NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 991

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Major James Woods House
Other names/site number: Three Chimneys, Samuel Woods Place, VDHR # 062-0433
Name of related multiple property listing:
n/a
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: 3042 Rockfish Valley Highway
City or town: Nellysford State: Virginia County: Nelson
Not For Publication: n/a Vicinity: n/a

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

___national ___statewide _X_local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B _X_C ___D

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date** 11/4/13

Virginia 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**

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:) _____

for Edson N. Beall 12.24.13

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	X
Public – Local	☐
Public – State	☐
Public – Federal	☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	X
District	☐
Site	☐
Structure	☐
Object	☐

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
5	0	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 = House
DOMESTIC/secondary structure = Kitchen
DOMESTIC/secondary structure = Ice House
AGRICULTURE/animal facility = Barn

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling = House
DOMESTIC/secondary structure = Shed
AGRICULTURE/animal facility = barn

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
COLONIAL: Georgian
LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; WOOD; METAL

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

The Major James Woods House (also known as Three Chimneys) rests on a 32-acre site between Virginia Primary Route 151 (Rockfish Valley Highway) to the west and the South Fork of the Rockfish River to the east. The center of the 19th and early 20th century village of Nellysford is 1,000 feet to the southwest, and the area consists of a combination of single family residential and light commercial uses. The community of Nellysford lies in the Rockfish Valley within the Blue Ridge Mountains in the northwest section of Nelson County.

Most of the property consists of pastureland for cattle, which is broken by intermittent fence and tree lines. Directly behind (east of) the house is a marshy wooded area that continues to the South Fork of the Rockfish River. A large hayfield lies to the west (in front of) the house, and spans the space between the house's yard and Route 151. The property is accessed by a narrow tree-lined driveway at the western corner of the tract. The acre surrounding the house contains remnants of gardens with boxwoods, specimen trees, and other shrubs. A stone-lined ice house pit, brick kitchen, and frame kitchen are arranged in a line approximately 60 feet to the east of the house, and a large frame cattle barn lies 200 feet to the northwest.

Narrative Description

Inventory of Resources

The following is a list of resources located within the boundaries of the nominated property. All resources have been evaluated as either contributing or non-contributing based upon the area of significance identified under Criterion C: Architecture, and based upon the period of significance spanning the period 1795 to 1915.

Maj. James Woods House/Three Chimneys	ca. 1795	Contributing Building
Brick Kitchen	ca. 1795	Contributing Building
Frame Kitchen	ca. 1870	Contributing Building
Ice House Pit	ca. 1795	Contributing Site
Barn	ca. 1915	Contributing Building

Three Chimneys/Major James Woods House

Note: while not a historic name of the property, the 20th century designation of "Three Chimneys" will be used throughout the remainder of this nomination in order to prevent confusion (two individuals named James and Samuel Woods are associated with the property, but two other individuals with the same names are not).

Facing northwest towards Route 151, Three Chimneys is a large two-and-a-half-story home constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond. The five-bay façade is fenestrated by nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows on the first floor and nine-over-six double-hung sash windows on the second floor (the central bay of the second floor does not contain a window), all capped by splayed jackarches. The entry in the central bay of the first floor consists of a single-leaf door with five raised panels (two square panels are at the bottom of the door, and two vertical rectangular panels occupy the top half. A narrow horizontal panel separates the two pairs of panels at the top and bottom). Like the windows, the entry is also trimmed with a jackarch of splayed bricks. The architrave surrounding the doorway is different from the others on the exterior of the home, and appears to have been updated to incorporate Greek Revival features.

A full-width, one-story porch is attached to the front (northwest elevation) of the house. The porch's hipped roof of standing seam metal features a low cross-gable in the center, and is supported by four widely-spaced Tuscan columns under a simple entablature. The side gable roof is covered with pressed tin shingles, and is trimmed by a simple boxed cornice, entablature, and a projecting rake with Greek returns. Three hipped-roof dormers occupy the roof on the front elevation, and are fenestrated by six-over-six double-hung sash windows.

The building's chimney configuration alters an otherwise symmetrical façade. The right (southwestern) gable end contains two single-shouldered exterior end chimneys laid in Flemish bond. The left (northeastern) gable end contains one interior end chimney that pierces the roof in

its center, but inside the house, it descends diagonally towards the rear in order to accommodate the largest two rooms on the first and second floors.

The northeastern gable end is devoid of any openings, save a single small one-over-one double-hung sash window topped by a played jackarch in the gable, which helps illuminate the attic. The southwestern gable end is fenestrated by an off-center nine-over-nine double-hung sash window on the first floor, and a small centered one-over-one double-hung sash window in the gable. A wooden bulkhead under the first floor window covers an elegant arched opening that provides access to the cellar.

The rear (southeast) elevation is fenestrated identically to the front of the house, except a second doorway (in addition to the central entry) occupies the southwest bay of the first floor. This four-panel door was once the height of the other two exterior doors (as evidenced by remnants of the original jackarch), but a rectangular four-pane glazed transom was later added. The left three bays of the rear elevation are obscured by a one-story enclosed porch with a hipped roof of standing seam metal. A low wooden staircase descends from the southwestern end of the porch to grade.

The current cornice, overhanging rake and returns, dormer windows, pressed tin shingles, and porches are Classical Revival alterations made by James Jeter Goodwin and his wife Ressie Goodloe Goodwin circa 1910. Photographs of the house prior to its renovation indicate that the roof was covered with wood shingles, had a flush rake, and a typical Georgian cornice with heavy modillions. The brick water table that skirted the house was parged at a later time, and the wooden bulkhead was installed over the arched cellar entrance.

Rather than the typical full-depth central passage arrangement, the interior plan of Three Chimneys departs from the typical configuration of double-pile Nelson County homes of the period.[1] Upon passing through the front (northwest) entry, one immediately enters a small, square passage that provides access to the hall (main room on the first floor, straight ahead), small parlor (now used as a dining room) to the right, and to the left, a winding staircase leading to the second floor. The small parlor and an equally-sized room to its rear (now used as a kitchen) occupy the right two bays of the house. The largest room on the first floor, or hall, occupies the left three bays of the house in its northeast corner. A small chamber northeast of the staircase is accessed from the hall. This plan is similar, but not identical to, that of Kenmore in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

A second anomaly is a boxed dogleg staircase that leads from the rear small parlor (now kitchen) up to a similarly-sized chamber in the southeastern corner of the second floor. Originally, this room, which is appointed in a manner similar to other public spaces in the house, was isolated from the remainder of the second floor, which may have led some researchers to speculate that the house once served as a tavern. While this may be true, no documentation for this use has been located to date. Several area histories that discuss Three Chimneys have suggested that the front and rear elevations of the house have reversed over time, meaning that the primary entry was from the southeast side of the house directly into the hall. No physical or documentary corroboration for this theory has yet been identified.[2]

As previously noted, the small, square passage on the first floor provides access to the hall, a small parlor, and the primary staircase, which is trimmed with simple square newel posts and rectangular balusters. A small closet underneath the stair is enclosed by a four-panel door secured by HL hinges. The stringboard of the closed-stringer staircase consists of several parallel wide beaded boards. The room is trimmed with simple flat-paneled wainscoting, and a small beaded picture slip moulding is embedded in the plaster wall below the staircase.

The small parlor in the southwest corner of the house features a firebox surrounded by a simple mantel with a molded shelf. Rather than wainscoting, the room is trimmed with a chair rail and mopboard. A single-leaf six-panel door leads into the chamber in the southeast corner of the house. This room was highly accessible from both the interior and exterior, and contains the boxed dogleg staircase that leads to the isolated room on the second floor, which suggests that it may have been a preparatory area used by household servants. However, its mantel is slightly more ornate than that of the southwest parlor, and it is lined with wainscoting, which may indicate that the room was used for dining. Under the boxed stair is a paneled door securing a stairway leading to the cellar.

The hall is the largest room on the first floor, and is trimmed by flat-paneled wainscoting along with moulded picture rail and crown moulding (both of which may be later additions). The hall is dominated by a large and ornate chimneypiece (the most elaborate identified in a 1992 intensive survey of the county). The mantel features a crossetted fireplace surround, a frieze with alternating reeded and plain panels, and swelling consoles that support the punchwork-decorated denticulated cornice. The crossetted overmantel is capped by a row of reeded panels like that found on the frieze below. The chimneypiece is flanked by boxed ductwork and bookshelves. All flooring on the first level consists of narrow oak strips which overlay the original tongue-and-groove boards. The surround of the doorway leading from the hall into the southeastern room is a plain flat board, and the lack of a proper stile in the adjoining wainscoting suggests that this opening was created at a later date.

The boxed dogleg staircase in the southeastern chamber is lined with wide horizontal beaded boards and leads to a second-floor chamber in the southeastern corner of the house that is trimmed with flat-paneled wainscoting, a simple mantel, and a small section of beaded picture slip moulding. A balustrade with square newel post and square balusters prevents occupants from falling into the staircase below. Originally isolated from the rest of the second floor, a board-and-batten door (constructed of narrow boards) trimmed by a smooth door surround provides access into the southwestern second floor chamber, which, like the chamber below, has simpler decoration than the other rooms on the floor. A wide double-beaded chair rail extends around the circumference of the room, and a diminutive mantel with moulded shelf surrounds the firebox in the southwestern wall.

The second floor stair passage contains a doorway to the southwestern chamber, the boxed staircase leading to the attic, a small chamber in the northwest corner (now a bathroom), and the large chamber directly over the hall on the first floor. This room is also simply trimmed with a wide double-beaded chair rail and a mantel that displays some Greek Revival stylistic elements. The attic is unfinished, and has alternating-width tongue-and-groove flooring.

Fully-wrought shingle nails (from the original wood shingles) can be seen protruding through the wide sheathing boards. Throughout the house, riven lathe secured by fully-wrought lathe nails supports the original plaster. The cellar is divided into three primary spaces with limewashed brick walls laid in three-course common bond. Doorways in the cellar are board-and-batten with wrought iron strap hinges, and structural framing members display evidence of pit sawing as well as finishing by adze.

Brick Kitchen

This small gable-roofed building is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond and has a pronounced water table that has been parged. The northeast elevation is fenestrated by a six-over-six double-hung sash window secured by horizontal round iron bars and a single-leaf board and batten door (with a glazed storm door). The interior has simple wainscoting, and the walls above have both plastered and limewashed surfaces. While the exterior of the chimney is original, the interior firebox has been re-laid. A small loft area is illuminated by a six-over-six double-hung sash window on the northwestern gable end.

Frame Kitchen

Prior to the home's renovation by the Goodwins, this small late 19th-century building was closer to the house, and a covered way led from it to the southeastern door (with transom) on the rear of the house. The building is clad in vertical board-and-batten siding, has a new asphalt shingle roof, and a small brick flue chimney that does not descend to the floor of the interior. This building has also been referred to as a smokehouse, but it does not contain a smoky odor. It may have been used for meat storage only.

Ice House Pit

This large, deep pit is constructed of dry-laid stones. Previous surveys indicated that a frame garage had been built over the pit, but this building is no longer extant.

Barn

This large cattle barn has a poured concrete foundation, and is constructed of a variety of different types of framing, some of which may have originated in older buildings. It is clad in smooth weatherboard, and there is a hood projecting from the southeastern gable end that housed a pulley system for moving hay in and out of the loft.

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.
- [x] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or 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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1795-1915

Significant Dates
1795, 1915

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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.)

Constructed circa 1795 for Major James Woods (1761-1832), Three Chimneys is one of the earliest extant brick houses in Nelson County. The Georgian house with Classical Revival modifications features Flemish bond brickwork, an unusual floor plan, and one of the most elaborate chimney pieces in the area. The property also has several extant outbuildings including an original kitchen constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond.

The Major James Woods House (Three Chimneys) has a period of significance ranging from 1795 to 1915, beginning with the approximate date of the house's initial construction and ending with the period in which James Jeter Goodwin and Ressie Goodloe Goodwin added Classical Revival features to the house. It is locally significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of a late Georgian dwelling in Nelson County.

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

English settlers largely remained in the Tidewater region of Virginia through the end of the seventeenth century, but pressures to move westward to obtain new lands for tobacco cultivation caused the creation of plantations west of the fall line during the first quarter of the eighteenth century. By 1728, enough residents had located beyond convenient reach of the Henrico County Court House at Varina that the new county of Goochland (which extended westward to the Blue Ridge) was formed.

The first lands in present-day Nelson County to be claimed through the royal grant and patent process were near the Rockfish River's confluence with the James (then called Fluvanna) River between 1730 and 1733. By 1739, over 44,000 acres along the upper Rockfish River "near the blue mountains" had been patented by nine men including John Chiswell, who claimed two-thirds of that acreage for himself. Ten years later, Chiswell fell into financial trouble and some of his land in the Rockfish Valley was re-patented by William Morrison, who left a temporary mark on the area; the 1751 Jefferson-Fry map of Virginia identifies the South Branch of the Rockfish as "Morrison's Branch."[3]

In 1737, Edwin Hickman (c. 1690-1769), who would become a sheriff and justice of the peace, patented two tracts of 400 acres each that stretched along the South Fork of the Rockfish River roughly between the present-day communities of Lodebar and Nellysford. The southern tract, which encompassed the property that is the subject of this nomination, quickly changed hands, coming under the ownership of John Morrison, John Robeson, and David Crawford.[4]

By 1744, settlement of the Piedmont continued at a rapid pace, necessitating the formation of a new county, Albemarle, with a court house located at Scottsville on the James River. Two years

later, James McCann donated land on his patent two miles northeast of Nellysford for the establishment of a Presbyterian school and church (known as the Rockfish Meeting House).[5] With the prime land in the Rockfish Valley already being claimed by Hickman, Morrison, William Mayo, and others, adjoining tracts in the mountains lining the valley began to be claimed.

Among these individuals was James Woods (d. 1781), who in 1746 patented 400 acres on the western slope of what is now known as McLean Mountain, just east of Hickman's land in the river bottom.[6] By the time of the American Revolution, Woods had assembled a farm called "Fork Plantation" (062-0047) at the confluence of the north and south forks of the Rockfish River. In September of 1775, he hosted a gathering of the Albemarle, Amherst[7], Buckingham, and East Augusta District of the Virginia Committee of Safety at his home. Later that fall, ten companies of militia from those counties mustered near Rockfish Gap.[8]

In 1778, Joel Crawford (1736-1789), who was moving to South Carolina, sold his Amherst County land to John Pope, Jr. (1749-1802), a lieutenant colonel of the Amherst militia during the Revolution. These three parcels included Crawford's 400-acre home tract that he purchased from David Crawford in 1765 and that was originally patented by Hickman. The deed between Crawford and Pope contained a stipulation that Crawford's mother, Ann, was to have use of a 35-acre portion of the "upper part" of the home tract for the remainder of her life. This would suggest that Joel was leaving her the house and surrounding land, but she likely gave up this title, as land tax records indicate no 35-acre life estate for Ann Crawford up to her death in 1803.[9]

Although Pope had lived in Amherst during the Revolution, he was residing in Henrico County when he purchased the Rockfish land in 1778. He moved back to Amherst during the first half of the 1780s, but had returned to Richmond by the end of the decade, when he transferred his three Crawford tracts to Major William Duval (1748-1842), his brother-in-law. Around 1790, Pope set off on a journey that would result in his 1792 publication of his travel journal entitled "A Tour through the Southern and Western Territories of the United States of North-America."[10]

In the spring of 1792, Duval (descended from Huguenots) wrote to his friend Thomas Jefferson, who was then Secretary of State, saying that he had "several Tracts of Land lying in Virginia in a salutary Part of it and of good Quality" that he was interested in selling in France. His goal was to lease his land near Richmond to "honest and industrious [French] farmers," while selling the remainder in fee simple in order to establish a regular tobacco trading business between the two countries.[11] While the outcome of Duval's scheme is not known, he did not sell all of his land to French farmers, as Major James Woods of Amherst County acquired the then 410-acre Crawford-Pope tract in 1795.[12]

Major James Woods (1761-1832) was a son of Samuel Woods (1727-1781) and his first wife Mary Woods (1728-1779), who lived at the "Rockfish Settlement" near present-day Greenfield. James Woods (d. 1781) of Fork Plantation was his maternal grandfather. In 1790, James married Sarah Netherland of Powhatan County, and the couple settled in the Rockfish Valley.

1795 was a banner year for Woods. He was appointed Coroner of Amherst County, and he obtained over 1,000 acres from his grandfather James' estate as well as over 800 acres from the estate of his father Samuel. By the 1796 land tax assessment, Major Woods, then 35 years old, owned over 2,400 acres in Amherst County.[13] Analysis of stylistic elements, materials, and construction techniques suggest that James and Sarah Woods constructed Three Chimneys during this time.[14]

The large double-pile brick house was quite impressive for its time, and Woods' choice of both the style and construction material would have been a direct statement of his position in Amherst County society. Other brick houses of similar scale were being constructed throughout the county during this period, including Montezuma by the Cabells on the James River near New Market, Brick House (its name alone reflects the rarity of the building material at the time) by David Garland in New Glasgow, and Oak Ridge by Robert Rives south of Lovingston.

The couple had at least six known children before Sarah Netherland Woods died early (perhaps by 1810). A leader in his community, James was one of 37 justices for the newly-formed County of Nelson, and became Coroner in 1808. Woods, along with Thomas Massie, Robert Rives, and Sheldon Crosthwaite, was charged with creating a plan for the new courthouse and laying out the streets for the new county seat at Lovingston.[15]

From December of 1810 to February of 1812, Woods served in the Virginia House of Delegates, and he served as a major of militia (probably during the War of 1812). Also in 1812, he was appointed Sheriff of Nelson County. By 1820, Woods continued to own more than 2,000 acres, but the number of slaves he owned had risen sharply to 58 (up from 3 in 1795). Of his eight tracts of land, only the one on which stood Three Chimneys contained taxable buildings, which were valued at $2,500.[16]

In May of 1832, the *Lynchburg Virginian* newspaper reported that "Maj. James Woods, a member of the judicial bench of Nelson Co. and formerly a member of the General Assembly," had died in Lovingston. A few days later, the paper announced that the "court of Nelson County orders that members of the Bar and members of the court wear a black band on the left arm for 30 days" to honor Woods.

Woods' daughter Virginia and her husband Ryland Rodes received the 438-acre "lower division" of the homeplace, which included buildings "except the old tobacco house" valued at $1,500.00 by the estate administrators. Several years later, in 1839, Ryland and Virginia transferred the "mansion house" tract to Major Woods' son (Virginia's brother) Samuel in a "land swap."[17]

The life of Samuel Woods (1806-1883) is shrouded in mystery, which is atypical for a son of such a prominent citizen like Major Woods. In 1840, at the age of 34, he lived alone at Three Chimneys with 18 slaves on the property. Some of these slaves may have been those received from his father's estate, including Joshua (aged 60), Maria (37), Adam (18), Henry (14), Jacob (12), Nathan (3), and William (7). In 1850, Samuel appears in the census as a farmer with real estate valued at $18,000. He owned 16 slaves ranging in age from one to sixty years. His farm,

which had 300 improved and 138 unimproved acres, produced 12,000 pounds of tobacco, 4,000 bushels of wheat, and 2,000 bushels of corn the previous year.[18]

By the middle of the nineteenth century, the community immediately adjoining Three Chimneys had grown sufficiently to warrant the establishment of a post office, and Dr. Hawes Netherland Coleman, Jr. (a close neighbor of Samuel Woods) became the first postmaster of "Rockfish Post Office" in 1854. By 1870, a post office called "Rockfish Depot" had been established where the Orange and Alexandria Railroad crossed the Rockfish River (10 miles to the southeast), and Rockfish P.O. was renamed "Nelly's Ford" for the traditional name of the nearby ford of the Rockfish River.

Samuel Woods' wealth had grown considerably by 1860; he owned 27 slaves between the ages of one and seventy who were valued at $27,000. The value of his real estate holdings had grown to $40,000; he owned three parcels totaling over 1,300 acres. In addition to the 438-acre Three Chimneys farm, he had a 764-acre property with buildings valued at $1,000. In 1860, he shared the house with Nathaniel C. McGehee, Thomas D. Moore (both merchants), and William Martial (probably Marshall).[19]

Samuel was too old to serve in the military during the Civil War, but he did provide supplies and services to the Confederate government. In August of 1862, he sold over a ton of corn and grain to Capt. John W. Woodson, the Assistant Confederate Quartermaster at Lynchburg. In April of 1863, he was paid $213.00 for furnishing and installing 217 new horse shoes as well as loaning the labor of teams of horses and oxen. During 1862 and 1863, Woods served as an agent and clerk of the Quartermaster Department under Capt. S.M. Sommers and Maj. H.M. Bell. Like many other Virginians, Samuel was quick to seek a pardon from the United States government following the cessation of hostilities in April of 1865. In June of that year, he took the amnesty oath at Lovingston and followed with a letter to President Andrew Johnson stating that he did not participate in the war except for "furnishing produce to the army which was unavoidable on my part, being impressed by the Confederate authorities."[20]

The 1870 census, along with a later Chancery Court case, presents a possible explanation for Samuel Woods' general exclusion from local histories. Woods is not known to have married, but he did have children. The 1870 census lists eight mulatto children (aged 7 through 31) in the home (prior to the 1870 census, they would have been listed by gender and age, but not name, in the slave schedule). Also in the household was Samuel's brother William Woods, Mary Yancy, a 52-year-old mulatto woman who was "keeping house," and Elliot Gerard, a 21-year-old mulatto farm laborer. According to court depositions, Samuel fathered these eight children with an enslaved woman owned by his brother, James Woods, Jr. (the mother of these children may have been Mary Yancy). Around 1845, Samuel moved the children and their mother to Three Chimneys from his brother's property. While having an intimate relationship with an enslaved woman was not unheard of during the early to mid-nineteenth century, the number of children produced by that union may have cast a stigma on Woods.[21]

By the early 1880s, the village of Nellys Ford had grown to include an attorney, physician, 2 blacksmiths, 3 coopers, 2 distillers, 4 merchants, 4 grist mills, and 2 saw mills. Samuel Woods

and 11 others were identified as "principal farmers" in the area. Mary Yancy had likely died by 1880, as she did not appear in Samuel's household in the census that year. His brother William, then 75 years old, continued to live in the home along with Samuel's eight children. Martha Payne, a 45-year-old black servant and 44-year-old Judith Peters, a cook (along with her two children), also lived on the property. Samuel Woods died in September of 1883, and his will noted that some of his legatees "had better have money than land," so he ordered that all of his land be sold at a public auction on the premises.[22]

Edward and W.S. Carter purchased Samuel Woods' homeplace after his death, and then sold the property to Civil War veteran and farmer Robert M. Kyle (1828-1901). In 1894, Kyle gave the house to his daughter, Myra E. Maupin, as trustee, but he reserved the right to "occupy one room of the mansion house" as long as he lived. In 1900, the house was occupied by Myra and her husband Thomas J. Maupin (appointed Nellysford Postmaster in 1897) along with their two children. Myra's father Robert and brother Chilton were also on the premises.[23]

In 1901, Myra Maupin sold the 428-acre farm to William Henry Goodwin (1845-1932) and his son Charles Preston Goodwin (1880-1961), nearby neighbors, for $6,600.00. William H. Goodwin was a prominent farmer in the area, and also served as the first Republican since Reconstruction to represent Nelson County in the Virginia House of Delegates.[24]

Eight years later, in June of 1909, Charles sold half (214 acres) of the tract (including the house) to his brother, James Jeter Goodwin (1880-1961). Two months earlier, James had married Ressie Goodloe (1884-1964), a daughter of orchardist B.H. Goodloe. The Richmond Times Dispatch announced that they wed in Washington, D.C. and would reside in Nelly's Ford "after an extended bridal tour." The 1910 census lists J.J. and Ressie living on their own in Nellysford, just across the road from his brother Charles, who built a new home on his half of the Samuel Woods tract.[25]

J.J. Goodwin was a recent graduate of the Dunsmore Business College in Staunton, and joined organizations like the Virginia Horticultural Society with the intention of establishing an orchard operation at Three Chimneys. The Goodwins immediately began repairing and renovating the house, adding Classical Revival features that were in vogue at the time. They removed the modillioned cornice and installed a new cornice with overhanging rakes and Greek returns, replaced the original wood shingles with pressed tin shingles, added three dormers to the front elevation, constructed new porches on the front and rear of the house, and laid narrow oak flooring on the main level of the interior.[26]

In 1920, Ressie's 32-year-old sister Clara lived with the couple at Three Chimneys, and in 1930, J.J. and Ressie were joined by 16-year-old Virginia Goodloe (a niece) along with two public school teachers who were boarders: Mary Hughes and Mary Hankler. The home was even more full in 1940 when J.J. and Ressie, then in their fifties, were hosts to their 15-year-old great nephew Robert Downer, niece Virginia Ewing along with her husband and daughter from Ohio, and Mary Harris, a 26-year-old black servant. Listed as "lodgers" were teachers Mary Hughes (as in 1930) and Sally Irons.[27]

James Jeter Goodwin died in September of 1961, and Ressie died in March of 1964. The house had been owned by Ressie since J.J. deeded it to her in 1932 (perhaps to prevent it from being lost due to debt). Ressie devised the property to Virginia Lee Holsten and Shirley Stevens, who sold it to B.C. and Annie Small in 1965. Four years later, Three Chimneys was purchased by Richard and Polly Graham. In 1979, the Grahams sold the house to Jan and William Brokamp, who owned the property until 2012, when it was purchased by Daniel and Lucy Haslam.[28]

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Agelasto, Peter, III. "Rockfish Valley Rural Historic District Preliminary Information Form." Nellysford, Virginia: Rockfish Valley Foundation. 2009.

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Seaman, Catherine Coleman. "A History of Southern Rockfish Families and Old Houses." 1999.

Shipp, J.E.D. "Giant Days: The Life and Times of William H. Crawford." Americus, Georgia: Southern Printers, 1909.

Starr, J. Barton, ed. "A Tour through the Southern and Western Territories of the United States of North-America." Gainesville, Florida: University Presses of Florida. 1979.

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United States Census, Population Schedule, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870,1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940 (www.ancestry.com)

United States Census, Slave Schedule, 1850, 1860 (www.ancestry.com)

United States Census, Agriculture Schedule, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880 (www.ancestry.com)

Virginia Land Office Records, Library of Virginia, Richmond

Woods, Edgar. "Albemarle County in Virginia." Charlottesville, Virginia: The Michie Company. 1901.

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

X__ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
X___ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia; Nelson Memorial Library, Lovingston, Virginia

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): VDHR# 062-0433

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property __32_____

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: Longitude:

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

[x] NAD 1927 or [ ] NAD 1983

1. Zone: 17S	Easting:	0687180	Northing: 4195610
2. Zone: 17S	Easting:	0687590	Northing: 4196010
3. Zone: 17S	Easting:	0687800	Northing: 4195770
4. Zone: 17S	Easting :	0687350	Northing: 4195480

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The boundaries of the nominated property are those identified as being the boundaries of tax parcels 22-A-21, 22-A-22, and 22-6-3 by the County of Nelson.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundaries encompass the historic domestic curtilage (yard) surrounding the nominated property, and represent the entirety of the acreage currently associated with the Major James Woods House and its outbuildings.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: W. Scott Breckinridge Smith, Principal
organization: HistoryTech, LLC
street & number: Post Office Box 75
city or town: Lynchburg state: Virginia zip code: 24505
e-mail scott@historytech.com
telephone: 434-401-3995
date: June 10, 2013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

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

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: Major James Woods House

City or Vicinity: Nellysford

County: Nelson **State:** Virginia

Photographer: W. Scott Smith

Date Photographed: 14 March 2013

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

Photo 1 of 13: VA_NelsonCounty_MajorJamesWoodsHouse_0001
View: Façade (northwest elevation) (camera pointed to southeast)

Photo 2 of 13: VA_NelsonCounty_MajorJamesWoodsHouse_0002
View: Southwest and Southeast elevations (camera pointed to north)

Photo 3 of 13: VA_NelsonCounty_MajorJamesWoodsHouse_0003
View: Northeast and southeast elevations (camera pointed to west)

Photo 4 of 13: VA_NelsonCounty_MajorJamesWoodsHouse_0004
View: Staircase to attic (camera pointed to southwest)

Photo 5 of 13: VA_NelsonCounty_MajorJamesWoodsHouse_0005
View: Parlor mantel, first floor (camera pointed to northeast)

Photo 6 of 13: VA_NelsonCounty_MajorJamesWoodsHouse_0006
View: Hallway, first floor (camera pointed to northeast)

Photo 7 of 13: VA_NelsonCounty_MajorJamesWoodsHouse_0007
View: Dining room mantel, first floor (camera pointed to southwest)

Photo 8 of 13: VA_NelsonCounty_MajorJamesWoodsHouse_0008
View: Northeast bed chamber mantel, second floor (camera pointed to northeast)

Photo 9 of 13: VA_NelsonCounty_MajorJamesWoodsHouse_0009
View: Southeast bed chamber, second floor (camera pointed to northeast)

Photo 10 of 13: VA_NelsonCounty_MajorJamesWoodsHouse_0010
View: Brick kitchen (camera pointed to west)

Photo 11 of 13: VA_NelsonCounty_MajorJamesWoodsHouse_0011
View: Frame kitchen (camera pointed to south)

Photo 12 of 13: VA_NelsonCounty_MajorJamesWoodsHouse_0012
View: Ice house pit (camera pointed to east)

Photo 13 of 13: VA_NelsonCounty_MajorJamesWoodsHouse_0013
View: Barn (camera pointed to north)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

ENDNOTES

[1] "Historic Resources Identification and Assessment of Nelson County, Virginia." Thomas Jefferson Planning District and Land & Community Associates. 1993. pp. 30-32, 56.
[2] The entry door in the far left bay of the southeastern elevation (with the added transom) appears to be original, and would have disrupted the bilateral symmetry of the façade, which would have been unusual for the primary elevation of an important house built during the Early Republic period. The ice house and brick kitchen likely date to the original period of the building, and thus would have been in the front of the house, which would have also been highly unusual. Some historians have reported that the main road used to be closer to the South Fork of the Rockfish, and was on the east side of the house (rather than the west side, as it is today). The only flat, solid area for a road would be directly behind the house (between it and its row of outbuildings), as the remainder of the land between the house and the river is

low and marshy. This theory may have originated from one of two Civil War era maps that cover the area. The first shows the "Sam Woods" house on the west (rather than east) side of the main road, and the second map doesn't show it at all. A careful analysis historic and modern maps using Geographic Information System software has revealed that the general path of the main road in the vicinity of Three Chimneys has likely remained constant over the years.

[3] Agelasto, Peter, III. "Rockfish Valley Rural Historic District Preliminary Information Form." Nellysford, Virginia: Rockfish Valley Foundation. 2009.

[4] Virginia Patent Book 17, pp. 511, 514, Virginia Land Office Records, Library of Virginia; Deed Book B, page 50, Amherst County Clerk of Court

[5] Virginia Patent Book 23, page 906, Virginia Land Office Records, Library of Virginia; Rockfish Presbyterian Church web site http://www.rockfishpresbyterian.org/about_us.html

[6] Virginia Patent Book 24, page 407, Virginia Land Office Records, Library of Virginia

[7] The County of Amherst was carved out of the southern portion of Albemarle (including Rockfish Valley) in 1761.

[8] Woods, Edgar. "Albemarle County in Virginia." Charlottesville, Virginia: The Michie Company. 1901. p. 30; Note: Some local historians have incorrectly speculated that Three Chimneys was the home of James Woods who hosted the Committee of Safety meeting. In 1782, the land tax record for the estate of James Woods lists two parcels: the 781-acre "Home House," and the 300-acre "Old Place." The "Old Place" was likely the remainder of his 1746 patent of 400 acres on the west side of McLean Mountain after selling 100 acres of it to Richard McClain/McClean in 1763 (in 1761, he gave 200 acres of this tract to his daughter Mary Woods for her exclusive benefit, but she died in 1779 and the land probably reverted back to James). In his will, James Woods gave his grandson Major James Woods (1761-1832) all of his land, including his home place (following the death of his wife). He specified that adjoining the home place were three tracts of 150, 200, and 275 acres. These were purchased from John Small in 1771, James Lyon in 1772, and John Thompson in 1767. Combined with an additional purchase of 156 acres (also from John Small) in 1771, these tracts total 781 acres, which corresponds to the acreage belonging to his estate in 1782. The 1796 land tax record indicates that Major James Woods (1761-1832) had received both the 781 (Fork Plantation/Farm) and 300-acre tracts from the estate of his grandfather. Deed Book A, page 21; Deed Book A, page 108; Deed Book B, page 209; Deed Book C, page 217; Deed Book C, page 219; Deed Book C, page 470, Amherst County Clerk of Court.

[9] Deed Book E, page 117, Amherst County Clerk of Court; Note: Joel Crawford and his wife Frances had a number of children, including politician William Harris Crawford (1772-1834). The birthplace of William H. Crawford (which was likely on the same tract where his father resided in 1778 [i.e. the Hickman patent] has been vaguely described by several sources. Crawford biographer J.E.D. Shipp noted that the "Crawford Place" was a brick mansion in the Rockfish Valley owned at the time (1909) by Henry Page of the nearby community of Greenfield. Shipp added that the home "was standing until very recently." A 1938 Virginia Historical Inventory entry for the property said that the brick house was built in the 1790s, was located 2 miles west of Nellysford at the foot of Crawford Mountain (well outside of the Hickman Patent/Joel Crawford home tract), and burned down "many years ago." A 1965 Home Demonstration Club article suggested that the house was extant, and was owned by Mr. Maddox of North Carolina, "who spends some of his time there." Another brick Crawford home said to have been built between 1770 and 1800 lies 1.3 miles northwest of Three Chimneys (also off of Joel Crawford's home tract). Based on Crawford's reservation of land for his mother, it is likely that the house stood on the west side of Route 151 within the 400-acre Hickman patent; Shipp, J.E.D. "Giant Days: The Life and Times of William H. Crawford." Americus, Georgia: Southern Printers, 1909. pp. 9-12.

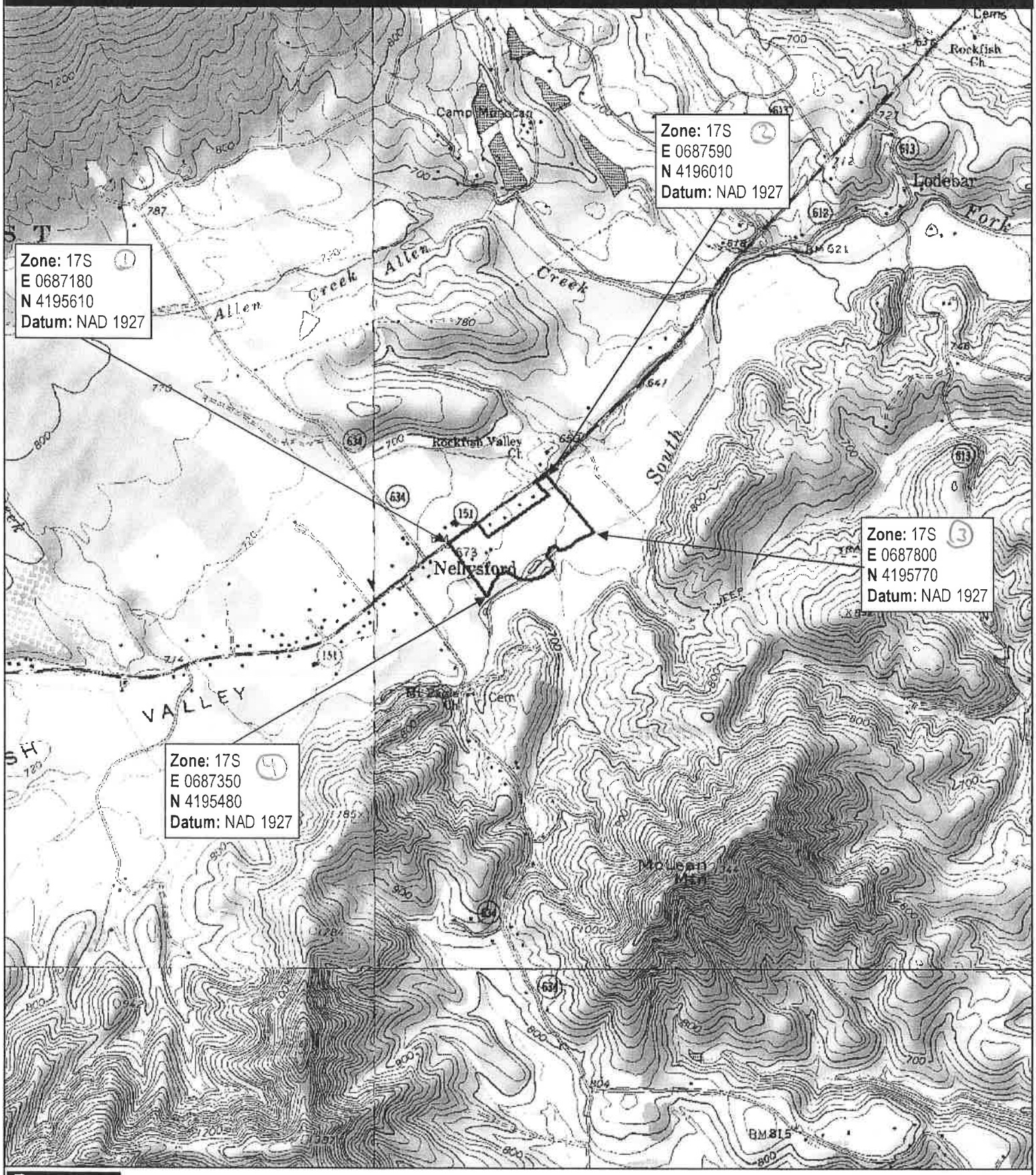
[10] Pope and Duval are listed together in the 1790 Henrico County Personal Property Tax list; No deed for this transaction has been located, but the 1791 Amherst County Land Tax record lists Col. Pope's three tracts containing 410, 184, and 125 acres to be under the ownership of William Duval; Starr, J. Barton, ed. "A Tour through the Southern and Western Territories of the United States of North-America." Gainesville, Florida: University Presses of Florida. 1979.

[11] William Duval to Thomas Jefferson, 4/12/1792; Thomas Jefferson to William Duval, 6/22/1792, The Papers of Thomas Jefferson Digital Edition, ed. Barbara B. Oberg and J. Jefferson Looney. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, Rotunda, 2008.

[12] The 1796 Amherst County Land Tax record includes the notation "now J. Woods" next to the 410-acre tract owned by Duval. Like the transaction between Pope and Duval, no deed has ben located.
[13] Deed Book G, page 687, Amherst County Clerk of Court; 1795, 1796 Amherst County Land Tax records, Will Book 2, page 13; Will Book 2, page 5, Amherst County Clerk of Court
[14] Many local historians have suggested that Three Chimneys was constructed by James Woods (d. 1781), but Woods' "home house" tract was identified as containing 781 acres in both 1782 (under the ownership of Jas. Woods' Estate) and 1796 when it officially came under the ownership of his grandson James Woods. That same year, James acquired the 410-acre tract that would ultimately contain Three Chimneys. Thus, the two homes of the two James Woods are distinct and separate (Amherst County Land Tax Records, 1782, 1783, 1787-1797). This notion seems to originate from J.J. Goodwin, a former owner of the house, who recounted that upon acquiring the property, an 80-year-old African American man told him that the house was constructed by the grandfather of "Marse Sam" ("master" Samuel Woods [1806-1883]), who would have been James Woods (d. 1781). However, there is no evidence that the property was owned by this James Woods at any time, much less during the Revolutionary War.
[15] Order Book 1, page 2, Nelson County Clerk of Court
[16] Nelson County Order Book A, pages 32, 233; Leonard, Cynthia Miller. "The General Assembly of Virginia, July 30, 1619-January 11, 1978: A Bicentennial Register of Members." Richmond, Virginia: Virginia State Library, 1978. pp. 262, 267; Nelson County Land Tax Records, 1821.
[17] Nelson County Will Book E, page 113; Nelson County Deed Book 9, page 69.
[18] 1840, 1850 United States Federal Census, Population Schedule; 1850 United States Federal Census, Slave Schedule; 1850 United States Federal Census, Agriculture Schedule.
[19] 1860 United States Federal Census, Population Schedule; 1860 United States Federal Census, Slave Schedule; 1860 Nelson County Land Tax records
[20] Confederate Citizen Files, www.fold3.com; Confederate Amnesty Petitions, www.fold3.com
[21] 1870 United States Census, Population Schedule; "Three Chimneys," unattributed monograph, Nelson County Historical Society archives, Nelson Memorial Library; Nelson County Chancery Court Cases 1902-030, 1893-026, 1894-008, and 1899-006, Library of Virginia
[22] "The Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Directory." Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, 1882; 1880 United States Federal Census, Population Schedule; Nelson County Will Book N, page 251.
[23] Nelson County Deed Book 27, page 32; 1900 United States Federal Census, Population Schedule; *Alexandria Gazette*, September 13, 1897
[24] Deed Book 29, page 389, Nelson County Clerk of Court; *Richmond Times Dispatch*, October 11, 1903, August 31, 1905, May 30, 1907
[25] *Richmond Times Dispatch*, April 23, 1909; Deed Book 38, page 159, Nelson County Clerk of Court.
[26] Seaman, Catherine Coleman. "A History of Southern Rockfish Families and Old Houses." 1999. pp. 38-39.
[27] 1920, 1930, 1940 United States Federal Census, Population Schedule.
[28] Deed Book 105, page 19, Deed Book 117, page 87, Deed Book 172, page 235, Instrument Number 120002643, Nelson County Clerk of Court

Major James Woods House — VDHR # 062-0433

Topographic Map — 3042 Rockfish Valley Highway — Nellysford, Nelson County, VA



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Location Map

Datum: NAD 1927

MN (9.3° W)

0 600 1200 1800 2400 3000 3600 ft

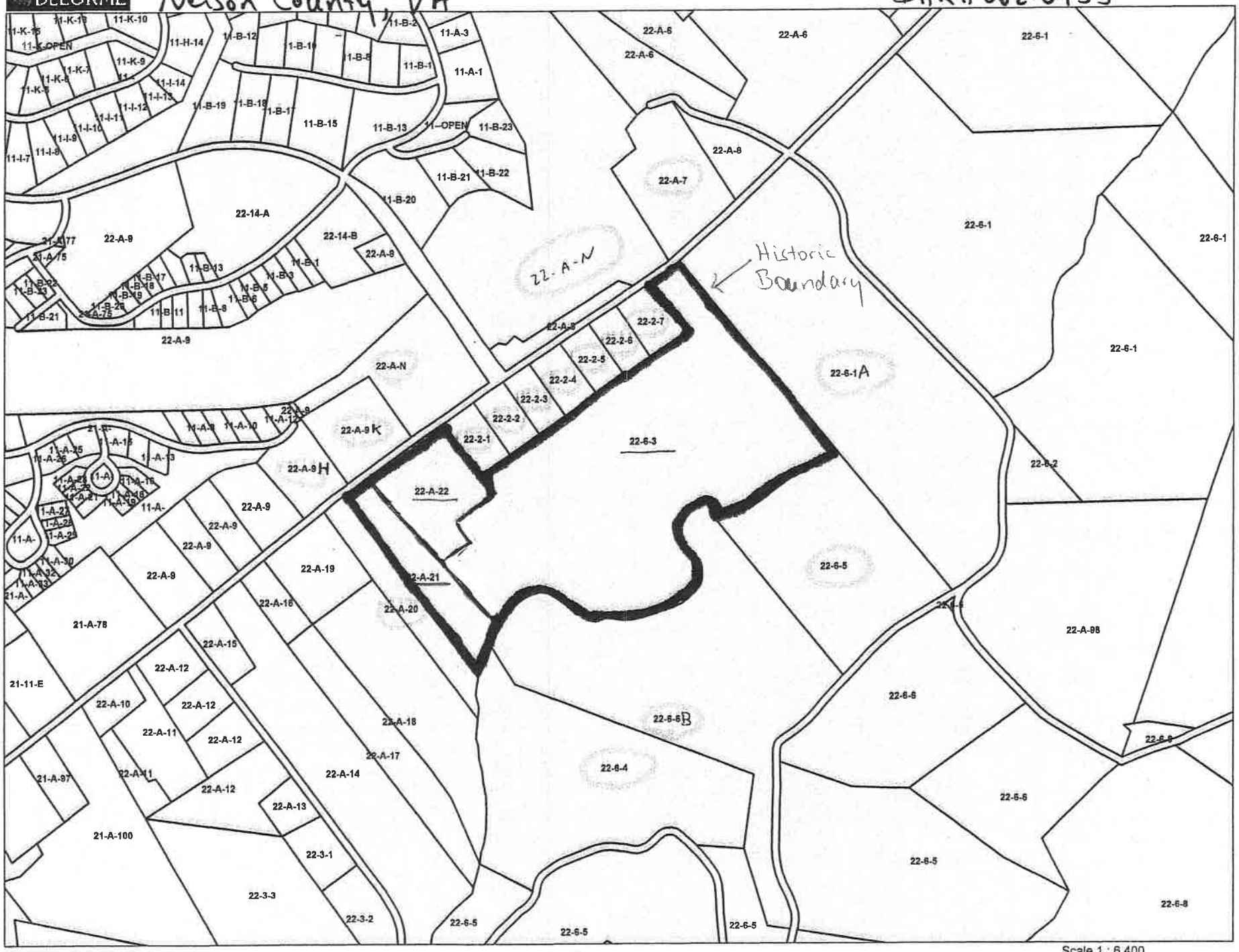
Data Zoom 13-0

Major James Woods House
Nelson County, VA

DHR # 062-0433

DELORME

XMap® 7



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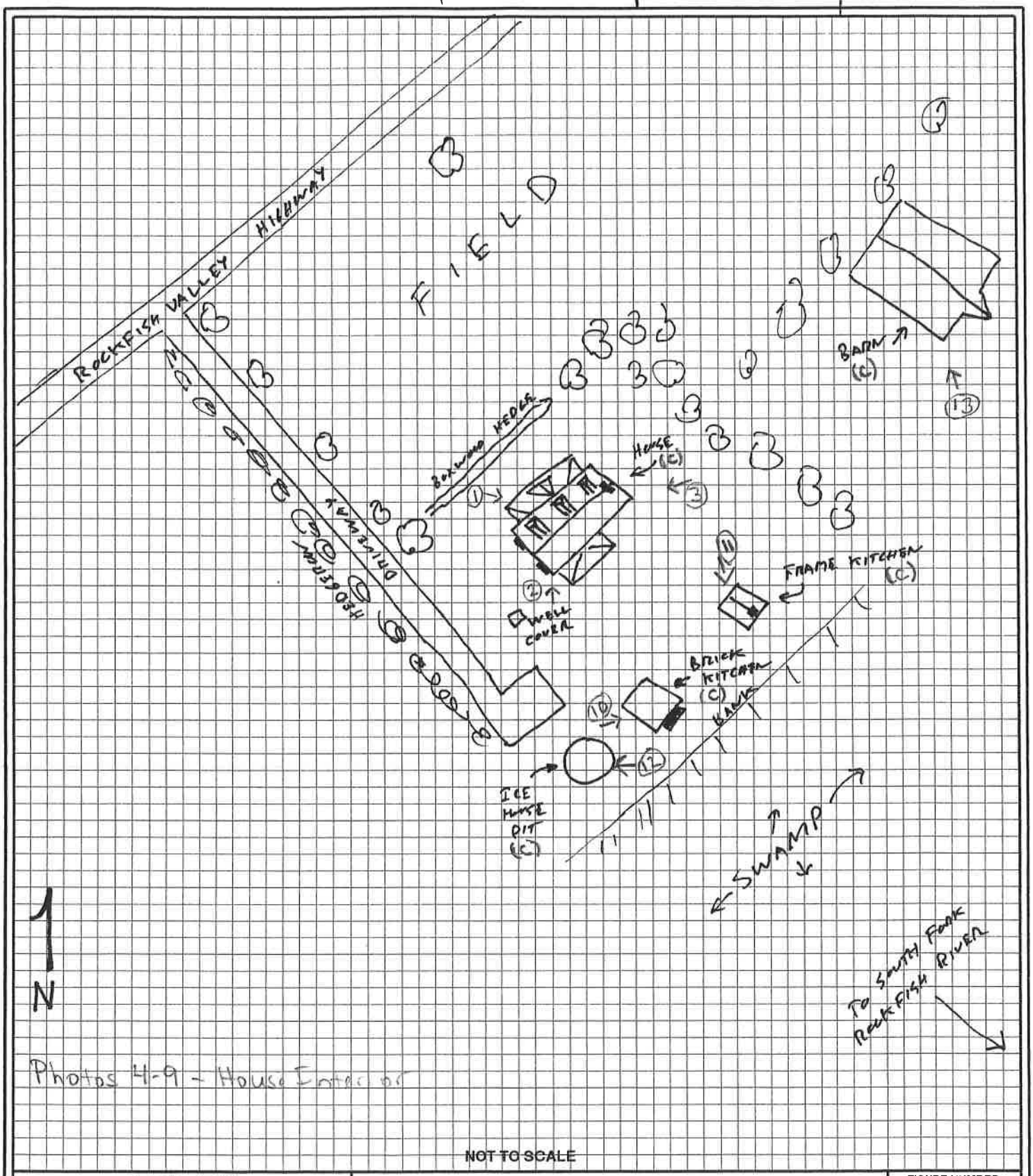
Tax Parcel Map

TN
MN (9.3°W)

1
N

Scale 1 : 6,400
0 180 360 540 720 900 ft
0 40 80 120 160 200 m
1" = 533.3 ft
Data Zoom 15-0

Site Plan | Sketch Map + Photo Key



Photos 4-9 - House Exterior

NOT TO SCALE

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Major James Woods House
3042 Rockfish Valley Hwy, Nellysford, VA 22958
Nelson County, VA Greenfield Quadrangle
DHR # 062-0433

FIGURE NUMBER: 1 of 1

Photo Location

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W.S. Smith	May 2013	062-0433