

VLR 3/8/6
NPHP 5/10/6

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Limestone
other names/site number VDHR File No. 002-0090, "Limestone Plantation"
VDHR Arch. Site No. 44AB488, "Jefferson's Limestone Kiln"

2. Location

street & number 4401 Limestone Road not for publication N/A
city or town Keswick vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA county Albemarle code 003 Zip 22974

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 3/24/66
Signature of certifying official Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____
Signature of 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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 3 </u>	<u> 1 </u> buildings
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 0 </u> sites
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 1 </u> structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> objects
<u> 7 </u>	<u> 2 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC	Sub: single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
FUNERARY	cemetery
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING	processing site
TRANSPORTATION	road-related

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC	Sub: single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
FUNERARY	cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Robert Sharp House, Colonial, Southern Colonial
Limestone House, Mid 19th Century, Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation : BRICK, FIELDSTONE BASEMENT
roof : TIN
walls: WOOD: WEATHERBOARD
other : N/A

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Archaeology
Industry

Period of Significance 1760-1930

Significant Dates 1770, 1794, c. 1800, 1816, 1828, 1842

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, George Blaettermann

Cultural Affiliation Euro-American

Architect/Builder Robert Sharp Jr. & William Sharp, Robert Sharp Sr.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

X__ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
__X_ University
___ Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 338 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 ___ 2 ___ _____

X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: William Johnson, Co-owner

Organization: None date 09.07.2005

street & number: 1073 Black Cat Road telephone 434-293-6494

city or town Keswick state VA zip code 22974

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Marybess McCray, Johnson Trust

street & number 1073 Black Cat Road

telephone 434-293-6494

city or town Keswick state Virginia zip code 22974

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

Summary

Limestone (now also known as Limestone Farm), a rural property located in Albemarle County comprising 338 acres, contains two historic domestic buildings, two contributing dependencies (a shed (garage) and corncrib), two contributing sites (a cemetery and a portion of a historic roadway), and a contributing structure (a lime kiln). There are also two non-contributing resources on the property, a well house and a modern barn. The property is situated east of Shadwell on rolling hills on the north side of the Rivanna River, along Limestone Creek. The earlier dwelling was constructed in 1794 and the second about 1840. The limestone kiln was constructed in the 1760s by Robert Sharp Senior; Sharp sold the kiln to Thomas Jefferson in 1771. The historic roadway is a remnant of the Three Notched or Three Chopped Road, which served as the main thoroughfare between Richmond and Staunton from the 1740s to the early 1900s.

Inventory

1. Robert Sharp House (also known as the Monroe Law Office). 1794; 1950s. Contributing building.
2. Limestone House. c. 1800; 1840; 1930s; 2000s. Contributing building.
3. Limestone Kiln. 1760s-1820s. Contributing structure.
4. Three Notched Road. 1740s-1900s. Contributing site.
5. Cemetery. Mid to late 1800s. Contributing site.
6. Barn. 2003. Non-contributing building.
7. Shed (garage). c. 1930. Contributing building.
8. Well house. c. 1940. Non-contributing structure.
9. Corncrib. c. 1910. Contributing structure.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

Individual Descriptions

Robert Sharp House/Monroe Law Office

Exterior

The house is rectangular in form and approximately 18 feet by 24 feet, with two-and-a-half levels. The foundation and first level (a high brick basement) shows a combination of Flemish bond and 3-course American bond brickwork, comprised of original construction and later patching. The building's second level and attic story are of frame construction, using mortise and tenon joinery. Some of the original weatherboarding is still in place. An exterior brick chimney remains on the southwest side of the building and there appears to have been a second chimney at the opposite end of the building, which was later removed. The chimney is constructed using Flemish bond, and has tiled weatherings. Its slender stack is set well away from the building's gable end wall, and has a corbelled cap.

At one time there was one entrance at the ground level and three doors on the main floor. Two centrally placed doors were opposite each other on the northwest and southeast sides. There is also an external door that is on the northeast side in the corner, and would have adjoined the chimney that has been removed. The original ground floor or basement entrance was also on that side of the building. The door that was once on the southeast side has been replaced by one six-over-six double hung sash window with weatherboard applied below it.

There are four additional windows on the main floor, symmetrically placed on the southeast and northwest sides. Two flank the centrally placed window on the southeast façade, and two frame the central entrance on the northwest façade. They are four-over-four, double-hung, wooden sash windows. In each gable there is one small four-paned window that lights the attic, the gable windows do not open. Although there were ground floor windows, they have been altered and their original form is not known. Currently, the ground floor has two horizontal six-light wood windows on the southeast side, and a four-light wood window of about the same size on the northwest side. All three windows are placed high in the brick ground floor walls.

The basement or ground floor and the attic consist of a single large room, while the first floor has two rooms. The southwest room was slightly larger than the northeast room, and that

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

room is where the current fireplace is located. That room also includes the stairs to the ground floor and to the attic, located on the northwest wall. The floors of the main floor and the attic are tongue and groove heart pine boards. Flooring in the ground floor level was of packed earth, but was paved with concrete in the 1950s. The basement walls are whitewashed brick and the ceiling is of large hand hewn beams with no finish detail and whitewashed subflooring between them.

Harris and Tiller¹ state, "The first floor has its original plaster walls over hand slip lathe still intact although it has recently been covered with commercial fiberboard. The original beaded horizontal wainscoting has also survived intact in the larger room and only partially in the smaller. Although the beams are exposed on the ceiling to the first floor, they are of smaller size and more sophisticated finish than those of the basement. All ceiling beams are smoothed, beaded, and finished with a lamb's tongue detail.

"The attic floor shows evidence of greater finish than it now presents. Traces of lathe and plaster are in evidence which would indicate that the area had been finished at one time. Plastering marks on the Queen Post rafters and collar beams indicate the room was finished in a lozenge profile rather than a triangular one."

They also observed that the doors were of "beaded vertical boards with chamfered horizontal battens" using HL type hinges. The interior trim is limited to using beading on wooden surfaces to create a standard detail. The fireplace mantel, although simple and using beading, was not thought by Harris and Tiller to be original, as it was inconsistent in detail with the other trim.

Section 7 Page 4

¹The observations were made and thoroughly documented with photographs and drawings in a report which is now Vol. 37 in a series of Studies in Vernacular Architecture. Hunt H. Harris and de Teel Patterson Tiller, *Monroe Law Office, Limestone Plantation, Keswick, Albemarle Co., VA*, Jan. 1977. The study, titled as it was because the house was used by Andrew Monroe, brother of James Monroe, as his law office, was performed under the direction of Professor K. Edward Lay. A description of the house will also be found in K. Edward Lay, *The Architecture of Jefferson Country*, published in March 2000 by the University of Virginia Press. See references at pp. 50, 56, 156, 212. A copy of the complete study by Hunt and Tiller is located in the reference section of the Fine Arts Library at the University of Virginia. An unbound copy, along with other studies and source material, is in the Special Collections Department of the University of Virginia Library, Papers of K. Edward Lay, Accession No. RG-21/132.001, Box 12, and Oversize Box T-19 (blueprints of drawings of the house).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

Outbuildings and Landscape Features

There are no outbuildings associated with this structure. A three-board rail fence, painted white, abuts the building at ground floor level on the southeast and northwest sides, at the end opposite the chimney. Views from the windows of the structure are primarily to the northwest and southeast, and look upon rolling pasture.

Integrity

The Sharp House is situated to overlook the nearby valleys and to catch the summer breezes. The longer sides of the house face northwest and southeast; prevailing winds come from the northwest. Most of the windows were on the longer sides, as well as a centrally placed door in each side, directly opposite each other, allowing for maximum ventilation during warm weather. In cold weather, entrance to the dwelling would be from the leeward side. The high brick basement kept ground moisture from dampening the frame section above it, and provided cool storage in warm weather. The design of the chimneys, with ramped shoulders and a free-standing flue, provided a good draw and limited the potential damage from a chimney fire.

The construction of the house indicates that its builders were acquainted with the mysteries of the carpenter and joiner, as well as the mason. The construction is of mortise and tenon throughout. Most of the original brickwork remains in place with some later patches and repointing. Most of the original weatherboards remain. A wood shingle roof, evident from the pattern of nails visible from the inside, was replaced with tin.

The external porches and stairways which originally provided entrance to the elevated first floor have been removed. The original boxed stair to the upper floor remains, and some time after 1900 an internal single-run stair was added to permit inside access between the basement and first floor, making entrance to the house solely through the basement. Original plaster walls remain, as well as original beaded wainscoting, doors, and interior trim.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

Limestone House

Limestone House appears to have been constructed in at least two phases. The wings are believed to have been built first, and the center filled in later. The center itself may have been erected in two steps, as suggested by the presence of one straddle-gable chimney in the center and two end-gable chimneys serving the center section and the two wings. The building appears from tax records to have been completed in circa 1840.

The main dwelling at Limestone Farm, which consists of a long, narrow central section flanked by two wings, did not appear in its current form until circa 1840. Interestingly, the wings appear to be two small late-18th-century dwellings that are now incorporated into the larger building. Initially, it appears that the northwest wing was constructed in its current location sometime in the late 18th century. Evidence to support the assumption that the building has never been moved includes the fieldstone basement (which does not continue under the rest of the house) and the surviving unfired clay brick nogging. Additionally, the framing of this wing does not feature any significant changes.

The second phase associated with the dwelling appears to have occurred around 1840 when the central section, complete with a two-story porch, was built and the southeastern wing was moved to the site. It may have originally functioned as an outbuilding on the farm. Guttered corner posts and hand-hewn beams both date the southeastern wing to the mid-to-late 18th century.² In addition to being moved, the roof of the southeastern wing was also altered circa 1840 to mimic the roof of the existing wing. An access panel in the attic of the wing allows both generations of rafters to be observed as well as a rare system of double joists for the attic floor and first floor ceiling.

As well as adding the central section and moving the southeastern wing, it also appears that the interior of the property was completely renovated circa 1840. New window and door surrounds were installed and the attic space of the northwestern wing was plastered (fully-

Section 7 Page 6

² Guttered Corner posts are indicative of move away from visible, articulated framing in 18th-century Virginia. Specifically they have been dated to circa 1750-1810 and, since the example at Limestone farm are associated with hewn and pit sawn lumber, a date of some time before 1800 can be assumed. For more information please see: William Graham. "Pre-industrial Framing in the Chesapeake." *Constructing Image, Identity, and Place: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture IX*.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

machine cut lath nails are the only lath nails present and strongly suggest that prior to this point the room had never received an interior finish). A plaster with a hay binder and high clay content was used.

The house underwent another major renovation in the 1920s, when Colonial Revival-style detailing was added, contributes to the house's current distinctive look. Elements that date to this period include many of the mantles, the door surrounds in the main rooms of the central section, the replacement porch and possibly the principal door on the southwest elevation. Smaller-scale renovations were also made in the 1980s and circa 2000-2005, including the enclosure of the remainder of the porch on the northwestern elevation.

Exterior

The house is of wood frame with weatherboarding, and is sited so that it fronts in a southwesterly direction. The lawn before it is terraced and the drive approaching the house is directed so that an approaching pedestrian, rider or carriage would look up to the house, making it appear more imposing.

The center section is a full two-story structure, one room deep, with a six-column portico along the front which has a gallery with a Chippendale railing. Above the gallery is a tympanum stretching across the entire front of the center section, with a large centrally-placed fanlight. Lending credence to the view that the center was constructed in two phases is the absence of a centered main entrance or a central hallway. Instead, various doors lead from different rooms to the outside. In the rear was a second gallery running behind the center section and the southeastern wing, of equal width to the front but without columns. This is now an enclosed porch.

Each wing has the form of a Tidewater house with a front gallery typical of the 18th century except for the addition of 19th-century round columns. Both wings are one and one-half story in height. It is not certain that either or both had a front gallery when originally constructed. These may have been added at the time the center was built, as suggested by evidence in the rafters of alterations to roof pitch.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

The two wings are neither symmetrical nor of like size and construction. The northwestern wing is the larger of the two with nearly twice the square footage of the southeastern wing. Where the southeastern wing has one door opening onto the front gallery, the northwestern wing has two. The northwestern wing has a deep cellar with stone walls, whereas the rest of the house has no basement.

Facing toward the Rivanna River, the southwest elevation of Limestone is the primary façade, with a 3-part configuration resulting from the central block with two wings. Set on a solid stone foundation (partially strengthened with poured concrete), Limestone has a side-gable standing-seam metal roof. A centrally located interior brick chimney and two exterior end brick chimneys rise from the roofline of the central block. Dominated by a large pedimented two-story, 5-bay portico supported by large Tuscan columns, the main block façade extends six bays. The portico features a Chinese Chippendale balustrade on the second story. The house's non-symmetrical first story is pierced with two single-leaf entries and four 6/9 double-hung wood windows, while the second story features two single-leaf entries and two 6/9 double-hung wood windows. The primary entrance, located in the fifth bay of the first story, features an elaborate Colonial Revival-style surround added after the original construction of the house. The heavily molded surround features a six-light transom, eight-light sidelights with a flat dado-panel, and Tuscan pilasters. The molding entablature includes a paneled cap with crown molding and a dentil course. The façade's secondary entrance, 3 bays to the northwest, includes a three-light transom and a molded surround. The four 6/9 windows that light the first story are detailed with surrounds featuring an ogee molding with square-edged back band, square-edged sills, and operable louvered wood shutters. The second-floor windows are similarly detailed, while the door openings have single-leaf six-paneled doors.

The pedimented portico includes a closed tympanum with weatherboard cladding and a central fixed fanlight window. The large Tuscan columns are set on poured concrete bases. The portico also features a slate floor and beaded-board wood ceiling.

The façade of the southeastern wing is two bays wide, including a door and window, and is sheltered by the integral three-bay porch with Tuscan columns. The single-leaf six-paneled wood door, located in the southeastern bay, is capped by a three-light transom and a molded wood surround. A 6/9 wood window, similar to those in the central block, pierces the façade. Beaded weatherboard siding further defines the wing. The lack of a basement and its heavily

Section _7_ Page _8_

remolded framing, suggest this wing was moved to the site, possibly serving as an outbuilding on

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

the farm before its relocation.

Similar to the southeastern wing, the northwestern wing is a wood-frame structure that appears to have originally been a freestanding building, and the large, fieldstone basement and intact brick nogging suggest that it pre-dates the other two sections. Set on a stone foundation with concrete infill, the structure features a side-gable standing-seam metal roof, weatherboard cladding, and a three-bay façade. The two northwestern most bays feature single-leaf wood doors, one vertical board with a three-light transom and one twelve-light, while the southeastern bay is pierced with a 6/9 wood window. The surrounds are similar to those on the southeastern wing, including operable louvered wood shutters on the window. The elevation is sheltered by a three-bay integral shed roofed porch with Tuscan columns.

Limestone's southeastern elevation is dominated by the end wall at the southeastern wing. Clad in beaded weatherboard siding, the façade has a 6/6 window in the gable peak and a centrally placed 6/9 wood window on the first story. An inboard separates the original portion from a rear section, which appears to have been a porch originally. A modern roundel window and a six-light vertical casement window mark the rear extension. The second floor of the house's central block rises above the roof of the wing, with cornice returns, weatherboard siding, and vents in the gable peak flanking the chimneystack.

The northwestern elevation is also comprised mainly of the northwestern wing's end wall. This features a double-hung wood 6/6 wood window in the gable peak. The first story has a double-hung 6/6 off-center wood window with square-edged wood surround and sill. A metal 2/2 window marks the basement level, located in a window well. An inboard marks where a rear porch was enclosed, which now features a six-light fixed wood window with square-edged wood surround and sill. The original portion features square-edged weatherboard cladding, while the rear extension has beaded weatherboard. The second floor of the main block on this end, rising above the addition, reflects the appearance of the main block's opposite end wall. Both wing end walls are capped by square-edged wood cornice boards. The rear section on each wing has a shed roof, tied in at a slight angle to the rear slope of each wing's gable roof, creating a broken catslide configuration.

Section 7 Page 9

The rear, or northeast, elevation of Limestone has a molded wood boxed cornice and square-edged cornerboards. Clad in weatherboard, the central main block features four

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

symmetrically spaced double-hung 6/6 wood windows with thin molded wood surrounds and square-edged sills on the second story. The first story of the central block is defined by a full-width shed-roofed addition. This was once a porch and has been enclosed. The enclosed porch is pierced with four twelve-light wood windows with thin molded wood surrounds and square-edged wood sills, and features two double-leaf entries. The double-leaf entries consist of a single-light five-panel set of doors and a single-panel two-light set. A small modern bay window bay includes a fixed twenty-four-light window with six-light casement sidelights. A half-hipped rooflet forms a right angle, sheltering a single-leaf entry located on the projecting southeastern wing. The three-bay, rear elevation of the southeastern wing, which projects beyond the rear wall at the central block, includes a large twenty-four-light fixed wood window and two eight-light vertical wood casements. A modern single-leaf wood four-panel door on the west side of the projection shares a rooflet with the rear of the main block. Similarly designed, the rear elevation of the northwestern wing also projects further than the rear wall of the central block. The rear elevation of the wing is marked with a sixteen-light fixed wood window with eight-light casement sidelights. A six-light wood window with three-light transom and a single-leaf modern nine-light cross-braced wood door also pierced the wing. All windows and doors feature square-edged wood surrounds and projecting sills. A similar single-leaf entry is also located on the southeast side of the projecting wing.

Interior

The interior of Limestone reflects its evolutionary construction. The construction materials used and the manner of their use in the two late 18th-century wings suggest that they were built prior to 1800, while that found in the center section supports the circa 1840 date of construction. Aside from the configuration of the rooms in the house, and the locations of windows and doorways, a striking feature is the use of mud brick for nogging. While red brick nogging is not atypical in houses constructed in the late 1700s and in the 1800s, the use of mud brick is unusual.

Asymmetrical in design, Limestone's interior includes original Greek Revival detailing as well as Colonial Revival-era renovations dating from the 1920s. Consisting of a central entrance hall with flanking parlors, the first floor of the single-pile center section is irregular in form. This

Section 7 Page 10

irregularity may be due in part to the fact that the center core was built to incorporate the two pre-existing wings. The expansive single-pile dwelling was originally constructed with large

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

porches on the front and rear elevations to take advantage of the building's site on a rise. The rear porch was partially enclosed in the 1950s, and the remainder was enclosed circa 2000. The interior plan includes the entrance hall flanked by a parlor on the southeast and a parlor on the northwest. An additional stair hall is located in the northwestern-most room of the central block.

Each wing is composed of a single room that includes access to a rear section, originally a porch, now enclosed. The northwestern wing's rear section houses a kitchen and breakfast/mud room, while the southeastern wing features a utility closet/bath in the same area. The half-story above each wing includes one large room, but small bathrooms have been added.

First Floor

The central entrance hall, accessed by an off-center six-paneled wood door with six-light transom, measures 17 by 19 feet. A single-leaf door and a 6/9 wood window are located on the front and rear walls, each lined up to take advantage of ventilation patterns. Plaster walls, a modern slate floor, a six-inch beaded-cap baseboard, a molded picture rail, coved ceilings, and a three-inch molded chair rail with central bolection define the Colonial Revival-era detailing. Similarly styled detailing is visible on the mantel and door and window surrounds. The five-and-a-quarter-inch door and window surrounds feature an ogee molded backband with flush field and interior bead, a design slightly different from other rooms in the house. The mantle, built around a coal-burning fireplace, stands fifty-seven inches in height and features a seventy-four-and-one-half-inch wide square-edged shelf with wide reeded molding and a molded, opening with interior bead. The entrance hall features a small closet in the northern corner and opens onto the flanking parlors as well as the front and rear porches. Single-leaf wood doors provide access to the corner closet, to the front and rear porches, and to the flanking parlors.

The 17 foot by 20 foot southeast parlor is characterized by 5-inch to 7-inch wide pine floorboards that run northwest to southeast, plaster walls, a coved ceiling, a thin molded picture rail, and a two-and-a-quarter-inch chair rail with a flat cap, filet, ogee, flat field and lower-edge bead. The baseboards are five-and-a-half-inches wide with a beaded cap and an elongated ovular shoe molding. A carved sixty-one-and-a-quarter-inch high mantle is located on the southeast wall, featuring a seventy-four-and-a-half-inch shelf, a square-edged shelf with wide reeded

Section 7 Page 11

molding, and a molded opening with interior bead. The ceiling is embellished with a 1920s Art

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

Deco-style decorative plaster design consisting of large scalloped motifs placed symmetrically around the perimeter. A 6/9 wood window pierces the southwest elevation, overlooking the front porch, while a pair of symmetrically opposite double-leaf doors access the rear section, once a porch, now enclosed. Single-leaf paneled wood doors access the entrance hall and the east wing.

Connected by a doorway from the southeast parlor is a room that occupies the front portion of the southeast wing of the house used as a master bedroom since the 1950s. The southeastern wing appears to have been a freestanding building, added to the main house circa 1840. The wing's main block measures seventeen by twenty-five feet and the section that measures fifteen by twenty-five feet has served as a utility space/bathroom since the 1950s. The front room currently undergoing renovation, features a poured concrete floor, six-inch wood baseboard with a beaded cap, a three-inch bolection molding chair rail, and Colonial Revival-era molded window surrounds similar to those in the adjacent rooms. Both drywall and original plaster sheath the walls. Circa 2004, a small closet was extended into the room, and an enclosed quarter-turn stair to the upper story was added. A molded mantel stands fifty-two inches in height featuring a seventy-one-and-a-half-inch wide beaded-edge shelf. The mantel includes a flat field with beaded opening and a brick hearth. A six-panel wood door accesses the bathroom, added with the enclosure of the rear porch. A single-leaf six-panel door with a three-light transom accesses the front façade porch. Modern stock crown molding further accents the space. The bathroom/utility space features modern fixtures and finishes.

Opening off of the main entrance hall to the northwest is a smaller 17 foot by 13 foot parlor, which functions as a library. Featuring plaster walls, three-and-half-inch pine floorboards, a molded chair and picture rail, and carved wood mantel, the smaller parlor also opens onto the stair hall and features one 6/9 wood window on the front wall, and one on the rear wall, overlooking the porches. A carved wood mantel is located on the southeast wall. The mantel stands 59 5/8 inches high with a 77 1/2-inch shelf. Adorning a parged opening, the mantel includes a beaded-edged shelf with a large molded cap. A more elaborate seven-and-a-half-inch baseboard features a cove cap and a quarter-round shoe molding. The doorway to the entrance hall features an eight-and-half-inch opening built-out with molding to appear one-foot thick.

Adjoining the parlor to the west is a small stair hall. It features an enclosed dogleg stair and symmetrically placed front and rear doors to the exterior. This small 8 foot by 5 foot hall

Section 7 Page 12

with understair bathroom forms a separate space. The stair hall features 4 1/2-inch to 5-inch wide pine floorboards, 6 3/4-inch baseboards with beaded caps and shoe molding, plaster walls, a three-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

inch molded chair rail, coved plaster ceilings, and a two-inch molded picture rail. A flat six-panel door accesses the rear section and a six-panel door with three-light transom and carpenter lock leads to the front porch. The enclosed quarter-turn stair features a 6/9 wood window in the stairwell, overlooking what was the now enclosed rear porch. Other stair detailing includes a square newel with a beaded edge, square upper-story balusters, a rounded railing, and wire-cut nails. The stairs measure 35½-inch wide with 10½-inch deep treads, and 8-inch risers. A small modern bathroom has been added beneath the stair.

The northwestern wing of the house, which is composed of the original circa 1800 building, houses a 19 foot by 30 foot dining room and an enclosed stair to the half-story quarters above. The dining room is detailed with plaster walls, a coved plaster ceiling, a thin 2-inch molded picture rail, a 3-inch molded chair rail, a 5½-inch baseboard with beaded cap and shoe molding, narrow 2½-inch replacement floorboards, and a 6/9 window overlooking the front porch. The surrounds feature an ogee backband that leads to a flat field and is terminated by an interior bead. The southeast wall includes a centrally placed fireplace with late-Georgian period mantel, measuring fifty-six-and-a-half inches wide and featuring a seventy-four-inch wide beaded shelf. The shelf is supported by a molding composed of an elongated torus that leads to a small cove and ends with an ogee. A molded band surrounds the fireplace opening. The band is composed of a square edge exterior and an ogee running the course of the interior. The interior face bricks of the fireplace have been replaced. The room opens onto the kitchen at the rear wall via two flat four-panel doors, and to the front porch via a twelve-light single-leaf door. A door accessing the stair to the upper half-story was added near the west corner, using a reused single-leaf paneled door (an exterior door was previously the only way to access the stair hall). A small closet was also added to the north corner; and another closet was added to the northeast side of the fireplace in the 1980s, which has recently been converted to a wet bar.

The kitchen and breakfast room/mudroom are in the rear portion of the northwestern wing. This area features exposed timber framing with unfired brick nogging. The room, which was slightly lengthened when the roof was repaired, includes a modern poured concrete floor partially infilled with reused historic bricks. A partition wall separates the room into two spaces. A door from each space leads to the dining room and to the rear yard, while a door in the kitchen accesses the basement. An eighteen-light single-leaf door also leads to the section that runs the

Section 7 Page 13

length of the circa 1840 central block. A small utility closet is located in the south corner of the breakfast room. Modern cabinets, fixtures, and appliances further define the space.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

The rear section of the central block serves as a hall connecting the two wings, formed with the enclosure of the one-story full-width porch circa 1955 with the remainder enclosed circa 2000. This section includes three original 6/9 windows with operable louvered shutters and thin molded wood surrounds on the original exterior wall of the main block. The exterior wall, formed by enclosing this space, includes four reused historic fixed twelve-light windows and two sets of double-leaf two-light doors with square-edged wood surrounds. The original square porch posts with chamfered edges are incorporated into the design, allowing the original porch configuration to be visible. Other details include a slate floor, a drywall ceiling, and two original six-paneled doors to the main block. The enclosed porch opens to the southeastern wing via a paneled single-leaf door.

Second Floor

Accessed via a straight-flight stair reached through an entrance in the primary façade, the upper level of the northwestern wing features a one-room living quarter with a modern bathroom added in the south corner. A secondary access point was added from the dining room by installation of a door, to avoid having no interior access to the upper floor. The space is defined by exposed brick nogging on the rear knee-wall, partially exposed framing members (including hand-hewn plates and original pit-sawn rafters on the southwestern wall). Newer, non-structural, applied framing elements are found on the ceiling and against the northeastern wall. The northwest wall features circa 1840 plaster, composed of mud and straw with a lime finish coat. A 6/6 window is located in the gable peak, featuring a Colonial Revival-style circa 1920s molded surround. Wide pine ten-to-twelve-inch floorboards, an interior wall brick chimneystack, and early and fully formed machine-cut nails further detail the construction. This room does not connect to the rest of the second floor, suggesting that it was originally a tenant or servant-occupied space.

The southeastern wing was also not originally accessible from the interior of the house and initially only an exterior stair was used. However, circa 2004 a stair was added in the interior south corner of the southeastern wing. The quarter-turn stair was constructed using recycled wood; a 6/6 wood window lights the stairwell. The upper story is a large single room,

Section _7_ Page _14_

although a bathroom was added to the north corner. The walls and ceiling of the room have been finished, but elements of the original framing members remain visible in the knee wall along the southwest elevation. The small crawlspace reveals a hand-hewn plate, guttered corner posts, a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

set of pit-sawn rafters, and evidence that the front elevation porch was not part of the original construction. Other detailing in the space includes 10-inch to 12-inch pine floorboards. The space measures 14 feet 3 inches by 24 feet 6 inches.

The second story of the central block includes three bedrooms, two modern baths, and a rear hallway that was added after the original construction. The southeastern-most room is accessed from the wing via four steps and a flat four-paneled door. The large 17 foot 9-inch by 17 foot 6-inch room is the full depth of the house. A wide six-panel door with box lock accesses the second story of the front portico, while a 6/6 window pierces the northeast elevation. The southeast wall features a centrally located fireplace with carved 54½-inch high wood mantel. The mid-19th century detailing includes a square-edged 61¼-inch shelf with reeded under-molding and a molded opening with interior bead. The mantel details a parged opening. The 5½-inch door and window surrounds feature a molded backband, flat field, and interior bead. Plaster walls and ceiling, four-to-five-inch pine floorboards, and six-inch baseboards with a beaded cap further detail the space. A small closet was added to the south corner. A flat raised panel door leads to the adjacent bedroom.

This central bedroom is designed similarly to the southeastern room, with plaster walls and matching surrounds, floor of wood boards and mantel detailing. The 6-inch wide mantel features a 53¾-inch-high shelf. A 6/6 wood window pierces the front wall and the rear walls. A small closet is located on the southeast wall, while a six-panel door accesses the rear hall. The room measures 14 feet 5 inches by 17 feet nine inches.

The rear hallway runs along the northeast wall of the second floor of the central block. A 6/6 window pierces the wall. The hall takes a ninety-degree turn on the northwest end, accessing a third bedroom and modern bathroom, as well as the house's main stair. The hall also accesses the second story of the portico via a six-panel door with mortised carpenter lock. The 13 foot 2 inch by 18 feet 9 inch bedroom, which once filled the entire depth of the house before the rear hall was added, features plaster walls, four-to-seven-inch pine floorboards, and similar surrounds and baseboards. An off-center mantel (made off center by the hall addition) on the southeast

Section 7 Page 15

wall features detailing that matches the other second floor rooms. A closet was also added on the southeast wall. A 6/6 wood window overlooks the portico.

Basement

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

The basement, located under the northwestern wing, is accessed via a straight-flight stair from the kitchen. The original stone walls are visible, but the floor has been covered in poured concrete. An original hand-hewn girt survives intact, but most of the other framing elements from the ceiling have been replaced with circular sawn dimensional lumber. The unadorned, utilitarian straight-flight wood stair features a 6/6 window in the stairwell. The basement measures 22 feet 3 inches by 15 feet 11 inches.

Outbuildings and Landscape Features

Other than the Sharp House, which made the transition from dwelling to storage space, no outbuildings of Limestone House survive. Existing sheds and barns date from the first half of the 20th century and include a corncrib and a shed (garage), both contributing, and a well house, which is non-contributing. While the circa 2000 barn (stable) is modern, it does not detract from the property's historic integrity.

Corncrib, circa 1910 (contributing)

Currently set on a cinderblock foundation, the wood-frame one-story corncrib features horizontal slat siding, a side-gable standing-seam metal roof and a one-story shed roofed rear addition with vertical board siding. The façade, which faces northwest, features a single-leaf vertical board door and two small window bays filled with single-leaf, horizontal board shutters. Overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, and square-edged corner boards further define the single-pile structure's exterior. The interior features wire mesh along the walls, circular sawn framing, and transitional brace framing secured with wire cut nails. A rear, circa 1950, machine-shed addition completes the structure.

Well House, circa 1940 (noncontributing)

Constructed of concrete block, the one-story well/pump house features a square footprint,
Section _7_ Page _16_

a pyramidal standing-seam metal roof, and a single-leaf vertical-board door with metal strap hinges and a wood lintel. An unmolded, angled fascia is found under the structure's roof. A square, wooden finial with a diamond-shaped cap rises from the apex of the roof.

Shed (garage), circa 1930 (noncontributing)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

Facing northwest, the one-story, wood-frame garage features wood-post construction, weatherboard cladding, and a front-gable standing-seam metal roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. Featuring one-story shed wings, the building is three bays wide with central vertical-board sliding two-leaf bay doors. One wing is pierced with a double-leaf vertical-board door, while the other features a single-leaf vertical-board door with diagonal bracing. The side elevations are pierced with six-light hopper window, with one on the northeast elevation and two on the southwest side. Other detailing includes decorative wood-shingled gable peaks. The rear elevation features two six-light hopper windows in the central section and a 6/6 wood window in each wing.

Barn (stable), circa 2000-present (noncontributing)

Standing one-and-a-half stories in height, the modern stable is constructed of a wood-frame set on a poured concrete foundation and capped by a front-gabled standing-seam metal roof. The building is composed of a one-and-a-half story central section with one-story shed wings. The first story is clad in stucco, while the gable peak features weatherboard siding. Board-and-batten cladding covers the side elevations of the central bay, which rises above the one-story wings. The primary façade, which faces southwest, is pierced with a large central double-leaf sliding door constructed of cross-braced vertical board. A smaller version of the door also pierces the gable peak, accessing a hayloft. The façade is further detailed with two small six-light windows with vertical-board fixed shutters, flat wooden arched surrounds, and built-in window boxes. The side elevations are detailed with central double-leaf crossed-braced vertical board doors flanked on each side by two six-light windows, similar to those on the façade, that light the interior stalls. The rear elevation mimics the design of the primary façade. Other detailing of the stable includes a boxed wood cornice, overhanging eaves, and a central hipped roof monitor with louvered vents and a weathervane. The interior has not been completed.

Section 7 Page 17

Landscape

North and east of the Sharp House/Monroe Law office, the landscape features remnants of terracing that probably date to developments of the property in the second quarter of the 19th

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

century.³ There appear to be similarities between evidence of the garden configuration at Limestone and the landscape at Monticello.⁴

Limestone Kiln

Location and Features

The limestone kiln is located near the entrance to Limestone Farm along U. S. Route 250, about 3.6 miles east of Shadwell. It is about 70 feet from Limestone Creek and 116 feet from the center of the old Three Notched Road. It is 15 feet in diameter and constructed of large boulders laid into a circular wall, built into an embankment. The boulders are mostly sandstone and show signs of having been subjected to extreme heat. The opening by which wood was placed for the fire faced the creek. The tract of land on which the kiln sits, was surveyed by Thomas Jefferson as 4^{1/2} acres in 1796. It is somewhat triangular, the southern boundary being the Three Notched Road, the northwestern boundary being Limestone Creek, and the northeastern boundary being a surveyed line connecting one identified point on the creek to one identified point on the road.

North and east of the Sharp House/Monroe Law office, the landscape features remnants of terracing that probably date to developments of the property in the second quarter of the 19th century.⁵ There appears to be similarity between the garden configuration at Limestone and the landscape layout at Monticello.⁶

Section _7_ Page _18_

3 Harris and Tiller, 17.

4 Letter, Calder Loth to William Beiswanger, April 24, 1995; letter, William Beiswanger to Calder Loth, May 7, 1995, DHR Files.

5 Harris and Tiller, 17.

6 Letter, Calder Loth to William Beiswanger, April 24, 1995; letter, William Beiswanger to Calder Loth, May 7, 1995, DHR Files.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

Integrity

The kiln site adjoins the modern highway right-of-way. It remains partially intact and a preliminary archaeological exploration is currently underway. The domed roof and part of the wall facing the creeks have collapsed, and the location of other parts of the process, such as the slaking pit, have not been determined. The present highway, about 130 feet north of the old Three Notched Road, bisects the Jefferson tract, leaving approximately two-thirds as part of Limestone Farm and one-third (an apparent limestone quarry site) on property to the north, which is not part of this nomination. The extent of impact from the construction and maintenance of the modern highway on the kiln itself has been minimal and the areas of interest for further excavation are not affected.

The Three Notched Road

Location and Features

Three Notched Road (also called Three Chopped or Chopt) stretched from Richmond to the Shenandoah Valley by 1745, and was so named because it was marked with three blazes on trees along its side. In 1916, the highway was realigned and the present U.S. 250 lies about 130 feet to the north of the old road. The old road traverses Limestone Farm to the site of the ford over Limestone Creek and then westward toward Shadwell. Its path may be discerned by the existence of a relatively straight and continuous depression reflecting extensive use for one and a half centuries.

Integrity

The road is overgrown with grass but remains undisturbed by farming operations. Toward the eastern side of the property close to the trace of the old Three Chopt Road appears to be the site of the house of Abraham Hawley, who operated the kiln for Thomas Jefferson and then purchased the operation from Jefferson. That site has not yet been excavated.

Section 8 Page 19

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Limestone Farm, in Albemarle County, is situated east of Shadwell on rolling hills on the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

north side of the Rivanna River along Limestone Creek. The property includes two buildings that were constructed as dwellings. The Robert Sharp House was built circa 1794 and Limestone House was built between 1800 and 1840. There are also two structures on the property, a limestone kiln constructed in the 1760s by Robert Sharp Sr., which Sharp sold to Thomas Jefferson in 1771, and the remnant of a section of the Three Notched or Three Chopt Road, which served as the main thoroughfare between Richmond and Staunton from the 1740s to the early 1900s.

Criteria Statement

Limestone Farm is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as well as Criteria B and D. The property is eligible under Criterion C because it illustrates the evolution of architecture in Albemarle County. The Robert Sharp House dates to 1794 and has several distinctive architectural features more typical of Tidewater Virginia, serving as a stylistic reminder that Albemarle County was settled by individuals migrating from eastern Virginia in the mid-1700s. Limestone House is significant due to its architectural evolution. The building incorporated an original Tidewater-style structure, probably also built by Sharp, to which was added a Classical Revival central portion. Limestone House is flanked by another older structure which appears to have been moved into place at the time of the central construction about 1841. Colonial Revival alterations were made to the house in the 1920s.

The property is eligible under Criterion B because it is associated with four individuals of note: Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, Robert Sharp and George Blaetterman.

Thomas Jefferson's first acquisition by purchase of land in Albemarle County was the limestone quarry and kiln he acquired from Robert Sharp, and was used to make the mortar necessary for the building of Monticello. James Monroe, acquired the land from the heirs of the two Robert Sharps. Monroe's brother and nephew lived on the property. Monroe, himself, sought loans from wealthy acquaintances to retain the property. In return for a loan it appears that

Section 8 Page 20

his benefactor influenced Monroe's appointment of Nicholas Biddle as President of the Bank of the United States.

Robert Sharp sold his land in Henrico County and moved to Limestone Farm. He acquired and disposed of more than 1100 contiguous acres in Albemarle County between 1761

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

and 1808, most of his conveyances being to his children and grandchildren. He died in 1808 in his mid-90s, having transformed his plantation from a focus on tobacco to a more modern variety of products, educated his children, and supported the change from monarchy to republic.

Professor George Blaettermann was a brilliant and colorful character, who taught Jefferson in the Saxon language, was selected by Jefferson as the first professor of modern languages at the University of Virginia, and who speculated in real estate in Albemarle County. It was Blaettermann who built Limestone House, after purchasing Limestone at auction when James Monroe defaulted on his loan.

The property is eligible under Criterion D for its potential to provide information on the processing of limestone. Jefferson's limestone kiln (Site No. 44AB488) is presently undergoing archaeological study and excavation. The site should provide further insight into how limestone was processed in the late 18th century and into the construction of Monticello. The trace of the old Three Notched Road has not been excavated to date, nor has a site along the road near the kiln which appears to have been the location of the home of Abraham Hawley, who operated the kiln for Jefferson and later purchased the property.

Acknowledgments

Acknowledgment and thanks are due to Jennifer and Gardiner Hallock of Arcadia Preservation LLC, Keswick, VA, for their description and analysis of the architectural aspects of Limestone House. For the architecture of the Robert Sharp House (Monroe Law Office), reliance has been on the detailed study by D. Patterson Tiller and Hunt H. Harris. Al Sharp of Avon, CO, is acknowledged for the thorough history of the property and its owners and occupants, and for his work with Benjamin P. Ford, Ph.D., of Rivanna Archaeological Services LLC of Charlottesville, in the study of the Jefferson limestone kiln.

Section 8 Page 21

Historical Background

Most of the land now a part of Limestone Farm, and of the 338 acres being nominated, was originally patented on 3 October 1734 to John Crawford in two parts.⁷ Before doing

⁷Crawford received 190 acres by patent found in Patent Book 15, pp. 345-46, and 400 acres by patent found in Patent Book 15, p. 349.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

anything with the property, Crawford moved to South Carolina. He then sold the land to Nelson Anderson of Henrico County.⁸ There is no evidence that either Crawford or Anderson made any effort to settle the land. Anderson eventually sold the land to Robert Sharp.

Robert Sharp had been a planter in Henrico County, a fifth-generation descendant of a founder of Henrico County. He had acquired 70 acres on the north side of Upham Brook from his brother-in-law John Langford in 1733.⁹ There he grew tobacco and increased his holdings, purchasing land from neighbors Henry Stokes and Benjamin Clark in 1744.¹⁰ He then conveyed 100 acres of his land to William Kelley.¹¹ His father (also named Robert) gave him 100 acres in 1757,¹² which he sold in 1759 to Stephen Woodson.¹³ King James I termed tobacco a “pernicious weed,” and to Virginia planters it was pernicious in that it depleted the soil. Thus arose the Virginia practice of obtaining relatively large tracts of land of which a small portion was cultivated at a time and then abandoned to nature. When good land became scarce in the area around Richmond, the planters obtained new land to the west. Robert Sharp was no exception.

By 24 Oct 1759, Robert Sharp was in possession of the land now known as Limestone, according to the report of processioners in Fredericksville Parish in Albemarle County.¹⁴ He obtained full title to 590 acres by a deed from Nelson Anderson dated 15 November 1761.¹⁵ By the time he moved to Albemarle County, Sharp was in his late 40s or early 50s. He had children of age, some of whom witnessed the deed from Anderson.

Section 8 Page 22

The land Robert Sharp Senior¹⁶ acquired sat astride the Three Chopt Road, which

⁸Albemarle County Deed Book 1, p. 168.

⁹Henrico Wills & Deeds 1725-37, p. 420.

¹⁰Henrico Court Order Book 1737-46, p. 287.

¹¹Henrico Wills & Deeds 1744-48, p. 215.

¹²Henrico Deeds 1750-67, p. 501.

¹³Henrico Deeds 1750-67, p. 589.

¹⁴Fredericksville Parish Vestry Book, p. 96. Original document in Huntington Library; photostat and microfilm at the Library of Virginia, Richmond.

¹⁵Albemarle County Deed Book 2, p. 187.

¹⁶In the custom of the day, the terms “senior” and “junior” were used in a particular location to distinguish persons of the same name by their respective ages in legal documents. In Henrico County, this Robert Sharp was known as Robert Sharpe Junior, and was the elder son of Robert Sharpe Senior (1686-1773). In Albemarle County he was Robert Sharp Senior, and his son was Robert Sharp Junior. Robert Sharp Junior, also known as Capt. Robert Sharp, named a son Robert, who died or moved away in 1788 or early 1789. Both Old Sharp and Robert Sharp Junior died in 1808.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

began in Richmond, extended westward past Sharp's land several miles to Thomas Jefferson's home at Shadwell, thence to the new county seat at Charlottesville, and then over the Blue Ridge Mountains to Staunton. Although the road was completed through Albemarle County within a year after the county's formation, the primary mode of transportation was then by water and the county seat was in Scottsville, on the James River. About the time Robert Sharp purchased Limestone Farm, the legislature created new counties from Albemarle, adjusted the county's boundaries, and directed the founding of Charlottesville, designating it the new seat of county government. The existence of the Three Chopt Road was a consideration in the location of the new county seat, and that location caused more traffic to move along the road. The road became a major path of westward migration within Virginia and a catalyst for the development of Albemarle County. James Monroe described the road in 1823 as "the main road leading from the Western Country to Richmond."¹⁷

That east-west connection continued to grow as land transportation began to overtake water transportation in commerce. Bulky tobacco casks would be loaded on boats at Henderson's warehouse on the Rivanna after inspection by Robert Sharp Junior, as were other large items, to float down to Richmond; but most items shipped from Richmond were brought by wagon over the Three Chopt Road. Well after the decline of tobacco farming and the demise of the town of Milton, which had sprung up around Henderson's warehouse, the road served as the means by which migration occurred, and a commercial, informational and cultural connection between the capital and western Virginia.

Sharp placed his dwelling a few hundred feet south of the road, and on the north side of the road near Limestone Creek (then known as Plum Tree Branch) he established a limestone quarry and kiln some time in the 1760s.

Section 8 Page 23

Thomas Jefferson and Sharp were neighbors and acquaintances. Robert Sharp established an ongoing personal and business relationship with Jefferson soon after settling on Limestone Farm. Jefferson referred to him as "Old Sharpe." The extent of their early interaction is unknown, the bulk of Jefferson's personal papers having been lost in the burning of his residence at Shadwell on 1 February 1770. Jefferson's memorandum books, however, show that Sharp and his son, Robert Sharp Junior, supplied various agricultural products to Jefferson. While he and his son Robert Jr., continued to plant tobacco and the latter to hold a post as

¹⁷Albemarle Co. Deed Book 24, p 24 (9 Jan 1823 mortgage to Charles J. Ingersoll).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

inspector of tobacco at Henderson's Warehouse, evidence shows the evolution from a dependence on tobacco to more general farming. Thomas Jefferson's memoranda of accounts details purchases from Old Sharp and his son of pork, wheat, ducks (Blue wings and Sorees), and "tallow & fowls."¹⁸ Jefferson purchased a horse from Sharp, and Sharp purchased services from one or more of Jefferson's businesses (probably the blacksmith). When Sharp sought to expand his land holdings in 1770, he retained Jefferson as his lawyer.

The earliest entry by Jefferson shows that he purchased a horse from Sharp on credit on 9 March 1769, just prior to his departure for Williamsburg to begin his first term in the House of Burgesses.¹⁹ Sharp had his eye on adjoining property immediately to his west which had been surveyed for John Sorrell, but never properly patented. He acquired 117 acres of that land from the Sheriff when Sorrell failed to pay the taxes, and assigned his right to the land to his grandson William Leak.²⁰ Acquiring the larger tract of 400 acres required more effort. For this he turned to his neighbor and lawyer Thomas Jefferson.

Jefferson filed a caveat suit on behalf of Robert Sharp against John Sorrell and Benjamin Sneed, to whom Sorrell had assigned his rights under the survey.²¹ While the suit was pending,
Section 8 **Page 24**

Jefferson was completing plans for the construction of Monticello.

Having chosen to erect a brick dwelling, Jefferson needed the ingredients for mortar, one of which was lime. For this he turned to Old Sharp, who had his modest quarry and kiln right next to the main road and a short distance from Monticello. Jefferson recorded in his legal notations for 29 March 1771 that he had agreed to purchase one acre of limestone land on Plumb tree branch for 40 shillings and three pence.²² It appears that this sum was credited against

¹⁸*Papers of Thomas Jefferson, Jefferson's Memorandum Books*, James A. Bear, Jr., and Lucia C. Stanton, eds., Princeton: Princeton University Press (1997), pp. 220, 300, 338, 346, 442-4, 484-5, 501, 503. (Hereafter "Memo Books.")

¹⁹Thomas Jefferson Account Books, MSS 889, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, VA.

²⁰Alb. Surv. Bk. 1, pt. 1, p. 318.

²¹"Robert Sharpe (Alb.) v. John Sorrel (Amherst) and Benjamin Sneed (Alb.)," entered "caveat for 400 as. On Plumbtree branch Albemarle joining the lands of Ford, Lewis, and of the said Robert, Survd. Abt. 20 years ago & works nev. Retd." *Papers of Thomas Jefferson, Jefferson's Memorandum Books*, James A. Bear, Jr., and Lucia C. Stanton, eds., Princeton University Press (1997), pp. 197, 199, 214, 220, 229. The entry on page 197 is quoted above. Jefferson entered the caveat on 19 Nov 1770. The remainder of the entries track the progress of the case, the last relevant entry being in June 1771.

²²Thomas Jefferson, Account Books, 1771 and 1774, Accession #889, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, VA.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

Jefferson's legal fee for the caveat suit. This oral agreement, which lawyer Jefferson knew to be unenforceable at law, allowed him to begin construction. It was not until 18 months later that Jefferson drew a deed for the property, and by then the transaction was "about" four acres for £2.5s, about twice the original payment.²³

The small portion of Sharp's land that Jefferson purchased in 1771 contained the only vein of limestone east of the Blue Ridge,²⁴ and was situated on Limestone Creek (then called Plum Tree Branch); the southern boundary was the Three Chopt Road.²⁵ By 1773, the parcel had grown from one acre to "about" four acres.²⁶ The parcel was not surveyed and finalized until 1796, when Jefferson prepared an agreement among himself and his two adjoining landowners, Robert Sharp and James Huckstep, accompanied by a plat of survey.²⁷ With some additional compensation, the tract was determined to be 4.75 acres.²⁸

There is no evidence that Jefferson obtained lime for his mortar for building Monticello from any other site. Jefferson also had an undivided interest, as one of the heirs of Peter Jefferson, in a tract of land on the Hardware River, which his father had acquired jointly with

Section _8_ Page _25_

others, which was referred to as "the Lime-Stone-Quarry."²⁹ That tract of land was 12 miles from Monticello and the share of ownership held by Thomas Jefferson was not settled until an agreement of 17 April 1796 was reached with Randolph Jefferson. Jefferson wrote Robert Anderson on 13 Jun 1819, saying that he considered the Hardware land worthless because of its poor location and because he owned another quarry with better stone closer to Monticello.

In the process of learning how to process the limestone, Jefferson turned to Sharp for advice, noting one aspect of that advice in several locations.³⁰ Because there was no limestone

²³Albemarle County Deed Book 6, p. 286; 5 Oct. 1773. In addition to the recording of the deed, Jefferson made a notation in his account book for 5 October 1773, that he "pd Robt. Sharpe in full for the lands at the limestone quarry 45/". *Mem. Books*, p. 346.

²⁴Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia*, p. 153. Online edition at <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/etcbin/> (accessed 1 Jul 2000).

²⁵*Memo Books*, 252; 29 Mar 1771. The transaction, an oral one, began as "one acre of limestone land on Plumb Tree branch...."

²⁶Albemarle Co. Deed Book 6, p. 286. The deed contained only a vague description of the boundaries, and provided neither compass direction nor distance.

²⁷Agreement and plat of 30 Mar 1796. Albemarle Partly Proved Deeds, 1785-1863, Archives & Manuscripts Division, Library of Virginia.

²⁸*Memo Books*, 938.

²⁹Boyd, ed., *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, vol. 28, p. 570-1, letter from James Hopkins, Amherst co., 2 Jan 1796.

³⁰Robert Sharp told Jefferson that a bushel of limestone weighing 114 pounds

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

kiln on Sharp's land in Henrico County, it is clear that the only way Sharp could have obtained the experience he shared with Jefferson was to have built and operated the kiln before selling the property to Jefferson.

At some time after 1800, Jefferson employed Abraham Hawley to run the limestone operation. Jefferson's practice was to let such businesses operate on their own and to retain a portion of the profits. Hawley did business in his own name, selling lime to contractors building the Lawn at the University and other brick works, including to Jefferson. Ultimately, Hawley bought the land and the business in 1821. After Hawley's death, the property went through multiple owners and was rejoined with the original Sharp lands when US 250 was relocated.

No proper survey and description of the property was prepared until 31 Mar 1796, on which date Jefferson, Sharp and the other adjoining neighbor, James Huckstep, met and conducted a survey upon which Jefferson drew a plat and wrote a boundary agreement which all three signed.³¹ Thereafter, there is no indication that Sharp had further dealings concerning the kiln property.

Robert Sharp conveyed most of his acquired land to members of his family over a period of years. Old Sharp gave 200 acres in the southeast corner of the original patent to his son

Section 8 Page 26

Robert Sharp Jr., in 1780.³² The son was a farmer, militia captain, and inspector of tobacco at Henderson's Warehouse. It was on this land that Robert Sharp Jr., built the Robert Sharp House in 1794.³³ The style of the house is atypical of those of similar station in the Piedmont, and is more akin to the style Sharp would have been familiar with in Henrico County. It is close to the description of a house built for his great-grandfather in 1694 in the Varina area of southern Henrico County – a frame house 30 feet long and 20 feet wide, with two outside chimneys and weatherboarding with a wood shingle roof.³⁴ Robert Sharp Jr., also likely built the two

would yield 2 bushels of lime. (Jefferson Account Book, 23 Aug 1772 ("Old Sharpe tells me..."); *Mem. Books*, p. 293; also recorded in legal notations ("Old Sharpe sais...") dated 21 Dec 1771. *Mem. Books*, p. 245.

³¹This document, all but the signatures entirely in Jefferson's hand, was never recorded because it was not attested to by all three witnesses. The document is now located in Partially Proved Albemarle County Deeds, Archives and Manuscript Division, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

³²Albemarle Deed Book 7, p. 456; deed dated 10 May 1780.

³³Still visible on a beam is the carved monogram RS with the date "Agt 30 1794."

³⁴The great-grandfather, another Robert Sharp, refused to pay the contractor, John Huddlesee, because he said Huddlesee did not build it according to their agreement. Hudlesy sued and won a jury verdict against Sharp. Henrico County Court Order Book 1694-1701, p. 70, 1 Oct 1695.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

structures

—small late-18th-century buildings – that now form the wings of Limestone House.

The physical design and construction of the Sharp House was thoroughly studied and reported by Tiller and Harris in *Monroe Law Office, Limestone Plantation, Keswick, Albemarle Co., Va.*, vol. 37, *Studies in Vernacular Architecture* (Jan. 1977), which made particular note of the Tidewater influences shown in its construction. The cultural connection between eastern and middle Virginia, and westward migration are illustrated by several unusual architectural features.³⁵ The Sharp house reflects stylistic features more typical of Tidewater Virginia and Henrico County, particularly the end chimney. It shows how particular skills and patterns learned in one place appear in some form in the work done in a place to which the person migrated. Harris and Tiller noted, “Its Tidewater Virginia form makes it of great interest in Piedmont Virginia.”³⁶ The two wings of Limestone House likewise reflect the Tidewater vernacular architecture transferred to a new setting. The house retains much of its original form and material despite the passage of 211 years since its construction.

Robert Sharp Jr., died in 1808, leaving his widow Martha and several minor children. By 1816, the widow was also dead and the heirs were willing to sell the land and improvements and move west. That year, Thomas Sharp, administrator of his father’s estate, and other heirs, sold

Section 8 Page 27

the property to James Monroe.³⁷

Monroe combined this tract with two others, and placed his brother Andrew on the land and then gave him a life estate in the property.³⁸ Andrew Monroe had tended to his brother’s affairs from time to time, and been involved in various businesses. He appears to have had a partnership or joint venture of some type with Abraham Hawley in the lime business after moving to Limestone. Andrew’s two sons were more involved with their uncle than his other

³⁵See, generally, Fred B. Kniffen, “Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion,” in Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, Athens: University of Georgia Press (1986), pp. 3-26 and especially 18-20.

³⁶Harris & Tiller (11).

³⁷Albemarle County Deed Book 20, p 183; deed dated 10 September 1816. By survey the 200 acres given to Robert Sharp Jr., was found to be 175 acres. Monroe paid only \$10 in cash, and gave Thomas Sharp a note for \$1,531.25, the balance of the purchase price. Albemarle County Deed Book 20, p. 185-6.

³⁸Albemarle County Deed Book 21, p. 143. Andrew Monroe had been living in Essex County near his in-laws for the prior 25 years.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

nieces and nephews. The younger son, James, was very close to his uncle and was an Army officer. The elder son, Augustine, was a lawyer, and used the Robert Sharp House as his law office.

One of the tracts of land Monroe acquired for this purpose was 146 acres belonging to Rev. Richard Sharp. This land was between the land owned by the estate of Robert Sharp Jr., and the Three Notched Road. Old Sharp had died in 1808, the same year as Robert Sharp Jr. His will devised this land to his grandson Richard Sharp, who received the portion reserved for his deceased father.³⁹ Richard Sharp, a Methodist minister, sold the land to Monroe on 8 September 1816.⁴⁰

An interesting aspect of the property's historical significance lies in how Monroe's actions as President were influenced by the man to whom he turned for a loan needed to keep the property. Unable to pay the notes due for the purchase of the property, James Monroe had the property conveyed back to him, and turned to a wealthy political backer, Charles Ingersoll of Philadelphia, for a loan secured by the land and improvements.⁴¹ While the loan was pending and outstanding, his benefactor made numerous suggestions of persons for various appointments, successfully advocating the appointment (among others) of Nicholas Biddle as President of the

Section 8 Page 28

Bank of the United States. When Monroe left office, the correspondence dwindled and the loan became due. Thus Monroe's ownership of the property was inextricably connected with of his decisions while in office, and their impacts on national policy.

Ingersoll appears to have been unwilling to continue the loan after Monroe left office, and the debt was refinanced with the Farmers' Bank of Alexandria.⁴² The property was then described as 708 acres, divided into two farms, with "a good framed Dwelling house and other improvements on each." Unable to pay off that note or to sell the property for an acceptable price, Monroe turned to the Bank of Virginia to borrow the balance. To secure this loan he executed a deed of trust to William Dandridge.⁴³ When Monroe could not repay the loan, Dandridge sold the land at

³⁹Albemarle County Will Book 4, p. 350; will dated 28 April 1808, and presented for probate 2 January 1809.

⁴⁰Albemarle County Deed Book 20, p. 189. Monroe executed a deed of trust for this transaction as well, which was never recorded. Monroe also purchased 380 acres adjoining the tract acquired from the estate of Robert Sharp Junr from James Brown and Robert Rives on 6 May 1817. Albemarle County Deed Book 20, p. 359.

⁴¹Albemarle County Deed Book 24, p. 24; deed of mortgage dated 9 Jan 1823.

⁴²Albemarle County Deed Book 25, p. 143; deed of trust dated 5 Apr 1825.

⁴³Albemarle County Deed Book 26, p. 147.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

auction to George W. Blaettermann on 7 July 1828.⁴⁴

Blaettermann was a colorful character. He claimed to have been born in Saxony, to be the son of a professor at the University of Leipzig, and to have survived the round trip to Moscow with Napoleon's army. After Napoleon's defeat and exile to Elba, Blaettermann moved to London where he taught languages and married Charlotte Elizabeth Page. When Thomas Jefferson sought a linguist to teach modern languages, Blaettermann applied for the job. His letter of application to Jefferson was written in French,⁴⁵ which overcame Jefferson's reluctance to hire anyone but a Frenchman.⁴⁶

Blaettermann had mastered more than 30 languages and dialects, and Jefferson offered him a premium salary to be the first professor of modern languages at the University. While living in the second pavilion from the Rotunda on the East Lawn, Blaettermann used his salary to acquire and improve real estate.

Upon acquiring Limestone Farm, he had built the portion of the main house which connects what is believed to have been two separate buildings built while the Sharp family

Section 8 Page 29

owned the property. This two-story centerpiece became the main living quarters.

Although academically brilliant, Blaettermann was personally disagreeable and proceeded to alienate students, faculty, administrators and his wife. Students petitioned to have him removed,⁴⁷ he engaged in a brawl with a student in class,⁴⁸ and had various other incidents which made him unpopular.⁴⁹ He was dismissed from the faculty by the Board of Visitors in 1840,

⁴⁴Albemarle County Deed Book 27, p. 216.

⁴⁵Letter, G. Blaetterman to Thomas Jefferson, 27 April 1819, Jefferson Papers, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, VA. TB-1687. A translation was prepared by Robert T. Denomme, Professor Emeritus, French Language & Literature, University of Virginia, and is filed with the original.

⁴⁶Letter, T. Jefferson to Gen. J. Breckenridge, 8 July 1819, Jefferson Papers, Acc. No. MSS 38-741 [Box 1819 July; TB-1715], Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, VA.

⁴⁷Minutes of the Rector and Board of Visitors, University of Virginia, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, VA, 5 July 1838 (typescript, p. 401).

⁴⁸Minutes of the Faculty of the University of Virginia, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, VA, 22 April 1828 (typescript pp. 297-308).

⁴⁹Bruce, *History of the University of Virginia*, New York: The Macmillan Co. (1920), pp. 91, 157-58.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

after he had twice whipped his wife in public, once on a public road in front of several witnesses.⁵⁰ Deprived of his Lawn residence, Blaettermann retired to Limestone where he lived the remaining ten years of his life.

Several months after his dismissal from the University, Blaettermann conveyed property to trustees on behalf of Elizabeth Blaettermann, for her own use with no rights by George in the property. This property, 3.5 acres on the south side of the road from Charlottesville to the University called Ivy House, was to be hers for life and then pass equally to her two grand nephews – Joseph B. Clements and George W. Blaettermann (who had adopted the name, but had not been legally adopted). In turn, she gave up all right of dower in any property owned by Blaettermann at his death.⁵¹ Thus she gave up her right to any part of Limestone and, there being no children of the marriage, the property went to George Blaettermann's sister Anna Siegfried.

The property stayed in the Blaettermann-Siegfried family by descent from Blaettermann's acquisition in 1828 until it was sold by a descendant in 1945. Anna Blaettermann married Henry Siegfried and had a daughter Henrietta. Henrietta Siegfried married John Christian Blankenburg, whose daughter Georgie Elizabeth Blankenburg married Osborn Winston Purvis. Of that marriage two daughters were born, of whom Georgie Elizabeth married George Whitten, and

Section 8 Page 30

obtained that portion of the Purvis lands on which the Robert Sharp House and Limestone House now stand, as well as the land with the trace of the Three Notched Road and the limestone kiln. The bulk of the current property was acquired by C. B. Webber from the Whittens in 1945,⁵² and sold to Donald Florence on 12 Aug 1948.⁵³ The Florence family conveyed the property to the present owners, the Marybess McCray Johnson Trust, in 1992.⁵⁴

Architectural Significance

⁵⁰Minutes of the Rector and Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library, 14 September 1840 (typescript p. 432).

⁵¹Albemarle County Deed Book 38, p. 179; deed dated 8 September 1840.

⁵²Albemarle Co. Deed Book 263, p. 396.

⁵³Albemarle Co. Deed Book 280, p. 81.

⁵⁴Albemarle Co. Deed Book 1222, p. 261.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

Limestone Farm meets Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places and is significant for the architectural evolution of the site's main dwelling, Limestone House. That dwelling demonstrates the transition from construction standards associated with the late-18th-century Tidewater building traditions to the later Classical Revival style, reflecting the growing influence of the area's leading architect and Classical Revival proponent, Thomas Jefferson, who was closely associated with the Limestone site. Additionally, the changes made to the primary dwelling in the early-to-mid 20th century reflect the widespread influence of Colonial Revival style in the region during that time period. Therefore, the evolutionary architectural elements of Limestone's main dwelling clearly reflect several key periods of development in Albemarle County's architectural history and cultural landscape.

By 1745, 160,000 acres of land in Albemarle County had been divided into 191 patents, averaging approximately 830 acres per patent. Typically, these 18th-century farm complexes resembled small villages with numerous outbuildings supporting the main dwelling, which was often located on a hilltop. Many of the initial patents located on eastern Albemarle's rich soils were a result of a westward expansion from the Tidewater region that was driven by a need to replace lands tired by tobacco production.⁵⁸ Not surprisingly, the initial staple crop of the early plantations in Albemarle was tobacco. As with other regions that adopted Virginian tobacco production techniques, the institution of slavery was also transplanted to the Piedmont. While the affluence obtained by the early Tidewater gentry would never fully be realized in Virginia's Piedmont, the cultivation of tobacco continued to play important role in the region's economy until wheat completed its ascendancy during the mid-19th century. Because of the importance of tobacco to the regions early economy, the initial settlement patterns in eastern Albemarle were directly related to the regions main transportation routes.

Section 8 **Page 31**

The large plantations were either found on the James River and its tributaries, or they were connected to the James by an early and fairly sophisticated road system, promoting trade to Richmond and the Tidewater. Developed in 1736, one of the region's most important roads was Three Notched Road, or Mountain Ridge Road, which linked the region to Richmond by land.

Additionally, while not widespread, Tidewater architectural styles were woven into the early Piedmont vernacular, as evidenced at the Spring Hill claim house, Darby's Folly, and others. Similarly, Limestone House, part of an early land patent of 590 acres in two parcels (1730 and 1734) to John Crawford, is located along the original Three-Notched Road and represents his early Tidewater architecture, although later architectural styles were incorporated into the structure.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

Robert Sharp Senior had been a planter in Henrico County. Robert Sharp Junior was inspector of tobacco at Henderson's Warehouse in the nearby town of Milton, where tobacco casks were graded, stored and then placed on boats for transportation to Richmond. Robert Sharp, Jr. appears to have constructed a dwelling at Limestone Farm in 1794, a construction date supported by the design and form of the structure itself as well as the existence of inscribed framing members, with date (1794) and initials (RS). The Sharp House was later used as a law office, a use in keeping with its architectural form and style. The small dwelling was a two-story, single-pile, wood-frame, side-gabled building set on a raised brick foundation, designed in a vernacular Tidewater-influenced hall-parlor form. One of the large exterior-end chimneys remains intact, while one has been removed.

Circa 1790-1800, two other dwellings, also representative of the Tidewater dwelling form were constructed on the property. Similar in form, each of the two dwellings features the architectural elements most associated with the form that evolved from British origin. By the 18th century, Virginia architecture had expanded from a small single-cell or hall-parlor plan into several more sophisticated dwelling types. One of these types featured a rear, narrow line of rooms similar to New England's popular lean-to additions, although the form was known as catslide in Virginia rather than a saltbox. Additionally, other forms of typical Tidewater-type dwellings were constructed of frame or brick and stood one-and-a-half stories in height, featured a steep gable roof that later incorporated dormers, an inset projecting full-width front porch, and large exterior-end chimneys. These architectural forms, as seen in both circa 1800 dwellings at Limestone Farm, are a transitional example of what would later become the central-hall Georgian

Section 8 Page 32

dwelling.

Circa 1840, the two existing dwellings were incorporated into a larger more-elaborate structure (physical evidence suggests that one of the structures was moved from its original location) by George Blaettermann, who purchased Limestone Farm at auction in 1828. Formerly residing on the East Lawn near the Rotunda at the University of Virginia, Blaettermann was hired by Jefferson to serve as the University's first professor of modern languages.

According to a Works Progress Administration report from the 1930s, Blaettermann used his first-hand knowledge of, and appreciation for, Jeffersonian architecture when designing his own Classical Revival-inspired dwelling at Limestone. The greatly expanded dwelling

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

incorporated the existing Tidewater dwellings as wings to elaborate the central core, greatly expanding the size and prominence of the dwelling. The west wing, set on a stone foundation, remains in its original location, while the east wing appears to have been moved from its original location on the property.

Limestone House, the primary dwelling at Limestone Farm, was altered further in the 1920s. Following America's Centennial celebrations in 1876, the Colonial Revival style emerged strongly in the early 1890s after the World's Fair in Chicago. The style, which borrowed heavily from early American architecture (particularly Georgian and Federal buildings), was largely an outgrowth of a new nationwide nostalgia and pride in the past and a rapidly growing interest in historic preservation. In the early phase, the Colonial Revival style remained the exclusive domain of fashionable architectural firms and was favored for the large residences of wealthy clients. Designs incorporated characteristic features of Colonial buildings, including Palladian windows, gambrel roofs, pedimented porticoes, columns, and Classical detailing such as swags, urns, and crisp white trim. This new building type was larger, however, than its historic counterparts, with details exaggerated and plans laid out on a grandiose scale.

As the Colonial Revival style spread to more rural areas, it was more conservative in design and scale, and was often applied to modest residences. Identifying features of the style commonly include accentuated main entry doors, symmetrically balanced facades, single and paired double-hung sash windows, and side-gable or gambrel roofs. Despite its frequent use for domestic buildings, the style also lent itself well to religious and institutional buildings such as churches, schools, and municipal buildings. Touching on its citizens' pride in the state's

Section 8 **Page 33**

nationally significant colonial and early republican history, Virginia was enthusiastically in favor of the Colonial Revival, with a new wave of red brick buildings and white columned porticos becoming unequivocally popular. Adding fuel to the fire, Stanford White, a partner in the prominent architectural firm of McKim, Meade and White, became involved with the restoration of Jefferson's Rotunda after a fire in 1895, furthering the influence of the Colonial Revival movement on the local Albemarle community.

The Colonial Revival movement would proceed to reawaken an interest in Jeffersonian architecture on a national scale, with brick buildings, white trim, and columned porticos becoming highly fashionable across the United States. Circa 1920, Blaettermann's mid 19th century expansion and conglomeration of Tidewater-inspired dwellings received another transformation, by one of his heirs (Georgie P. Whitten). A large portico with Tuscan columns, a

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

**Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA**

closed tympanum, and sheltered balcony with Chippendale balustrade was added to the façade, reflecting both Jefferson-designed pavilions on the University Lawn and the portico at Mount Vernon. Other Colonial Revival-era detailing at Limestone includes an elaborate molded front door surround with a six-light transom, eight-light-and-panel sidelights, and Tuscan pilasters.

Interior Colonial Revival-era detailing includes the addition of decorative moldings in the entry hall and first floor parlors. Additionally, an ornamental ceiling consisting of a scallop motif done in a transitional Colonial Revival/Art Deco style was added to the ceiling of the east parlor.

The landscape at Limestone was further transformed in the Colonial Revival era with the addition of a corn crib, garage, and well house. The entire plantation complex, including buildings from 1794 to 2003, represents a unique vernacular evolutionary architectural arrangement that reflects Albemarle County's history from early settlement to the present. The property retains sufficient integrity of design, workmanship, setting, materials, location, and feeling despite numerous changes that have taken place over time.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

Section 9 Page 34

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Patents and Deeds

Patent Book 15, pp. 345-46 (digital image online at
http://ajax.lva.lib.va.us/F/?func=file&file_name=find-b-clas30&local_base=CLAS30)

Patent Book 15, p. 349. (digital image online at
http://ajax.lva.lib.va.us/F/?func=file&file_name=find-b-clas30&local_base=CLAS30)

[All recorded deeds located at the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Albemarle County, Charlottesville, Virginia; microfilm copies at the Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.]

Albemarle County Deed Book 1, p. 168.

Albemarle County Deed Book 2, p. 187.

Albemarle County Deed Book 6, p. 286.

Albemarle County Deed Book 7, p. 456

Albemarle County Deed Book 20, p 183

Albemarle County Deed Book 20, p. 185-6.

Albemarle County Deed Book 20, p. 189

Albemarle County Deed Book 20, p. 359.

Albemarle County Deed Book 21, p. 143

Albemarle County Deed Book 21, p. 144

Albemarle County Deed Book 22, p. 334

Albemarle County Deed Book 23, p. 24.

Albemarle County Deed Book 23, p. 239.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

Section 9 Page 35

Albemarle County Deed Book 24, p. 24

Albemarle County Deed Book 25, p. 143
Albemarle County Deed Book 26, p. 147.

Albemarle County Deed Book 27, p. 216.

Albemarle County Deed Book 38, p. 179

Albemarle Co. Deed Book 263, p. 396

Albemarle Co. Deed Book 280, p. 81.

Agreement and plat of 30 Mar 1796. Albemarle Partly Proved Deeds, 1785-1863, Archives & Manuscripts Division, Library of Virginia.

Will Books

Albemarle County Will Book 4, p. 350 (Clerk's Office, Circuit Court of Albemarle County, Virginia; microfilm copy at Library of Virginia)

Judicial Records

Henrico County Court Order Book 1694-1701, p. 70, 1 Oct 1695. (Library of Virginia.)

Tax Records

Albemarle Co. Land Tax Books, 1800-1845. (Library of Virginia)

Published Sources

Boyd, ed., *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, Princeton: Princeton University Press (1954-73), vol. 28.

Bruce, *History of the University of Virginia*, New York: The Macmillan Co. (1920)

Graham, William, "Preindustrial Framing in the Chesapeake," *Constructing Image, Identity, and Place: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture IX*. A. K. Hoagland and K. A. Breisch, eds., Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press (2003).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

Section 9 Page 36

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, Jefferson's Memorandum Books, Bear and Stanton eds., Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press (1997).

Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia*, p. 153. Online edition at <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/etcbin/> (accessed 1 Jul 2000).

Fred B. Kniffen, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," in Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, Athens: University of Georgia Press (1986).

K. Edward Lay, *The Architecture of Jefferson Country*, Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia Press (2000)

Joseph Martin, *A New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia...*, Charlottesville, Va.: Martin (1835)

Daniel Preston, *A Comprehensive Catalogue of the Correspondence and Papers of James Monroe*, Westport, CT: Greenwood Press (2001)

Sharpe in Virginia, Vol. 3, Nos. 6-10 (2002-2003), "Old Sharp and Jefferson's Limestone Kiln." (subscription e-newsletter; www.thecolonist.com ; sharpeinvirginia@gmail.com)

Manuscript Material

Hunt H. Harris and de Teel Patterson Tiller, *Monroe Law Office, Limestone Plantation, Keswick, Albemarle Co., VA*, Jan. 1977. Vol. 37 in a series of Studies in Vernacular Architecture.

Thomas Jefferson, Account Books, 1771 and 1774, Accession #889, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, VA

Letter, G. Blaetterman to Thomas Jefferson, 27 April 1819, Jefferson Papers, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, VA. TB-1687.

Letter, T. Jefferson to Gen. J. Breckenridge, 8 July 1819, Jefferson Papers, Acc. No. MSS 38-741 [Box 1819 July; TB-1715], Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, VA.

Minutes of the Rector and Board of Visitors, University of Virginia, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, VA, 5 July 1838 (typescript, p. 401).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

**Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA**

Section 9 Page 37

Minutes of the Faculty of the University of Virginia, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, VA, 22 April 1828 (typescript pp. 297-308).

Minutes of the Rector and Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library, 14 September 1840 (typescript p. 432).

University of Virginia, Proctor's Journals, University of Virginia Library Special Collections, Accession No. RG-5/3. Vol. 1 (1817-22); vol. 2 (1819-28)

Interview with Georgia Whitten, 4 Jun 1936, WPA Survey of Albemarle County Homes; Albemarle Co. Hist. Soc., MS-311-30. Albemarle County Historical Society Library, Charlottesville, VA.

Special Collections Department of the University of Virginia Library, Papers of K. Edward Lay, Accession No. RG-21/132.001, Box 12, and Oversize Box T-19, Charlottesville, VA

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

Section 10 Page 38

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage: 338

UTM References:

Zone 17

	Easting	Northing
1.	732548	4208424
2.	732814	4208266
3.	732190	4207515
4.	732361	4206829
5.	731966	4206234
6.	731447	4206709
7.	731705	4207043
8.	731495	4207255
9.	731524	4207711
10.	731775	4208054
11.	732024	4207964

Verbal Boundary Description

The property being nominated is identified as parcels numbered numbers 09400-00-00-012B0, 09400-00-00-012B1, 09400-00-00-012B2, and 09400-00-00-014 on the Albemarle County tax parcel maps.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated property corresponds to the present property lines for the lands upon which Limestone House, the Robert Sharp House (aka Monroe Law Office), Thomas Jefferson's Lime Kiln, the Three Chopt Road, and other resources are located, and which encompass a major part of the lands acquired by Robert Sharp, and later by James Monroe.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

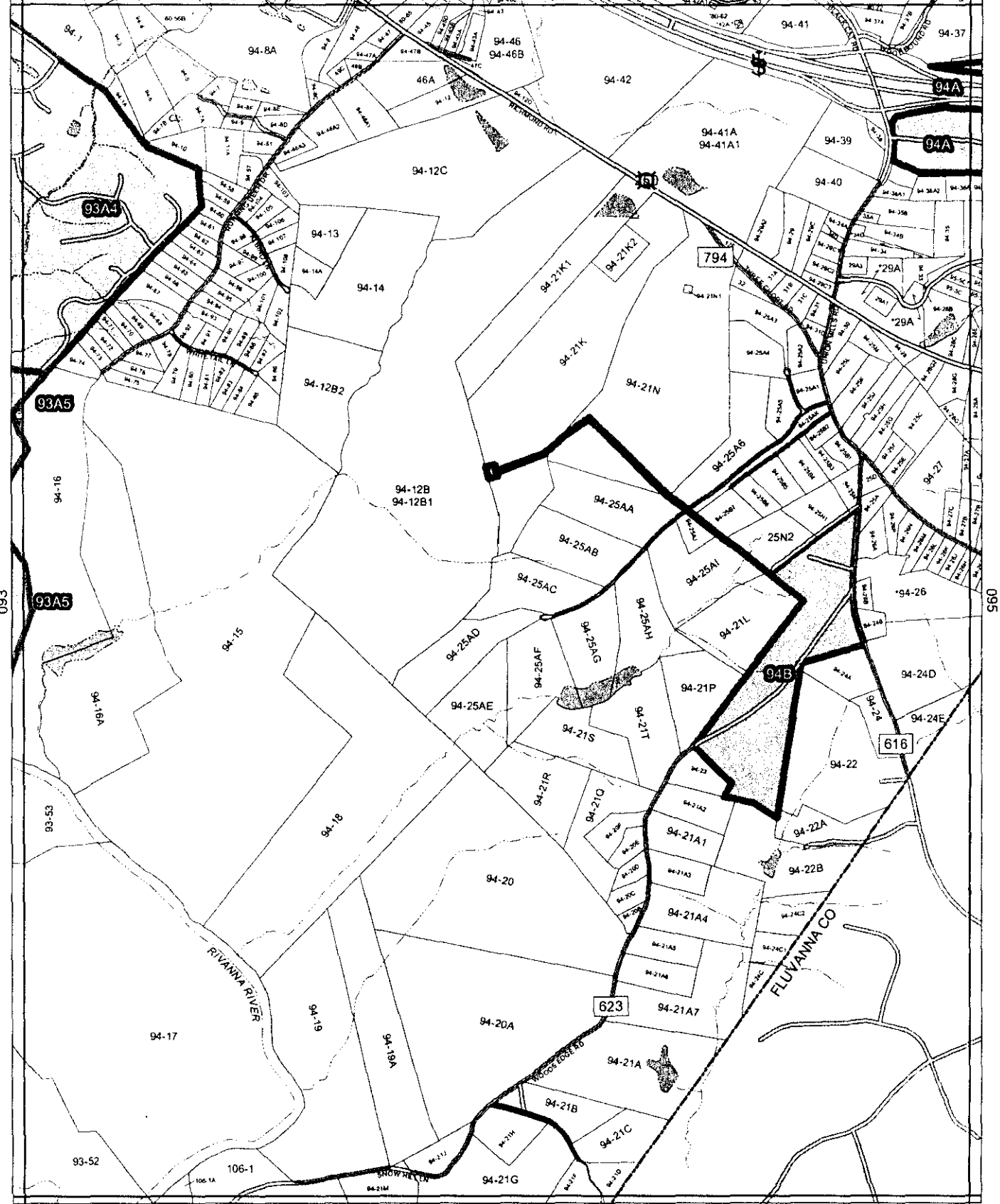
Limestone
Albemarle Co., VA

Section Photo List Page 39

The following information is the same for all photographs:

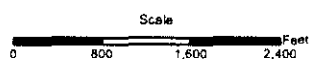
Property Name: Limestone Farm
Location: Albemarle County, Virginia
Photographer: A. Sharp
Date: All photos 2005 unless otherwise noted
Negatives: Digital photos; image files on CDROM provided with prints

<u>Photo</u>	<u>Description</u>
01 of 20	Limestone House, full front view, facing NE
02 of 20	Limestone House, front & side of SE wing, facing NW
03 of 20	Limestone House, front & side of NW wing, facing NE
04 of 20	Limestone House, rear, facing SE
05 of 20	Limestone House, inside entrance hall, front door from rear door, facing SW
06 of 20	Limestone House, entrance hall fireplace, facing W
07 of 20	Limestone House, parlor fireplace, facing SE
08 of 20	Limestone House, stairs to second floor, facing NW
09 of 20	Limestone House, bedroom fireplace & door to SE wing, facing SE
10 of 20	Limestone House, upstairs front porch, facing SW
11 of 20	Sharp House (showing brick repair), facing NE
12 of 20	Sharp House (outline of former chimney), facing S
13 of 20	Sharp House (outline of former door, now window), facing SW
14 of 20	Sharp House (date 1794 & monogram RS carved in beam), facing N
15 of 20	Garage, facing SE
16 of 20	Barn, facing N
17 of 20	Corn Crib, facing SE
18 of 20	Pump House, facing SW
19 of 20	Kiln Site (Limestone Creek, US 250), facing NE [Photo date 2003]
20 of 20	Kiln Site (curvature of exposed kiln wall), facing NE [Photo date 2004]

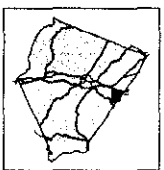


Albemarle County

Tax Map: 094



Note: This map is for display purposes only and shows parcels as of 12/31/2004. See Map Book Introduction for additional details.



5360 III SW
CHARLOTTESVILLE
EAST

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

78°22'30" 731000m E CHARLOTTESVILLE 7 MI. 733 734 20' 38°00'

Limestone Farm
Abbeville CO. VA
002-0090

UTM references:

Zone 17 4208000m N
Easting Northing

- 1) 732548 4208424
- 2) 732814 4208266
- 3) 732190 4207515
- 4) 732361 4206829
- 5) 731966 4206234
- 6) 731447 4206709
- 7) 731705 4207043
- 8) 731495 4207255
- 9) 731524 4207711
- 10) 731775 4208054
- 11) 732024 4207964

