition was likely done out of necessity due to reduced wealth of the owners. After the burning of Loudoun in the Civil War, the county struggled to recover, and the lack of any construction at Laurel Hill from this period is reflective of this economic malaise. By the last decade of the 19th century, the local economy was recovering, and once again there was building activity at Laurel Hill, including a "T" addition, possibly inspired by the Greek Revival upright-and-wing layout, and a now removed Victorian-era porch with boxwood landscaping. Laurel Hill Farm in the early 20th century underwent further changes, most of them related to the intensifying farming practices brought about by mechanization. These changes included the addition of a silo, a frame barn with drive through bay, and a concrete cattle waterer. The dwelling and its dependencies were also altered during this time, most notably, the addition of a carbide gas light system. By 1936 Laurel Hill passes out of the Myers family to Edgar Beans, a descendant of another one of Loudoun's early settlers. Beans, a livestock dealer, made many additional changes to the farm's agricultural dependencies. Beans probably constructed the ca. 1950 loafing barn, machine shed, and cistern. It is likely that Beans also filled the 1824 barn's center passthrough with stone. With the death of Beans, Laurel Hill Farm passes out of the hands of descendants of Waterford's original settlers. However, farming activities did not cease. The construction postdating the period of significance demonstrates continued activity, including two additions to the house. Also added after the period of significance ended were a ca. 1970 shed and barn and a ca. 1960 concrete barnyard. Today, the land is still cultivated and used for grazing, continuing Laurel Hill's long agricultural tradition. The significance of Laurel Hill Farm under *Criterion C for architecture* is due to its complex evolution from its beginning as a ca. 1793 federal three-bay farmhouse with handsome

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Flemish bond. It would be notable for this section alone, since the fine brickwork rivals the quality of much grander homes built during the period. However, there were several further additions reflecting changing tastes and influences shaping local building practices. The first of these evolutions is the addition of a two-bay brick section that changed the house from a hall and parlor to a modified "I-house" plan. Further vernacular additions like the rear "T" addition, reminiscent of the upright-and-wing form, continue the evolution. The house gained two more additions, also vernacular, outside the period of significance in ca. 1972 and ca. 1990. The floorplan changes the house underwent reflect the shift from early federal to the late Greek revival styles that dominated the early to mid-19th century.

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

Architectural Significance

Laurel Hill Farm's ca. 1793 three-bay dwelling and its setting were a common form of building in the period. In nearby Jefferson County West Virginia, it was noted that the larger three bay homes with center entries were preferred in rural areas, and they would often be sited near springs and banked into a hill.⁸ This also applies to Quakers living in the Goose Creek Historic District who were noted for working on smaller farms, often with panoramic views.⁹

The Federal style often took on vernacular forms in the rural areas in the form of fieldstone akin to the William Virts House (VA DHR 053-0598) or other quarried stone like the red sandstone of Clapham's Ferry (VA DHR 053-0071). Early rural brick construction in the region was not without precedent, notably the ca. 1760 Georgian style Rokeby (VA DHR 053-0097) and the ca. 1775 Glebe of Shelburne Parish (VA DHR 053-0186). These two are both Flemish bond; however, they dwarf the size and scale of Laurel Hill Farm's Flemish-bond construction. These earlier constructions reflect the greater wealth and resources of their respective owners which may have factored into the choice of using brick.

Despite the comparative lack of wealth, Laurel Hill Farm's ca. 1793 brick construction is remarkably fine. Although there has been minor cosmetic damage over time, the uniformity of the brickwork rivals that of later, larger constructions. The bricks themselves are hand molded and must have been a somewhat standardized dimension for the time since Rich Bottom Farm (VA DHR 053-0422) has ca. 1820 bricks that are approximately the same dimensions as Laurel Hill Farm's three-bay section. The bricks may have been made on site, as there are two depressions in the nearby creek bottom that may have been the result of clay quarrying. One of these depressions, still located on the property, is the site of a later farm pond that no longer exists.

Compared to the other contemporary houses located on Mahlon Janney's ca. 1801 Main Street extension of Waterford, Laurel Hill's three-bay section brick is much more level and consistent.¹⁰ One brick feature that it does share with some of the houses on this street is the molded-brick cornice and the brick jack arches. Another point of comparison is Belmont (VA

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DHR 053-0106) which is a manor house noted for its “exceptionally handsome Flemish bond with narrow tooled joints”.¹¹ Based on available images, the joints of Laurel Hill’s three-bay facade match or exceed those of Belmont in thinness and evenness. This may be due to differences in the mortar color making the joints of Belmont brighter and therefore more visible. Belmont’s builder is also unknown but is suggested to be from Alexandria, which is less likely for Laurel Hill.

Later homes with a similar rich red brick and narrow joints include Waterford’s William Nettle House (ca. 1817; 15493 Second St, Waterford, VA), the Walker-Phillips House (before 1833; 15511 Second Street, Waterford, VA) and the Bank House (ca. 1806; 40149 Main Street, Waterford, VA). None of these take the care to extend the high-quality brick treatment to any side of the house other than the facade, unlike Laurel Hill. The interior of the William Nettle house shares similar casement, chair rail, and baseboard molding but is more elaborate with its mantels and even has crown molding, which Laurel Hill lacks.¹² Similarly, the Bank House shares molding details but has more elaborate mantels.¹³ The other later homes with similar brick style are typically Greek Revival like Green Garden (VA DHR 053-509). A nearby home, the John Kalnasy House (VA DHR 053-0361), is a very similar quality and it is Greek Revival as well. It was identified during the architectural survey and noted that “John Devine believes this house was built by Robert Braden”, suggesting a possible builder for Laurel Hill.¹⁴

The interior floor plan of the ca. 1793 section is a hall-and-parlor plan like (VA DHR 053-0468) Amos Goodin House and Rock Hill Farm (VA DHR 053-1057). This plan contrasts with the side-passage-plan, which was more popular in towns and later into the Federal period, when double-pile houses like Spring Hill Farm (VA DHR 053-5546) became the dominant layout. Laurel Hill differs in exterior presentation from Amos Goodin House due to the fact that Laurel Hill does not have a fully exposed basement level. It did at one time, however, have a similar offset basement door with step leading down, since it is partially front banked. The Federal-style details also are more refined as the doors are paneled with butterfly hinges rather than the board-and-batten doors with strap hinges of the Amos Goodin House. Rock Hill Farm differs from Laurel Hill in that the interior is more detailed, opting for decorative crossette corners and a punch band on one of the mantels with a similar punch band crown molding throughout the space. Rock Hill Farm has more mass due to the thicker walls and being approximately five feet wider and deeper, allowing it to have a “hall-and-two-room plan” rather than Laurel Hill’s “single-parlor plan”. It also has shelving beneath the hall winder stair, suggesting Laurel Hill may have also had this feature at one point before the winder stair was removed.

The interior of Laurel Hill is restrained, especially compared to other Federal period houses. A similar comparison is the previously mentioned Bank House which has similar chair rail and baseboard molding as well as relatively unadorned fireplace surrounds. It is also comparable to the houses located on the extension of Main Street up the big hill in Waterford. Several houses on this street, namely the Mahlon-Janney House, the Charles and George Schooley House, the Asa Moore House, the James Moore house, and the Hough House typically have more decorated mantels but similar door and window casing as well as trim treatments.¹⁵ Laurel Hill is more elaborate than the more rustic adaptations of the Federal style like the Brown-Koerner House

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(VA DHR 053-0342) which uses board-and-batten doors on the interior rather than the panel doors of Laurel Hill.

A particular one of the aforementioned houses, the Asa Moore House, is noted for the precision of the mortar joints between the bricks. This house was built before 1803. Despite this, few houses in Waterford can match the quality of the mortar.¹⁶ It is possible the same brick mason constructed Laurel Hill, although Laurel Hill's brickwork appears finer. The 1803 date for the Asa Moore House supports the early construction of Laurel Hill's three-bay section. The Asa Moore House is also noted for its high-quality construction, which matches the interior of Laurel Hill well.¹⁶ One conspicuous detail is the bottom of the window casements of the Asa Moore House do not match the height of the chair rail, which is slightly higher than the bottom of the windows.

A brick house in Waterford, built and owned by Mahlon Myers, a close relative of the Myers that lived at Laurel Hill, is another point of comparison. The Mahlon Myers house was constructed sometime in the early 19th century. The brickwork quality is poor in comparison and is more akin to the brickwork of Laurel Hill's ca. 1860 two-bay addition. The interior trim work shares a similar profile but remains unpainted in the Mahlon Myers house and the mantels lack decoration.¹⁷ The Mahlon Myers House also has a different layout as it is smaller. It has two corner fireplaces that share the same chimney and a large basement cooking fireplace.¹⁸ In comparison to the Mahlon Myers House, Laurel Hill displays signs of greater affluence. The brickwork of the ca. 1860 two-bay addition to Laurel Hill is much less impressive, particularly due to its thick and uneven joints. It is possible that the two-bay portion was built at the same time as the three-bay portion as a single-story service side wing, like the William Smith House (VA DHR 053-1087). This is less likely given that the brick does not have consistent dimensions between the three-bay section and the first floor of the two-bay section, in addition to the differing interior details.

Interestingly, Sleepy Hollow (VA DHR 053-0273) has a two-bay, two-and-a-half story side wing with dormer windows that have a similar fenestration pattern to Laurel Hill's two-bay upstairs, notably the offset window above the front door and narrower windows. Near the bottom of the second-story window level of the two-bay addition of Laurel Hill there is a minor change in brick color and size. This change in brick, combined with a possible roofline scar in the attic suggests that the second full floor to the two-bay addition was completed at a later period like the rear ell addition of Much Haddam (VA DHR 259-0164). The second-floor window pattern would then be the result of not wanting to alter the upstairs floor plan and reusing the placement of previously existing dormer windows. Full size dormer windows were uncommon but not unheard of, as Institute Farm has three full size dormers (VA DHR 053-0139). The additional floor would have made the house a full five bays and it is likely the front door and interior winder stairs were removed at this point to help achieve the I-house center hall design, which was more common among the mansions in the Catoctin Rural District (VA DHR 053-0012). A point of evidence for this being the intention is the walled vestibule that enclosed the stairs as well as the door to each section of the house.¹ This would have also aided in privacy for the multiple families occupying the house. If the whole house was red washed and the mortar joints

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were penciled, the unmatched brick may not have been a concern. This compromise did leave an asymmetrical front door location, but the addition of the Victorian porch likely masked this. This compromise on door placement inadvertently showcases the reason the center-passage design became popular, as not having a main passage complicates the layout for future additions, requiring a person to walk through multiple rooms. The two-bay addition also has a sawtooth brick soffit, brick quality, and bond that was more common in later 19th-century brick as noted in the Goose Creek Historic District nomination.⁹ An example of this soffit nearer to Laurel Hill is Waterford Baptist Church (VA DHR 401-0102). The front door surround is Colonial Revival in character and was likely added after the covered front porch had been removed. Given the long-lasting period popularity of the Colonial Revival style, this could have been done as late as the first year or two of the 1970s, since the owners after this point did not mention that the covered porch still existed.³ The interior of the two-bay addition, particularly the casements appear to be Greek Revival in influence but almost entirely lack ornamentation. The same applies to the fireplace mantel. This suggests that during the period that the two-bay addition was built, the owners had relatively less wealth than when the three-bay section was added.

The downstairs basement door and the door from the three-bay hall into the two-bay first floor may have been original placements. There are several analog dwellings with a side door in the hall, or dwellings with side basement exits like the Minor Bartlow (VA DHR 053-0117). It is hard to contemplate how a latch string basement door would function if there was no internal basement entry. There appears to be no alteration suggesting a winder stair to the basement. This could be why there appears to be a trapdoor, but the only property with a trapdoor mentioned is a ca. 1900 outbuilding located on the William Virts property (VA DHR 053-0598). Another solution is if there was an original wing that had a stair, and the door was moved later when the house was partitioned for privacy purposes. The 16 x 20-foot dimensions of the two-bay addition, like the dimensions of Home Farm (VA DHR 053-0588), were common among patent houses. This hints at the possibility that there was an original wing that was brick or possibly log, which was subsequently replaced with brick later.

The wood-frame addition from the late 19th century is currently occupied by the kitchen and an upstairs bedroom with bathroom. Unfortunately, interior detailing on the first floor is mostly obscured other than the corner stairs. It is possible this addition was constructed with brick nogging, as there is at least one documented instance of this in the county at Furr Farm (VA DHR 053-5056-0001), but no firm evidence has been found. The "T" layout of this two-story addition centered on the three-bay section was an uncommon construction form compared to the telescoping or ell additions. One example, Belmont (VA DHR 053-0106), was originally built with a similar brick layout, although it no longer has this feature. This central location of the frame addition would have been a more logical choice if it had been constructed before the second story of the two-bay addition was built. This addition could also be obscuring the center upstairs window if the window was lower than all the rest like the Hague-Hough House (VA DHR 401-0115; 40120 Bond Street, Waterford, VA), although in the Hague-Hough House the window is lower because of a staircase, which Laurel Hill does not have. The roof of this addition was flat at one point, but it is not known if that is an original feature. The "T" layout was also a common Greek Revival era folk style used in rural settings, often referred to as the

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upright-and-wing or gable-and-wing plan. The upright-and-wing style was more common in the northern regions like New England and the upper Midwest, but it is possible that this was the origin of the ca. 1890 addition. If this is the case, the addition may be earlier to coincide with the popularity of Greek Revival forms.

Uncommon in the area, the English style stone barn from 1824 and the remaining contributing domestic and agricultural outbuildings also contribute to the architectural significance of the property. It is likely Lambert Myers inherited Laurel Hill's already constructed house as he had no compunction about leaving a conspicuous date stone in the barn, whereas the house has no such datestone. There is only one other instance of a carbide house, located at Spring Hill Farm (VA DHR 053-5546). The carbide house at that location is half buried and a single story tall with vaulted ceilings, suggesting that the once two-story set up of Laurel Hill's ca. 1900 carbide shed was unnecessary and is the result of a repurposed building.

There are numerous springhouses in the registry, all from varying periods with a wide array of layouts due to the functional nature of the structure. The only springhouse that has a single-story two room layout is the spring at Sleepy Hollow Farm. This appears to have been a later springhouse compared to the ca. 1793 one at Laurel Hill.

Agricultural Significance and Historical Background

Under Criterion A, Laurel Hill Farm achieves its significance for Agriculture due to the continuous cultivation practices, starting with the land patent in 1762. The 30 remaining acres of the farm retain enough physical features and architectural resources to convey its significance as an important resource that continues to contribute to the agricultural heritage of the Loudoun Valley. The patent was eventually transferred to William Myers, whose descendants owned the property until the mid-1930s. William Myers started off relatively wealthy, as reflected in the home he built. As time progressed and the family grew, there was a decline in building quality, reflecting a decline in relative wealth and likely a focus on subsistence farming. After the Civil War, there were little alterations until ca. 1890 when a framed addition and the now missing Victorian porch were added. This renewed building period is when Loudoun County finally began to recover from the economic slump following the Reconstruction era. By the early 20th century, Laurel Hill Farm began to grow significantly with the addition of several outbuildings and a clear focus on cattle, likely dairy. The shift to dairy farming explains the minor alterations to the springhouse, as its use to store dairy became crucial for economic activity. In this period several machine sheds were constructed, including a drive through section of the ca. 1920 frame barn, corresponding to the rise in mechanization. This adoption of mechanization allowed Laurel Hill Farm to continue production, even during the Great Depression.⁷ Laurel Hill Farm still operates and currently produces beef cattle and hay. Since the 1980s farming bust, the intensity of land use has declined, reflecting the more sustainable farming practices that have since become the norm. Despite this change, the land remains cultivated. The current focus on beef cattle and hay mirrors the farming changes of Loudoun County, which has fewer than a handful of commercial dairy operations. Loudoun farms are also smaller due to development and population growth. The continued use of the property for agriculture has maintained the bucolic

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setting. Despite an unfortunate fire, the remaining farm resources still retain their integrity and tell the story of Waterford's agricultural changes.

The settlement of the land now referred to as Loudoun County began after the signing of the Treaty of Albany in 1722, which restricted the Iroquois to the west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Prior to this, the area was frontier and used as the hunting grounds for Native Americans.¹⁹ Loudoun County at this time was rich in resources including big game including elk, bison, wolves and mountain lions with portions likely being heavily forested.⁷ However, it was noted by Yardley Taylor in 1853 that there was a lack of large trees which he attributed to the burning practices used for forest management by Native Americans.²⁰ This would have left portions of the land in a mix of early successional open areas and fire tolerant savannahs and forests. It is probably these burnt areas that are referred to as the "poison lands" in some early deeds.²⁰

During the ensuing settlement, it was primarily a mix of Quaker, German and Tidewater families that emigrated from their homes to the newly available lands. The depleted soils of the eastern regions of Virginia because of tobacco cultivation resulted in many Tidewater families settling in the eastern portion of Loudoun County.¹⁹ The western portion of the county was demarcated by the natural barrier formed by Catoclin Mountain. This was the area where Quakers and Germans settled, particularly the fertile Loudoun Valley, bounded on the west by the Short Hill Mountains.²¹ The pattern of settlement in the Loudoun Valley was driven by the land patent system.

The land patent system of Northern Virginia originated with the 5-million-acre land grant by Charles II in 1649 to a group led by the Culpeper family, who helped Charles retain the throne.²² Lord Fairfax's family came into ownership of the so-called "Northern Neck" land grant by means of marriage. Lord Fairfax gave out land patents via a resident agent as a means of protecting his claims in the Colony of Virginia. John Coleville was a recipient of the Catoclin Tract, one of the larger land patents that spanned from the Catoclin to the Blue Ridge.¹⁹ When John Coleville died in 1756, he owed a large sum of money to Charles Bennet, the 3rd Earl of Tankerville, whom he was related to through marriage. As a result, the Earl of Tankerville was given many slaves and land holdings, including the Catoclin Tract, which was renamed Catoclin Manor. In 1759, Tankerville designated a representative who arrived in Leesburg and set up an office to give out land patents. By the early 1760s the two major landowners of Loudoun County that gave out patents were George William Fairfax and The Earl of Tankerville.²²

Many of the land patents during this time were in the vicinity of Waterford, the Quaker settlement, and the German settlement (later known as Lovettsville).²¹ Both of these groups primarily migrated from Pennsylvania and were known for farming grain crops, particularly corn and wheat, from the outset of their arrival.⁷ Tobacco cultivation was generally prohibited on patented land.¹⁹ The prohibition on tobacco cultivation and the small size of farms, and to some degree, religious differences, meant that there was never a dependence on slave labor.⁷ This was another differentiator between the eastern and western portions of the region, which ultimately contributed to the creation of Loudoun County from Fairfax County and the 1798 movement of the county boundary westward to its present location.¹⁹

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The Germans settlers primarily moved because of raiding attacks, particularly in the Colebrook Valley. After moving to Loudoun County, they maintained communications between the German settlements in Berks and York Counties, Pennsylvania, by the Monocacy Road. This resulted in the settlement of approximately a hundred German families in Virginia.²¹ Likewise, Amos Janney's settlement of Waterford from Bucks, County Pennsylvania, and communications back to Pennsylvania resulted in many Quakers coming to the area based on the promise of good land.²³

Myers Brothers

In a letter dated June 7, 1761, Jonathan Myers wrote to his brother William Myers in Kingwood, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, detailing their troublesome journey to their new home where they "live[d] among good neighbors".²³ With Jonathan was his other brother, Joseph, based on recorded land patents they received from George William Fairfax.²⁴ Jonathan and Joseph both moved into the area near Waterford, as they were both Quakers.²⁵ Evidently, the area was appealing enough for William to eventually move to the Waterford area.²⁶ It is uncertain if the Myers brother have definitive German ancestry given that the surname has uncertain origins and can also be an English name.²⁷ It is noted however, that Myers was one of the common German surnames of Lovettsville.²¹ Unlike his brothers, there are no records of William joining the Quakers. His two brothers joined on May 5, 1761, at Kingwood Monthly meeting. Their two wives, the sisters Mary and Phebe, also joined Jonathan and Joseph, respectively.²⁵

Laurel Hill has been understood to be the property that Jonathan Myers received a patent for and built.¹ The nearby house supposedly belonged to William Myers.²⁸ Research indicates this to not be the case. A deed trace for the original patent deeded to Jonathan Myers revealed the land to be located around Eudora Lane, off Hampton Road located near Hamilton, Virginia.²⁹ Jonathan also purchased an additional 395 acres from Joseph Janney, Hannah Taylor, and Mahlon Taylor on May 6, 1773, subsequently, he sold off 50 acres to William Belts on July 8, 1785.³⁰ He retained these lands until his death in 1790 when his will was executed, leaving an estate worth roughly £248. The original patent went to his eldest son Isaiah, and the tract of land purchased from Janney & co. was divided in half, with one half going to Isaiah and the other half going to Elijah.³¹

A full deed trace of the one half of the tract that went to Elijah Myers was done. This trace indicated that the original tract was south of Waterford, bounded by Old Waterford Road (VA Route 698) on the north and east, and Clarkes Gap Road (VA Route 662) to the west. Most, if not all the land is located within the Beacon Hill Subdivision, probably located on Bridlepath Lane.³² Given that Isaiah's portion was contiguous to Elijah's land, it is unlikely that Jonathan Myers ever owned land adjoining Laurel Hill Farm. Joseph Myers original deed from George William Fairfax could not be definitively traced to any current deeds. It did show up in the list of partially proven deeds and wills as being sold to Robert Braden in 1811.³³ It was not determined if it was among the property sold off at Robert Braden's death per his will.³⁴ Based upon the

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image created by Roberto Constantino, a suggested location is south of Old Wheatland Road (VA Route 698) approximately located at 39031 Old Wheatland Road, Waterford VA.³⁵

Joseph left the Waterford area to the region beyond the Allegheny. Records exist that he joined the Hopewell Quaker meeting in Virginia and was subsequently endorsed to join the Westland meeting in Washington County, Pennsylvania.²⁵ Records indicate that Joseph Myers lived in Monongalia County in what is now West Virginia (which was a county of Virginia until the Civil War era), but no wills or deeds could be found, likely a result of a fire at the courthouse that destroyed the records.³⁶ There is, however, a record of a Monongalia Chancery Court case between Peter Cook and the heirs of Joseph Myers. William Myers is listed as one of these heirs. Given the common practice of naming sons after their uncles, it is unclear if the owner is truly William the brother of Joseph or William the son of Joseph. Although, it can be reasonably inferred that based on the chancery case, the owner of Laurel Hill Farm was William, the brother of Joseph and Jonathan. This is because the order acknowledges that a few of the defendants, including William, were not residents of the commonwealth. The order is also dated 1805 and the William Myers who owned Laurel Hill died in 1801.³⁷ The order does not mention any of the defendants as deceased, even though it required their appearance.³⁶

Land Patent for Laurel Hill Farm (1762-1793)

Tankerville, beginning in 1760, granted approximately a dozen land patents.²² One of the land patents was to David Troxall, dated April 8, 1762. The 100 acres were granted for the yearly rent of £3. The lease also stipulated they must build a log house measuring 26 x 22 feet and a barn 36 x 24 feet and plant 100 apple and 100 peach trees in regular order.³⁸ Troxall, probably German, appears in county tithable records around this time, confirming his presence.³⁹ Troxall disappears from the county records when he assigns the lease to John Stiffler in 1782. Stiffler does not occupy the property long as he assigns the lease to the patent to Jacob Beavers in April of 1785.⁴⁰

Little is known about the buildings of Laurel Hill from this period, but it is assumed by this nomination that David Troxall met the requirements of the lease. The land patented by Troxall would have been cleared quickly for agriculture, with the land remaining cleared and in use ever since. The requirements of the lease also imply there was a log barn and house on the property, likely in the same locations that the current barn and house occupy. The lack of extant agricultural buildings of the period is not uncommon as the typically square-log barns and homes were replaced over time.⁷ Often, the original buildings were recycled into later construction materials.²⁰ Curiously the interior footprint (i.e. not including the drive-through section) of the now destroyed ca. 1920 frame barn has a stone foundation that is the same dimensions as required by the original patent, suggesting the ca. 1920 frame barn may have been built in the place of a prior barn.

In the land patent era of Laurel Hill Farm, grain was the primary crop. The most popular grains were corn and wheat, which required less effort than tobacco, which is ideal for small tenant farms. Because of this, by the time of the American War of Independence, Loudoun County had

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become an important region of the country. Besides having one of the largest militias in Virginia, the abundance of grains that were once exported overseas were embargoed. Instead of overseas trade, they were sold domestically to the army. This led Loudoun to becoming a vital breadbasket of the Revolution.⁷

For Loudoun farmers, other subsistence requirements for food would be met by gardens located near the houses.²⁰ The early agricultural outbuildings, often oriented in a linear fashion with respect to the house, include Pennsylvania-influenced bank barns. Bank barns were particularly popular for those with German ancestry, like Troxall. The houses also reflected ancestral roots and typically lacked any ornamentation. The larger or more prosperous properties had other dependencies, like springhouses.

The roads to access properties were often simple dirt paths and were community maintained. The roads were often altered when they became impassable.⁷ There is no evidence of abandoned roadbeds suggesting Hamilton Station Road changed course near Laurel Hill, as such, the driveway layout is probably original. An important feature of early farms were woodlots, which provided fuel for winter and resources for building.²⁰ A few extant wooded areas, particularly on steep embankments overlooking Catoctin Creek, are present. Due to the difficulty of harvesting this lumber, these areas probably remained forested since the land was first patented. Unfortunately, these wooded areas are no longer part of the nominated property. However, portions of the original boundary lines of the patent are still part of the current property. One of these original lines of the patent demarcates the property line and thus the nomination boundary that is in front of the house (i.e. the easternmost property line, closest to and parallel to Hamilton Station Road, VA Route 704). The earliest fences were “worm” or horse-and-rider fences and would have been planted with valuable fruit and nut crops and allowed to grow naturally, creating a living fence.²⁰ There would have also been a garden nearby for growing subsistence crops. Given the topography around the house, the garden would have been located either in the front or side yard.

End of Land Patent Era

In March of 1793, William Myers, the brother of Jonathan and Joseph Myers, was assigned the lease to Laurel Hill Farm by Jacob Beavers.²⁵ Shortly thereafter, in August of the same year, William outright purchases the land from the Earl of Tankerville for slightly more than £196.⁴¹ It is likely William knew that he would be able to purchase the land outright from Tankerville after obtaining the assignment of lease for an original land patent. Many tenants had no recorded formal leases, and it is possible William at one time was one of them.²² The lack of formal leases was not minded so much by the landowners because the tenants, particularly those of German ancestry, were viewed as improving the land. The improvement of the land was considered more important than collecting rent.⁴²

When the 3rd Earl of Tankerville died in 1767, the rights to the land were passed to his two sons, the 4th Earl of Tankerville and Henry Astley Bennet.²² This change in ownership had little

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bearing on the willingness of the Tankerville heirs to collect rents. The Revolutionary War, however, put their ability to collect rents and even maintain ownership of the land at risk. In 1776, the Virginia House of Delegates voted to expel British subjects who had connections to British merchants. An exception was made for those that had a friendly disposition to the patriot's cause, or those that had a family in the colonies.⁴³

Two years later, in 1778, Virginia voted to sequester all loyalist property, a fate that the Fairfax-owned lands escaped, in part due to their presence in the Americas.⁴³ Unlike the Fairfax family, the Tankervilles remained in Britain and as such, had their lands sequestered. This sequestration left both the tenants and the Tankerville heirs in a state of limbo. The Tankervilles did not lose the title, but they did lose use and profits, which were instead directed to the state for support of the war. In general, this was an ineffective means of raising revenue for the state.⁴³ Records indicate only some of the rent money paid by the tenants during this period was paid to Virginia to support the war effort.⁴²

There are inconsistent records of land sequestration and confiscation for Loudoun County. Although, it is noted that sales of loyalist properties did pave the way for the rise of small farmers of wealth. For the Tankerville lands, Charles Little, who was already involved with the Tankervilles, was appointed as commissioner of sequestration. This conflict of interest caused problems for the tenant farmers.⁴³ With the 1783 signing of the Treaty of Paris ending the Revolutionary War, land sequestration status was unclear due to Virginia law and the treaty being in conflict. Despite this, land agents representing the Tankerville interest began aggressively collecting rents. Many tenant farmers owed back rents due to their inability to pay during the hyper-inflationary period caused by the war. Tenant farmers on Tankerville land were forced by Charles Little to pay their back rents at inflated rates or risk having their assets sold.⁴² Despite the aggressive rent collection, the Tankervilles were not certain of the status of their land. The Dowager of Tankerville, wife to the 3rd Earl of Tankerville, even gave George Washington power of attorney, which he declined and forwarded on to Edmund Randolph.⁴³ Randolph, the attorney general for the state of Virginia advised the Tankervilles to establish clear title to the lands.⁴⁴ It is during this time of confusion that David Troxall assigns his lease to Stiffler, who shortly thereafter transfers the land to Beavers.

In 1784, legal action was taken against Charles Little, brought by Quaker Samuel Schooley and two Germans, Adam Wolf and Thomas Davis. It was ultimately unsuccessful. The complaint stated for those without leases, there was great uncertainty as to the amount of land they were occupying and the amount of rent they owed. Many apparently tried to comply with rent collection by selling their livestock and personal property to raise cash. Unfortunately, the cash they raised was declared to no longer be lawful money. Despite these issues the case was quickly dismissed, and the defendants were ordered to bear the cost of the proceedings.⁴²

Later in the same decade, in part due to shifting sentiment, Nathan Laycock, who owned land that adjoined to William Myers, had better luck in his 1787 case styled Bennet vs. Laycock and Myers.⁴² It is unknown but possible the Myers that is mentioned is William Myers, suggesting he was living on Tankervilles land prior to his purchase. Laycock was successful in preventing the

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impending sale of his personal property but still owed approximately £22.⁴² Adding to the possibility that William Myers, the brother of Joseph and Jonathan, was in the county during this time are records bearing his name. The records that most probably relate to William, the owner of Laurel Hill, are county census and tax records for 1789.⁴⁵ There are also personal property records for William Myers in 1785 through 1788.⁴⁶ These records date to the time after Joseph Myers left the county in 1784, reducing the likelihood of these records pertaining to William, the son of Joseph.

Additional records pertaining to an individual named William Myers include an April 9, 1782, donation to help the troops of the Revolutionary War.⁴⁵ It is known that in 1770 Joseph had three listed Myers living with him over the age of 21 for which Joseph paid 10 squirrel caps. This is the first time any William Myers entry appears in Loudoun records and is attributed to Joseph's son.⁴⁷ William is listed on his own in the tithable list for the first time in 1779.³⁹ In 1783 Joseph had just two people living with him that were over 21. In the same year, a solo William appears in the county tax records with 5 horses and 5 cattle and two males 21 years or older with him.⁴⁶ The first certain record for the William that owned Laurel Hill is in 1792. The county tax rolls for that year list William, William Jr., Lambert and Jonathan in the same house.⁴⁵ The duplicated William is confirmed by Sarah Myers's will.⁴⁸ William Jr. is not listed in William Sr.'s will, suggesting there was an estrangement.³⁷

The Tankervilles had many unfavorable outcomes in later court cases. These results stem from the role of overseeing the lands changing hands multiple times, resulting in inconsistent handling of rents. Compounding their troubles, the Tankervilles had not established legal ownership because the will of the 3rd Earl of Tankerville could not be produced. All these factors, combined with the requirement to only sell the land to Americans, forced the representatives of the Tankerville heirs to grant leases or sell the land to their tenants in a series of court cases.⁴⁹ In 1790, a will for the 3rd Earl of Tankerville was finally certified. After this, the remaining Tankervilles sold all their property in Virginia to their tenants through the land agents. This was done through a series of about 100 transactions during the period between 1789-1796.⁵⁰ These Tankerville land disputes further cloud the story of Laurel Hill Farm. Since the extant buildings of Laurel Hill do not date to this early period, it is a possibility that the nearby Duncan house (VA DHR 053-0216) may have been settled as the original location of the patent house by David Troxall, outside the bounds of his lease. Another equal possibility is he never constructed a home that met the size requirements laid out by the land patent. It is not assumed that either of these are the case in this nomination. Evidence in the form of later Myers land purchases proved this to be unlikely.

The most likely owner during land patent days of the Duncan house is not William Myers as has been stated by previous surveys, but Nathan Laycock.²⁸ The original 1793 deed to William Myers mentions a Laycock as a neighbor on the side of the property closest to Hamilton Station Road.⁴¹ Given there are no other good sources of water on the land that Nathan Laycock owned it is not unreasonable that two patent houses ended up so close to one another. This is very likely since springhouses were usually built within 100 yards of a house and they are both located on the same spring run.²⁰ These springhouses tended to be constructed in a variety of ways based

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on contours, hence the lack of contemporary examples that match the layout of Laurel Hill's springhouse.⁵¹

Construction Period of Original Brick Dwelling (1793-1799)

An additional forty acres along with the original land patent were purchased by William in 1793. The original land patent was rectangular in shape with the long sides paralleling Hamilton Station Road, although slightly tapering in as they trend south.³⁵ This additional forty acres was on the southeast "short" end of the boundary, retaining the tapering rectangular shape. Once the land was purchased, it is likely he had a more permanent home built, hence the handsome brick house. As previously mentioned, the money to purchase the land and build a brick dwelling may have been the result of the confiscation of loyalist property. William appears in land tax records in 1795 and 1796, owning 158 acres, owing slightly more than £1 tax.⁵² He also shows up in the personal property tax during the period 1792-1796 with an apparent farm hand for a single year in 1794, Patrick Dougherty.⁴⁶

William died in 1801, and his will was executed in February of the same year, passing his son Lambert his "plantation" (although this is an apparently common term as Jonathan Myers also referred to his property as a plantation in his 1790 will).⁵³ William's other son Jonathan Myers received cash and his wife Sarah received a room to live in and a yearly stipend from Lambert. William's will also mentioned his "trusty friend" Robert Braden (a proposed builder of Laurel Hill).¹⁴ William's inventory reveals the state of agriculture on the farm. His inventory appraised for \$449.⁵⁴ It is difficult to get a sense of valuation due to cost-of-living factors, but a 1793 observer states lodging and board in the nearby town of Winchester is between £12-22 per year. In the country lodging was less at about £9-13 per year. Household servants in the area would receive £8 per year, and land went from fifteen to seventy-five shillings an acre but was increasing.⁵⁵ Among William's estate were four horses, twelve sheep, nine lambs, fourteen cattle, ten hogs, a sow with seven pigs, ten geese, a wagon, some hemp, some flaxseed, and twenty pounds of harvested flax.³⁷ This was typical of the early settlers who would primarily grow grain crops for sale and raise animals for subsistence, with any excess being sold for additional profit.

Early National period (1800 - 1830)

Following the death of his father, Lambert Myers was in ownership of the house at the beginning of the 19th century. Personal property tax records do not elucidate any changes in wealth for an additional twenty years and only note the ownership of a handful of horses.⁵⁶ In 1802, Lambert's inherited property was recorded as 158.5 acres valued at \$240, which is slightly less than the \$266 valuation that his cousin, Isaiah received for his 200-acre parcel that same year. Lambert's property, however, had a higher price per acre, suggesting the farming was more expansive or the house was of better quality - hence the likelihood of it being constructed already.⁵⁷ In 1810, Lambert is on census with small children.⁵⁸

The War of 1812 had little effect on the economy of the county and afterward the production of wheat and corn allowed the nascent United States to pay off foreign debts. This grain production

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increased the prosperity of the residents of the county throughout this period, allowing turnpikes to be built as for-profit ventures, thereby increasing goods transport and communication, further adding to the prosperity of the farmers of Loudoun.⁷ This may be a factor in how Lambert was able to afford an 1814 land purchase in Ohio.⁵⁹

In 1820, another significant tax change occurred: the value of the land jumped to \$30 per acre and the value of the home appeared as \$1,000 for a total assessed value \$4155.25, for which Lambert owed \$5.20 in tax.⁶⁰ The sudden jump is due to the requirements of two acts passed by the Virginia legislature. The first passed in 1817 and the other in 1819. They required that a valuation of the home and property consider the values of comparable properties in the area.⁶¹ The reason for this is prior to 1820, taxes were prepared by copying the information from previous years' books and making revisions. It was the land tax assessor's duty to ascertain the value which he was permitted to do by gathering the information from the landowner on oath.⁶² This led to inaccurate valuations. Hence, the lack of any tax data confirming a construction date with certainty.

The 1820s were a busy decade for Lambert in terms of purchases, who was clearly starting to amass net worth. The 1820 census lists three people engaged in agriculture - likely Lambert and his two oldest sons. There was a single male listed for each of the following categories: 16-25, 26-44, and 45+. There were eleven total residents listed in 1820.⁶³ His personal property taxes for the 1820s reveals he owned seven horses, likely used for ploughing and transportation.⁵⁶ While new cast iron implements were not in common use by Loudoun farmers, new methods of boosting soil productivity via gypsum were used. This system, nicknamed the Loudoun system, increased agricultural productivity, allowing for bountiful harvests.⁷ Lambert seems to have benefited from grain during this time due to the addition of an English or "three-bay" style stone barn erected in 1824. This was an unusual construction for the bank-barn dominated Loudoun County, which was more popular due to the hilly topography. The English barns are more common in Pennsylvania and the New England area.⁶⁴ The barn constructed by Lambert had a center drive-through passage that also doubled as a threshing floor. This matches well with Loudoun history as flour was the main export in this period.⁷

The 1824 personal property tax rolls reveal that Lambert purchased an enslaved person, named George Lee, who probably helped construct the barn. This unfortunate foray into slavery is likely as a result of his expanding farming operation and ensuing personal wealth. Also in 1824, Lambert made two other land purchases, one for a lot in Waterford for \$800 and a ten-acre lot for \$530.⁶⁵ Lambert passed away in 1830 but was enumerated in the 1830 census. The census lists two white males 15-19, two white males 20-29 and one white male 50-59. The household had a total of eight free white persons and one enslaved black, who was listed between the ages of 36-54.⁶⁶

Lambert willed his real property, including the parcel he purchased in Ohio, to be split among his four sons: William, Washington, Jacob, and Lambert. Lambert's will made provisions for his wife and daughters and required that George Lee, his enslaved man, was to be freed upon his death.⁶⁷ A record in the Free Black register notes a man named George Lee was freed in 1832. It is possible this is the same man, and it took two years because the high cost and difficult process

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of manumission in Virginia. There are no later records of an individual named George Lee of the correct age living in Waterford.⁶⁸ Lambert remained the only definitive person in his immediate family to ever make continuous use of slave labor.

Lambert's inventory and accounts note numerous debtors — a sign of Lambert's success in generating income from farming.⁶⁹ His estate was worth \$3540.28, which was paid out to the heirs, leaving only \$166.92 after payments began in 1832.⁵⁴ The inventory provides insight into Lambert's farming operation. Noted among the agricultural tools were one set of wagon gear, a set of plough gear, a cutting box, a wheat fan, some carpenter's tools, two plows, one plantation wagon, two harrows hay, five ploughs and one sled. For livestock there were seven horses, eighteen cattle, three sows with pigs, thirty-one hogs and sixteen sheep. The harvests listed were a wheat stack worth \$390, rye worth \$32, oats worth \$3, corn in field worth \$81.50, and a share of corn in a neighbor's field worth \$90. Interestingly, he was in possession of a map worth \$250. Like his father before him, Lambert's operation was not specialized, which was common at the time.²⁰ In contrast, the number of animals was larger, as was the amount of grain. Lambert was also farming on a neighbor's land as well, showing that he had an excess of labor. Wheat was the primary crop in terms of total value with corn a close second, mirroring trends in the local community.

The gravestone bearing Lambert's initials is located on the property but is not associated with a known gravesite. The gravestone was found in the attic by one of the previous owners.⁵ The gravestone is currently located outside near the stone steps to the basement. It is unknown when the gravestone was removed but it may have been because the grave was located on land that is no longer part of Laurel Hill Farm. This would not be typical given that most gravesites tend to be nearer to the house. There may be additional unmarked graves belonging to William and his wife as well, especially if the grave markers were wooden.

Antebellum Period (1830-1860)

With the growing demand for agricultural goods in the cities, efforts were made to improve transportation. These efforts included a canal and a railroad, but ultimately the railroad won out. Lines like the Baltimore & Ohio ended up as the primary means of transportation, replacing the turnpike roads that were popular in the prior period. During this time, the primary crops were wheat and corn. Also present were the rising tensions between pro-slavery and abolitionist groups.⁷ With the opening of the rail lines, property values spiked in value. This led to a loss in population, particularly in Lovettsville as people migrated to cheaper lands in the west, typically Ohio.²¹

Laurel Hill's continued evolution reflects these overall trends experienced during this time. There was an addition, attributed to ca. 1860, demonstrating a growing family and modest income. The heirs of Lambert Myers never saw the same success as their father, possibly because they had to divide the estate amongst themselves, limiting the advantage of any one child to amass wealth. There were several land exchanges during this period as marriages occurred, probably because Laurel Hill Farm would have become too cramped for four families. Land tax records indicate

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that nobody was living in the Town of Waterford house, purchased by Lambert Sr., from at least 1834 until 1837 when Lambert Jr. is noted as being an occupant.⁷⁰ The identity of this house is uncertain, but it is probably William Hite Hough House, located at 15505 Second Street.⁶⁵ 1838 is the last year Lambert is noted as living in the house, as later in the year it was purchased by William Nettle for \$140.⁷¹

Lambert Jr. continues to appear in personal property tax records until 1847.⁷² At this point, he sold his interest in Laurel Hill to his brothers.⁷³ After this he no longer appears in Loudoun County records. Lambert likely moved much earlier than this and only wrapped up affairs later, as an individual named Lambert Myers appeared in the 1840 census in Ohio.⁷⁴ 1837 is also the first year in the land tax records that Washington Myers is listed as owning a separate property. It was thirty-five acres with a building value of \$100 for a total assessed value of the property of \$1190. The 1839 land tax records indicate that Washington was taxed for a second property that was 39 ½ acres with a building valuation of \$0. That same year's taxes indicate that the "LM heirs" property size was reduced by exactly 39 ½ acres to 119 acres. The "LM heirs" building valuation remained the same at \$1000.⁷⁰ This division of the original property purchased by William Myers was not formally made until March 1, 1847, when mutual transfers appear in the deed book.⁷³ This deed left Laurel Hill Farm with a distinct "chevron" shape on the southeastern boundary. This fence line remains today. This division was probably made in this distinctive manner, as opposed to a straight line, because the field already had that shape. This implies that the fence line predates Washington's purchase from the other three brothers. Despite this, the Yardley Taylor map still lists the property as "L. Myers Heirs" (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Yardley Taylor Map indicating the location of L. Myers heirs. Image courtesy of the Library of Congress.

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Washington's other property of about thirty-five acres was purchased from David Reece by trust from John Braden.⁷⁵ The purchase price was \$800, and the boundary description corresponds to the Duncan House.²⁸ This addition of property corresponds to the boundary lines in the 1860 land tax map produced by Wynne C. Saffer.⁷⁶

In 1840, Laurel Hill's building valuation increased by \$200 to \$1200, suggesting an addition or other improvement but no comment was provided in the tax book to clarify this.⁷⁰ In 1851, the valuation drops back down to \$1000 and there are no further changes until at least 1870, which is the last tax record roll checked for this nomination.⁷⁷ Personal property tax for all four brothers reveals items like two silver watches and one clock in 1842. In 1844, William and Jacob were noted as only having one brass clock, whereas Washington only had a wooden clock.⁷² In early 1847, around the time of the mutual land swaps, the brothers come into ownership of three acres in Waterford from Edward Bond as a result of an unpaid debt to the estate of Lambert Sr. The property had a merchant mill, a sawmill and even a steam engine on premises but it is not known what became of this property.⁷⁸

The censuses of 1850 and 1860 indicated William and Jacob, now the only owners of Laurel Hill, were farmers. In 1850, Laurel Hill was valued at \$6000 and in 1860 it was valued for slightly more at \$7200. In the 1850 census it was noted that Jacob was married and had a family. There was also an unrelated person living in the house named Joseph Wright, who was likely a farmhand.⁷⁹ The 1860 agricultural census shows there were sixty-nine improved acres with fifty unimproved acres, for a total valuation of \$7000. There was \$250 worth of machines and implements, three horses, ten cattle (five of which were milk cows), and seventeen swine with a total value of \$530 for livestock. For crops and produce there were 130 bushels of wheat, 500 bushels of corn, seventy bushels of oats, some peas and beans, 100 bushels of potatoes, 500 pounds of butter, five tons of hay, five pounds of hops, sixty-five pounds of honey and \$200 in value of slaughtered animals.⁸⁰ Corn dominated grain production on the farm during this period, and once again the farm was diversified with other subsistence products.

Civil War Era (1861-1865)

The Civil War period was tough for Loudoun County as sentiments were divided, and control of the county was passed between Union and Confederate troops. As such very little construction was carried out during this period. Citizens faced the risk of seizure of property, arrest or even conscription from both sides. This is because Loudoun was important militarily during the conflict. Factors that contributed to its importance include its geography, its proximity to Washington DC and its wealth.⁷ Calvary units for both sides were mustered and operated in the area. The Loudoun Rangers, Union sympathizers, were started by a Waterford man, Samuel Means.¹⁶ The Confederates mustered White's Battalion and Mosby's Rangers. A successful captain of White's Battalion, also known as the 35th Virginia Calvary Battalion, was Washington's son, Franklin McIntosh Myers, who was 24 at the start of the war. At his death, many years later, he was referred to as one of the "most prominent citizens of Loudoun".⁸¹

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During the war he was wounded in service and was eventually given a field promotion to Major.⁸² White's Battalion was under J.E.B. Stuart's command for a period of the war and was also attached to the Laurel Brigade at various points. It is possible that Laurel Hill was named in honor of the brigade by a relative. Another possibility is that the same relative named it after J.E.B. Stuart's boyhood home, which is also named Laurel Hill.⁸³

Frank Myers wrote a memoir of the battles that White's Battalion was engaged in during the war titled *The Comanches*, but makes no mention of the family property, even though he was in the Waterford area several times. Towards the end of the civil war, in November of 1864, General Sheridan carried out the burning raid to deny the tenacious and elusive confederate cavalry units their ability to operate in the county. During the raid, barns and agricultural buildings were burnt, livestock was driven off, and crops and harvests were destroyed.⁸⁴ This was done despite the divided nature of Western Loudoun County and the presence of Union sympathizers in places like Waterford.⁷ This probably affected the 1824 stone barn and any other agricultural outbuildings from the period, or even earlier eras, if any log barns existed up to that point.

Reconstruction and Growth (1865-1917)

Loudoun was under Federal Army control from the end of the war until 1870, following the surrender of the army of Northern Virginia in 1865. The residents were taxed heavily despite the ruin of their wealth. The population saw a decline, with spiking poverty levels until the 1880s.⁷ Laurel Hill did not escape at least some of this fate. The 1870 population census lists both William and Jacob as farmers and valued their property at \$8000.⁸⁵ The Myers brothers managed to recover some of their production by 1870, which the agricultural census says Jacob had 100 acres improved land and 20 acres unimproved land for a total value of \$8000. This valuation matches the population census of the same year. There was \$125 in equipment, fewer animals but with a higher valuation than the previous census at \$630. They had produced 220 bushels of winter wheat, 100 bushels of corn, twenty-five bushels of oats and five bushels of potatoes. It also listed 600 pounds of butter, three tons of hay, and fifty pounds of honey.⁸⁵ Although this production was not as large as the production in 1860, and the amount of land used had increased, Jacob and William did manage to regain most of their production only six years after the burning raid. From the types of crops listed, it is evident that they still live mostly a subsistence lifestyle growing crops for themselves and selling the excess. The butter and milk cows mentioned became much more important in the county from the 1870s to the 1880s when dairy farms begin to appear.⁷ It is by the 1880s that the county begins to grow once again. In 1881 William Myers, brother of Jacob, dies and is buried at Catocin Free Church Cemetery, a pattern that holds for the family until the church is destroyed by a 1929 tornado.⁸⁶ In his will, William divides up his share of Laurel Hill Farm among his nieces and nephews, as he does not have any children.⁸⁷

After William's death, Jacob and his son John Henry are farming the property together. The 1880 agricultural census lists the property as only valued at \$2000 and indicated that John Henry was renting for a share of the profits. For the prior year, 1879, it lists the farm spent \$100 on fertilizer and produced only 200 pounds of butter. Lambs and fleece also appear with poultry and

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150 dozen eggs produced in the same span. For grain crops it lists thirty acres of corn with 600 bushels produced, one acre of oats with eight bushels produced, one acre of rye with nine bushels produced, twenty-eight acres of wheat with 280 bushels produced, and eight bushels of potatoes. For orchard products it lists eighteen acres of apples totaling 1000 bearing trees producing 100 bushels of apple in the previous year and one acre of peaches totaling fifty trees producing twenty bushels in the previous year. The total value of all orchard products was \$50.⁸⁸ This is the first mention of orchard products in a census, but it is probable that at least some fruit trees existed for subsistence consumption before this point. The \$100 of fertilizer was probably lime as gypsum fell out of favor during this time.⁷ Farming during this time often used metal implements, and some farmers may have even shared steam machinery among their neighbors, but most farming was still typically animal powered. Metal detection has revealed horseshoes from an unknown period in the field, confirming the use of animal power. Another item that was found was a bale hook, also from an unknown period. Also common at this time was corn as a primary crop, which in 1880 was a larger share of the field crop grown on Laurel Hill Farm.⁷ Other popular farm products in the 1880's were apples and other fruit. This is reflected in Laurel Hill's large number of orchard trees, particularly apples.

During this time fence laws were enacted due to issues with roaming livestock, and the 1880 agricultural census notes a \$10 cost of building fences.⁷ The orchard products and cattle that became popular evidently allowed the farm to grow once more. The house gained a ca. 1890 framed addition and a Victorian-era porch following the recovery of farming in the county. The 1900 census lists John Henry as still farming and renting, but by this time Jacob is listed as eight-six and his occupation is now marked as "carpenter". The house is also noted as being owned outright without a mortgage.⁸⁹

By 1910, Loudoun was noted to be immensely rich and productive once again. In the state of Virginia, Loudoun was the first in corn production at 1.25 million bushels per year and also first in butter made, wool clipped and number of milk cows, which was noted as over 7000. It was 3rd in wheat production at 500 thousand bushels a year, third in horses and grasses, and fourth in orchard products.⁹⁰ Jacob Myers passed away in 1909. He is also buried in Catoctin Free Church Cemetery.⁸⁶ No will could be found for Jacob, but deeds between John Henry and others indicate he was purchasing the shares his cousins and sibling had received from William in 1910. One of these deeds referred to Laurel Hill as "the homestead of the late William & Jacob Myers". A later deed dated 1915, gave him full ownership of Laurel Hill.⁹¹ The 1910 census showed that John Henry had to take out a mortgage to purchase the shares from his relatives. It also showed that among his wife and kids, there was also a twenty-year-old laborer named Raymond Newton living on the farm.⁹²

WWI and WWII (1917 to 1945)

The beginning of this period is the last point when agriculture dominated the county and landscape.⁷ John Henry continued the building spree, which almost entirely consisted of agricultural outbuildings, including a ca. 1920 barn and a concrete silo. This construction reflects the shift toward corn and milk production as milk was in high demand in cities at this time.⁷ The

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minor alterations to the springhouse further reflect the springhouse's ongoing importance to the farm's economic productivity. The ca. 1920 barn (destroyed in a ca. 2015 fire) also had a drive through portion, implying that there may have been some mechanized harvesting going on, although the single bay implies the role mechanized equipment played was still limited. Overall, mechanized farming was still rare in this period.⁷

At this time agriculture had reached a peak in prosperity with high demand and rising land values. The 1920 census lists four inhabitants including his wife and a twenty-one-year-old farmer, possibly his son.⁹³ The WWI price controls further increased agricultural prices, and with their removal came a steep drop in the price of goods, which fortunately stabilized by 1921. Following the crash in 1929 and the ensuing great depression, the farmers that were hardest hit were those who borrowed money and grew only basic crops.⁷

The agricultural Adjustment Act was passed in an attempt to help farmers who had wheat and dairy operations with loans, but fruit farmers received no such help.⁷ In the 1930's many farms were sold off or foreclosed.⁹⁴ The lack of notable construction during this period at Laurel Hill reflects the difficult time Loudoun farmers faced. The 1930 census showed the state of the farm was rather dire as John Henry, 67, was now widowed and living only with his older sister, also widowed. The farm had no radio and was listed as simply a "general farm".⁹⁵ The lack of children reflects the migration pattern of younger generations to cities for job opportunities. In 1935 John Henry Myers died and is buried at Lakeview cemetery in Hamilton Virginia.⁹⁶ His daughters sold Laurel Hill to Edgar H. Beans in September of 1936 for the sum of \$7000.⁹⁷ Edgar Beans was the descendant of an early Waterford family and lived near Laurel Hill. Beans was a cattle stock dealer who would purchase from the railroad in Paeonian springs and drive the cattle to his farm in Waterford. The cattle would then be sold to farmers for fattening.⁹⁸ During WWII, production increased dramatically in response to the needs of the war effort. The war period saw the addition of corncribs and granaries. Construction during this period primarily consisted of concrete and prefab lumber. Poured concrete silos also became the favored silo type.⁷

Early New Dominion period (1945-1959)

As WWII effectively mechanized Loudoun, corn, wheat, and fruit declined in the 1950s as regions with better production took over. Farms also consolidated in the period tracts of over 1000 acres as the "agribusiness" concept became popular.⁷ Much of these changing farming practices are reflected in Laurel Hill's changes carried out by Beans. Mechanization at Laurel Hill is clear as sheds were erected to house equipment. At the same time a loafing barn for cattle was built as the farm turned to focus solely on livestock and its needs. There was also a grain bin built, and the concrete pad for this is near the silo, where the wooden gas generator shed currently sits.

Beans was also open to trying emerging farming techniques, as LiDAR imagery reveals a horizontal silo was located on Laurel Hill's 119 acres.⁹⁹ It is unfortunately not within the bounds of the nomination. This time is also when the earliest satellite and aerial imagery of the farm

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begins to become available, allowing for another method of monitoring Laurel Hill's agricultural activities (Figure 5). Beans also cleared more land and thinned fencerows to allow for more space to plant crops and pasture cattle. He also added a farm pond, which was popular in the period.

Beans passed away in 1957, and the bank sold 145.98 acres of his property, including the remaining 119 acres of Laurel Hill, in January 1959 for \$39,000.00 to Jess P. Unger and his wife Marguerite B. Unger.¹⁰⁰ This marks the end of the period of significance as Laurel Hill finally passes out of the hands of an original Waterford family.



Figure 5: Laurel Hill satellite photo ca. 1964 showing farm pond, house, agricultural outbuildings and horizontal silo (far left). Note the relative lack of trees near the fence lines. Image from USGS Earth Explorer EROS archive.

Modern Period

Laurel Hill Farm continued to follow local trends in agriculture. Among these was the farming bubble in the 1970s when a grain deal was signed by the Soviet Union and farmers were encouraged to plant "fence row to fence row".⁹⁴ There was a corresponding addition to the house and construction or alteration of outbuildings during this time, including the ca. 1970 shed and barn. The barn may be an earlier construction, dating to Edgar Beans's time, with modifications taking place during this period.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the bust had arrived following a grain embargo on the Soviet Union.⁹⁴ During this period, Laurel Hill begins to be planted less aggressively, and areas of trees allowed to grow in. Around this same time, the farm was also split apart and sold, and single-family homes with large acreage were built to the north and south. This is a phenomenon that Loudoun County has seen in increasing amounts in the New Dominion Period. These nearby homes typically fall under the Colonial Revival, Neo-Eclecticism or Transitional styles.¹⁰¹ The farming during the early part of this period was predominantly cattle focused. This remains a common operation type in the county, albeit not on its previous scale. Dairy operations all but

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left the county during this period. Laurel Hill remains an excellent example of a small Loudoun County farm that displays the agricultural changes the county has undergone since Laurel Hill's original land patent in 1762. Laurel Hill retains many structures from important periods of its continued use. It also retains open fields and pastures and several original fence lines that have not changed their location since the establishment of the farm.

Endnotes

1. Virginia Department of Historical Resources. "PIF For Laurel Hill Farm (053-6244) and Field Survey", Virginia Department of Historic Resources. March 23, 2010. Original PIF prepared by Chris Adams.
2. Pete Moore (prior occupant of Laurel Hill Farm), interview by Greg Blaszc (author). Interview 1, Autumn 2023. Private notes.
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4. Allen Cochran (stone mason, historic preservation and renovation expert), interview by Greg Blaszc (author). March 25, 2025. Private notes.; Lee, Andrew S. "Historic Resource Study Short Hill Tract", Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Archeology Program 2003. Accessed from NPS on July 7, 2025. Page 41-42. <https://npshistory.com/publications/hafe/hrs-short-hill-tract.pdf>. Source used for detailed information about the Shorthill Mountain quarrying.
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12. Redfin, "15493 Second St, Waterford, VA 20197" accessed June 18, 2025. <https://www.redfin.com/VA/Waterford/15493-Second-St-20197/home/12015045>. This house is also known as the William Nettle House, and this source was used to evaluate interior detail.
13. Redfin, "40149 Main St, Waterford, VA 20197" accessed June 18, 2025. <https://www.redfin.com/VA/Waterford/40149-Main-St-20197/home/12015033>. This house is also known as the Bank House, and this source was used to evaluate interior detail.
14. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, Survey of Warner House (53-0361) by David Edwards and John G. Lewis. Lewis/Edwards Architectural Surveys of Loudoun County 1972-1983 (M 022), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

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- showing property not part of will; Loudoun County, Virginia will records. Will book O, page 343. Jane Beans, Matthew's wife renunciation of will. Loudoun County, Virginia will records. Will Sup Ct., page 62. Aaron Beans purchase of Matthew Beans land, private scan copy, mentions how land was granted from Fairfax to Beans. Loudoun County, Virginia will records. Will books Y, pages 119; Z, page 122. Aaron Beans will; Loudoun County, Virginia deed records. Deed book 4M page 365. Division of Aaron Beans land after his death; Loudoun County, Virginia deed records. Deed book 4W page 174. Purchase by Nathaniel Gregg; Loudoun County, Virginia deed records. Deed book 5X page 372. Sale to Jonah Orrison; Loudoun County, Virginia deed records. Deed book 6E page 233. Sale to Isaac Wilson; Loudoun County, Virginia deed records. Deed book 6E page 237. Israel Warner trust; Loudoun County, Virginia deed records. Deed book 6G page 444. Loudoun County, Virginia will records. Will book 3H, page 269. Israel Warner will; Loudoun County, Virginia deed records. Deed book 8O page 69. Sale and trust to Charles Warner; Loudoun County, Virginia deed records. Deed book 9E page 136. List of heirs to Charles Warner, who died intestate; Loudoun County, Virginia deed records. Deed book 9G page 133. Sale to William J Hope; Loudoun County, Virginia deed records. Deed book 9N page 191. Sale to John H Kuhlman; Loudoun County, Virginia will records. Will book 3Z, page 125. JH Kuhlman will which directs executor to sell his estate; Loudoun County, Virginia deed records. Deed book 11K page 136. Sale to Stuart S and Martha Ogilvie; Loudoun County, Virginia deed records. Deed book 596 page 73. Ogilvie trust; Loudoun County, Virginia deed records. Deed book 632 page 50. Transfer to Queen's Hill Corporation; Loudoun County, Virginia deed records. Deed book 632 page 75. Partial land sale to William G. Brundige; Loudoun County, Virginia deed records. Deed book 658 page 552. Partial land sale to Louis S. Nichols; Loudoun County, Virginia deed records. Instrument ID 201907260041912. Plat depicting the Nichols property.
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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR ID# 053-6244

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 30.00

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 39.174016 | Longitude: -77.632198 |
| 2. Latitude: 39.172773 | Longitude: -77.627600 |
| 3. Latitude: 39.171638 | Longitude: -77.629078 |
| 4. Latitude: 39.170491 | Longitude: -77.627639 |
| 5. Latitude: 39.170396 | Longitude: -77.627768 |
| 6. Latitude: 39.171639 | Longitude: -77.629328 |
| 7. Latitude: 39.171055 | Longitude: -77.630089 |
| 8. Latitude: 39.170414 | Longitude: -77.634217 |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

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1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

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

The nominated boundary corresponds to Loudoun County tax parcel number 343474238000 (Tax Map 27 17A), as depicted on the attached Tax Parcel Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary was chosen because it is the largest intact section of the original homestead during the entire period of significance, starting with the original land patent. It also entirely contains within it the resources associated with the dwelling and is bounded by some of the original property lines.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Gregory Blaszczyk
organization: N/A
street & number: 3056 Quayside Ct Apt 201
city or town: Melbourne state: FL zip code: 32935
e-mail: gregblaszczyk@gmail.com
telephone: 703-362-9242
date: 7/31/2025

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

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- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Laurel Hill Farm

City or Vicinity: Loudoun

County: Loudoun

State: Virginia

Photographer: Greg Blaszczyk

Date Photographed: April 7, 2024 (unless otherwise noted)

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0001

View: Dwelling oblique view of facade, boxwood landscaping; camera facing northwest

Photographer/Date: Greg Blaszczyk, 4/8/2024

2 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0002

View: Dwelling three-bay section facade; camera facing west

3 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0003

View: Dwelling three-bay basement window and front steps; camera facing west

4 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0004

View: Dwelling two-bay section facade; camera facing west

5 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0005

View: Dwelling front door; camera facing west

6 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0006

View: Dwelling three-bay gable end; camera facing northeast

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7 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0007

View: Dwelling two-bay section gable end; camera facing south

8 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0008

View: Dwelling exterior basement stairs; camera facing southeast

9 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0009

View: Dwelling rear elevation; camera facing southeast

10 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0010

View: Southern kitchen wall of rear addition and landscaping (both ca. 1972); camera facing northwest

Photographer/Date: Greg Blaszczyk, 4/8/2024

11 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0011

View: Dwelling rear elevation and stone garden shed with back patio; camera facing northeast

Photographer/Date: Greg Blaszczyk, 5/13/2022

12 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0012

View: Stone garden shed gable end with door; camera facing west

13 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0013

View: Stone barn oblique view and concrete silo; camera facing west

Photographer/Date: Greg Blaszczyk, 9/27/2022

14 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0014

View: Stone barn northern elevation; camera facing south

15 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0015

View: Stone barn northern gable end elevation; camera facing southeast

16 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0016

View: Stone barn southern elevation; camera facing north

17 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0017

View: Concrete silo; camera facing southeast

18 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0018

View: Concrete silo ladder and roofline ghost; camera facing north

19 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0019

View: Wooden gas generator shed on corn crib/grain bin pad; camera facing south

20 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0020

View: Wooden gas generator shed; camera facing west

21 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0021

View: Concrete dairy waterer; camera facing east

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22 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0022

View: Concrete dairy waterer with ca. 1920 barn foundation in background; camera facing northwest

Photographer/Date: Greg Blaszczyk, 9/18/2024

23 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0023

View: Improved springhead with pipe leading to cistern; camera facing east

Photographer/Date: Kathleen Funk, 6/15/2025

24 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0024

View: Springhouse oblique view with struck joints; camera facing northwest

Photographer/Date: Kathleen Funk, 6/15/2025

25 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0025

View: Springhouse northern face and open section; camera facing south

Photographer/Date: Chris Blaszczyk, 6/26/2025

26 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0026

View: Looking down driveway into the small valley before the house comes into view; camera facing northwest

Photographer/Date: Greg Blaszczyk, 5/26/2023

27 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0027

View: Looking up driveway from front yard; camera facing southwest

Photographer/Date: Greg Blaszczyk, 5/12/2022

28 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0028

View: Agricultural field with Catoclin Mountain in background; camera facing southwest

Photographer/Date: Greg Blaszczyk, 11/11/2021

29 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0029

View: Open agricultural fields near outbuilding area; camera facing southeast

30 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0030

View: Concrete barnyard area; camera facing southeast

Photographer/Date: Greg Blaszczyk, 9/18/2024

31 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0031

View: Concrete barnyard with foundations from ca. 1920 (right) and ca. 1950 barn (left) and unstable machine shed (center); camera facing northwest

Photographer/Date: Chris Blaszczyk, 6/25/2025

32 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0032

View: Concrete block barn eastern elevation; camera facing west

33 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0033

View: Concrete block shed oblique view with gable door; camera facing northwest

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34 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0034

View: Modern corn crib and two grain bins with concrete block barn in background; camera facing north

Photographer/Date: Chris Blaszc, 6/26/2025

35 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0035

View: Dwelling interior first floor; parlor fireplace

36 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0036

View: Dwelling interior first floor; dining room floor and baseboard molding

37 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0037

View: Dwelling interior first floor; dining room chair rail molding

38 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0038

View: Dwelling interior first floor; kitchen view of rear door and winder stair

Photographer/Date: Kathleen Funk, 6/15/2025

39 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0039

View: Dwelling interior first floor; kitchen view of rear door frame

40 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0040

View: Dwelling interior first floor; kitchen side of rear door with paneling

41 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0041

View: Dwelling interior first floor; dining room rear door casement

42 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0042

View: Dwelling interior first floor; dining room fireplace

43 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0043

View: Dwelling interior second floor; master bedroom fireplace

44 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0044

View: Dwelling interior second floor; ca. 1793 hallway with picture rail looking from ca. 1860 hallway

Photographer/Date: Greg Blaszc, 9/27/2022

45 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0045

View: Dwelling interior second floor; hallway view of master bedroom door

46 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0046

View: Dwelling interior second floor; ca. 1793 hallway window

47 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0047

View: Dwelling interior second floor; ca. 1793 second bedroom walk-in closet door

Laurel Hill Farm

Name of Property

Loudoun County, VA

County and State

48 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0048

View: Dwelling interior second floor; ca. 1793 attic stairways with ca. 1860 upstairs hall in background

49 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0049

View: Dwelling interior attic; ca. 1793 roof joinery

50 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0050

View: Dwelling interior attic; ca. 1793 window now used as entry to ca. 1860 attic

51 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0051

View: Dwelling interior basement; ca. 1793 door to ca. 1860 basement

Photographer/Date: Patrick Blaszczyk, 6/20/2025

52 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0052

View: Dwelling interior first floor; view upon entry of front door of stairs and family room

Photographer/Date: Greg Blaszczyk, 9/27/2022

53 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0053

View: Dwelling interior first floor; family room fireplace mantle

54 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0054

View: Dwelling interior first floor; family room rear door casement and paneling

Photographer/Date: Kathleen Funk, 6/15/2025

55 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0055

View: Dwelling interior first floor; family room door to basement

56 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0056

View: Dwelling interior second floor; ca. 1860 bedroom baseboard molding

57 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0057

View: Dwelling interior second floor; ca. 1860 upstairs hallway window

58 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0058

View: Dwelling interior first floor; ca. 1890 bedroom over kitchen floorboards

59 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0059

View: Dwelling interior first floor; ca. 1972 portion of bedroom over kitchen showing brick wall and barn-style door

60 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0060

View: Dwelling interior attic; ca. 1860 rafter detail with collar beam

61 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0061

View: Dwelling interior attic; ca. 1860 rafters with flashing and other equipment used to store meat

Laurel Hill Farm

Name of Property

Loudoun County, VA

County and State

62 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0062

View: 1824 Stone Barn interior; looking from northwestern corner

Photographer/Date: Greg Blaszczyk, 9/27/2022

63 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0063

View: 1824 Stone Barn interior loft; looking towards eastern gable end

64 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0064

View: 1824 Stone Barn interior loft; beam pockets in northern wall

65 of 65. VA_LoudounCounty_LaurelHillFarm_0065

View: Springhouse interior view through doorway

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours

Tier 2 – 120 hours

Tier 3 – 230 hours

Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Laurel Hill Farm
Loudoun County, VA
053-6244

Location Map



6/13/2025

Loudoun Streams - Base Map Drains

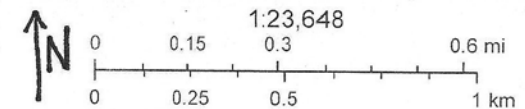
Streams

Key: red hatches = property
black dash = polygon

Drains

Coordinates

1)	39.174016 °N	77.632198 °W
2)	39.172773 °N	77.627600 °W
3)	39.171638 °N	77.629078 °W
4)	39.170491 °N	77.627639 °W
5)	39.170396 °N	77.627768 °W
6)	39.171639 °N	77.629328 °W
7)	39.171055 °N	77.630089 °W
8)	39.170414 °N	77.634217 °W



Source: Esri, USDA FSA, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community.

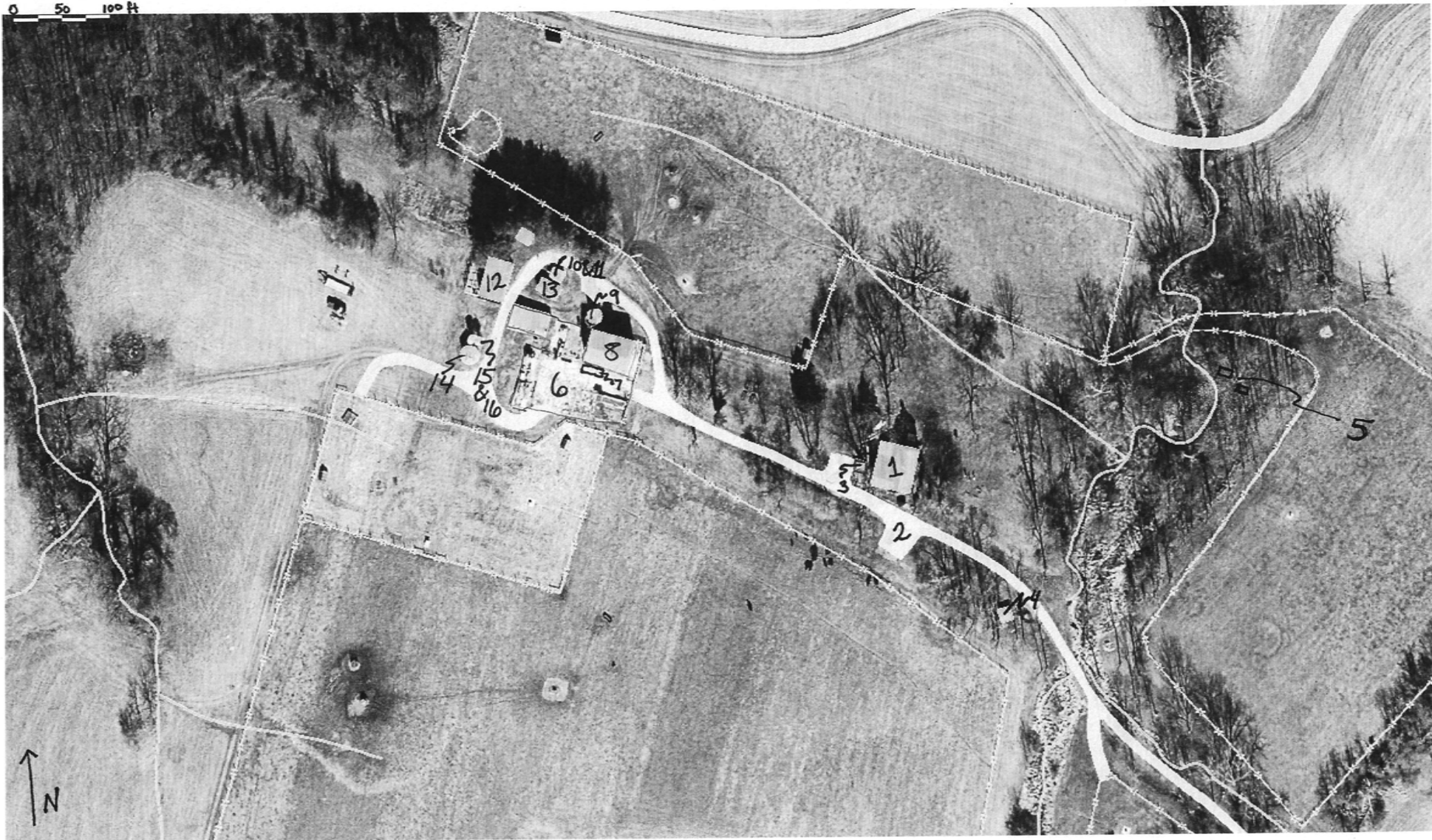
ArcGIS Online

<https://www.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

SKETCH MAP

Laurel Hill Farm
Loudoun County, VA
053-6244

Scale
0 50 100 ft



- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 House | - building - contributing | 6 Barnyard & Barn Foundations | - site - noncontributing | 11 Grain bin/ Corn Crib Pad | - site - noncontributing |
| 2 Landscape | - site - contributing | 7 Concrete Waterer | - object - contributing | 12 Barn (ca.1970) | - building - noncontributing |
| 3 Garden Shed | - building - contributing | 8 Barn (1824) | - building - contributing | 13 Shed (ca.1970) | - building - noncontributing |
| 4 Springhouse | - building - contributing | 9 Silo | - structure - contributing | 14 Corn Crib | - structure - noncontributing |
| 5 Cistern & Improved Springhead | - structure - contributing | 10 Gas Generator Shed | - building - contributing | 15 Grain Bin | - structure - noncontributing |
| | | | | 16 Grain Bin | - structure - noncontributing |

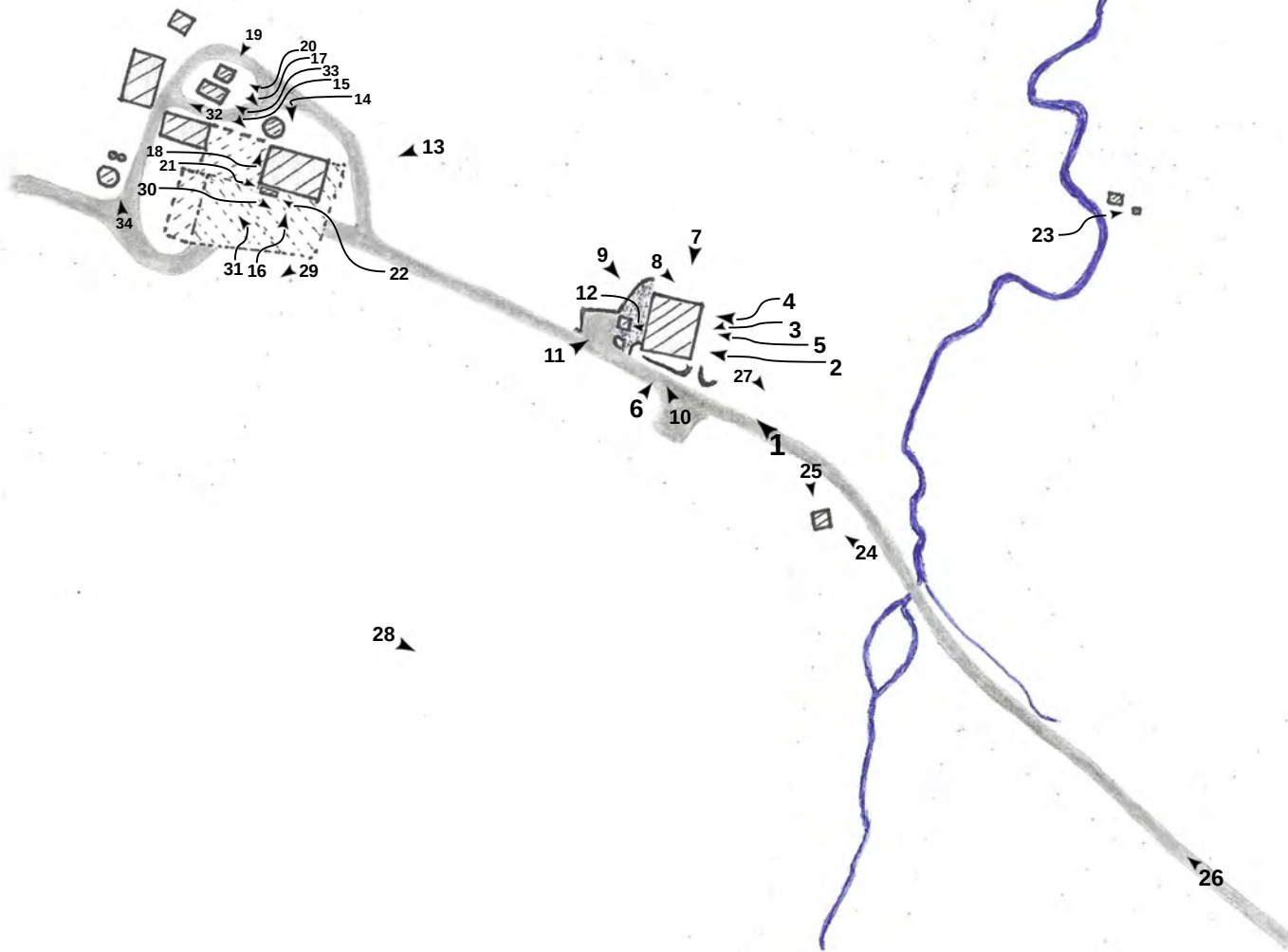
PHOTO KEY

Laurel Hill Farm
Loudoun County, VA
053-6244

Scale

0 50 100ft

↑ N

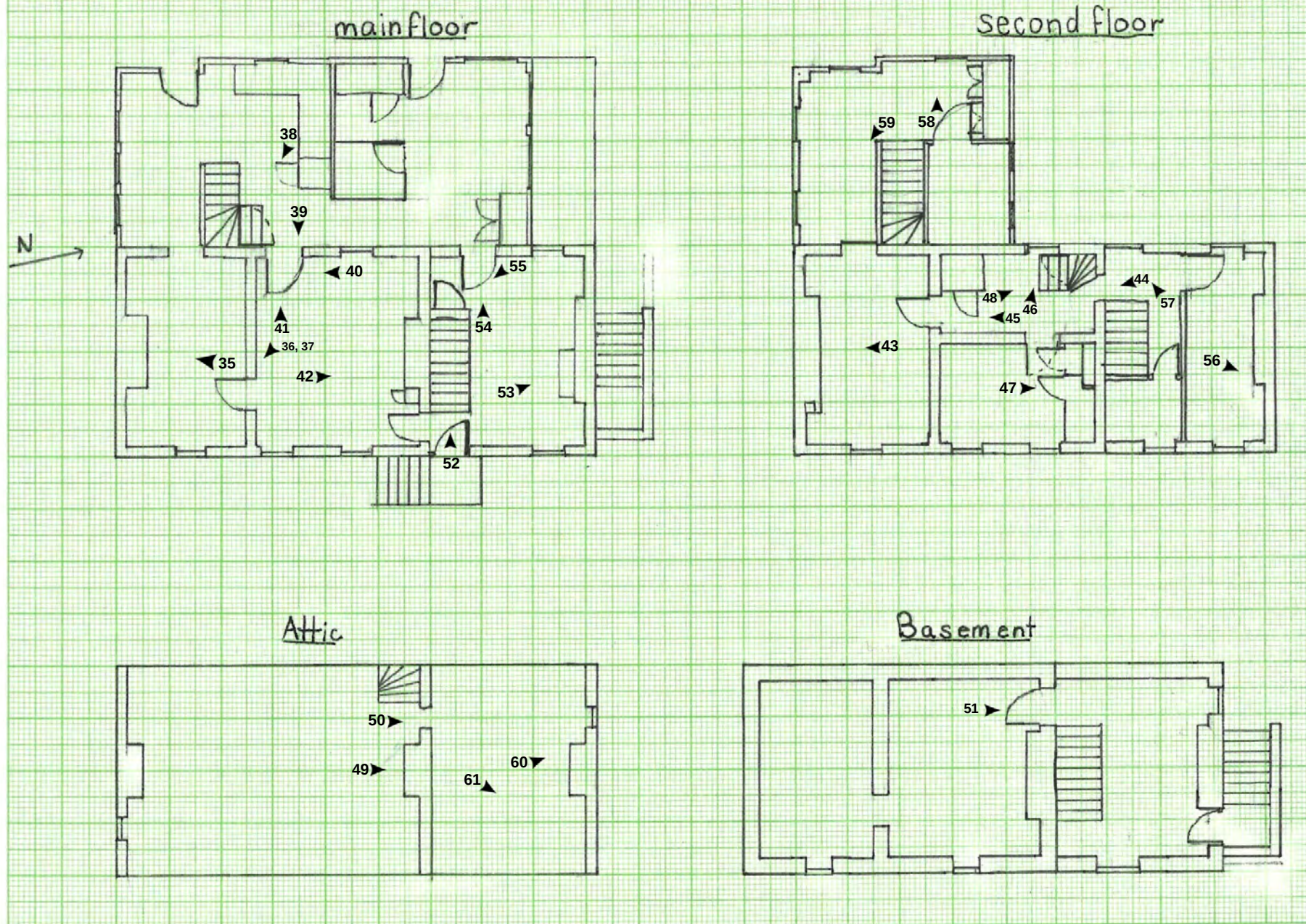


Laurel Hill Farm
Louisa County, VA
053-6244

Scale

0 1 5 10 ft

Floor Plan - Part I House Floor Plan - Interior



Note: Details may not be exact















































