

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

VLR-1/16/73, NRHP- 8/14/73
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Albemarle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Ash Lawn

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Highland

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
4 mi. NW of Rt. 795, .8 mi. SW of intersection Rt. 53.

CITY OR TOWN:
Simon vicinity (Seventh District Congressman James Kenneth Robinson)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Albemarle CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Jay W. Johns

STREET AND NUMBER:
Lee-Jackson Memorial, Inc., 405 Citizens Commonwealth Center Building

CITY OR TOWN: Charlottesville STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Albemarle County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Charlottesville STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If Known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

I. General Statement:

A. Architectural character: Ash Lawn is an example of a simple late-eighteenth-century cottage with mid-nineteenth century additions to the west.

B. Condition of the Fabric: Good.

II. Description of the Exterior:

A. Overall dimensions: The original part of the house is three bays long, three bays wide and one story high. It is joined to a mid-nineteenth century two-over-two central hall addition by a short wide hall serving as a parlor, which may be a portion of the original wing of the house. There is a small shed addition on the southwest corner of the old section. The slope of the terrain creates an English basement on the south side.

B. Foundations: Brick.

C. Wall construction: Clapboards, painted white. The western four rooms are of brick noggin covered with clapboard.

D. Porches: The north porch on the original portion of the house has a gable roof supported by two piers and two pilasters along the wall of the house. A shed roof covers a small two-story porch formed on the south side by the irregularities of the floor plan. A pedimented two-story portico supported by modified Tuscan columns is on the east facade of the addition. A balcony juts under the second floor doorway on this side.

E. Chimneys: Two interior end chimneys with brick stacks are in the addition. A chimney is in the connecting parlor, with a central chimney in the original portion of the house. A large brick chimney rises above the north doorway in this portion.

F. Openings:

1. Doorways and doors: The doorways on the north and south of the older portion have molded trim. Six-paneled doors open into the house. The first and second floor east doorways in the facade of the addition have three-paned transoms, three-paned sidelights and molded trim. The doors are four-paneled.

2. Windows: The windows in the addition have molded trim. These wooden double-hung windows have six-over-six sashes. In the older section some of the windows have a molded trim, while others have plain trim. The sash in the wooden double-hung windows varies from different sizes of four-over-four to six-over-six to nine-over-nine. The windows have shutters.

G. Roof: A gable roof with a shed extension to the south is covered with tin. The connecting passage-parlor and the cottage section share the same ridge line, although the slope differs. The addition to the east has a gable roof.

III. Description of the Interior:

A. Floor plan: The eastern addition has a two-over-two central hall plan. A wide room or passage serving as a parlor connects this to the four room square cottage. These four rooms are divided by narrow passage ways. The small southwest addition provides more hall space.

B. Stairway: A narrow enclosed single-run stair ascends in the south passageway.

C. Doorways and doors: The doorways have architrave trim and four-panelled doors.

D. Trim: A chair rail with a simple molding at the top and a base-board with a molding at the top are found in some of the rooms. In other

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7. rooms, there is only a plain baseboard.

E. Heating: There are fireplaces in every room in the old section of the house with mantels ranging from simple to elaborate styles. The more elaborate include sunbursts and reeded engaged columns, or a wide molded cornice with a plain frieze and pilasters. The simplest are made up of a plain shelf, frieze and pilasters.

IV. Site:

A. General setting: The front of the old section of Ash Lawn faces north toward Monticello which is visible from its porch. The addition facade faces east with a long row of boxwood leading from it to the marble statue of Monroe. The eastern entrance is dominated by this boxwood. Many other paths are lined with huge boxwood and additional box provide a frame for the statue by Piccirilli.

B. Outbuildings: A complex of three outbuildings stands south of the house including a gable-roofed ice house, a gable-roofed cabin with an exterior end brick chimney, and a smokehouse with a pyramidal roof.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1799

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ash Lawn in Albemarle County was one of the homes owned by James Monroe, thrice governor of Virginia, Minister to France and England, Secretary of State and of War, and President of the United States from 1817 to 1825. Monroe bought the property in the late eighteenth century to be near his friends Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and William Short, and made it his home for a number of years. Monroe called this property Highland or The Highlands, and termed the house there his "cabin castle." Monroe requested a design for a house from Jefferson at several different times and Jefferson promised to supply one. It is not definitely known, however, if Jefferson contributed to the design of Highland.

The house, the western section of the present structure, was finished in 1799, and insured with the Mutual Assurance Company in 1800. This house served as Monroe's home between many absences incurred by his travels abroad and his duties to his state and country. Although Monroe retained the Highland property until 1830, he was required to spend more time in Washington, and consequently spent more of his free moments at his Loudon County estate, Oak Hill. Even though Monroe was unable to spend as much time at Highland as he would have liked, his property in Albemarle near his friends retained a special meaning to him.

Monroe sold Highland to E.A. Goodwin for \$18,140 in 1830. The property was purchased later by Joseph E. Massey. The eastern section of the house was constructed about 1860. The passageway-parlor connecting the two sections of the house is probably an original wing of the Monroe house. Jay W. Johns purchased the property from the Massey heirs in 1930. Ash Lawn is presently an historic house museum administered by the Lee-Jackson Memorial, Inc. of which Johns is the founder and the president.

G.H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harry Ammon, James Monroe The Quest for National Identity, New York: McGraw-Hill, 1971.
 W.P. Cresson, James Monroe, Chapel Hill: The U.N.C. Press, 1946.
 Files at the Alderman Library, U.V.A., Charlottesville.
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission files.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	37° 59' 09"	78° 27' 41"		°	'	"
NE	37° 59' 09"	78° 27' 00"				
SE	37° 58' 35"	78° 27' 00"				
SW	37° 58' 35"	78° 27' 41"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 200 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: December, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name J.R. Fishburne
J.R. Fishburne, Director
Virginia Historic
Landmarks Commission

Date January 16, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

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STREET AND NUMBER:			
.4 mi. NW of Rt. 795, .8 mi. SW of intersection with Rt. 53.			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Simcon vicinity			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	51	Albemarle	003
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle Simcon, Va.			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1967			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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CITY OR TOWN:			
Simcon vicinity			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	51	Albemarle	003
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1972			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Richmond, Va.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View from the north.			

